



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

RESOLUTION SHORT TITLE: 2022-02 Ecology Stock Water Policy

SPONSOR CD: Okanogan

AREA: NW SW NC SC NE SE

RESOLUTION TYPE:

- Policy
- Position Statement
- Recognition
- Study

RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY (check any option that applies):

- WACD
- WSCC
- OTHER STATE AGENCY Ecology
- NRCS
- NACD
- NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER _____

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The Washington Department of Ecology adopted a policy (94-1025) almost 30 years ago which directed Ecology staff to allow for the mechanical diversion of surface waters for livestock consumption in return for protection of water quality values. This policy has been the driving force behind hundreds of projects that removed livestock access from surface water. These projects have been paid for by private parties and public agencies such as the Washington State Conservation Commission, Washington Department of Ecology, and others.

In 2021, with no input from partners or the public, Ecology released a draft proposal to replace policy 94-1025 with a new policy that, as written, changes the rules for who may divert water for livestock use, where they may be permitted to do so, and other restrictions. Regrettably, this proposed change, while possibly well intended to address some discrepancies between water quality laws and rules and water quantity laws and rules, has starkly negative ramifications for the installation of such projects in the future.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

WACD shall work collaboratively with private stakeholders, Washington Department of Ecology, conservation districts, and the legislature to codify to not need a water right for stack water for de minimus use.



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TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION (check all boxes that apply):

- Technical (changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes **NO** substantive change(s) to the existing policy.
- Substantive change to existing policy. If in doubt, check the box.
- New policy.

IS THERE A BUDGET IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?

- NO.** None anticipated.
- YES** (briefly explain): This resolution will require staff time to implement.