



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

## WACD Week 5 Legislative Update

**February 06, 2024**

We are now entering the second phase of the legislative session, as the first two major legislative cut-offs (policy cut-off and fiscal cut-off) whittles away a large chunk of bills. Observers can now see which proposals have the most support as legislative action shifts from the committee-level to the chamber-level. Over the next eight days, TVW will show a lot of amendments, debate, and Representatives and Senators voting on bills on the floor of their respective chamber

Continuing our practice to consolidate during this short but busy session, WACD is keeping all our [2024 Advocacy](#) information in one place. 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.

This week's review includes information on new candidates for Superintendent for Public Instruction, proposals to deploy speed cameras, and information on a bill to require free breakfast and lunch to students.

## 2. Bills that are still alive!

From [WACD's bill tracker](#), this is a selection of bills that are still alive and kicking, having passed through two legislative cut-offs and continuing to work their way through the legislature:

- [SB 5972](#) Concerning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.
- [HB 2446](#) Investing in reforestation efforts following landscape-scale forest disturbances.
- [SB 5667](#) Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program.
- [HB 2293](#) Studying the effects of avian predation of salmon.

## 3. Bills Left Behind

As happens every sessions, some proposals are unable to clear every hurdle and do not become law. Here are some of the bigger proposals that are done for the remainder of the session:

- [SB 5846](#) Concerning beaver ecosystem management.
- [HB 1971](#) Concerning a rangeland fire protection association pilot project.
- [HB 2286](#) Creating a capital grant program to support recovery of salmon and steelhead stocks.

## 4. Next Cut-off

The next legislative hurdle is Tuesday, February 13th. By 5 PM on that date, all bills have to be voted out of either the House or the Senate and sent to the other chamber. What does that mean? It means the next eight days will see the House and Senate in session, debating and passing legislation out of their respective legislative body. It also means committees will not meet again until February 14th, with no opportunity to provide public comment outside of communication directly with your legislators.

## 5. 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](#).



The last two weeks were simply incredible, learning about Costa Rican agriculture, environmental protections, and natural resource issues. I still can't believe the AgForestry program provided this indescribable opportunity and WACD allowed me to take two weeks off in the middle of the legislative session.

- Ryan



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