

Viewpoint

a newsletter for wpea members at the department of natural resources

Proposed salary increases for some in State Lands

In the Fall of 2015, Kyle Blum, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands, notified WPEA that he intended to increase salaries for the Natural Resource Specialist NRS 1's and 2's within his chain of command. We were first notified of this at a regularly-scheduled Labor Management Communication Committee. During this meeting we notified Kyle Blum that the Union has a number of concerns about any

plan that would increase NRS salaries for some NRS classifications (in this case, the State Uplands NRSs) in the agency and not all NRS classifications. WPEA has consistently maintained this position since first hearing about Mr. Blum's intentions to increase salaries. WPEA also believes that the Classification and Pay Proposal that was filed in August of 2007 (while CPL Sutherland was in office),

is the appropriate solution to the very real recruitment and retention problem that DNR is experiencing. WPEA will continue to maintain this position with DNR and continue to fight for increases for all NRS classifications employed by DNR. We will resume this fight in bargaining this summer and will continue until all NRS classifications are being paid a fair and equitable wage.

DNR bills this session

HB 2310 – Van De Wege (D – Sequim)
Establishes an outdoor burn ban from July 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, and prohibits the sale, purchase, or use of fireworks from June 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016.

HB 2348 – Hawkins (R – East Wenatchee)
Allows local governments, in emergency situations, to establish limitations on fireworks without the current one-year delay before implementation.

HB 2596 – Dye (R – Pomeroy)
Creates a "local wildland fire response account" that would reimburse local fire districts for initial attack costs.

HB 2695 – Blake (D – Aberdeen)
Requires DNR and other public landowners, when doing road maintenance or abatement, to preserve access to "historically accessible land"

for nonmotorized recreation upon completion of the project.

SB 6347 – Hobbs (D – Lake Stevens)
Expands DNR's fire response mandate to include "unimproved lands" not under the protection

of another fire district; increases the per-parcel assessment for fire protection; and uses some of that assessment to fund the National Guard to engage in fire response.

DNR funding issues

Both Governor Jay Inslee and Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark have submitted budget requests for fire prevention and suppression. Inslee is asking for \$15 million, while Goldmark is asking for about \$24 million. Goldmark's proposal would fund 50 FTEs, while Inslee's would fund only 28 FTEs.

	Goldmark	Inslee	Difference
Local Fire Districts	\$6.1 million	\$4.7 million	- \$1.4 million
Prepositioned Fire Readiness	\$3.2 million	\$2.3 million	- \$0.9 million
Communications Technology	\$1.2 million	\$1.2 million	\$0
Interagency Training	\$6.9 million	\$4.2 million	- \$2.7 million
Prevention & Fuels Reduction	\$6.3 million	\$2.4 million	- \$3.9 million
Total	\$23.8 million	\$14.8 million	- \$9 million

WPEA reps for DNR

Amanda Hacker

Amanda works on Department of Natural Resources member issues statewide and represents DNR members working in Olympic, South Puget Sound, Northwest, and Northeast regions. [360-943-1121 x102](tel:360-943-1121) or amanda@wpea.org

Heather Kafton

Heather represents DNR members in the Pacific Cascades region. [360-972-0149](tel:360-972-0149) or heather@wpea.org

John Littel

John represents DNR members in the Southeast region. [509-480-2590](tel:509-480-2590) or john@wpea.org

Below are the WPEA-certified shop stewards:

Lead Shop Steward

Bob Smith – Statewide

Shop Stewards

Anthony Dias – Olympic Region

Becky Escobar – Pacific Cascade Region

Anthony Dias – Olympic Region

Becky Escobar – Pacific Cascade Region

Ben Goble – Pacific Cascade Region

Judy Harmon – NRB Olympia

Steve Martin – Olympic Region

Paul Nelson – Northeast Region

Linda O'Neal – Northeast Region

Andrew Reed – South Sound Region



King5 Interview Regarding Gebbers Farms



Learn more on the DNR blog

WPEA has a new DNR Blog. You can get access to the blog by e-mailing Ashley Chipman at ashley@wpea.org. You will need to provide her with your full name in order for her to verify that you are currently a WPEA member.

WPEA is hopeful that we will be able to get communication out faster and cheaper by providing it in this format. This will be the best place to access any new information regarding the Commissioner of Public Lands and WPEA's concerns with his leadership.

WPEA introduces member training fund

Last year the WPEA Executive Board established the Training and Education Fund, designed for members to pursue career development opportunities. The Executive Board recognized that State agencies have drastically reduced training budget and opportunities, so WPEA is stepping up to provide more of those opportunities.

Initial programs include skilled trades apprenticeships and leadership certificates with several agencies, and WPEA is working in tandem with our employers to seek state registered apprenticeship standards. Recently WPEA staff met with DNR management to discuss the Training and Education Fund, and to hear about the agency's training initiatives including job shadowing, internships, and in-training opportunities. Staff Representative John Littel is coordinating the efforts to build the Training and Education Fund. Contact him at john@wpea.org if you have questions or ideas for possible training opportunities.

Recent member win

Ben Goble, a member and WPEA shop steward from **DNR Larch Camp**, received back pay as a resolution to the grievance filed by WPEA for the Independence Day Holiday in which he worked but was not compensated for by DNR.

Ben knew that DNR was not following the WPEA contract and reached out to his union to help get the matter resolved. Ben's advice to fellow WPEA members, "Take time to read your contract and know your rights. If it hadn't have been for the WPEA collective bargaining agreement there would have been no way to recover the loss in wages."

In memoriam...

On October 4, **Dylan Tripp** of Arlington died in a motorcycle accident. He was a DNR forester and a member since 2012. WPEA extends condolences to his family, friends, and coworkers.