



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for November 27, 2024

Thanksgiving and Conference Special Edition

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Five Things To Know

1. WACD Conference ~ What to Know Before You Go

If you haven't already visited [our conference webpage](#), all our conference information will be available both online and in the conference packet you'll receive when you check in. Our registration desk can be found Monday morning outside the Pend Oreille Pavilion (marked with a red X in the bottom right corner of the map below).

Our conference begins Monday morning with optional sessions, please take a look at the [schedule](#) and decide if you are interested in *participating* in a workshop for New Supervisors

and Managers, *observing* the WACD Board of Directors meeting, or *touring* The Quarry and the impressive Spokane Conservation District office. No matter what you decide, we'll see you at noon in the Pend Oreille Pavilion.



2. Envirothon Auction Alert ~ Bring Your Items to the Conference!

Bring your items to the conference and drop them off at the registration desk located outside of the Pend Oreille Pavilion!

HELP SUPPORT WASHINGTON STATE ENVIROTHON

Soliciting Donations for WACD's Annual Meeting Auction

December 3rd 6-8PM
Northern Quest Resort & Casino
Spokane, WA

All proceeds benefit the
WA State Envirothon
team on their way to
Nationals.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS:

Signed Memorabilia
Event Tickets
Outdoor Gear
Resort & Trip Packages
Themed Baskets
Fine Spirits
Gift Cards
Edible Treats
UW or WSU Items
Kitchen Gadgets



For more information or to
make a donation contact:

Nick Kramer
nick.kramer@kinged.org



3. Committee Reports at the Annual Meeting

Several WACD Committee will be reporting out at the WACD Annual Business Meeting. An overview of their work and links to their briefing papers can be found below.

Plant Materials Taskforce

WACD's Plant Materials Taskforce's goal is to explore ways of providing additional native plants to conservation districts. The taskforce met 11 times this past year. The Plant Materials Taskforce briefing paper with recommended strategies was adopted by the WACD Board at their November 18th board meeting. A copy of that paper can be found [here](#).

Renewable Energy Workgroup

WACD's Renewable Energy Workgroup met 6 times this past year. They heard from multiple experts on a variety of renewable energy topics. The Workgroup's position statement paper outlines and defines renewable resources and the opportunities and challenges that large-scale renewable energy projects create at the local level. The position statement paper and proposed resolutions will go to the Annual Meeting for the Association's consideration. A copy of that paper can be found [here](#).

Sustainable Funding Committee

The Sustainable Funding Committee met 10 times this past year. The Committee presented a host of funding alternatives at the WACD Spring Legislative Workshop. Since then, they have identified two funding alternatives that they would like to further explore in 2025. A copy of their briefing paper can be found [here](#).

4. 2025 Legislative Session

WACD Legislative Day will be **February 5th**. If your district would like WACD to make your appointments with legislators for you please reach out to Ryan Baye: rbaye@wadistricts.org.

If you haven't already, please consider subscribing to the [WACD Legislative Updates](#) that will begin with the new year. Each week, we'll provide information about the goings on in Olympia from our lobbyist Brynn Brady, highlight ways CDs can become involved in the legislative process, and track legislation that pertains to CDs.

5. Public Comment Period on PM2.5 Air Quality Standard

Ecology has prepared a draft Designation Recommendation for [EPA's 2024 PM2.5 NAAQS](#). This recommendation includes a letter to EPA recommending that Washington State meets the new lower standard and an Exceptional Events Demonstration requesting that EPA Exclude certain wildfire-impacted data from their regulatory decision. We have also prepared a report on wildfire impacted data from 2021 which is not eligible for an Exceptional Events Demonstration. These documents are available for public review through **December 13, 2024** at the following locations:

[Designation Recommendation Letter](#)

[Exceptional Events Demonstration for Colville E 1st St Monitor](#)

[Wildfire Smoke Impacted Days 2021](#)

Why is this important?

In February 2024, EPA lowered the PM2.5 Annual Primary NAAQS from 12 micrograms per

cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) to $9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to better protect human health. After EPA lowers a NAAQS, they designate all areas in the country as either in “attainment” of the standard, in “nonattainment” of the standard, or as “unclassifiable” due to insufficient air quality data. Any areas of Washington that may be designated as nonattainment as a result of the new standard will be required to be brought into attainment through a revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Before EPA finalizes the designations, Ecology must submit a Designation Recommendation to EPA, which is due by **February 2025**.

Submit your written comments by **December 13, 2024**.
Comment or View Comments Online [here](#).

6. Bonus Item - Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program 2025 RFP

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC)—in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USDA Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, FedEx and Southern Company—are pleased to solicit applications for the 2025 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration program. This program will award approximately \$2.5 million in grants nationwide.

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration grant program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds and the species and habitats they support.

Full grant proposals are due **January 30, 2025**. You can review the grant guidelines and read the full RFP [here](#).

Upcoming Events

2024

- **December 2 - 4:** [WACD 2024 Annual Conference & Business Meeting](#)
 - **December 5:** [SCC Regular Meeting](#)
 - **January 27:** [WACD Board of Directors Meeting](#)
 - **February 5:** [WACD Legislative Days](#)
 - **February 6:** [NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting](#)
 - **February 24:** [WACD Board of Directors Meeting](#)
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Executive Corner

Washington Conservation Society

2023 Mini-Grant Award Winner Project Highlight

Ferry Conservation District was a 2023 [Washington Conservation Society](#) Education Mini-Grant Award recipient. They used their funds to help purchase 21 Brunton Monoculars for students. [Watch the video of students using their new monoculars here!](#)



What are you thankful for?

As I hit the pause button during the final stages of WACD's preparations for the [2024 WACD Annual Conference and Business Meeting](#), I am thinking about the things I'm thankful for. Family. Friends. A great community to work with. Health. Challenges that help me stay invigorated and committed to our great cause.

While Thanksgiving does not engender positive feelings in everyone, all of us can benefit by thinking about what we are grateful for. Taking a few moments to embrace thankfulness and gratitude can influence the rest of your day. I hope you can experience that this season.

I am also thinking about the words and ideas I'd like to share when I open the conference. This year, I've heard several people say *"my heart is full"* when talking about their conservation work. I get a stronger sense of community than I've felt in several years. I see the impact of individuals working collectively, collaborating and partnering to put conservation on the ground. More than ever before, I feel the delightful lift of being part of something much bigger than any one person. The effectiveness of our network of 45 conservation districts is a powerful thing.

I'm thankful to be a part of this community.

WACD board and staff look forward to seeing you at the annual conference next week.

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

- [DNR Western Urban Forestry Technician Position](#)
- [Snohomish CD Engineer or Engineer-in-Training Position](#)
- [View the Skokomish River in Flood...Live!](#)
- [DNR Silviculture Forester Position](#)
- [County commissioners approve Skagit Conservation District rates and charges](#)
- [Upcoming Events with Palouse Conservation District](#)

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