

Washington Farm Forestry Assn Legislative Report, Feb. 6, 2019

1800 bills have been introduced so far. While more introduced each day, the flood has slowed to a trickle. February 22 is the first cut-off. After that, the tracking list will begin to shrink and focus.

The hottest issue of the session so far appears to be labor, especially regulating independent contractors. Next is new taxes followed by bills related to carbon. It's far too soon to predict how any of those issues will sort out.

HB 1273 and SB 5330, which would analyze the state's regulatory impact on small forest landowners, are moving along in slightly different forms. Both bills have been amended with respect to who will direct the study. At some point before the legislative session ends in April, legislators will settle on a path forward. The good news is that interest in and support for the bill is high.

Take note of HB 1875, concerning wildlife damage to agricultural crops. This bill would increase funds available to pay farmers for damage to crops by deer and elk. It provides an opportunity to talk about the amount of damage to timber crops from deer, elk and other wildlife.

HB 1784 would direct DNR to establish wildfire fuel breaks across public lands in coordination with abutting landowners to optimize the use of natural features, provide large areas of coverage, and be positioned to minimize the spread of wildfire across various landholdings.

SB 5241 would require DNR to identify the sources of scientific information reviewed and relied upon by the agency in the course of developing rules and guidance documents. The departments of Ecology and Fish and wildlife are already required to do this.

Upcoming Events

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3, - 2/7 @ 1:30pm

- SB 5330 - Exec Session - Analyzing state regulatory impact on small forest landowners. (Support/High)
- SB 5597 - Public Hearing - Creating a work group on aerial pesticide applications in forestlands. (Concerns/High)
- SB 5701 - Public Hearing - Authorizing the reconveyance of state forestlands to counties for the purpose of creating county-owned community forests. (Neutral/Low)

High Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>HB 1011</u> Working forests/real estate Revises the real estate disclosure statement, relating to the right to farm act, to include working forests, which gives home buyers a more accurate description of the effect of the act and science-based forest practices regulations that protect the state's public resources.	H Rules R	Reeves	Support
<u>HB 1046</u> Hunting with the aid of dogs Prohibits a person from hunting or pursuing black bear, cougar, bobcat, or lynx with the aid of a dog.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Appleton	Oppose
<u>HB 1172</u> Capital gains tax/prop. tax (SB 5314) Creates a capital gains tax.	H Finance	Santos/Wellman	Oppose

<u>HB 1228</u> <u>(SB 5130)</u>	Fish barrier removal funding Helps fund state fish barrier removal by implementing a graduated real estate excise tax and moving up to August 1, 2019, the increase in certain vehicle weight fees.	H Finance	Chapman/Rolfes	Oppose
<u>SHB 1273</u> <u>(SB 5330)</u>	Small forest landowners Analyzing state regulatory impact on small forest landowners.	H Approps	Kretz/Braun	Support
<u>HB 1343</u> <u>(SB 5129)</u>	Revenue Creates a capital gains tax and increases the business and occupation tax rate on certain services.	H Finance	Tarleton/Rolfes	Oppose
<u>SHB 1348</u>	B&O tax provisions Changes the business and occupation tax structure of manufacturers to encourage economic growth and lower the unemployment rate, especially in rural areas. Delays, from July 1, 2024, until July 1, 2056, the expiration date for the timber products B&O tax rate of the state forest practices habitat conservation plan.	H Finance	Chapman	Support
<u>HB 1443</u> <u>(SB 5467)</u>	Tax preferences/mass timber Extends business and occupation tax preferences for mass timber products.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Chapman/Liias	Support
<u>HB 1725</u> <u>(SB 5550)</u>	Pesticide application safety Creates the pesticide application safety committee and requires it to: (1) Explore how the department of agriculture, the department of labor and industries, the department of health, and the Washington poison center collect and track data; and (2) Consider the feasibility and requirements of developing a shared database, Creates an advisory work group to collect information and make recommendations to the full committee on topics requiring unique expertise and perspectives on issues within the jurisdiction of the committee. Expires July 1, 2025.	H Labor & Workpl	Dent/Saldana	Support
<u>SB 5279</u>	Outdoor burning Modifies the Washington clean air act. Requires the department of natural resources to develop policies that allow outdoor burning for the protection of life or property, and for the public health, safety, and welfare. Addresses a plan of the department of natural resources regarding silviculture forest burning, improving forest health and resiliency, restoring forest ecosystem functions, allowing for natural vegetation, and reducing fuel loads to address public safety and protect property from wildfire.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Van De Wege	Support
<u>SB 5597</u>	Aerial pesticide application Creating a work group on aerial pesticide applications in forestlands.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Rolfes	Concerns

Medium Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>HB 1784</u> Wildfire prevention Concerning wildfire prevention.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Kretz	Support
<u>HB 1875</u> Ag. crop damage by wildlife Concerning wildlife damage to agricultural crops.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Eslick	Support

<u>HB 1941</u>	Wildfires impact review Conducting a comprehensive review of the impact of catastrophic wildfires on communities as a means of improving government responses for the future.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Kretz	Support
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<u>SB 5241</u>	Natural resources rulemaking Requires the department of natural resources, and the forest practices board, before enacting a significant legislative rule, giving final approval to technical guidance documents, or finalizing habitat conservation plans, to identify the sources of scientific information reviewed and relied upon by the agency in the course of preparing to take the activity.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Short	Support
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Low Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>SHB 1088</u> Littering restitution Concerning repercussions for littering.	H Rules R	MacEwen	Support
<u>HB 1188</u> Rangeland fire associations Creates rangeland fire protection associations as a nonprofit corporation or nonprofit unincorporated association that can enter into an agreement for the detection, prevention, or suppression of wildfires with the state or an agency of the state. Authorizes an association to enter into agreements with fire protection service agencies. Requires a local wildland fire liaison to provide information to an association concerning the department of natural resources wildfire detection, prevention, and suppression activities taking place within the boundaries of the association.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Dent	Support
<u>HB 1288</u> (SB 5102) DNR land acquisitions Addresses the restriction of certain public land acquisition processes and encourages positive working relationships between private landowners and state agencies that manage public natural resource lands.	H Civil R & Judi	MacEwen/Sheldon	Neutral
<u>HB 1894</u> Wildland fire advisory comm. Concerning additional temporary duties for the wildland fire advisory committee.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Dent	Support
<u>HB 1946</u> Community forests Concerning community forests.		Chapman	Oppose
<u>HJM 4000</u> (SJM 8005) Biochar Supports the continued research, development, production, and application of biochar from our forests and agricultural lands.	H Rules R	Shea/Short	Support
<u>SSB 5010</u> Protected lands/fire levies Addresses parcels of land that do not pay the forest fire protection assessment or a local fire district levy.	S Rules 2	Rolfes	Support
<u>SB 5701</u> County community forests Authorizing the reconveyance of state forestlands to counties to create county-owned community forests.	S Ag/Water/Natur	King	Neutral

[SJR 8204](#)

Right to fish, hunt, etc.

S Ag/Water/Natur

Braun

Neutral

Amending the Constitution to guarantee the right to fish, hunt, and otherwise harvest wildlife.
