

# **OVCBCHW**

## Legislative Report

November 24, 2011

Dave Sunde

The legislature will go into a special session to deal with the current budget shortfall on November 28th. We won't know how long the session will run until the calendar is set on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The only item so far of interest to our mission statement is a General Government Appropriations & Oversight committee work session on 12/1/11 at 1:30 pm. One of the items on the agenda at this time is a State Parks & Recreation Commission update on the Discover Pass Revenue.

The purpose of the special session is budgetary in nature so most of the bills coming out of the session will involve solutions to account for the almost \$2 billion revenue shortfall. The state has already made over \$10 billion in cuts and we should expect more. Added to all this is the Wenatchee bailout proposal where the state would loan the city of Wenatchee \$42 million out of the sales tax "float" to pay off the Toyota Town Center short term debt and therefore avoid a default. This will be the first item of business on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup>.

All in all I don't see any extra money available for recreation, trail maintenance, trailhead improvements, etc. for the next year or so.

The letter from our chapter explaining our opposition to the lack of no fee or reduced fee Discover Passes for volunteers has been sent to Peter Goldmark and will be presented to the BCHW BoD at the December meeting.