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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know

September 10, 2020



1 – Fire

Fire and smoke and devastation are on our minds. Remember to take care of yourself and your family first, otherwise you won't be in a position to help others. And helping others is what we do. It is in our DNA. The help you give does make a difference. Please keep us informed as you learn about conservation community members who have been affected.

2 – WACD Board meeting next week

We invite you to attend the September 15th meeting of the WACD Board of Directors. Details are [available on the WACD website](#). The Board held a work session on September 8th to discuss some larger topics in preparation for the Board meeting on the 15th.

3 – Annual meeting update

3.1 Content – The content team is zeroing in on topics. It probably goes without saying that we can't cover everything, but we want to touch on the topics that are of wide interest and importance.

3.2 Pricing – Pricing is close to being set. It looks like \$50 per person or \$150 per conservation district. The \$150 flat rate would cover all board supervisors, associate supervisors, and employees

of a district so it's a great deal. When you consider that this year you are not spending money on travel, hotel, and restaurant meals, this becomes a truly great deal. Our goals are simple: cover our costs and increase participation. We think that this pricing scheme will allow us to meet both goals.

3.3 Zoom trainings – Don't forget that we have two standing time slots for you to practice your Zoom skills. Tom Salzer will be available from 3 pm to 4:30 pm on Mondays. Ryan Baye will be available from 9:30 am to 11 am on Fridays. We'll maintain this schedule through September and into October. If you need to practice at a different time, please [contact us](#). We will both be using the same link for these practice sessions: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2466479813>

4 – Resolutions and Area Directors

As your district writes resolutions this year, please consider reaching out to your [Area Directors](#). They can help support your efforts to write a strong resolution and connect you with others who might be focusing on the same topic. So far, we are aware of a resolution about **conservation district dues**, one on **diversity, equity, and inclusion**, and one on **WACD shared services**. And since it was tabled last year until this year, we'll also see the return of a resolution on **conservation district elections**.

5 – Final public comment Friday for WDFW strategic plan

From the WDFW Strategic Planning Team (Jeff Davis, Carrie McCausland, Lynn Helbrecht, Rob Geddis, and Kevin Wharton): Thank you to the 550+ members of the general public, 70+ stakeholders, and 900 people on social media who helped us to modify our initial framework to move forward four the strategic focus areas and 42 action items. Your participation is helping us to better understand how the agency needs to change the way it serves Washington residents to meet the realities brought by growing populations, a changing climate, and shifting public values and expectations. This Friday, **the Fish and Wildlife Commission will take public comment on a final draft of the WDFW 25-Year Strategic Plan** as a part of their online September commission meeting. The commission [meeting agenda is available online](#). The public is invited to [review the revised draft](#).

Care to help Wade Troutman, Foster Creek CD supervisor?

The [Pearl Hill fire](#) ravaged [Wade Troutman's](#) ranch on September 7, 2020. He lost his house, ranch, and nearly all of his possessions. Four generations of his family have worked the land and in less than four hours, it was gone.



The immediate needs for Wade and Jane are to replace basic necessities and to provide temporary housing to get through the next few weeks and months. Wade has been a dedicated supervisor of the Foster Creek Conservation District and a leader in our conservation community for 39 years. Any donation will be deeply appreciated.

[GoFundMe page for Wade](#)

Executive Corner

Dear weblinx,

You would have to be living under a rock to not know that the West Coast is on fire. With friends and associates in California, Oregon, and Washington, I am feeling deep concern and worry for many people in all three states (and in Nevada, Idaho, Colorado, and beyond, but that is another story for another time).

In the links section of this 5 Things newsletter, I'm going to summarize some links about fire but I'm not going to share all the links I collected during the week. When I look at my long list of links collected from communities at all points of the compass, I feel overwhelmed by the flood of tragic news, over and over, every day, which leads me to...

Beware doomscrolling!

Here is a new term for you: doomscrolling.

Psychologists say habitual scrolling through bad news, even when it's upsetting or depressing, is hurting you mentally and physically. - [KING5 News](#)

We are hard-wired to focus on negative news. It pushes us into "fight or flight" syndrome, something our species learned eons ago when faced with imminent danger. And then we want more, so we keep scrolling, hoping to find the answers we are seeking.

A healthier response might be to seek ways to shift out of the flight or flight zone. Turn off the news or set a designated amount of time to look at news and then cut it off. Consider meditation and other mindfulness practices to help you regain your center. Work on crafts or take up a new hobby.

Exercise can be important. Exercise can help treat mild to moderate depression so go do something. Take a walk, ride a bike, jog, chop some firewood, wash the car, weed the garden.

Try some healthier recipes as a way to refocus on your own well being instead of dwelling on bad news. Connect with your family and friends about something other than the news.

Give some time and energy to others. Volunteer, donate.

To the world, you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world. - Unknown

I don't mean to sound preachy but here's the thing: if I'm feeling the emotional impact of these tragic circumstances, I imagine that others may be feeling the same. In our conservation family we do care about each other. You are important. We are all important.

Maybe you feel perfectly fine despite the information coming at us from all directions. If that is the case, then please consider that those around you may not be feeling as safe and grounded as you feel. Consider becoming a supportive resource for them. Reach out and check in. Let them know you care. There is no better time than right now.

The simple act of caring is heroic. - Edward Albert

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Help us test a support system

We are testing [Freshdesk](#) as a tool to help us better coordinate our member support. It's easy to help us test: just send a note to us at support@wadistricts.freshdesk.com. Alternatively, visit the portal at <https://wadistricts.freshdesk.com/> and click *New Support Ticket*.

