



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.

OSAF Reviews Pesticides

Position Statement. OSAF's position statement, "Using Pesticides on Forest Lands," expired in early December and is being reviewed for potential changes and updated discussion points and supporting references. The use of pesticides on forestlands remains a very important issue that continues to stir public controversy and concern, particularly aerial spraying. For example, although its legality remains in question, a ballot initiative that bans aerial spraying was narrowly approved this past spring by voters in Lincoln County, Ore. Among the changes being considered for the OSAF position is a new title and focus on herbicides, as well as more discussion and references on environmental effects. All OSAF members are invited to review the existing statement (www.oregon.forestry.org/oregon) and pass along comments to your chapter officers or the Policy Committee. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, adamspaulw@gmail.com.

Oregon Legislators Sponsor

Wildfire Bills. As one of the worst fire seasons in recent years wound down in Oregon, Rep. Greg Walden and Sen. Ron Wyden introduced bills on Capitol Hill that would deal with different aspects of wildfire issues. Walden's "Scenic Columbia Gorge Restoration Act" (HR 3715) would expedite recovery activities in National Scenic Areas after wildfire or other catastrophic events with streamlined planning, environmental reviews, and ESA consultation, as well as by prohibiting restraining orders and injunctions. Applicable recovery activities include salvage and reforestation. Wyden's "Wildfire Disaster Funding Act" (S 1842) would fund federal wildland firefighting costs as natural disasters rather than the current approach that impacts agency budgets for active man-

agement to improve forest health and resiliency. S 1842 is supported by a bipartisan group of cosponsors and Wyden has also joined similar groups for other recent bills, including S 1932 and S 1991, that deal with wildfire issues and forest management. The text and status of these and other federal bills related to forestlands and their management can be found at www.congress.gov/ by entering the bill number, title, or key word (forest, wildfire, etc.) in the search box. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, adamspaulw@gmail.com.

Venture to the *Other* Washington.

October 4 was Hill Day for the American Forest Foundation (AFF). Washington State SAF members (and Tree Farm inspectors) Harry Bell and Jenny Knoth accompanied Washington Tree Farm Program Chair Tammie Perreault to the *Other* Washington. The team met with their Congressional delegation about issues impacting landowners and timberland managers. Positive highlights from this fly-in are: 1) More of our Congression-

al delegation understands and knows our issues than ever before; 2) Not only do they understand our issues, but many are champions for us—personal meetings with Congressmen Kilmer and Newhouse and Congresswoman DelBene were in-depth and detailed two-way conversations about the challenges forestry faces and they want to help; 3) Our Senators make a difference. The seniority of Senator Murray and the position of Senator Cantwell as the ranking democrat on Energy and Natural Resources ensures forestry issues are brought forward at the highest levels. Additionally, Senator Cantwell has a forester on her staff who helps develop legislation; 4) We, forestry professionals, are our own best advocates. While the leadership and staff of SAF and AFF provide the opportunity to be heard and the data to support positive forest policy—it is YOU, the SAF member, that makes the magic happen with your involvement. Contact: Jenny Knoth, WSSAF Forest Science and Technology chair, jenny@greencrow.com. ♦



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