



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for January 2, 2025

The New Year Edition!

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



Thank you to Kelly Verd, Lewis CD, and the SCC Flicker Account for this winter inspired photo!

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Five Things To Know

1. WACD Area Director Opportunities

WACD has openings for two Area Directors!

- The **Southeast Area** (covering Asotin County CD, Columbia CD, Palouse CD, Rock Lake CD, Pomeroy CD, Pine Creek CD, Walla Walla County CD, and Whitman CD)
- The **South Central Area** (covering Benton CD, Central Klickitat CD, Eastern Klickitat CD, Franklin CD, Kittitas County CD, North Yakima CD, South Yakima CD, and Underwood CD)

Area Directors serve as Board Members of the State Association, bringing forward local issues and sharing opportunities. If you are a supervisor and you would like to get more involved at the state level, serving as an Area Director is a great opportunity to do so WITHOUT a huge time commitment. To learn more, reach out to your WACD Executive Team (Tom, Ryan and Heather) at oly@wacd.org.

2. Funding Opportunities Newsletter is Now Available

The latest edition of **WACD's Funding Opportunities Newsletter** is now available [here](#).

WACD actively partners with the [Washington Conservation Society](#) (WCS) to share these grant opportunities. Please note that some funders require your conservation district to use a 501(c)(3) entity as a fiscal agent (also called a fiscal sponsor). Conservation districts can choose to partner with the WCS or another non-profit if a fiscal agent is needed.

To receive these Newsletters directly to your inbox, subscribe [here](#).

3. 2025 Legislative Session Information

Departing Governor Jay Inslee released his draft FY 25-27 budget on Tuesday, December 17th. You can find details for the Conservation Commission [here](#). We expect Commission staff to

release more details soon, comparing the current biennium 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-to-late March.

If you haven't already, please consider subscribing to the [WACD Legislative Updates](#) newsletter. 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.

4. Make Your Plans Today to Attend Legislative Day

WACD Legislative Day will be **February 5th** (yes, for those who see patterns, this is 2/5/25). If your district would like WACD to make your appointments with legislators for you, please reach out to Ryan Baye at rbye@wadistricts.org.

Thanks to our partners at the State Conservation Commission on February 5th we will have access to the **Columbia Room** in the Legislative Building where attendees can take a break between meetings.

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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5. 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.

6. Bonus Item ~ NACD Annual Meeting

NACD invites you to join us at the 2025 Annual Meeting! Hosted in partnership with the Utah Association of Conservation Districts, this year's meeting will take place in Salt Lake City, UT from February 8-12, 2025. Join us in the Beehive State to explore the theme **"Bee the Change: Reaching New Summits in Conservation!"**

If you plan on attending please let [Doug Ruston](#), WACD's National Director, know and he can apprise you of any Washington State specific intel!



Upcoming Events

2025

- **January 13:** [First Day of the 2025 Legislative Session](#)
- **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](#)

Executive Corner

WACD conference

We would like to again thank our sponsors for helping us to provide an amazing conference experience for WACD members, partners, and sponsors. More than ever before, sponsors were part of the conference experience. This signals our desire to work with our entire community to support our incredible conservation delivery system in Washington State!

Eleven days to session

Only 11 days to the sound of the gavel that will call the Legislature to order. The session this year is crucial for our conservation community and the people and landscapes they serve. Washington State is looking at more restricted budget scenarios and that means every discretionary program or service will be under scrutiny.

This is why WACD worked with KR Creative Strategies in 2024 to craft informational materials for legislators. Use them. We made them for you. You can use them with your long-standing legislative contacts. You can use them with new legislators to introduce voluntary conservation. These materials can be an effective door opener for you.

By the way, don't forget the staff who support individual legislators. Elected officials depend on those staff members, so even if you can't get in to see your legislators, talk with their staff. They are important and can help influence thinking.

Washington State conservation districts have grown immensely in capacity and effectiveness. Districts are more visible than ever. The momentum of the conservation district movement in Washington has been increasing year-over-year. This much needed growth is at risk this year because of budget constraints.

This is the year we need every person in our conservation community to stand up for voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs and services. What does this mean? It doesn't mean just assuming that someone else will do it. It means each of us in the community has a responsibility to ourselves, to each other, and to the people and places served, to talk with legislators about the critical importance of our conservation work.

This year, each and every one of us is going to need to give something of themselves if we are to capture the resources needed to keep making progress on our critical conservation work.

Let me make this point with a quote from a gentleman named Steve Goodier:

"Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love, or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give."

When you talk with your legislators, make sure they also know how much you appreciate their work in support of local communities. The smile on your face or in your voice, in appreciation of them, makes a difference. Give them something, even if it is only your smile.

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

- [Fridays on the Farm: Growing Holiday Cheer in Washington State](#)
- [Online pre-orders open Jan. 6 for Snohomish Conservation District annual plant sale](#)
- [King CD Riparian Stewardship Resource Specialist I](#)
- [King CD Riparian Habitat Stewardship Program Assistant](#)
- [2024 WACD Award Winners](#)
- [Asotin County CD is seeking Restoration Crew Members](#)

Recent Posts

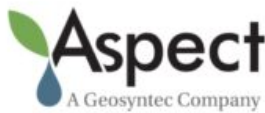
Jobs

Reading List

2024 Annual Conference Sponsors!

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Pass it on!

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1219 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501
(564) 669-7540

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