



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for January 11, 2024

Find WACD: <https://wadistricts.org> | <https://wadistricts.us> | <https://wacdpmc.org>



Conservation Begins at Home...And at Work!

Our WACD Plant Materials Center deserve recognition all the time, but this week is something special! They [found an injured bald eagle](#) sprawled out in one of the planting beds. Staff were able to safely capture and transport the bird to a nearby rehabilitation facility. We hear that the young eagle is improving so we are all hoping for a great outcome!

In this issue:

1. **Legislative Day Details!**
 2. **Plant Materials Center Update**
 3. **Climate Resilience Survey to Share with Producers**
 4. **Legislative Newsletter, Webpage and Bill Tracker**
 5. **District Video Tour**
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1 – Legislative Day Details!

We have secured the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Lacey/Olympia with a group discount for folks planning to attend WACD Legislative Day on Thursday, January 25th. To reserve your room please [follow this link](#). The link will take you to the hotel website, where, at the top of the page, click "book now" and enter the dates (January 24th - January 25th), click "search" and the next page will display the room rates and types. If you need to book a reservation outside of the dates, you can call the hotel directly (1-360-491-7985) to make or modify your booking.

WACD will be hosting a legislative breakfast and briefing on the morning of the 25th, from 7 - 8:30 AM at the Holiday Inn Express. Staff is also preparing legislative materials for districts for potential use on Leg Day.

2 – Plant Materials Center Update

Sales are a bit off, harvest continues at warp speed, the ground will freeze this weekend, and staff rescued an injured eagle. No day is ever quite the same at the WACD Plant Materials Center! Find the latest PMC update at: <https://wadistricts.us/2024/01/pmc-update-for-january-11-2024/>

3 – Legislative Newsletter, Web Page, and Bill Tracker

On January 8, the Legislature convened for a short but busy session. WACD is providing multiple legislative services for the 2024 session. This week, we published our first weekly legislative newsletter. The legislative newsletter will be published every Monday and will provide more detail than the weekly Five Things to Know newsletter. The legislative newsletter will provide information we know will be pertinent to our members: new bills introduced, opportunities to testify in committees, and a weekly highlight by our lobbyist on legislative actions that are often outside WACD's usual view. You can subscribe to that newsletter at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/newsletters/legislative/>.

We have also created a page on the WACD Hub called [Advocacy 2024](#) where members can find important dates, published newsletters, bill information, and more. It is your one-stop-shop for advocacy information!

This year, WACD is trying something new for tracking bills in the 2024 legislative session. We have put together an app that works as a web page and can be installed on your smart device as an app. This means you can have up-to-date bill information in your pocket throughout the 2024 session. Read more and get the link to the application at: <https://wadistricts.us/2024/01/wacd-bill-tracker-for-2024/>

4 – Climate Resilience Survey to Share With Producers

From WSDA, relayed to us by WSCC:

WA State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is pleased to announce the WSDA Climate Resilience Survey and hopes you will help us broadly distribute the below link. WSDA, in collaboration with Washington State University, is developing a Climate Resilience Plan for Washington agriculture. The plan will summarize recent climate science, identify vulnerabilities, highlight opportunities, and include newly developed resources. **It is essential that this work is informed by the needs and experiences of Washington producers and agricultural advisors.**

For more information: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WASCC/bulletins/383fdb3>

This would be good information to share with your ag producers. Responses desired by February 23.

5 – District Video Tour

Continuing our New Year's Resolution to try something different, this week continues our series of showcasing district videos for the benefit of our membership. These were created by districts themselves or in partnership regarding a district project, and are worth sharing with our membership to celebrate some of their successes.

Ryan Baye, WACD's Director of Member and Legislative Services, attended the Grays Harbor CD board meeting this week. He learned about their amazing Middle Fork Hoquiam Tidal Restoration Project. This film provides a look at the planning and construction that took place in the summer of 2021 to restore rare Sitka spruce tidal habitat on the Middle Fork Hoquiam River at a site developed over a century ago as a railroad log dump.

Click on the image below to watch the video and learn more about the project, or jump straight to the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6PXDeASxw8>



Upcoming Events

2024

- **January 18:** [State Conservation Commission meeting – Lacey, WA](#)
- **January 22:** [WACD Board of Directors Meeting](#)
- **January 25:** [WACD Legislative Day](#)
- **February 5:** [Sustainable Farms and Fields: Funding Q&A Webinar](#)
- **February 8:** [SoilCon: Diversified Organic \(Puyallup\)](#)
- **February 10-14:** [NACD 78th annual meeting – San Diego, California](#)
- **February 13:** [SoilCon: Irrigated Perennials \(Prosser\)](#)
- **February 15:** [SoilCon: NW Washington Annuals \(Mount Vernon\)](#)
- **February 20:** [SoilCon: Dryland \(Davenport\)](#)

Correspondence

We've added these items to the [January 2024 Box.com folder](#):

- 11th Annual Conservation District Photo Contest
- Conservation Month Swag
- Sustainable Farms and Fields: Funding Q&A Webinar
- Sustainable Farms and Fields: Funding Updates

Also, be sure to visit the [WACD Reading List](#) for more interesting content!

Executive Corner

The Legislature is in town

It's a very exciting time for the WACD Executive Office staff. The 2024 session of the Washington State Legislature opened on Monday. This is a short session and a ton of activity has already taken place. It is going to be a very fast-paced session.

We're upping our game, too, with the introduction of a bill tracking app. You can now carry WACD positions on legislation in your pocket! The tracker will have all the bills we are watching during session this year. If the app proves to be a useful tool, we can build it better next year.

WACD's work continues

Even though this is an exciting window of time for WACD staff, the important work of supporting conservation actions and districts continues without pause. The WACD Plant Materials Center launched into harvest with a will in December. About one-half of the stems have already been harvested so we are on schedule to deliver native plant materials for projects all across Washington State.

WACD staff have been fielding calls and emails from conservation district supervisors and staff. We are attending district board meetings whenever we can.

Staff are also working on active resolutions, meaning resolutions adopted by WACD members over the past five years.

With a new State Conservation Commission Executive Director on board, we are also meeting regularly with SCC staff to help the entire team be successful in this short legislative session.

Weather

I don't think any of us in Washington State are looking forward to the arctic air flowing into our region starting right about...now. You are important and valued, so please be safe this weekend if conditions get a bit rough.

We look forward to your ideas and questions. Please reach out to us at oly@wacd.org. This is a group address for Heather, Ryan, and Tom, so your message will probably get through!

Always yours for conservation,



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Latest Posts on the Hub

- [PMC Update for January 11, 2024](#)
- [Testimony on SB 5921: Tribal Representation on the State Conservation Commission](#)
- [Cascadia CD is Hiring Bilingual Education & Outreach Specialist](#)
- [Cascadia CD is Hiring a Resource Specialist 1 Position](#)
- [WACD Bill Tracker for 2024](#)
- [Underwood Conservation District hosts Native Plant Sale](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://wadistricts.us/posts/>. The Jobs list is available at <https://wadistricts.us/jobs/>. A wide range of content is available in the [WACD Reading List](#).

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