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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for November 9, 2023

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Special note: Conference rates for hotel rooms at the West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel are available until close of business tomorrow (Friday, November 10). Information on securing your hotel room is presented in item 2 below.



1 – Sponsor Spotlight

Meet one of our 2023 Champion Level Annual Meeting Sponsors: **USDA NRCS**.

For more than 80 years, NRCS has helped people make investments in their operations and local communities to keep working lands *working*, boost rural economies, increase the competitiveness of American agriculture, and improve the quality of our air, water, soil, and habitat.

The NRCS Mission: Deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

The NRCS Vision: A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.

Learn more at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>.

We invite you to look at the growing 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

We are only 2-1/2 weeks away from our Annual Conference! [Register here](#). Reserve your lodging accommodations using one of the methods shown below.

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

There are three ways to make hotel reservations at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel:

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!



Conference Speakers

We are happy to have finalized the details for several speakers this week and announce the following additions to our conference programming:

- **Dr. Elaine Oneil** – Executive Director, Washington Farm Forestry Association
- **Tanya Williams** – [6PPD](#) Lead Agency Planner, Washington State Dept. of Ecology
- **Josh Monaghan** – Principal, Monaghan Consulting

You can view our entire conference schedule on the WACD Hub [Annual Conference page](#).

Send us your project videos

Seeing the many successful conservation district projects at the area meetings gave us inspiration. We would love to share with the membership at the WACD annual conference any project videos districts have either developed on their own or in partnership with another entity. If you have a video from the last couple of years you're proud of, please send it to rbye@wadistricts.org.

3 – WSDA Ag Conference Announcement & Survey

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is inviting farmers, ranchers, and agricultural industry professionals to attend a two-day event in Eastern Washington in March 2024. We are asking for your help in distributing a short survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WaAgViabilityConf>) to gauge interest levels to help us plan this event.

Our Washington Agricultural Viability Conference – Ag Conference for short – has two intended purposes: to provide farmers and ranchers with information about the state of Washington's agricultural industry and to offer an opportunity for producers to provide feedback regarding the challenges they face. Discussions during this conference will also inform the Agricultural Competitiveness and Business Viability Study (Competitiveness Study), a project [Washington State University's IMPACT Center](#) is conducting in partnership with WSDA.

The hope is that the Ag Conference will be of benefit to both our producers and the industry as we move forward. Together, the Ag Conference and Competitiveness Study will be used to improve understanding of the factors that impact agricultural competitiveness and economic viability, as well as communicate with industry stakeholders and policymakers to better support Washington producers.

Please note that the survey closes on **November 17th**.

4 – Wenatchee Valley College's Natural Resource Program

Conservation districts looking for 'home grown' conservationists have a new opportunity with Wenatchee Valley College's Natural Resource Program. The program is designed to prepare students with a foundational understanding of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, field work, data collection, and natural resource management. The program is designed to allow students to enter into the field upon completion or to transfer for more advance studies. For more information visit: <https://wvc.edu/academics/natural-resources/>.

5 – WACD Legislative Days ~ Mark Your Calendars

Thank you for sharing your suggestions for a preferred date for our upcoming WACD Legislative Days. Please mark your calendars for **Thursday, January 25th**. Ryan will be contacting a hotel to secure a room block at the per diem rate, more information to follow. If you would like WACD to **schedule your appointments** with legislators please let us 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

line number, a copy of it will be emailed to our Executive Office team.

- The toll-free number goes straight to the main line number, so the same digital receptionist will route calls.
- Each person also has a direct number. Since each person has a different mix of telephony resources, we are configuring the direct numbers to reach our people wherever they are. For example, Tom's direct line will reach his desk phone in Olympia, his desk phone in Portland, and his cell phone.
- If a call to an individual isn't answered, your voice message will be emailed to that person.

We expect this system to be less expensive for three users compared to what we were paying Ring Central for two numbers. The takehome for WACD members is you can call one number and reach any of the Executive Office staff, and if you leave a message, it will go straight to the appropriate email inbox. Please stay tuned as we roll this out this improved service.

Three months with Heather — I've saved the best for last. Heather Wendt has been with WACD as our Director of Development and Engagement for three months. In that time, she's made several key contributions. For example, you may have noticed that our newsletter content has improved. That's Heather.

I went to the Tri-Cities yesterday for an in-person informal check-in with Heather. I'm pleased to share with you that she continues to find ways we can better support WACD members and build value for you. Heather definitely rounds out our small Executive Office team and we are made better by her contributions and her style.

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director



Latest Posts on the Hub

- [Next three Odessa irrigation systems fully funded](#)
- [Salmon Reintroduction Grant and Project Manager for UCUT](#)
- [Environmental Educator for the Snohomish CD](#)
- [Five RCPP Projects Funded in Washington State](#)
- [NACD Northeast Region Representative](#)
- [Plant Materials Center Update – October 26, 2023](#)

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

Our generous sponsors for 2022-2023 have helped carry us forward to the 2023 annual conference, and we thank them very their wonderful support.

Welcome to our 2023-2024 sponsors!

Today, we bring forward our growing list of 2023-2024 sponsors. You will recognize some of these entities as long-time supporters of conservation but many are new. Their support helps WACD provide the annual conference and business meeting at a reasonable cost for our members.

WACD encourages you to consider patronizing sponsors in appreciation of their important support: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/conference/#sponsors>

- [AgWest](#)
- [AGPRO](#)
- [Arrowleaf Consulting](#)
- [Aspect Consulting](#)
- [Banner Bank](#)
- [Country Financial](#)
- [BFI Native Seeds](#)
- Larry Davis (individual sponsor)
- [Enduris](#)
- [envu](#)
- [JTI](#)
- [KR Creative Strategies](#)
- [Monaghan Consulting](#)
- [Odessa Trading Co.](#)
- [Plants of the Wild](#)
- [Rainier Seeds](#)
- [RDO Equipment Co.](#)
- Tom Salzer (individual sponsor)
- [Springbrook Express](#)
- [Tapteal Native Plants](#)
- [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
- [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)
- [Washington State Conservation Commission](#)
- [Weyerhaeuser](#)
- [Wilbur-Ellis](#)

Pass it on!

Please pass this newsletter on to others in our conservation community so they can subscribe and be as informed as you are!

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<https://hub.wadistricts.org>

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