



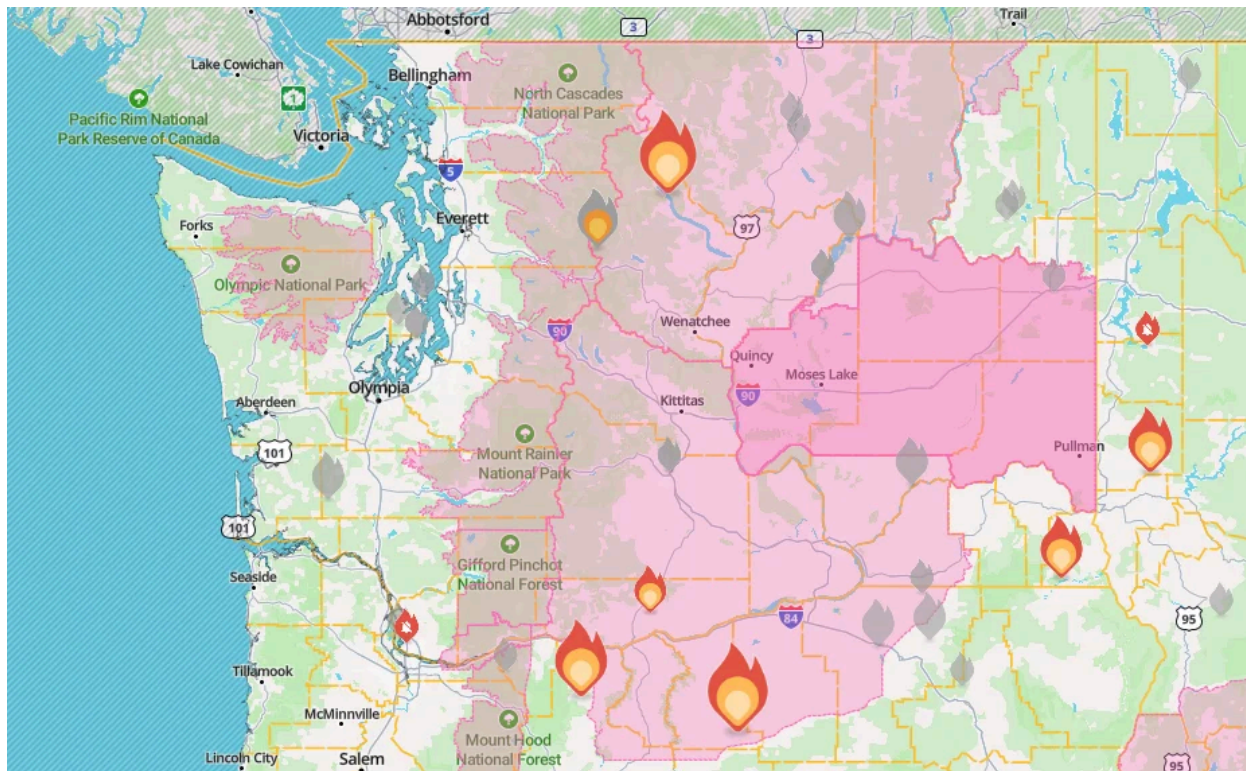
Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for July 18, 2024

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

Wildfire information

It's that time of year again when every each of should be aware of, and prepared for, wildfire. Sometimes it only takes a moment to realize you are in danger. Being prepared and informed helps you, and those around you, stay safe.



Be prepared

- [Make A Plan: Ready.gov](#)
- [What To Do Before A Wildfire: Washington DOH](#)

- [Wildfire Preparedness Checklist: Western Fire Chiefs Association](#)
- [Wildfire Preparedness: Snohomish County](#)

When you are traveling

Prepare by gathering information for the [route you will travel](#) and surrounding areas. Look for existing fires, fire danger, and [weather forecasts](#).

