



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Week 3 Legislative Update

January 22, 2024

Last week WACD's lobbyist Brynn Brady was able to secure sponsorship of the \$10 million Conservation Technical Assistance budget request from the chairs of two key committees, one in the House and one in the Senate. This is a huge win for conservation and speaks to the great relationships CDs have with their legislators.

During this short but busy session WACD is keeping all our [2024 Advocacy](#) information in one place, to help keep everything in order. On this page you will be able to view past Legislative Newsletters and our bill tracker among other resources.

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 update on the [WACD Hub](#) breaking down highlights from this fast paced legislative session.

2. Bills this week

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

- **Monday:** SSB 5667 [Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement](#)

[program](#). (Scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means at 4:00 PM)

- **Wednesday:** HB 1574 - [Supporting Washington agriculture by capturing methane and reducing greenhouse gas emissions](#). (Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 8:00 AM)
- **Thursday:** SB 6143 [Concerning local salmon habitat recovery planning in critical areas](#). (Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks at 1:30 PM)
- **Thursday:** SB 6278 [Promoting organic agriculture](#). (Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks at 1:30 PM)
- **Thursday:** SB 6281 [Investing in reforestation efforts following landscape-scale forest disturbances](#). (Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks at 1:30 PM)

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 materials available for districts. Specifically, WSCC has 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 can be found [here](#).

5. WACD Legislative Day

We look forward to seeing many of you in Olympia this Thursday January 25th for WACD's Legislative Day. WACD will be hosting a legislative breakfast and briefing on the morning of the 25th, from 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM at the Holiday Inn Express (4460 3rd Ave Se, Lacey, WA 98503). Schedule for the 7:00 to 8:00 AM breakfast:

7:15 AM – Welcome from WACD & Overview of WACD priorities

7:25 AM – Welcome from the Commission

7:40 AM – Briefing from WACD Lobbyist and Q&A

All of you hitting the hill on Thursday are welcome to attend the breakfast and briefing. If you need WACD staff to make copies of handouts for your meetings please let us know by January 23rd.



"Mt. Shuksan at Sunrise", courtesy of [WSCC's Flickr account](#),
a treat for those who read to the bottom of the page.

Photo by Andrew Phay, Whatcom CD.



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