



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Today is the last day to register for the [WACD Spring Legislative Workshop!](#)

Five Things to Know for May 16, 2024

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



Things are abuzz at the PMC. In the photo above you can see a bee flying in to collect pollen from a Serviceberry blossom. According to the [Xerces Society](#):

Honey bees (*Apis* spp.) may be the most well-known, but they represent a tiny fraction of all bee species! Worldwide, there are an estimated 20,000 species of bees, and approximately 3,600 bee species are native to the United States and Canada alone. Of these myriad bee

species, more than 90% lead solitary—rather than social—lives, in which each female constructs and provisions her own nest, without the assistance of others.

For more information on pollinators visit: <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/about-pollinators>. To learn more about the plants offered by the PMC visit our website: <https://wacdpmc.org/>.

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Five Things to Know

1 — Last Call ~ WACD Spring Legislative Workshop

WACD's Spring Legislative Workshop for Conservation District Supervisors, Managers and Partners will take place May 29th and May 30th at the Hal Homes Community Center - [209 N. Ruby St., Ellensburg, WA 98926](#).

Agenda:

May 29th

- 10:00 am - 10:30 am - Registration & Social
- 10:30 am - 10:45 am - Greetings & Introductions
- 10:45 am - 11:45 pm - Status of Resolutions, Updates & Priorities
- 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm - Lunch (Provided)
- 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - WACD Committee Updates
- 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm - Sustainable Funding Committee Work Session
- 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm - Wrap-up & Homework
- 5:00 pm - Optional No-Host Evening Social

May 30th

8:00 am - 8:30 am - Light Breakfast and Social

8:30 am - 9:30 am - Partnership Roundtable

9:30 am - 10:00 am - Rates and Charges Discussion and Next Steps

10:00 am - 10:30 am - Elections Discussion

10:30 am - 10:45 am - Break

10:45 am - 11:45 am - Strategic Visioning Session

11:45 am - 12:00 pm - Wrap-up

The meeting will be offered in person and remotely via Zoom.

If you plan on attending either in person or remotely please [REGISTER HERE](#) by **May 16th**.

Hotel Information: A block of rooms at the government rate have been reserved at the following hotels under the **Group Name: WACD:**

- [Best Western Plus](#), 211 Umptanum Rd, Ellensburg, WA 98926 - (509) 925-4244
 - **Room Reservations must be made by: 4/29/2024**
- [Hampton Inn](#), 2705 Triple L Loop, Ellensburg, WA 98926 - (509) 933-1600
 - **Room Reservations must be made by: 5/19/2024**

Questions? Contact: Heather Wendt, 509-873-2669, hwendt@wadistricts.org

2 – PMC Update for May

Jim Brown, PMC Director of Nursery Operations, shared an update of the spring happenings at the nursery, below is an excerpt.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, seeing something in person must be worth tens of thousands. With that in mind, the PMC is planning an **Open House** on **August 13th** and will be inviting CD staff and supervisors for a tour, lunch and get better acquainted session. Invitations and additional information will be sent out in the next few weeks so if anyone ever wanted to see the PMC and get to know the staff be sure to save the date!

A full copy of his report can be found [here](#).



3 – WACD Board Work Session on May 20

This month, the WACD Board of Directors will be holding a scheduled work session on Monday, May 20th to ensure the board is kept informed in between regular business meetings. Work sessions allow the board to go in-depth on topics and allow for a more wide-ranging discussion. For May, the board will focus on WACD's active resolutions.

The agenda, and meeting information, is available on our public-facing website <https://www.wadistricts.org/board-meetings>.

4 – CSP 101 Training Opportunity

NRCS-WA will be hosting a webinar for partners to provide an introduction to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), **June 5, 2024** from **9 to 11 a.m.**

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps producers build on their existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operations. The program can help producers schedule timely planting of cover crops, develop grazing plans to improve forage, implement no-till to reduce erosion or manage forested areas in a way that benefits wildlife habitat. This program helps producers who are already taking steps to improve the condition of the land

find new ways to meet their goals.

Click here for more information: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/events/nrcs-wa-to-host-csp-introductory-training>

5 – National Forest System Lands: Regional Risk Assessment

The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc. has garnered Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) approval for their Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) initiative, focusing on national forests across the contiguous United States. In collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, the Endowment aims to assess and mitigate risks associated with biomass sourcing, guided by SBP standards emphasizing legal compliance, biodiversity protection, and carbon stock maintenance

Through this initiative, transparency, consistency, and efficiency in biomass sourcing practices are poised to improve, promoting sustainable forestry and biomass markets nationwide. To learn more please visit this [website](#).

Upcoming Events

2024

- **May 14-16:** [WSCC Planning and Regular meeting](#)
 - **May 20:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#)
 - **May 29-30:** [WACD's Legislative Workshop \(Ellensburg\)](#)
 - **June 10-12:** [WADE Annual Conference](#)
 - **June 17:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#)
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Executive Corner

Are you ready for the Spring Legislative Workshop?

Over the years, WACD has tended to be rather reactive rather than proactive when it comes to dealing with legislative challenges and opportunities. I don't say this as a negative criticism. It is partly due to the timing of WACD's annual member meeting at the very end of November each year. Waiting until November to set the direction and priorities for WACD's work on behalf of members gives precious little time to prepare for a legislative session that starts in January.

The Spring Legislative Workshop is one way we can begin to change this equation. The Workshop will give participants a chance to get an overview of the priorities we already have on our books and to discuss how we can help create a better future for conservation districts.

We'll focus on a few significant items but there will be time for open conversation about other priorities, too.

To get the most out of the Workshop, participants will need to focus their attention to future priorities and actions. The homework we suggested over the past several issues of the Five Things newsletter were designed to help us get into this facing forward mindset:

- This really started with the [Executive Corner column of April 4, 2024](#).
- In the [April 11, 2024 issue](#), we introduced a suggested reading: [Building a Future-Focused Mindset](#).
- A PBS video "[Beyond the Now](#)" was suggested in the [April 18, 2024 issue](#).
- We introduced you to [STEEP analysis](#) — a way to assess external forces affecting your organization — in the [April 25, 2024 issue](#).
- In the [May 2, 2024 issue](#), we discussed looking at internal forces affecting your organization. A key takeaway is this: while you usually don't have control over external forces, you can control many internal forces.

There is still time to go over some of this homework before we see you on [May 29th in Ellensburg or on Zoom](#). **Today is the last day to register!**

Between now and then, I hope Memorial Day meets all of your expectations. I will spend it with my siblings as we tend family graves in Pasco, Walla Walla, and Dixie.

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. Emails sent to that address reach the entire Executive Office team!

Always yours for conservation,



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Latest Posts on the Hub

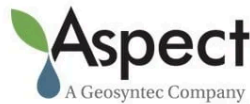
- [PMC Update for May 9, 2024](#)
- [Admin. and Outreach Facilitator Stevens County CD](#)
- [Office Manager Position Stevens County CD](#)
- [DNR Conservation Easement Forester Position](#)
- [Clallam Conservation District to host horse, livestock workshops](#)

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