



WSCC Regular Meeting - December 2, 2021

Ron Shultz, SCC Policy Director

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- The Washington Legislature will begin their next session on Monday, January 10, 2022. This will be a short, 60-day session, ending March 11, 2022.
- Covid will still have impacts on the operation of the Legislature.
 The Senate recently approved a plan for a hybrid approach to
 session, with in-person floor action and remote committee days.
 The House may have a similar approach.
- Another key issue on the minds of legislators during session will be the new redistricting maps as well as the 2022 election.

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Anticipated key issues for the upcoming session include:

Governor's Salmon Plan – will include both budget and policy components.

<u>Green Technical Service</u> – legislation to establish technical assistance from the SCC to conservation districts to work with landowners on energy efficiency and green energy opportunities.

<u>Conservation District Elections</u> – Legislation from the Commission, as well as possible bills from legislators.

<u>Supplemental Budget</u> – Both operating and capital. The Commission has three supplemental budget proposals. The Governor's proposed supplemental budget is due to be released by December 17.

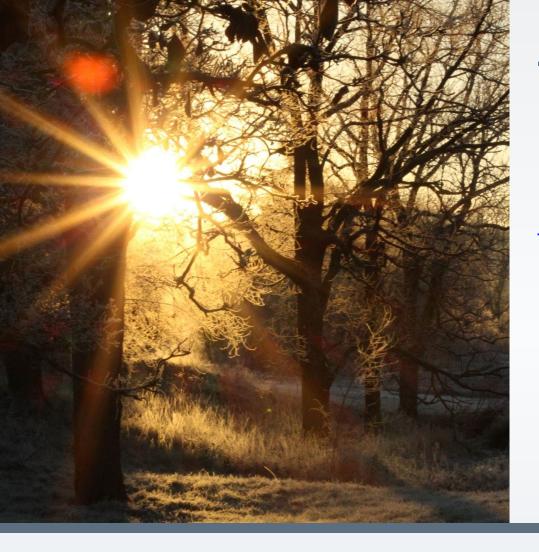
- Each year prior to session, the Commission reviews and approves the process to be used by Commission staff for taking a position on legislation during session.
- The proposed process begins with the review of introduced legislation by Commission staff.
- The Commission will once again convene a weekly legislative team meeting. These meetings include Commission staff, WACD staff and the WACD legislative liaison.

 During these weekly meetings, recently introduced bills are discussed and it's determined whether a position should be taken or just tracked.

- The team reviews the legislative committee meeting calendar for the following week to determine whether the Commission should testify on any bills being heard during the week.
- The WSCC executive director has the final decision on the position to take on a bill and whether to testify on a bill.

- The WSCC executive director will also have the authority to determine whether an issue in a bill is of such significance that it needs to be referred to the Commission's executive committee or the full Commission for discussion and position approval.
- Commission staff will communicate to the Commission on a weekly basis all positions on legislation, the status of all bills tracked, and issues of interest before the Legislature. This communication will be via the regular Friday Update.

Commission staff recommends approval of this process.



Thank you! Questions?

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