Consider carrying a fire extinguisher, a small shovel, a bucket, and a few gallons of water can help prevent a small fire from spreading. [More complete information is available from the Department of Health.](#)

Where to find fire information

NATIONAL

- [InciWeb](#)
- [Western Fire Chiefs Association](#)
- [National Interagency Fire Center](#)
- [Public Fire Information Websites by the USFS](#)
- [Hazard Mapping System Fire and Smoke Product by NOAA](#)
- [maps.wildfire.gov](#)
- [Watch Duty](#)

WASHINGTON STATE / PACIFIC NORTHWEST

- [Northwest Interagency Coordination Center](#)
- [Current Wildfire Incident Information](#) and [DNR Wildfire Intel Dashboard](#)
- [Wildfire Tracker by the Oregonian](#)
- [Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center](#)
- [Washington Smoke Information](#)

In this issue:

Five Things to Know:

1. Announcing the WACD Team Talk Podcast!
2. Updated District Directory Coming Soon
3. Funding Opportunities Newsletter Published
4. IT Help Desk Update
5. Upcoming Agroforestry Training Session

6. Underwood CD Mural

Bonus Item - THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX: Non-Traditional District Funding Sources

Upcoming Events

Executive Corner

Latest Posts on the Hub

Thank you to Sponsors

Five Things to Know

1 — Announcing the WACD Team Talk Podcast!

WACD has started a podcast about conservation people (and programs) in Washington State. We are calling it Team Talk. The first episode features WADE President Chevelle Yeckel. You'll hear in her words and style how much she cares for her local community and for conservation in Washington.

Why a podcast that focuses on people? Because when we get to know each other better, we have better conversations! We have not yet syndicated the podcast so for now it is available on the RSS.com podcast hosting service at <https://rss.com/podcasts/wacd/>. We are mirroring the podcast on the Hub at <https://wadistricts.us/team-talk-podcast/>.

WACD Team Talk

2 — Updated District Directory Coming Soon

WACD's Lori McLaughlin has been working with conservation districts to update the District Directory. We expect the latest set of updates to be incorporated next week.

To access it, please send an email to oly@wacd.org and ask for the URL for the directory. (We keep this location private to help minimize scraping of names and addresses by evil bots!)

3 — Funding Opportunities Newsletter Published

A new [Funding Opportunities for Washington Conservation Districts newsletter](#) was published this week. Organizations offering opportunities include:

- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative
- USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Pilot Projects

- Georgia-Pacific Foundation
- Amalgamated Sugar

Find [WACD's 2024 newsletters on the Hub](#). For more information, please contact Heather Wendt at heather@wadistricts.org

4 – IT Help Desk Service Now Available

Early this month, WACD's Executive Director signed a contract with Olympia Computer to provide help to conservation districts with their information technology questions. This service is structured much like the legal services fund, where a district will receive the first hour of assistance at no cost, and additional time will be payable to the vendor. You can receive assistance for items such as:

- Provide Support for all current software as needed
- Annual technology review
- Labor for software upgrades on workstations as needed
- Keep an accurate library of software and hardware components
- Perform monthly updates and system performance tuning on current devices
- Support all current printers and current networking equipment
- Update router with patches and firmware as needed

To access this service please reach out to Olympia Computer at 1-360-995-1010 or email helpdesk@olympia.computer.

5 – Upcoming Agroforestry Training Sessions

In partnership with the USDA Forest Service National Agroforestry Center, NACD is excited to debut virtual agroforestry training sessions for conservation districts and partners! This virtual regional training will introduce agroforestry and provide an educational foundation to help conservation districts and partners provide agroforestry technical assistance to landowners.

October 22, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. PT for the Southwest and Pacific Regions | [Register here](#)

This virtual training will include an overview of geographically relevant agroforestry practices, soil and water conservation and management, funding opportunities and federal program navigation, and planning and design considerations.

6 - New Underwood CD Mural

WACD was happy to attend Underwood Conservation District's unveiling and ribbon cutting of their new district mural on Tuesday, July 16. Looking good UCD!





UCD District Manager Tova Tillinghast (right) with mural artist Jess Vollendorf (center).

