



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Week 4 Legislative Update

January 29, 2024

As reported by WACD's lobbyist Brynn Brady:

"The 2024 Washington State Legislative Session is more than a quarter of the way finished. The January 31 House of Origin policy cutoff is looming, and committees are beginning to shift their focus to moving legislation. Bills must be voted out of the policy committee in the House of Origin by that date. Policies with a financial implication for the state will then need to make a quick stop in one of the fiscal committees, with a deadline of February 5 to be voted out of those. The legislative process is a series of hurdles designed to fail ideas more than pass them and many bills will die in the coming weeks either because they are problematic or for sheer lack of time."

During this short but busy session WACD is keeping all our [2024 Advocacy](#) information in one place, to help keep everything in order. On that 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 that are still alive!

From [WACD's bill tracker](#), this is a selection of bills that are still working their way through the legislature:

- **January 29th:** SB 6281 [Investing in reforestation efforts following landscape-scale forest disturbances](#). (Scheduled for executive session in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks at 1:30 PM)
- **January 31st:** HB 1574 - [Supporting Washington agriculture by capturing methane and reducing greenhouse gas emissions](#). (Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 8:00 AM)
- **January 31st:** HB 1971 [Concerning a rangeland fire protection association pilot project](#). (Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 8:00 AM)
- **February 2nd:** SB 5667 [Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program](#). (Scheduled for executive session in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means 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. WACD's Legislative Priority Sheet

If you are looking for an overview of WACD's legislative priorities this session you can find our legislative priority sheet [here](#).

5. WACD's Legislative Day Recap

Over 30 conservation district staff and supervisors hit the hill in Olympia on Thursday January 25th for WACD's Legislative Day. WACD's legislative breakfast received rave reviews, not only for the inspirational words shared with the group by WACD's Executive Director Tom Salzer and SCC Executive Director James Thompson but also for the effort the hotel staff put in to provide a tasty breakfast buffet.





"American Kestrel", courtesy of [WSCC's Flickr account](#),
a treat for those who read to the bottom of the page.
Photo by Casey Lowder, Pine Creek CD.



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