



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

## Five Things to Know for March 21, 2024

<https://wadistricts.org> ◦ <https://wadistricts.us> ◦ <https://wacdpmc.org>

---

### In this issue:

**Highlight: NACD Spring Fly-In**

#### Five Things to Know:

1. **Review Requested ~ WACD Annual Plan Draft**
2. **March 2024 Legislative Update**
3. **Commission Meetings**
4. **Volunteers Needed ~ State Envirothon Competition**
5. **WADE Conference Registration is Now Open**
6. **Bonus Item ~ The West's Most Iconic Invasive Species**
7. **Bonus Item ~ NCPP Survey Request**

#### Upcoming Events

**Executive Corner: Spring Means Planning**

---

### Highlight: NACD Spring Fly-In

The 2024 NACD Spring Fly-In is this week. There is a small team of intrepid Conservation Partnership representatives meeting with Congressional leaders to educate them about the great work being done in Washington State. Thank you to NRCS's Roylene Comes at Night, SCC's James Thompson, WACD's Ryan Baye, and NACD's Michael Crowder for making the trip.



---

## Five Things to Know

### 1 – Review Requested ~ WACD Annual Plan Draft

At this week's WACD Work Session the board reviewed the FY 25 Annual Work Plan Draft. We invite members of the conservation community to review and provide feedback on the draft. Comments should be submitted by **May 10th** to Heather Wendt at [heather@wacd.org](mailto:heather@wacd.org).

A copy of the plan draft can be found here:

<https://wacd1.box.com/s/gwj5xe1xut7gvfduk4jr0oqi34i7fn2e>

---

### 2 – March 2024 Legislative Update

Stay informed on the latest happenings in Olympia with this update from WACD lobbyist Brynn Brady. Here is the opening paragraph of her report:

The dust of the 2024 legislative session has barely settled, the session fundraising freeze is over, and election news is beginning to trickle in! All members of the House of Representatives are up for election this year and half of the Senate will need to run campaigns. In addition, this is a major statewide election year with open seats for Governor,

Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, and Public Lands Commissioner, as well as a challenge for the Superintendent of Public Instruction. And of course, all of this will happen against the backdrop of organizing for and against three initiatives the legislature has sent directly to the ballot.

A full copy of Brynn's report can be found here: <https://wadistricts.us/2024/03/march-2024-election-update/>

---

### 3 – Commission Meetings

The SCC business meeting is being held today Thursday, March 21st, at the Little Creek Casino Resort in the Grand Ballroom, 91 WA-108, Shelton, WA 98584.

The SCC's All CD Meeting will take place in person at the [Yakima Convention Center](#) on March 26 and 27. The meeting will assess current and potential priorities and how they might be supported in a future-focused 2025-2027 biennial budget. This will bring the conservation community together on day one of our fiscal development process. Please join us and make your voice heard. Please [register for the event here](#). Get more information about [lodging and reimbursements here](#).

If you have any questions about this meeting please reach out to Sarah Groth at [sgroth@scc.wa.gov](mailto:sgroth@scc.wa.gov) or Shana Joy at [sjoy@scc.wa.gov](mailto:sjoy@scc.wa.gov).

---

### 4 – Volunteers Needed ~ State Envirothon Competition

The 2024 State Envirothon Competition will be held on **Friday, May 17th** at the [Camp Wooten Retreat Center](#), 1.5 hours outside of Walla Walla. Hosted by Walla Walla County Conservation District, approximately 75 students will gather to compete for the title of Washington State Envirothon champion. The winning team will represent Washington at the National NCF-Envirothon Competition in New York on July 28th – August 3rd.

For those traveling, there is an option to stay onsite on Thursday, May 16th starting at 3:00 pm. Accommodations include bunkhouses with limited amenities. Meals will be provided by cafeteria staff.

Volunteers will be assisting with logistics and test administration. Please share this with staff or AmeriCorps members who may be interested in attending.

**Please [register](#) by Friday, April 12th.**

Questions? Contact Jodi Prout at [jprout@scc.wa.gov](mailto:jprout@scc.wa.gov) or (360) 319-6394.

Thanks for your support!



