



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for March 10, 2022

Unprecedented Support from Legislature!

Dear Thomas,

1. Conservation successes in the supplemental budgets

With the legislative process almost complete for the 2022 session, we begin to see a clearer picture, one that recognizes the hard work of everyone in our community in achieving this success. Almost \$29 million will be directed to Conservation Commission programs, a stupendous outcome considering where this session started with a whirlpool of riparian buffer mandates and a CD election mandate proposal. As we near the end of this process, the short version of what this funding looks like is:

- \$17 million for voluntary riparian habitat restoration programs
- \$2.7 million to fund district project engineering
- \$3 million to at last fund implementation of VSP
- \$2 million to initiate the Sustainable Farms and Fields Program

You can view more about [our initial reaction](#) regarding the final supplemental budgets on the WACD Hub. And we also invite anyone looking for reading material to view the publicly available summaries and details for the [compromise capital budget](#) and [compromise operating budget](#) to follow the 2 links.

2. WACD Board to hold work session March 21

The WACD Board of Directors will hold a work session at 6:00 pm on Monday, March 21st. This is a public meeting and we invite you to attend. The draft agenda and meeting connection details will be posted on the [Board Meetings page on the main website](#). There you can also view the draft minutes from the Board's February meeting.

3. NACD Spring Fly-in and issue papers

NACD's Spring Fly-in will be [held virtually on March 22](#). The Conservation Commission and WACD are coordinating on several messages to share with our congressional delegation in Washington DC. NACD has published [issue papers for fiscal year 2023](#) to assist conservation districts in 2022 Spring Fly-in meetings with legislators:

- [Appropriations](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [Forestry](#)

- [Wildlife Management](#)

4. WACD's 2022 Resolution Book

Resolutions adopted by the membership at each year's Annual Business Meeting are active for five years before either retirement or re-authorization by the membership. WACD's current resolutions are now available on the WACD Hub under [Resolutions](#) (look for [WACD's Active Resolutions in 2022](#)).

5. Plant Materials Center

We posted a brief report about the WACD Plant Materials Center. A labor shortage has slowed production but total shipments of more than one million plants smashed previous records. Learn more: [Plant Materials Center update: March 10, 2022](#)

Remember the Leaving a Legacy Program!

The Washington Conservation Society annually publishes [Leaving a Legacy](#), a memorial and celebratory book of conservationists who have made or are making a notable impact on the natural resources in Washington State. Inductees include past and present Supervisors, district volunteers, and agency partners. The book includes photos and biographical information. The book is published electronically each fall.

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Success in the Final Supplemental Budget](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: March 10, 2022](#)
- [Washington lawmakers nix forced buffers, embrace conservation | capitalpress.com](#)
- [Week 8 General Legislative Review](#)
- [Legislation Still Active Approaching Sine Die](#)
- [Natural Resource Project Manager, San Juan Islands CD](#)
- [Between Now and the End of Session](#)
- [District Manager Announcement](#)
- [WACD 2022 Budget Reconciliation Priorities](#)
- [Week 7 General Legislative Review](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. Many news articles that mention Washington State conservation districts are [shared on Flipboard](#).

In the [WACD Reading List](#) we capture many articles of interest to segments of our community:

WACD Reading List

Bookmarks of special interest to Washington conservation districts



977 bookmarks

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Biden-Harris Administration Issues Call for Wildfire Commission Member Applications | USDA

WASHINGTON, March 10, 2022 – The Departments of Agriculture, the Interior and Homeland Security through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are now accepting applications for members to the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.

#USDA #WILDFIRE

usda.gov · today at 10:23 AM

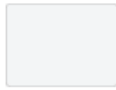


The Morning Wire: It's budget-deal day as Legislature's adjournment nears - Washington State Wire

Today's the day the big budget compromises get rolled out in the Legislature.

#BUDGET #LEGISLATURE

washingtonstatewire.com · today at 10:22 AM



USDA Report Shows a Decade of Conservation Trends | NRCS

WASHINGTON, March 10, 2022 — A new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report shows use of no-till, crop rotations, more efficient irrigation methods and advanced technologies have climbed in recent years.

#CONSERVATION #USDA

nrcs.usda.gov · today at 10:19 AM



Ask Rita: When Do I Initiate the ADA Interactive Process with a (Possibly) Disabled Employee? - Blue Avocado

#ADA #HR

blueavocado.org · yesterday at 12:14 PM

From your Executive Director

The success we are achieving in gaining support for voluntary conservation is unprecedented. I have never seen a supplemental budget session that focused so much new funding on the great work of our conservation community.

It takes an entire village to make gains like this. Conservation districts, the Conservation Commission, ag industry partners, and other associations all contributed to generating legislative support, resulting in the exceptional, astounding numbers in the budgets published yesterday. Those budgets should be voted on later today. After that, the budgets will head to the Governor for signature.

It's important to recognize that to achieve this kind of success requires that all of us share similar messages and themes. It also takes good relationships with legislators and their staff. Our lobbyist works hard at communicating well with legislators, often reinforcing the reports generated by the Conservation Commission. Much of the information in Commission reports is based on conservation district achievements. When we stand together and leverage our strengths, we can and do achieve miraculous results.

Let us not forget our legislators! While it may be attractive to lean back and congratulate each other on the gains made in this legislative session, now is the perfect time to thank your legislators. WACD could not effectively advance your interests at the state level without their active support and sponsorship. Please take a moment to call or write your legislators and

thank them for their hard work.

Now for a note of caution: with big money comes big expectations. Plenty of people will be watching to see how the money coming to the Conservation Commission and to conservation districts is used. This is the time to prove that our community can utilize funds effectively and capture information that will be needed in the next Legislature. Adding more dollars in support of voluntary conservation will be made more difficult in the future if we cannot show success and the continued need for those dollars.

A few issues are likely to come up again next session, including conservation district election reform and riparian management zones. WACD members will need to have many conversations over the coming summer and fall to be prepared for the 2023 Legislature!

Not everyone got what they wanted out of this legislative session. For example, we experienced conflicting goals within our membership regarding conservation district election reform, resulting in no action being taken by the Legislature. This "failure" presents an opportunity for our community to seek understanding about what happened and to work together on how to proceed next year. I know that each member of our community did their best to support their local district's interests. We do need to talk about how we can unify our messaging so that successful outcomes are achieved. Splitting our messaging harms rather than helps the whole.

One of the important aspects of our membership was reinforced this year in the renewed realization that we have 45 distinctly different member conservation districts. It can be very difficult to stand in someone else's shoes and see conditions through their eyes. Yet that is precisely what we must try to do if we are going to be able to come together and support the whole of our association. This is going to involve more give and take than we may be used to. In this regard, I'll offer just one quotation for you this week by sharing one bit of Spock's popular wisdom:

The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

Yours in conservation,

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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.

We appreciate our great sponsors

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for helping us support Washington State's conservation

districts: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/conference/#sponsors>



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