

## Weekly Legislative Update: **Forests**

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### **Bills Needing Action This Week**

#### **Sign in “Pro” for the following bills this week:**

You may express support for bills in hearings with the online process. Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so **please leave the “Organization” box blank**. A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves.

#### **HB 1460 Concerning the department of natural resources land transactions, revenue distributions, and creation and management of a trust land transfer program.**

This bill will be heard on 2/9/23 at 1:30 PM in the House Capital Budget committee.

Please sign in **PRO**. You must sign in by **12:30 PM on 2/9**.

[Note: this was also an Action Alert on the front page of the Legislative Newsletter]

#### **SB 5688 Providing carbon sequestration and ecosystem services in the management of public lands.**

The bill will be heard on 2/10/23 at 8:00 AM in the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology committee.

Please sign in **PRO**. You must sign in by **7:00 AM on 2/10**.

### **Updates—New Bills**

**HB 1689 / SB 5636 Concerning forest practices in cities.** Both bills had their first reading on 1/31. These bills would allow all cities within counties using GMA planning to regulate forest practices on land within their boundaries if they adopt standards equivalent to the Department of Natural Resources. HB 1689 (main sponsor Rep. Doglio) was referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee. SB 5636 (main sponsor Senator Hunt) was referred to Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee. These bills are on the Watch list for the League.

**[SB 5688](#) Providing carbon sequestration and ecosystem services in the management of public lands.** This bill was made at the request of the Department of Natural Resources. The prime sponsor is Senator Lovelett. The intent of this bill to provide the Department of Natural Resources with specific authority, procedures, and criteria for development and implementation of carbon storage projects and associated ecosystem services. This bill would codify a new way for revenue to be generated from land and waters in the state, i.e. through the carbon offset markets. This bill is scheduled for a public hearing on February 10 at 8:00 AM in the Environment, Energy & Technology committee. The League is supporting this bill.

## Email your Legislators to Support These Bills

Use the link to email to any/all of your legislators, letting them know these bills are important to their constituents. HB (“House Bill”) to Representatives, SB (“Senate Bill”) to your Senator.

Bills that are related to Forest issues will normally be heard by:

- [House Agriculture and Natural Resources committee](#)
- [Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks Committee](#)

***You have the power to advocate for forests!*** Your elected officials are supposed to represent you. If your elected official is on one these committees, please use your power as a constituent to advocate for forest protection, and forest management aligned with the best available science.

## Bills We Support

**[HB 1032/SB 5039](#) Mitigating the risk of wildfires** through electric utility planning and identification of best management practices appropriate to each electric utility's circumstances. LWVWA supported SB 5803-2022, but it was met with much resistance from the electric utilities. Senator Rolfes considered the concerns and introduced SB 5039. It now appears that the electric utilities are mostly in favor.

**[HB 1215/SB 5266](#) Concerning the protection and restoration of riparian areas.** These bills were made by the request of the Governor. They are considered one of the **priority bills** for the Environmental Priorities Coalition ([EPC](#)). The LWVWA is a member of the EPC. In the 2022 session, Governor Inslee announced the Lorraine Loomis Act. The agriculture community was strongly opposed, and the bill did not pass out of the policy committee. Round table discussions were held over the past year to craft a bill that had more input from the agriculture community. A hearing on HB 1215 was held on 1/18 in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. There was much more positive response from the agriculture community. But,

some deep concerns remain with the Tribes regarding the issue of voluntary participation in restoration/protection efforts. Many great minds are combing through the bill to improve language in order to improve outcomes (including passing the bill).

**[HB 1460/SB 5372](#) Concerning the Department of Natural Resources land transactions, revenue distributions, and creation and management of a trust land transfer program.** These bills will help revitalize the Trust Land Transfer program. Here is a [fact sheet](#) about TLT. The Governor's budget included \$10.6 million for Trust Land Transfer – an insufficient, yet promising start to revitalizing TLT. Advocates for the TLT revitalization program will be asking the legislature for \$25 million for the 10 projects on the list. For more details about the program and list of the projects see DNR's [Trust Land Transfer-Land Portfolio Management Tool](#).

- HB 1460 is scheduled for a public hearing on 2/9 at 1:30 PM in the House Capital Budget committee.

**[SB 5390](#) Establishing a programmatic safe harbor agreement on forestlands.** This bill would facilitate participation in safe harbor agreements for spotted owl habit protection. These agreements would be voluntary, incentive-based and available to any nonfederal forestland owner. The Department of Natural Resources would consult with and rely on the Department of Fish and Wildlife for technical assistance (interagency agreement).

- SB 5390 -- **DO PASS** by Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks Committee. The bill has been referred to Ways and Means.

**[SB 5688](#) Providing carbon sequestration and ecosystem services in the management of public lands.** This bill was made at the request of the Department of Natural Resources. The intent of this bill to provide the Department of Natural Resources with specific authority, procedures, and criteria for development and implementation of carbon storage projects and associated ecosystem services. This bill would codify a new way for revenue to be generated from land and waters in the state, i.e. through the carbon offset markets.

- SB 5688 is scheduled for a public hearing on 2/10 at 8:00 AM in the Environment, Energy & Technology committee.

## **Bills We Are Watching**

**[HB 1078](#) Concerning urban forest management ordinances.** The intention of this bill was to initiate a robust discussion about how we will increase housing density in urban growth areas and not sacrifice the trees that mitigate heat, refresh the air and sequester carbon. The bill is a courageous call to begin thinking, talking and planning to solve another complex problem.

**[HB 1689](#) / [SB 5636](#) Concerning forest practices in cities.** These bills would give cities that plan under the growth management act the option to regulate forest practices within their own jurisdictions in alignment with standards established by the Department of Natural Resources.

- SB 5636 is scheduled for a public hearing on 2/9 at 10:30 AM in the Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs committee.

## How You Can Be Involved

- Local Leagues in Washington have action chairs who coordinate action teams. Some local Leagues have environmental teams to take action locally. Contact your local League action chair to find out and join.
- You may also express your opinion on legislation with the LWVWA issue chairs. We will take your perspectives into consideration as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Sherri Dysart, Forests Issue Chair, [sdysart@lwvwa.org](mailto:sdysart@lwvwa.org).
- [Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance](#) is an organization dedicated to exploring the intersection of forest protection and climate justice. Many of the most renowned forest scientists are affiliated with this organization.