



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for August 15, 2024

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Five Things to Know

1 – Successful WACD PMC Tour

Thank you to the 74 attendees from Tuesday's tour of the WACD Plant Materials Center. We appreciate the interest shown by our member-districts in seeing first-hand how the native plant nursery is operated.

With all the interest, this might become an annual event!



2 – Puget Sound Grant Opportunity

The Puget Sound Stewardship and Mitigation Fund is now accepting grant applications. The Fund's goal is to improve the surface water quality of Puget Sound and mitigate past pollution runoff by supporting water projects related to conservation, restoration, community science, and environmental justice. The Fund was created by the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (Soundkeeper), and it continues to be funded through enforcement actions brought by Soundkeeper and Waste Action Project, among others.

The maximum funding request is **\$40,000** and applications are due **September 26, 2024**. More information on eligibility, priority funding areas and a link to the application can be found [here](#).

3 – NACD Technical Assistance Grants - Now Open

NACD is excited to announce the launch of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Outreach and Technical Assistance Grants (TA2024)! In partnership with NRCS, NACD anticipates the award of approximately \$18 million in conservation operations technical assistance (COTA), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funding.

- The full RFP is available on the [TA2024 webpage](#).
- Detailed guidelines and application materials are available on the [NACD website](#).
- Application Deadline: Proposals must be submitted by no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on **September 30, 2024**.

NACD will also host a webinar on **Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. ET** to provide further details and answer questions on the application process. The webinar will be recorded and available on the program webpage for those who cannot make it. Register for the webinar [here](#).

4 – Washington Water Quality Focus Groups - Please Share

[Washington State Conservation Commission](#) is conducting a series of focus groups in four Washington cities to discuss improving water quality in the state's rivers and streams. 90-minute focus groups will be hosted in person in the following cities:

August 20, Seattle & Renton
August 21, Ellensburg
August 22, Spokane

All Washington residents are welcome to participate. Those interested can register at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WASCC

Thank you for sharing this announcement with your land managers, community

members, partners, and networks.

CALLING ALL
**WASHINGTON
RESIDENTS!**

Do you live in the state of Washington?
Are you interested in the health of Washington
state's rivers and streams?
Do you care about the future of salmon?
Yes? Then we want to hear from you!

Washington State Conservation
Commission is conducting
a series of focus groups in
three Washington cities to
discuss improving water
quality in the state's rivers
and streams. Snacks and
refreshments will be provided.

**WE NEED
- TO HEAR -
YOUR VOICE.**

King County - August 20
Morning: 10-11:30 AM
Evening: 6-7:30 PM

Kittitas County- August 21
Morning: 10-11:30 AM
Evening: 6-7:30 PM

Spokane County - August 22
Morning: 10-11:30 AM
Evening: 6-7:30 PM

You can support the health of our
state's rivers and streams.

**REGISTER
TODAY!**



Once registered, we will contact
you to confirm the location
and time of your focus group.

SCAN ME

[SurveyMonkey.com/r/WASCC](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WASCC)



5 – NRCS Program Application Deadlines

Natural Resources Conservation Service in Washington (NRCS-WA) announced the following application batching dates for programs for **Fiscal Year 2025 funding**:

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program Classic** Applications batching date **Oct. 22, 2024** Read the full announcement [here](#).
- **Conservation Stewardship Program Classic** Applications batching date is **Jan. 17, 2025** Read the full announcement [here](#).
- **Agricultural Conservation Easements Program** – Agricultural Land Easements The first round of applications batching is **Oct. 4, 2024**, and the second round of applications batching is **Dec. 20, 2024**. Read the full announcement [here](#).
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program** - Wetland Reserve Easements The first round of applications batching is **Oct. 4, 2024**, and the second round of applications batching is **Dec. 20, 2024**. Read the full announcement [here](#).

To learn how to get started with NRCS, [click here](#), or visit your local USDA service center. To learn how to sign up for free email and text alerts about the latest NRCS program and national funding opportunities, [click here](#).

Questions?

Contact: Keith Griswold, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs
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Upcoming Events

2024

- **September 16:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#)
 - **September 18 - 19:** [SCC Meeting & Tour](#)
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Executive Corner

It may not seem so, but our warm summer days are getting shorter. In truth, the days have been getting shorter since the summer solstice on June 20, 2024. At that point, the Earth's poles are at their maximum tilt toward the Sun.

I know it doesn't seem like the season is changing but there are signals that reach some of us. Wildfires continue apace, seemingly unabated in many places. Farmers know this time of year as the beginning of a midsummer to late fall period of harvest. School children know it as the last few weeks of freedom before school begins again in September. I know it as one of my favorite transitions of the year.

Despite a more urgent workflow in the fall, I look forward to the change from summer to fall. I like warm days, cool nights, changing foliage and the sound of wind in the trees. To help you get in the autumn mood, here are several quotations.

"Spring is beautiful, and summer is perfect for vacations, but autumn brings a longing to get away from the unreal things in life, out into the forest at night with a campfire and the rustling leaves."
— Margaret Elizabeth Sangster

"The leaves are all falling, and they're falling like they're falling in love with the ground." — Andrea Gibson

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all." — Stanley Horowitz

"Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale." — Lauren Destefano

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree." — Emily Brontë

"Autumn... the year's last, loveliest smile." — William Cullen Bryant

As we sail on toward the end of summer, conservation districts continue to work on projects in the field. Districts are starting to think about area association meetings in October and resolutions they might wish to bring forward.

Meanwhile, WACD is deep into preparing for fall. At the Plant Materials Center, staff are maintaining plantings, harvesting some seed, repairing equipment, and even replacing an irrigation pump. Executive Operations staff are working with the hosts for the six area association meetings and planning the agenda and events for the WACD annual conference. It may not look very busy but it sure feels busy!

An overlay on our late summer activities is a five-year audit of WACD underway right now. It is amazing what the auditors want to see, but that's good because it makes sure that we are not only doing the right things, but are also doing things right.

As we all make our own transitions from summer to fall, I hope you'll remember the summer heat with some enjoyment and take a moment to appreciate the amazing changes happening before us. I'm looking forward to autumn and I hope you are, too.

Closing thoughts

I have a few more thoughts to share. This one by [James Clear](#) struck home for me:

"To experience time travel, read. To achieve immortality, write."

Or this one from [The One Thing by Gary Keller with Jay Papasan](#):

"Doing the most important thing is always the most important thing."

Or this one from [The Art of Work by Jeff Goins](#):

"We can't control what life throws our way, but we can control how we react to it. As we do, maybe we come closer to a meaningful life than any plan could ever take us. To do this, though, we have

to let go of what we think we deserve and embrace what is, which just might lead to something better than we ever could have imagined."

I hope these thoughts help carry you into autumn in the most amazing ways!

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

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- [Classroom-based Environmental Educator - Whatcom County](#)
- [Pierce CD Climate-Smart Forestry Program Manager II](#)
- [East Columbia Basin Irrigation District in Grant and Adams counties gets federal funding for water conservation](#)
- [Big investments boost Washington's coastal resiliency](#)
- [Applications Open: NACD's 2024 Outreach & Technical Assistance Grants](#)

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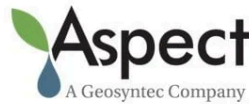
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