



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for October 20, 2023

This issue comes to you a day late as WACD staff have been attending area association meetings (Southwest, Northeast, and North Central) this week!

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Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

1 – Sponsor Spotlight

Meet one of our 2023 Leader Level Annual Meeting Sponsors: **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and perpetuating the state's fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities. Headquartered in Olympia, the department maintains six regional offices and manages dozens of wildlife areas and hundreds of water access areas around the state, offering fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, and other recreational opportunities for the residents of Washington.

Learn more at <https://wdfw.wa.gov>

We invite you to look at the array of sponsors for the 2023 WACD Annual Conference at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2023meetings/conference/#sponsors>. More sponsors are needed! Sponsors help us provide a better conference. Please [contact WACD](#) if you have ideas for sponsors. Note: individuals can also be a sponsor at any level!

2 – WACD Annual Conference Information

Register and Make Hotel Reservations Now!

We are only a little over a month away from our Annual Conference! **You can register [here](#).** Reserve your lodging accommodations using one of the methods below.

The Annual Conference and Business Meeting will also have a virtual participation component so that those unable to travel to Wenatchee can still participate. **Please register for virtual participation [here](#).**

You can make hotel reservations at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel. Rooms are available at the government per diem rate of \$107/night - November 26 - 29, 2023). **THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS NOVEMBER 8TH.**

You can reserve a room in three ways:

1. Call the hotel directly at [509-662-1234](tel:509-662-1234) and indicate you are booking with the Washington Association of Conservation Districts.
2. Call the hotel's toll-free line at [800-716-6199](tel:800-716-6199) and ask for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts conference to book the room.
3. Reserve online at [Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel](#).

We look forward to seeing you in Wenatchee!

Your Associate Supervisors may be able to vote at the annual meeting

WACD bylaws limit each member district in good standing to five voters. If your district is not sending all of your board supervisors to the annual business meeting, you can send associate supervisors to cast votes on behalf of your conservation district. What WACD needs is a letter from your Chair (or other officer), preferably on district letterhead, stating that the board of supervisors has approved the named associated supervisors to vote on behalf of your district at the 2023 WACD annual conference and business meeting. Send that to us at oly@wacd.org before the start of the conference, or hand it to WACD staff at the meeting.

Awards nominations are due next week!

Awards nominations are due October 27th. Each year, WACD seeks to recognize the best and brightest in our community. We are looking for nominations in eleven different categories, ranging from Associate Supervisors to local co-operators. Applications should take no more than a few minutes of your time. The [2023 nomination forms](#) are now available on the WACD Hub.

3 – Area Association Meetings Will Wrap Up Next Week!

We have completed 4 of the 6 Area Association meetings, details are available on the [Hub](#):

- Tuesday, **October 24** – SC Area Association meeting hosted by the [Benton CD](#)
- Thursday, **October 26** – SE Area Association meeting hosted by the [Whitman CD](#)

As of today (October 20) we have received 30 resolutions for various area association meetings. Find them at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2023meetings/areas/#resolutions>

4 – WACD Website Refresh in Partnership with Streamline

WACD has contracted with [Streamline](#) to create a website that provides better accessibility for website visitors. The primary driver for this is our choice to make our web-based content compliant with Section 508 requirements. While Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act applies explicitly to federal agencies, there is [overlap with the Americans with Disabilities Act](#):

[Legal rulings have determined](#) that online assets, such as websites, can be considered places of public accommodation. This means if your web content is not accessible, you can face an ADA discrimination lawsuit.

Streamline's content management system is designed from the ground up to support Section 508 compliance. WACD will be working this winter to convert our public-facing website at <https://wadistricts.org> to the Streamline system.

Our contract includes the ability to create a protected portal on the website. We envision putting some of the content currently published on the Hub (<https://hub.wadistricts.org>) into the portal. Essentially, what this means is you would be accessing one website instead of two, and some content would be protected. Streamline also includes a built-in payment system so we anticipate being able to accept payments through the website at some point.

When we start moving Hub-hosted content to the new portal, you'll see a slimmer version of the Hub. Right now, we have a lot of information on the Hub but page tracking shows much of it is rarely accessed. We'll be working on simplifying what we publish in the hope this makes it easier for you to use.

5 – Survey on When to Hold the WACD Conference

At their November 20 regular meeting, the [WACD Board of Directors](#) will consider whether to change the days and timing of the 2024 and 2025 WACD Annual Conference and Business Meeting.

The survey form contains an explanation and asks three questions. No email addresses are collected. Find the short survey at <https://forms.gle/zHyGunbsgS7zzte5A>

Here are the opening paragraphs from the survey:

An idea has been brought forward to change when the WACD Annual Conference and Business Meeting event is held. Currently, the conference and business meeting are the first Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday after Thanksgiving. This is the schedule already set for the 2023 WACD conference and business meeting. This survey asks if you want to change this schedule and timing for the 2024 and 2025 WACD conference and business meeting.

