



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

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## Five Things to Know for December 19, 2024

### End-of-Year Edition

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## In This Issue

### Five Things to Know

1. WACD Conference ~ Post-Conference Information
2. Envirothon Auction Success ~ Thank You!
3. CD's 101 and CTA Legislative Education and Outreach Materials

4. 2025 Legislative Session

5. Legislative Day Hotel Information

**Upcoming Events**

**Executive Corner**

**Latest Posts on the Hub**

**Thank you to Sponsors**

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## Five Things To Know

### 1. WACD Conference ~ Post-Conference Information

#### Conference Survey

Did you participate in the Conference this year? If so, we want to hear from you. Please take a moment to participate in this survey so we can continue to provide the best experience possible: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024wacdsurvey>. The survey to remain open until **December 31, 2024**.

#### Conference Session Recordings

If you weren't able to attend the conference or all of the sessions you wanted, we have recordings posted to a showcase on Vimeo, available at: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11496159>.

#### Awards

Six individuals and three organizations were recognized at the Annual Conference as recipients of 2024 WACD awards. Congratulations to all our winners. You can view find the full list and learn more at <https://wadistricts.us/2024/12/2024-wacd-award-winners/>

#### New song: 45 Strong

To close out 2024 on a song, Tom Salzer, created this catchy tune (with a little help from an AI). For non-commercial use only (i.e., for your enjoyment): <https://suno.com/song/7ecc8ca9-bab1-4ee6-9368-b72370967501>

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### 2. Envirothon Auction Success ~ Thank you!

The Envirothon auction at the WACD Conference, was a huge success again this year! Thank you to everyone who donated, and participated in the event.

Here's the breakdown of what we raised together:

Silent Auction: \$2,517.00

Live Auction: \$4,755.00

50/50 Raffle (full total donated to WSE): \$569.00

Raise the Paddle: \$1,665.00

**Total Raised: \$9,506.00**

This success would not have been possible without the efforts of so many dedicated individuals.

A special shoutout goes to Craig, our outstanding auctioneer, whose energy and enthusiasm inspired the crowd to give so generously.

Congratulations to everyone for securing some essential funding for the next year, and thank you for your dedication to supporting the Envirothon program and our students. Together, we are making a lasting impact! ~ Jodi Prout, Envirothon Chair

To learn more about the Washington State Envirothon visit: <https://waenvirothon.org/>

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### 3. CD's 101 and CTA Legislative Education and Outreach

#### Materials

With the help of **KR Creative Strategies**, WACD successfully launched the **CD's 101 and CTA Legislative Education and Outreach Materials** at the Annual Conference. Given the significant turnover in legislators, it is more important than ever to ensure that the vital work of conservation districts is well understood and that the importance of **CTA funding** remains a priority during budget development.

To support these efforts, multiple messaging options are now available for conservation districts. To review and download the materials, please visit:

<https://wadistricts.us/campaign2025/>

If you have questions about integrating these materials into your legislative outreach efforts please reach out to WACD staff at [oly@wacd.org](mailto:oly@wacd.org).

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### 4. 2025 Legislative Session

Departing Governor Jay Inslee released his draft FY25-27 budget on Tuesday, December 17th. You can find details for the Conservation Commission [here](#). We expect Commission staff to release more details in the coming days comparing the current biennium's budget to this proposal.

For context, the House and Senate will release their budgets for the state's operating, capital, and transportation funds sometime in mid-late March.

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.

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### 5. Legislative Day Hotel Information

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 at [rbaye@wadistricts.org](mailto:rbaye@wadistricts.org).

We have a hotel at the same venue as 2024. the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Lacey. If you are planning to come to Olympia, there will be a breakfast at the hotel the morning of the 5th before everyone descends on the Capitol.

For a per diem rate hotel room at the Holiday Inn, here are some directions:

1. Click on [this link](#) for the hotel webpage.
2. Select the date you wish to stay (our per diem rate is for February 4).
3. Click "View Prices".
4. This should provide you with the option of 1 King bed or 2 Queen bed room at \$151 per night (excluding taxes), select your room type.
5. Complete Booking.

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## Upcoming Events

### 2025

- **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



## End-of-year thoughts

**"Almost every successful person begins with two beliefs: the future can be better than the present, and I have the power to make it so." - David Brooks**

Our community runs on more than technical competence and funding. It also runs on hope. If you are a farmer, rancher, small forest landowner, or small business owner, deep in your heart you believe the future can be made better through your decisions and actions. You have that very powerful fuel for growth and change: hope.

I spent part of the week with the Center for Technical Development leadership team, exploring some exciting plans for the future. The CTD folks are working on something that could well be transformational for our conservation district community. If it gets extended to our wider community, it could significantly strengthen our entire suite of partners and conservation-minded supporters. I am deeply impressed with the CTD's desire to help uplift our community, making us more capable and effective.

As we turn the corner to 2025, I am thankful for our community and grateful to be a part of it. Despite feeling hopeful, we know that 2025 is going to arrive with some challenges. One of those is the plethora of new elected officials who know nothing about the unique value provided in communities across the state by local conservation districts. With your help, we can build the awareness needed to gain the support each district will need in the upcoming

legislative session.

The state budget is also a concern. While I've been through this kind of cycle before, it is never comfortable. To weather this storm, we'll need to find ways to become more efficient, to acquire new partners, and to procure new funding. Maintaining current levels of funding is likely to be a heavy lift, and increasing the resources for conservation work may not be achievable. Nevertheless, we are moving forward with supporting significant funding asks so conservation districts can continue to thrive and deliver local solutions to local needs.

Together, we have the power to make a better future. Washington's network of 45 conservation districts is the best in the nation, so if anyone can do it, it's you. The hope each of us carries fuels our ability to meet the challenges and opportunities 2025 will bring.

I'm looking forward to doing this good work with you. I'm thankful for the strength of our community, grateful for your work, and hopeful for our future. **We are 45 STRONG and so much more!**

### 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](mailto:oly@wacd.org). Emails sent to that address reach the entire Executive Office team!

Always yours for conservation,



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## Latest Posts on the Hub

- [2024 WACD Award Winners](#)
- [Asotin County CD is seeking Restoration Crew Members](#)
- [Conservation District Election Study Preliminary Findings](#)
- [DNR Small Forest Landowner Regulation Assistance Position](#)
- [AFT Seeks a Policy and Planning Specialist](#)
- [What a Great WACD Conference!](#)

Recent Posts

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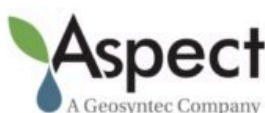
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## Please join us in Welcoming our 2024 Annual Conference Sponsors!

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# Thank you to the 2024 WACD Annual Meeting Sponsors



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