



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Week 2 Legislative Update

January 15, 2024

Congratulations on making it through the first full week of the legislative session year. This is WACD's second legislative update for 2024. We hope these emails will be of use and benefit to our members as we collectively navigate the 2024 legislative session.

We've already seen testimony on bills that would impact CDs, an extensive list of bills introduced, and a non-stop legislative pace. With a short session, the tempo will only pick up from here. WACD is keeping all our [2024 Advocacy](#) information in one place, to help keep everything in order.

If there are additional ways WACD can be of service to our membership during session, all you have to do is pick up the phone or write to [Tom](#), [Heather](#), or [Ryan](#)

1. Legislative General Review

As part of her services, WACD's Lobbyist Brynn Brady writes a general review of major legislative topics covering the previous week. We share it with our membership so you are informed of non-district topics that are being discussed in Olympia. You can find her first submission for 2024 on the [WACD Hub](#) breaking down the six initiatives in front of the legislature, government revenue changes since the last legislative session, as well as who's announced a run for higher office this year.

2. Bills this week

From [WACD's bill tracker](#), this are the bills districts might wish to weigh in on:

- **Monday:** SB 5846 [Concerning beaver ecosystem management](#). (Scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks at 1:30 PM)
- **Tuesday:** HB 2235 [Improving publicly available data on Washington state's water quality to improve salmon recovery and the prioritization of salmon recovery projects](#). (Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Environment & Energy at 4:00 PM)
- **Wednesday:** HB 2193 [Concerning the new environmental restoration accelerator for salmon recovery](#). (Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 8:00 AM)
- **Thursday:** SB 5939 [Protecting livestock from wolf predation](#). (Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks at 1:30 PM)
- **Friday:** SB 6121 [Concerning biochar production from agricultural and forestry biomass](#). (Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology at 8:00 AM)

3. Opportunities to Comment

Online committee testimony is available for both the House and the Senate, you do not need to come to Olympia to speak at a Public Hearing for a bill. You can register to testify remotely on a bill by using [this link](#) and following the online instructions.

Registration closes one hour before the scheduled start of the meeting for which you're seeking to speak. You also have the option to submit written testimony or have a position read into the public record.

4. Legislative Handouts

If you are looking to supplement any of your district handouts, there are WSCC material available for districts. Specifically, they have a [CTA fact sheet](#) and an [RCPP Fact Sheet](#). Additionally, the Commission has made available their [district specific pages](#) from their 2023 Annual Report. WACD's legislative priority sheet will be made available soon.

5. Video from Last Week

The Senate Ag & Water Committee heard [SB 5921](#) (tribal representation on the state conservation commission) last Thursday, and WSCC Executive Director James

Thompson and Commissioner Daryl Williams both testified. You can watch their testimony on [TVW](#). WACD submitted written comments which you can read on the [WACD Hub](#).



"A Cold Day For A Hike In The Gorge", courtesy of [WSCC's Flickr account](#),
a treat for those who read to the bottom of the page.
Taken by Ashley Smithers, Clark CD.



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