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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for July 8, 2021

Dear weblinx,

1. Fire season is in full swing

- We are tracking multiple small fires in Washington State. Hit the Reading List at <https://raindrop.io/tsalzer/wacd-reading-list-15979489> and click on the #WILDFIRE tag to find recent references.
- [InciWeb](#) shows four large fires in Washington, all east of the Cascades: the Batterman Road fire near Wenatchee, the Andrus fire near Spokane, and the Dry Gulch and Lick Creek fires south of Pomeroy and Lewiston.
- This week, [Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency](#) covering the entire state because of wildfire danger.

2. Regarding WACD dues and changing our system

This time of year is always interesting for us because of different opinions about WACD dues. Dues notices were sent to member districts last week. Just as we saw last year, some conservation districts are happy with the current dues structure and some are not. Our 2021 cover letter that accompanied dues invoices is available on the [Hub documents page](#). WACD staff remain happy to talk with you about the annual WACD dues.

If your district wishes to seek changes in the current system, getting a head start on crafting your resolution for the fall area association meeting is a good strategy. As you seek support, you may discover a groundswell of energy from like-minded people that can help propel your resolution forward. The resolution process is how you can change how WACD serves member conservation districts.

3. Executive Corner: two of them this week!

WACD Executive Director Tom Salzer had two very different trains of thought this week, both resulting in Executive Corner reflections.

- [Why we need to support people](#) discusses why we need to support the good people in our lives and provides context around what you care about, what you can influence, and what you can control.
- [The changing nature of conservation district leadership and management](#) describes several different styles of management and argues that the overall style of leadership and management in conservation districts is becoming less directive and more participatory. This is a long article best consumed by conservation district board

members and district managers, but it has useful content for everyone in our community.

4. Next Generation Leadership Institute application period open

NGLI - aka the [Next Generation Leadership Institute](#) - is accepting applications for the next cohort of conservation leaders. More information will be presented in a webinar on July 14 ([register here](#)). WACD strongly encourages currently appointed or elected conservation district officials to apply. If your application is accepted, WACD may be able to assist with the required tuition. This is an excellent opportunity to become more effective in your conservation work. We have not seen any applicants to NGLI from Washington State so this is your chance to put Washington on the map.

5. End-of-year Plant Materials Center update

We don't have a current sales report yet because PMC staff is still entering new orders in this new fiscal year. Total revenue for the fiscal year that just closed set an all-time record. We also set a record for total expenses. Net revenue was positive. Root pruning is underway to help produce vigorous plants with better survivability. Seed collection is also in full swing. The PMC is in need of conifer seeds so if you have a source, please get in touch! [Read the July 7 PMC update here](#).

From your Executive Director

WACD office hours next week

WACD Executive Office staff will be available to take your calls next week on Tuesday (July 13) and Friday (July 16), from 10 am to noon. We will have a Zoom room open during those periods so please drop in to chat. With luck, we'll get a handful of folks in there so that we can have an unstructured but productive conversation. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2466479813>

We are preparing for the next cycle

WACD operations appear to be in a mid-year lull, but the reality is that we are all as busy as ever. At the Plant Materials Center, harvest and shipping have concluded. Work is focused on irrigating and controlling weeds and pests. At the Executive Office, the 2021 legislative session has concluded and staff is working on plans for the 2021 WACD annual conference and business meeting. For both the PMC and the Executive side of WACD's house, this is a time of taking care of current business while we prepare for the next cycle.

Engage now with your legislators

I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is to engage with your legislators now rather than waiting until December or January. Building new relationships takes time so it is best to get started early on this important work. Renewing/maintaining existing relationships does not take much time but that small investment is invaluable in gaining future support. These are the people who make decisions on programs and money. They are vital to the success of our voluntary, non-regulatory conservation delivery system, just as you are. Please invest a few minutes this month in reaching out to your legislators. Need some ideas? Start with [What is your summer strategy for engaging electeds?](#)

District Directory updates needed now

We are fielding requests for an updated District Directory, but unfortunately, many member districts have not answered the call for updated information. Please get us your new and updated information as soon as possible. The Directory is a widely used resource but it doesn't have as much value when the information is old or out of date. Find the most recent District

Directory at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/contacts/>. **WACD1942** is the password to access those resources. Thank you for helping us help our entire community!

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director
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Partners are important!

Find our list of partners at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wacd/partners-sponsors/partners/>.

- [Friends of NACD](#) – Your contributions provide funding for technical assistance grants to conservation districts.
- [Washington Conservation Society](#) – WCS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization so your contributions are tax-deductible. If you make purchases through Amazon Smile, a portion of your purchases goes to WCS in support of their programs and initiatives.

Recent posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: July 7, 2021](#)
- [Opinion: Conserving America the Beautiful | 2021-07-08 | Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.](#)
- [New study on delta variant reveals importance of receiving both vaccine shots, highlights challenges posed by mutations – The Washington Post](#)
- [Microsoft issues urgent security warning: Update your PC immediately – CNN](#)
- [Job: NRCS Soil Conservationist in Ephrata Field Office](#)
- [The changing nature of conservation district leadership and management](#)
- [Insee declares wildfire state of emergency, limited burn ban](#)
- [Virtual advocacy doesn't make the same connection | WAWG](#)
- [You asked, we're answering: Your top questions about Covid-19 and vaccines | CNN](#)
- [Why we need to support people](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. Also see the articles WACD staff are reading at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/wacd-reading-list/>.

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