Bonus Item — THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX: Non-Traditional District Funding Sources

The National Conservation District Employees Association is excited to offer this virtual training on **Wednesday, July 24th at 9 a.m. PT**. Join Kent Conservation District District Administrator Tim Riley and Beaverhead Conservation District Manager Jessica Fields learn more about their unique partnerships that have led to funding to build district programs and services and staff capacity.

Pre-registration is required and space is limited. [Register here!](#)

Upcoming Events

2024

- **July 17-18:** [WSCC Commission Tour and Meeting in Vancouver \(hosted by Clark CD\)](#).
 - **July 24:** [NCDEA webinar — THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX: Non-Traditional District Funding Sources](#)
 - **August 13:** [WACD Plant Materials Center Open House](#)
 - **September 16:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#)
-

Executive Corner

As we embark on a new fiscal year with a [new work plan](#), I'm excited to note some member-focused changes underway.

More conservation district visits

WACD staff members are getting out to more conservation districts than ever. If you haven't seen Heather, Ryan, or Tom recently, you probably will. Also, we are always happy to drop by for an informal visit when we are traveling through your area. If you'd like some eyeball-to-eyeball time over a cup of coffee, [please drop us a note](#).

New podcast

WACD has launched a new podcast series called [WACD Team Talk](#). Audio recordings will feature people from all parts of our conservation delivery system. Celebrating the people around us is a great way to get to know the community and to appreciate the incredible folks who make Washington's conservation district system the best in the country. We hope to publish a new podcast every month.

New IT Help Desk service

As noted above in Five Things #4, our new IT Help Desk service is now available. This is a new endeavor so it will be a learning year for all of us who use the service. WACD will review usage, suggestions, and satisfaction before the next contract cycle so that we can adaptively manage this service for the benefit of members.

Other services continue

- We provide email addresses for more than 80 people in our conservation district community.
- The Legal Services Fund we started last year is continued in this new fiscal year. The districts that have used this service have reported great satisfaction.

- Regular communications are available through this Five Things newsletter, the Funding Opportunities newsletter, and the Legislative Updates newsletter. All newsletters are archived at <https://wadistricts.us/resources/newsletters/>.
- WACD regularly updates and publishes a directory of conservation districts and partners.
- WACD publishes conservation jobs, as do some partners.
- [Committees](#) meet to develop advice and guidance for the WACD Board of Directors. We had a very active year last year and expect this to continue this year.
- WACD assists Area Associations of Conservation Districts with their annual meetings.
- Year-round advocacy on behalf of all 45 local conservation districts in Washington State.
- [Growing of conservation-grade native plant materials](#) for conservation districts and others.
- WACD crafts and presents an annual conference that brings people together from all parts of our conservation community, and conducts an annual business meeting where members direct the priorities of WACD.

WACD is a service organization

I'm very pleased that WACD is continuing to move toward a service-oriented business model. This requires investment of time, money, and energy. WACD is providing more resources for conservation districts than ever before, and we can only do that with your continued support.

All of this and more is in the annual dues letter we recently sent to conservation supervisors and managers. We publish the dues letter each year for everyone to see. Find the 2024 letter at <https://wadistricts.us/wacd/documents/#dues>.

Thank you for your support

Thank you to those conservation districts who are supporting WACD's work for and with districts by paying their annual dues. We know this is a big expense and we remain committed to providing great value to members. We look forward to another great year of serving you!

We'd like to hear from you

As always, we'd like to receive your ideas and questions. Please contact 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

- [Award-winning Eastern Washington program supports farms and clean water](#)
- [Elochoman bank restored with the help of conservation district](#)
- [New Plant Material Center User Guide Now Available](#)
- [Cascadia Conservation District announces July meeting - Lake Chelan Mirror](#)
- [DNR Compliance Monitoring Field Coordinator, Natural Resource Specialist](#)
- [Stevens County Conservation District's Fire Safety Initiatives](#)

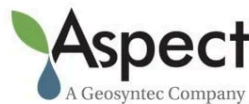
Recent Posts

Jobs

Reading List



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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!

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