



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

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## 5 Things to Know for December 15, 2022

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# Conservation



# Is Everyone's Business

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**Dear Thomas,**

"Tis the season....not the holiday season, but the legislative season. On Wednesday the 14th, Governor Inslee announced his proposed biennium budget. This marks an unofficial beginning for the FY23-25 biennium budget and the 2023 legislative session. There are [summaries and](#)

[highlights](#) available online, as well as news coverage that break down his preferred spending plans and policies. The legislature will hear testimony on this likely the second week of January, before breaking out their own budget writing pens.

## 1 – Proposed Conservation Commission Funding

By now, you might have seen the [summary of funding](#) Governor Inslee wishes to direct towards the Conservation Commission. The big highlight is his proposed \$100 million riparian grant program to be administered by the SCC. There is also \$10 million for conservation technical assistance, along with funding for nearly all the decision-packages written by the Commission.

This is a tremendous opportunity, one that comes with unique challenges. There is policy language in the rules surrounding the \$100 million program that we expect many districts to take exception to. There is also no guarantee the legislature will follow the Governor's direction. WACD is still working through the more than 700 pages of budget bills and its implications on the 2023 landscape.

## 2 – WACD Legislative Day is set for February 8

If not already on your calendar, WACD will hold a Legislative Day on February 8 in Olympia to help conservation districts connect with legislators. These connections can be virtual or in-person, WACD expects legislators to offer both options. If your district is interested in coming to Olympia and require assistance scheduling appointments with legislators, [Register online](#) by January 6 or [contact Ryan Baye](#).

## 3- Legislative priorities (preliminary)

At the [November 21 WACD Board of Directors meeting](#), the Board voted to adopt a set of [preliminary legislative priorities](#) to guide WACD's work in the 2023 session based on WACD's current policy positions.

This was done before the Annual Business Meeting, where [new resolutions](#) were adopted by the membership and became WACD position statements or policy priorities. WACD staff is working to integrate the new resolutions into the planning for the 2023 legislative session and will present an updated list at the January Board of Director's meeting.

Feedback on these priorities is welcome, whether by districts or individuals; please [contact Ryan Baye](#).

## 4 – Sign-Up for WACD Legislative Updates

Starting in January, WACD will be releasing a weekly newsletter dedicated to legislative information. It will be dedicated to tracking bills of interest to WACD and its member-districts, how to take part in the legislative process, and general legislative news from our lobbyist Brynn Brady.

If you aren't already a subscriber, we encourage you to make this one of your New Year's resolutions and [join our legislative email list](#)

## 5 Things to know about the PMC

This is the first update since harvest officially started on December 1st with a twenty-person crew, eighteen of which are returning harvesters. Sales and expenses are both on the rise as the Plant Materials Center begins its busy season. There is also information about November's finances, weather impact on operations, and some beautiful December photos of the nursery for anyone who views [Jim Brown's full report](#) on the WACD HUB

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## Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: December 15, 2022](#)
- [NACD seeks Soil Health Champions, offers scholarships to NACD annual meeting](#)
- [WeedWise Specialist and CWMA Coordinator Position Announcement](#)
- [Honoring 2022 Supervisor Years of Service Milestones](#)
- [RMA Roadshow Series: December 13th](#)
- [WSU: Least-Conflict Solar Siting](#)

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.

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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.
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## We appreciate our great sponsors

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