

Weekly Legislative Update: **Forests**

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Deadlines:

In order to move forward this session, as of 2/7/22, a bill must have passed out of the fiscal committee in the house of origin. The pertinent question being: *is this bill a good use of taxpayer monies?*

Another deadline looms in the coming week. In order to move forward, on 2/15/22 a bill must pass the house of origin. At this point, the pertinent question is: *can this bill win support of 51% of the voters?*

The information I am including in this report is accurate (to the best of my ability) as of 7:30 PM on 2/11/22.

Bills We Support

[HJR 4209](#) Amends the state Constitution to provide that the people of the state have the right to a clean and healthy environment. Bill had a public hearing on 2/3/22 in House Committee on Environment & Energy. It does not appear to be moving forward.

[SJR 8210](#) Amends the state Constitution to provide that the people of the state have the right to a clean and healthy environment. Bill had its first reading on 1/10/22; it was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks. It does not appear to be moving forward.

[HB 1661](#) Conserving and restoring kelp forests and eelgrass meadows in Washington state. Bill had a public hearing on 1/21/22 in the House Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources. On 1/27/22 it was referred to House Committee on Appropriations; a public hearing was held on 2/3/22.

[SB 5619](#) Conserving and restoring kelp forests and eelgrass meadows in Washington state. Bill had a public hearing on 1/20/22 in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks Committee. It was referred to Senate Ways & Means on 1/28/22. Referred to Rules Committee; on 2/10/22, the 2nd substitute bill was placed on third reading. **The bill passed:** yeas, 49; nays, 0; absent, 0; excused, 0.

[SB 5637](#) Increasing forest practices fees to pay for program implementation costs and a new online system for forest practices review. Bill had a public hearing on 1/18/22 in Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Water Natural Resources & Parks. On 1/21/22, bill was passed to the Rules Committee for second reading.

Bills We Are Watching

[HB 1103 Buy Clean Buy Fair](#). The bill had a public hearing on 1/25/22 in the House Committee on Appropriations. On 2/3/22, an executive session was scheduled but no action was taken. It does not appear to be moving forward.

[SB 5366 Buy Clean Buy Fair](#). By resolution, reintroduced and retained in present status on 1/10/22, within State Government & Election Committee. It does not appear to be moving forward.

[HB 1895 Keep Washington Evergreen](#). This bill had a public hearing on 1/18/22 in the House Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources. An executive session was scheduled on 1/28/22, but no action was taken. It does not appear to be moving forward.

[SB 5633 Keep Washington Evergreen](#). This bill had a public hearing on 1/20/22 in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks. An executive session was scheduled on 1/27/22, but no action was taken. It does not appear to be moving forward.

NOTE: Regarding HB 1895/SB 5633; these were Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requested bills. Even though they are not moving forward, there is an indication that a budget proviso is being considered.

Bills We Oppose

[SB 5721 Consolidating management of natural resources under the Commissioner of Public Lands](#). This bill had a public hearing scheduled on 1/25/22 in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks, but it was not heard. This bill is not moving forward.

How You Can Be Involved

- During the legislative session we will send Action Alerts in the [Legislative Newsletter](#). Please respond to these, which will direct you to an application to facilitate communicating with your legislators on an important vote in committees or on the chamber floor.
- Local Leagues in Washington have action chairs that 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 under considerations as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Sherri Dysart, Forests Issue Chair, sdysart@lwvwa.org.