Send us a test message

More from the WACD Plant Materials Center...

Busy busy! – We'll have an update for you next week!

Shop Amazon Smile to Support WCS

Support the Washington Conservation Society by [becoming a member, donating](#), or purchasing goods through [Amazon Smile](#). Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on Amazon mile, the [Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price](#) of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Shop AmazonSmile

More from the WACD Executive Office...

Area Association meetings – The basic list of dates for fall meetings of area associations is posted on the [Our Area Associations page](#) in the [WACD website](#).

WACD annual awards – [WACD's Annual Awards Program is now available](#). Please nominate an outstanding member of Washington State's conservation community who deserves recognition. Nominations are due to [Lori McLaughlin](#) by October 30th and winners will be announced in coordination with the WACD annual conference.

Links to what we are reading

Below are links to interesting items we are reading. Disclaimer: inclusion of these links in this newsletter do not imply official WACD support or endorsement of particular positions or information. Some news sources may be behind paywalls.

Jobs

- [Position Opening: Engineer-In-Training, Snohomish CD](#)
- [Farm Resource Specialist, Pierce Conservation District](#)
- [Livestock Conservation Planner, Clark Conservation District](#)
- [Job: Riparian Habitat Stewardship Coordinator, King Conservation District \(Renton, WA\)](#)

Fire - General / Regional

- [Incident Information System](#) | InciWeb
- [Oregon, California, Washington fires are burning thousands of acres, and weather conditions are no help](#) | CNN
- [At least seven killed as scores of wildfires burn on U.S West Coast](#) | Reuters
- [Wildfires off West Coast can be seen 20 miles out to sea](#) | The Olympian

Fire - Washington

- ['Like a bomb' - winds fuel destructive Northwest blazes](#) | ifiberonenewsradio.com
- [Cold Springs and Pearl Hill Fires burn more acreage than 2014 Carlton Complex](#) | krem.com

- ['This is how they handle fires': Farmers aid fire crews in effort to save Douglas County town of Mansfield](#) | The Spokesman-Review
- [Lincoln County wildfire burned 70,000 acres; blaze still uncontrolled](#) | The Spokesman-Review
- [Emergency Declared For Whitman County-Fires Mostly Under Control-Relief Efforts Being Coordinated](#) | PullmanRadio.com
- [Washington Governor Jay Inslee discusses wildfires](#) | The Olympian
- [Gov. Inslee giving update after seeing damage from Sumner Grade Fire](#) | king5.com
- [Evans Canyon Fire Update](#) – NewsRadio 560 KPQ
- [Crews continue to battle expansive blazes in Eastern Washington, North Idaho on Tuesday](#) | The Spokesman-Review
- ['It's the worst I've even seen': Inchelium complex of fires burns homes, forces evacuations](#) | The Spokesman-Review
- [Unhealthy air across Puget Sound after 330,000 acres burn in Washington in 24 hours](#) | king5.com
- ['An unprecedented event': More than 300,000 acres in Washington have burned since Monday](#) | kiro7.com
- [Things Began To Return To Normal In Fire Area](#) | 929thebull.com

Fire - Oregon

- [Thousands of Oregonians evacuate as wildfires spread across Cascades](#) | Capital Press
- [Thousands evacuate as Almeda Fire rips through Medford](#) | The Washington Post
- [Oregon fires destroy five towns, governor says many deaths feared](#) | Reuters
- [Satellite images show Phoenix and Talent, Oregon, have been nearly wiped out by wildfire](#) | CNN

Wellness

- [How to be a wise news consumer during the Covid-19 pandemic](#) | optimistdaily.com
- [Taking Care of Your Emotional Health](#) | CDC
- [Coping With Disaster](#) | Mental Health America
- [How to stay positive when disasters strike](#) | mindfood.com
- [Helping Others](#) | Ready.gov

Partners and Publications

Partners and Associations (suggestions welcome)

- [National Association of Conservation Districts \(NACD\)](#)
- [NACD Pacific Region page](#)
- [National Conservation District Employees Association](#)

- [National Association of State Conservation Agencies](#)
- [Washington Association of District Employees](#)
- [Washington Association of Land Trusts](#)
- [Washington Conservation Society](#) and [AmazonSmile for WCS](#)
- [Washington State Conservation Commission](#)

Resources and Publications

- [District directory published by WACD](#)
- [How to subscribe to Conservation Commission news \(PDF file\)](#)
- [SCC/CD shared photo gallery](#)
- [NACD publications - find them here](#)
- [Washington State Data Book](#) | Office of Financial Management - *"The Washington State Data Book presents, in one reference document, a diversity of information on Washington, its people, economy, and government. The information is obtained from state and federal agencies as well as private business."*
- DEI resources for those who are ready to learn more
 - [Center for Diversity & the Environment](#) - Check out their [articles](#) and [videos](#).
 - [Coalition of Communities of Color](#) - See their [research and publications](#) plus a
 - [Tool for Organizational Self Assessment Related to Racial Equity 2014](#)
 - [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) | East Multnomah SWCD (and see their page on [discussion group resources](#) designed to facilitate conversations)
 - [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#) | West Multnomah SWCD
 - [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) | North Cascades Institute
 - [Equity & Inclusion](#) | Pierce CD
 - [Managing Unconscious Bias](#) | Facebook
 - [Training materials \(free\)](#) | Hollaback!

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We welcome your feedback



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