---

## 5 – WADE Conference Registration is Now Open

The Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) Conference will be held **June 10-12, 2024**, at the Sleeping Lady Resort in Leavenworth, WA. **ALL in-person registrations are due on or before Wednesday, May 1, 2024**, with May 1 being the absolute deadline for sending in your registration and guaranteeing a spot at the training. Payment is not necessary at the time of registration. Early Registration is before Monday, April 1st and is discounted.

Find the WADE Registration Form linked [here](#).

See the full schedule of Track Sessions [here](#).

If you have questions, please call Dawn Bekenyi at Whatcom CD at (360) 526-2381 x101 or email to [dlb@whatcomcd.org](mailto:dlb@whatcomcd.org).

Can't attend in person? CTD will offer a virtual attendance option for most sessions again this year. Zoom registration information is coming soon!

---

## BONUS! 6 – The West's Most Iconic Invasive Species

The BBC released a video last week featuring [Russian Thistle](#), *Salsola tragus*, with commentary provided by [Dr. Judit Barraso](#), Ag. Scientist with Oregon State University.

Tumbleweed is one of the most iconic symbols of the old American West, made famous in hundreds of movies. But this invasive plant did not actually reach US shores until the latter part of the 19th Century. Here's the [story](#) of where they came from, and how they came to dominate the mainland so quickly. Produced by Sanjana Bhambhani and Tom Heyden.



---

## BONUS! 7 – NCPP Survey Request

From NACD comes this request:

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP) started the journey of developing a strategic plan in July of 2022 culminating in a signing ceremony February of 2023. A link to the final plan on the NCPP website is as follows: [NCPP Strategic Plan FINAL.pdf | Powered by Box](#).

Throughout the implementation phase of the strategic plan, NCPP leadership has identified priority tactics that align with one another. As a result, NCPP invites all employees to participate in a nationwide survey that touches on the following topics: conservation planning process, certification, advancement, access, and barriers.

We would greatly appreciate your feedback survey in order to gather sufficient data to advance each partner's mission. The results of the survey will be aggregated, and responses are confidential. A report of the findings along with recommendations will be developed and displayed on the NCPP's website within 60 days of the survey's closing.

Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCPPsurvey>

---

## Upcoming Events

### 2024

- **March 19-21:** [Statewide CREP training](#) by FSA (Spokane)

- **March 20-21:** [SCC tour, dinner, and meeting](#) (Shelton)
  - **March 26-27:** SCC All Districts Meeting (Yakima)
  - **April 15:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#)
  - **May 20:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#)
  - **May 29-30:** WACD's Legislative Workshop (Ellensburg)
- 

## Executive Corner

### Spring means planning

As March heads swiftly toward April, WACD board and staff members are busy looking at the next fiscal year. For WACD, that starts on July 1st.

WACD staff recently began work to update WACD's FY 24 annual work plan for FY 25. That draft was reviewed with WACD's Officers and Directors this week on Monday evening. Several modifications were suggested.

We'd love to get your feedback on this first draft of WACD's annual work plan for FY 25. Find it at <https://wacd1.box.com/s/wzhx7asg25uhzyabp48ezvy2u818oif3>

### Budgeting and services

As you are looking at the annual work plan, WACD staff are preparing next year's budget. We have some financial challenges ahead to deal with. These boil down to: the cost of operating the Plant Materials Center and the Executive Office are up, but revenue is not keeping pace with increased expenditures. We are growing more plants and providing more services, and these activities cost money.

On the PMC side of the house, we are committed to providing quality conservation-grade plants for your projects. The plant materials survey your conservation district just completed? Your information is going to help us hone what we grow or procure for your projects and plant sales. The group that is focusing on this work is the [Plant Materials Task Force](#).

On the Executive Office side, staff continue to focus on improving your ability to deliver effective conservation programs and services. The key groups working on these opportunities are the [Shared Resources Work Group](#) and the [Sustainable Funding Committee](#).

### Advocacy

WACD's advocacy on your behalf has been very effective and we continue to invest in this important work. Some days this means fending off attacks that would make it more difficult for you to do your conservation work. Other days it is working with legislators and agencies to deliver more funding for voluntary, non-regulatory conservation services. Every day it means

investing in relationships.

