



WASHINGTON FOREST
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
2008 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

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DATE: February 15, 2008
ISSUE: Issue 5

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This week marked the second cut-off for the 2008 Legislative session. Any bills that did not make it out of the fiscal or transportation committees in their house of origin are dead. The state's revenue forecast was updated today, and, as expected, showed a significant decrease in projected revenue growth. Legislative leaders are carefully scrutinizing all new spending in light of the latest forecast. Floor cut-off is February 19, so the pace is intense. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Debora Munguia

Director of Governmental Relations

THE **WFPA** LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS DETAIL THE ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES AFFECTING OUR TIMBER INDUSTRY, INCLUDING BILL TRACKING, HEARING SCHEDULES AND MORE. THE LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS WILL BE PUBLISHED EACH FRIDAY DURING SESSION. CONTACT **DEBORA MUNGUIA**, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, FOR MORE INFORMATION.



CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

We continue to be engaged in climate change discussions to find language that protects our interests and rewards the work we have done. We have received positive feedback from the Governor and legislative leaders to address our concerns.

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR—FEBRUARY 18-FEBRUARY 22, 2008

Date	Bill #	Bill Description	Committee	Time	Location
2/18		Report on sunrise review of soil & wetland scientists	Commerce & Labor	8:30 AM	HHR 3
2/20	S2219	Small forest landowners	Nat. Res, Ocean, Recreation	8:00 AM	SHR 2

HHR: House Hearing Room; SHR: Senate Hearing Room

GET TO KNOW YOUR NATURAL RESOURCE LEGISLATORS

Each week, *Legislative Highlights* will feature different legislators from the Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation and the House Agriculture & Natural Resources committees.

SENATOR DAN SWECKER, MINORITY CAUCUS VICE CHAIRMAN

Senator Dan Swecker is the Republican Caucus Vice Chair. He lives in Rochester and represents the 20th district which includes parts of Thurston and Lewis counties. He joined the Senate in 1995. Along with the Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation committee, Swecker is the Ranking Republican Member of the Transportation committee, and sits on Government Operations and Elections. Before joining the Legislature, he ran a freshwater fish farm called Swecker Salmon Farms. He started off raising salmon fingerlings for other growers. Later on, he became involved with pan-sized salmon, smoked salmon and producing salmon eggs that he exported all over the world as live eggs to other growers.

As for the 2008 Legislative Session, the storm of December 2007 that occurred in Sen. Swecker's district is his biggest priority. He wants to get funding to help fix the flooding



problem in Lewis and Thurston counties. He said he has been really impressed with the response by public agencies and private individuals, along with tremendous response from volunteers in cash donations and other contributions.



Swecker and Gov. Gregoire at an evacuation site in Rochester after the storms.

“I look forward to some of the studies that are about to occur, sponsored by the DNR, on some of the timber practices that may have been a factor in the December flood and whether they may need to be changed based on adaptive management,” Swecker said. “I look forward to the studies’ outcomes and seeing how the timber industry responds. The timber industry has been a good neighbor in communities in Lewis and Thurston counties and their economies.”

REPRESENTATIVE JUDY WARNICK, ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP

Rep. Judy Warnick represents the 13th legislative district which includes Moses Lake, Ellensburg, Cle Elum and parts of Yakima County. Warnick, a Republican, grew up on a small dairy farm in Deer Park, Washington.



She is assistant ranking member of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, and has made land and water issues her priority in Olympia. Warnick also sits on the Judiciary and Transportation Committees, and is the ranking Republican on the Local Government Committee.

“I am working on issues important to farmers, including additional water storage and addressing local groundwater problems,” Warnick said. “In addition, we need to reduce overregulation and the overly restrictive growth management laws.”



Warnick is a member of the Grant County 4-H Program, the Grant County Fair Board, and sits on a committee with the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington. She resides in Moses Lake with her husband where they run a small business.