There are two scenarios presented in this survey:

- The first is changing the event days from Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday following Thanksgiving to later that same week on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.*
- The second scenario is shifting the event to the week before Thanksgiving.*

If the conference changed days, then the session for new supervisors and special workshops would be held on Thursday. Conference sessions currently held on Tuesday would instead be held on Friday. The business meeting would be held on Saturday.

This question was raised because we have many supervisors who work. Putting the business meeting on a Saturday might make it easier for them to participate in discussing and deciding the direction of WACD.

BONUS – Preference for January Legislative Day?

Ryan Baye (Director of Legislative and Member Services) has selected the week of January 22-26, 2024 as the time window for the WACD Legislative Day. If you have a preference for a certain day during that week, [please let Ryan know](#).

Support Washington State Envirothon



Support Washington State Envirothon

at WACD's 2023 Annual Meeting Auction

November 28th, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

All proceeds will support the WA State Envirothon team on their road to Nationals.



For more details or to make a donation please contact Chloe Steffes at chloe.steffes@kingcd.org

Upcoming Events

2023

- **October 24:** [SC Area Association meeting](#), hosted by Benton CD
- **October 26:** [SE Area Association meeting](#), hosted by Whitman CD
- **November 27-29:** [WACD Annual Conference and Business Meeting](#) — Wenatchee, WA
- **November 30:** [State Conservation Commission meeting – Wenatchee, WA](#)

2024

- **February 10-14:** [NACD 78th annual meeting – San Diego, California](#)

Executive Corner

It's been a long week...but joyous!

Monday, WACD officers, directors, and staff attended the Southwest Area meeting in South Bend, Washington. Wednesday found us at the Spokane Conservation District office for the Northeast Area Association meeting. Thursday we gathered in Ritzville for the North Central Area Meeting.

That's a lot of road miles and a lot of wear and tear on people. Is it worth it? Absolutely, unequivocally: YES. We not only learn a ton about what conservation districts are doing, we get a healthy dose of joy from the people in the room who are so proud of the great work they are doing.

Yesterday's North Central Area meeting is a good example. We gathered in the back room of a restaurant in Ritzville with almost every chair filled by conservation folks. In addition to conservation district board supervisors and employees, I saw representatives from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Conservation Commission, and others.

Before the meeting was convened, the sound was deafening. Every person was engaged in conversation. There was a sense of joyous abandon in the group as they assembled and renewed their bonds with each other. It was a delightful cacophony of sound.

We had trouble with the projector but everyone was patient, seeming to enjoy their conversations while Ryan Baye worked on resolving the problem. Nate Gallahan (NRCS) and Mike Baden (State Conservation Commission) stepped in to help. The thought that went through my mind at that moment was: this is what our conservation community is all about! We remain flexible as we strive to solve problems.

Yesterday was but one example of what makes our conservation delivery system so incredibly beneficial for property owners, business owners, communities, and all the species that depend on healthy habitats. When there is a problem, we jump in to fix it. When we can't fix it alone, we find willing help from our peers and partners. Once we fix it, we are eager to move on to the next problem to be fixed!

WACD often uses the phrase "conservation delivery system" when we talk with state and federal decision makers. What that sterile phrase hides, though, is the incredible spirit that pervades the work done by our conservation community. Our people implement conservation quickly, efficiently, and with a sense of joy and accomplishment that is felt by customers, legislators, and others.

I have felt that sense of joy and engagement all week as we moved from area meeting to area meeting. The work you do touches people in ways other entities cannot. You do your work on their land, with their permission and cooperation. What you do becomes part of their daily life. Some of the excitement and satisfaction you feel for a job well done gets left behind to live on with your customers and partners.

Maybe we should riff on this and publish a book called *The Joy of Conservation!*

Is a heavy travel week like this week worth it? Oh yeah, absolutely! I am deeply appreciative of our conservation community and the manner in which every person approaches their local natural resource opportunities. You make it all work!

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director

North Central Area Association Meeting



Latest Posts on the Hub

- [Palouse CD: Education & Outreach Coordinator, Program Lead](#)
- [CTD Training Coordinator](#)
- [South Central Area Meeting](#)
- [Southwest Area Meeting](#)
- [USDA Announces \\$27.6 Million to Support Underserved and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers through the 2501 Program](#)
- [Palouse CD Resource Conservation Coordinator](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. We capture many articles of interest to our community in the [WACD Reading List](#).

We appreciate our great 2022-2023 sponsors

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for helping us support Washington State's conservation districts. WACD encourages you to consider patronizing these sponsors in thanks for their important support: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/conference/#sponsors>



- [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
- [Washington State Conservation Commission](#)
- [Arrowleaf Consulting](#)
- [envu](#)
- [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)
- [The McGregor Company](#)
- [Enduris](#)
- [Pheasants Forever](#)
- [Rainier Seeds](#)
- [JTI](#)
- [BFI Native Seeds](#)
- [Northwest Farm Credit Services](#)
- [Wilbur-Ellis](#)
- [Plants of the Wild](#)

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