## Takeaways

One takeaway from WACD's work for conservation districts is not obvious: no matter how well WACD does in obtaining funding for conservation districts, WACD does not directly benefit from that success. While we strive to do better each and every year, all of the funding obtained from our advocacy work goes to support conservation districts, either directly or indirectly. Our ability to do more for conservation districts is limited by funding. WACD is supported by dues, sale of plant materials, and a few grants.

Another key point is about WACD dues. The return your conservation district is getting on your WACD annual dues is tremendous. Conservation Technical Assistance funding is one example of our work to secure what you need to succeed. Every conservation district should be supporting WACD's work if only because every district benefits from the CTA funding we fight to get for you.

## How to increase revenue

In the context of how this Executive Corner started — that is, costs are going up but revenues aren't keeping pace — you might be wondering if WACD is considering increasing dues. On this point I'll be very direct: there are no plans to increase dues. Should WACD increase dues? No. Even though our workload has increased and we're delivering more services than ever, this is not the time to talk about raising dues. Instead, we are talking about how to increase the sale of plant materials, how we can help partners succeed, what kind of value added services and products we can offer, and what grant sources we can try to tap. In other words, we are looking at ways we could increase revenue and services without seeking a dues increase.

## WACD dues

Annual dues are on the horizon, of course. We have been reporting to WACD's membership annually in the form of a letter at dues time. You can [find the last three letters on the Hub](#). Last year, we learned that this dues letter was not being shared with all supervisors. This year, we'll be sending it to all conservation district supervisors and managers so local leaders will be more aware of the work WACD has been doing to support Washington's conservation delivery system.

## WACD needs your help

Meanwhile, WACD could certainly use your help. We need to know how we can do better with you and for you. We need you to help us prioritize our most important work. We need your engagement in strengthening your Association and your help building a pipeline of conservation leaders willing to help serve and support our entirely conservation community.

I'm asking for your participation. We need your help, and here's the best part: the more help you invest in your Association, the more your Association can help you.

## We'd like to hear from you

As always, we look forward to your ideas and questions. Please reach out to us at [oly@wacd.org](mailto:oly@wacd.org). Emails sent to that address reach the entire Executive Office team!

Always yours for conservation,



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

---

## Latest Posts on the Hub

- [SYCD is Hiring a Resource Conservation Technician](#)
- [March 2024 Election Update](#)
- [Palouse Conservation District Hosting Presentation On Local Bird Species Thursday Night](#)
- [IT Application Developer](#)
- [Community Wildfire & Forest Health Coordinator](#)
- [Riparian Grant Program Manager](#)

[Recent Posts](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Reading List](#)

---

# Thank you to the 2023 WACD Annual Meeting Sponsors



WACD encourages you to consider patronizing sponsors in appreciation of their important support.

Sponsors

- [AgWest](#)
  - [AGPRO](#)
  - [Arrowleaf Consulting](#)
  - [Aspect Consulting](#)
  - [Banner Bank](#)
  - [Country Financial](#)
  - [BFI Native Seeds](#)
  - Larry Davis (individual sponsor)
  - [Edward Jones](#)
  - [Enduris](#)
  - [envu](#)
  - [JTI](#)
  - [KR Creative Strategies](#)
  - [McGregor Company](#)
  - [Monaghan Consulting](#)
  - [Odessa Trading Co.](#)
  - [Plants of the Wild](#)
  - [Rainier Seeds](#)
  - [RDO Equipment Co.](#)
  - Tom Salzer (individual sponsor)
  - [Springbrook Express](#)
  - [Tapteal Native Plants](#)
  - [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
  - [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)
  - [Washington State Conservation Commission](#)
  - [Weyerhaeuser](#)
  - [Wilbur-Ellis](#)
- 

## Pass it on!

Please pass this newsletter on to others in our conservation community so they can subscribe and be as informed as you are!

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

---

## More information is available on the WACD Hub!

[Visit the WACD Hub](#)

We welcome your [feedback](#)

Subscribe | Unsubscribe | Manage your subscription | Contact WACD  
1219 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501  
(564) 669-7540

MailPoet