



Policy Scoreboard

Editor's Note: To keep SAF members informed of state society policy activities, Policy Scoreboard is a regular feature in the Western Forester. The intent is to provide a brief explanation of the policy activity—you are encouraged to follow up with the listed contact person for detailed information.

Foresters at the Capitol. On March 26, Oregon SAF joined multiple other organizations in Salem for Forest Sector Day at the Capitol. Participating organizations included OSAF, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon Forest and Industries Council, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, American Forest Resources Council, Associated Oregon Loggers, and Oregon Women in Timber. The purpose of the event was to meet with legislators and voice our opinions on forest management generally, and on specific legislation being considered by the Oregon legislature. Ten OSAF members staffed our booth in the Capitol Atrium, and altogether approximately 30 OSAsFers participated in the event. Total participation from all organizations was approximately 150. Contact: Mark Buckbee, OSAF Co-Policy chair, buckbeefamily@msn.com.

Bills of Interest. Approximately 30 bills that would in some way affect the practice of forestry were introduced in the 2019 Oregon Legislature. Of particular interest to foresters are the following bills: 1) changing tax treatment of forest-

land; 2) enacting a Carbon Cap and Trade system; 3) prohibiting pesticide use, fertilizer use, and road construction in public water source watersheds; 4) prohibiting aerial pesticide application on state lands; 5) defunding OFRI; 5) reassigning pesticide application reporting from ODA to DEQ and requiring same day notification of neighbors; and 6) repealing state preemption for pesticide management. Almost all bills have failed to proceed except the Cap and Trade legislation, which as of early May is still being debated. While OSAF did not take formal positions on any 2019 legislation, multiple members of OSAF testified as individuals or representatives of their employer. Contact: Mark Buckbee, OSAF Co-Policy chair, buckbeefamily@msn.com.

National SAF approves position statements. The SAF Board of Directors has approved updated versions of five national position statements: Clearcutting as a Silvicultural Practice; Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems; Wildland Fire Management; State Policies Regarding Private Forest Practices; and Utilization of Woody Biomass for Energy. The Board also approved development of a position statement on Forest and Water Resources. Updated versions of National SAF Position Statements can be found at <http://bit.ly/nationalpositionstatements>. Contact: Danielle Watson, director of Communications and External Relations, watsond@safnet.org.

Policy News out of Washington. *WSSAF Legislative Wrap Up.* The Washington State Legislature adjourned on time on April 28. WSSAF hosted its annual Forestry Legislative Reception during the opening week of the 105-day

session. The event was supported by a broad range of industry and forestry organizations in Washington. The reception was a well-attended event and offered the ability for SAF members to interact and promote forestry to a variety of Washington State legislators. Look for the announcement later this year and plan to attend the January 2020 event in Olympia. A variety of forestry-related topics came before the legislature this year, including funding and operational aspects of wildfire and forest health work, the extension until 2045 of the reduced B&O tax rate for the forest products sector, pesticide and herbicide use, carbon inventories that considers the carbon sequestered in wood products and wildfire emissions, analyzing state regulatory impact on small forestland owners, economic impacts to junior taxing districts from the DNR Marbled Murrelet Long Term Conservation Strategy, trust revenue (mostly timber sales) to schools from DNR managed trust lands, and community forests. While some of these made it through the process, not all these topics survived the session as standalone bills or pieces of bills. It is expected several of those topics will return next session. While WSSAF did not take positions on these topics, many members individually or representing their organizations provided input to the process.

Shared Stewardship: On May 8 Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, Department of Fish and Wildlife Kelly Susewind, Chief of the Forest Service (and former Washington State Forester) Vicki Christiansen, and Region 6 Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa signed a "Shared Stewardship" MOU between Washington State and the US Forest Service. Washington becomes the second state in the Pacific Northwest to sign such an agreement. Idaho signed their Shared Stewardship agreement in December. Learn more about the US Forest Service Shared Stewardship program by downloading the USFS Towards Shared Stewardship document at <http://bit.ly/USFSsharedstewardship>.

State position statement updates. WSSAF will be reviewing, updating, and approving existing and new policy positions during the remainder of 2019. Look for more information later this summer.

Contact: Matt Comisky, WSSAF Policy chair, mcomisky@amforest.org. ♦



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