



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

RESOLUTION 2022-03

SHORT TITLE: 2022-03 Stock Water Rights

SPONSOR CD: Stevens County

AREA: NW SW NC SC XNE SE

RESOLUTION TYPE:

- Policy
- Position Statement
- Recognition
- Study

RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY (check any option that applies):

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

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:

In 2021 Washington State Department of Ecology in its interpretation of Policy 1025 created panic and uncertainty for livestock operations concerning the ability to utilize surface water for current animal husbandry and riparian protection practices. The question is are livestock producers required by law to have a water right to water or do they have a riparian water right or exemption utilize surface water for animal consumption?

PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

- WACD will support the continuation of Livestock Task force of Conservation Districts.
- WACD and WSCC will work with appropriate agencies and stake holders to resolve the uncertainty if surface water rights are required for livestock.
- If determined some current livestock operations are illegal in the utilization of surface water WACD and WSCC will work with appropriate agencies and stake holders to ensure there is a route to comply without enforcement or financial burden.



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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.

ARE WACD RESOURCES (FUNDING, STAFF CAPACITY, ETC.) REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?

NO

YES (briefly explain): Aid in coordination of task force and communicate with WSCC and stakeholders.