



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for January 30, 2025

Special Edition for Bill Hearings and Legislative Day!

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Five Things To Know

1. 2025 Legislative Positions

After nearly 1,500 bills introduced thus far in Olympia, we wanted the membership to be aware of positions that WACD has on current legislation based off of resolutions adopted by the membership (courtesy of the [WACD bill tracker](#))

- **PRO** - HB 1048 (Concerning a rangeland fire protection association pilot project).
- **PRO** - HB 1188 (Requiring local government and tribal approval of wind and solar siting recommendations by the energy facility site evaluation council).
- **PRO** - HB 1309/SB 5322 (Addressing the impacts of burrowing shrimp on bottom culture shellfish farming through integrated pest management research.)
- **PRO** - HB 1488/5510 (Concerning conservation district revenue limitations.)
- **PRO** - HB 1597/SB 5487 (Authorizing agricultural employers to select 12 weeks a year to employ workers for up to 50 hours a week before overtime applies.)
- **PRO** - SB 5391 (Concerning the sustainable farms and fields grant program.)

If you would like future newsletters to be delivered directly to your inbox, please consider subscribing to the [WACD Legislative Updates](#) newsletter.

2. Rates and Charges Bill Updates

The rates and charges proposal worked on by WACD and CDs for the last eighteen months is now [House Bill 1488](#) and [Senate Bill 5510](#). These bills, as proposed by the WACD resolutions adopted by the membership in 2023 and 2024, would allow counties to set the per parcel amount based on community need. It would also add clarifying language regarding the optional fee that Counties can collect to cover costs incurred to collect Rates and Charges.

Letters of Support Needed

If you have a legislator on the [House Finance Committee](#) or the [Senate Ways & Means Committee](#), please write to them with your district's support for the bill. A letter template can

be found [here](#).

Testify Virtually or Sign in as PRO in Support

If your district or a partner would like to testify or sign in as PRO, the committee meeting dates and times are below:

Senate Ways and Means Committee - SB 5510

February 4th at 4:30 PM

Sign in as Pro or to testify [here](#)

House Finance Committee - HB 1488

February 6th at 1:30 PM (*tentative*)

Sign in as Pro or to testify [here](#)

3. WACD Legislative Day Details

General Information

WACD Legislative Day is next week - Wednesday, **February 5th!**

Schedule

- **7:00 AM to 8:00 AM** – Breakfast (at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Lacey)
- **7:15 AM** – Welcome from WACD & Overview of WACD priorities
- **7:25 AM** – Welcome from the Commission
- **7:40 AM** – Briefing from WACD Lobbyist and Q&A
- **8:00 AM** – Attendees depart for meetings with Legislators
- **8:30 AM to 5:00 PM** – Attendees have access to the Columbia Room in the Legislative Building ~ Come take a break between meetings!
- **11:00 AM to 1:00 PM** – Invite your legislators and their legislative aids to swing by the Columbia Room to pick up a Common-Sense Conservation Cupcake
- **Noon** – WACD will be providing boxed lunches to participants. If you plan on joining us for lunch please **RSVP** to [Ryan](#) by **January 30th**.

Virtual Tours/Tabling

There is still time, if your CD would like to set up a display in the Columbia Room to showcase your CD to legislators stopping by to pick up a cupcake please email [Heather](#) to reserve your spot!

Outreach Materials

WACD will have copies of our CD's 101 and CTA outreach one-pagers available for districts to take to their meetings or you can access and print your own [here](#).



Those folks joining us on the hill on February 5th will receive a **45 Strong** lapel pin! This beautiful graphic was created by our great friends at [KR Creative Strategies!](#)

4. WACD's IT Help Desk

Just a reminder, Districts are eligible for 1 hour of free tech support from Olympia Computer. Their services include:

- **IT Infrastructure Management**
 - *Network Management:* Optimize Wi-Fi performance, Improve cable management, upgrade or replace outdated network devices, enhance network security with robust firewalls and intrusion detection systems.
 - *Server Management:* Provide on-site or cloud-based server solutions, ensure data security and accessibility, centralize user account management, implement robust backup and disaster recovery strategies.
 - *Cloud Computing:* Migrate to and manage cloud services (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud), set up and secure Microsoft 365 and SharePoint, optimize cloud resources for cost-efficiency and scalability.
- **Cybersecurity**
 - *Threat Detection and Response:* Proactive monitoring and response to security threats.
 - *Vulnerability Management:* Identify and mitigate vulnerabilities in your systems.

- *Security Awareness Training*: Educate employees about cybersecurity best practices.
- *Data Backup and Recovery*: Implement reliable backup and disaster recovery solutions.
- **End-User Support**
- **Security Camera Systems** and much more.....

To access your free 1 hour of support call 360.995.1010 or email helpdesk@olympia.computer

5. NACD Urban and Community Conservation Grants

NACD Urban and Community Conservation Grant applications are now being accepted. Conservation districts, state associations, and tribal organizations are eligible to apply for funding to address issues of conservation technical assistance related to conservation in urban, community, and small-scale agricultural production.

Activities must focus on technical assistance related to agricultural conservation but can address a variety of community-based approaches, and organizations are encouraged to think creatively to support conservation within their communities. The technical assistance may address any natural resources concerns in agriculture, for example, soil health, water quality/quantity issues, biodiversity, habitat improvement, human components of agriculture, etc. The review committee will prioritize projects focusing on food security or sovereignty, food deserts, and other opportunities to connect individuals lacking access to healthy, fresh food in populated areas.

Two funding pools will be available, both requiring a match of 25% from non-federal funding sources.

1. UAC Planning Grants (up to \$10,000) and,
2. Traditional UAC Grants, referred to as UAC Implementation Grants (up to \$75,000)

Deadline: April 1, 2025

The complete RFP can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Events

2025

- **February 5:** [WACD Legislative Days](#)
 - **February 6:** [NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting](#)
 - **February 8 - 12:** [NACD Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT](#)
 - **February 24:** [WACD Board of Directors Meeting](#)
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Executive Corner

This is the time for leadership

We live in interesting times. Some of my friends are ecstatic about the changes they see happening at the federal level. Some of my friends are deeply dismayed. What we all recognize is change is upon us. It is happening right now.

I'm sure you've heard the old saw "*the only constant in life is change.*" Here are some other thoughts on change to ponder:

Change brings opportunity. – Nido Qubein

Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change. – Stephen Hawking

The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.
– Socrates

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. – Maya Angelou

Sometimes good things fall apart so better things could fall together. – Marilyn Monroe

Interesting times, indeed, full of change and uncertainty at all levels of our society.

I think this is the time for leadership. It is an opportune time for leaders in our community to step up. Everyone in our wide conservation community is a leader. Every one of us spreads the conservation message in the ways we live, work, and play. Our friends, our coworkers, our partners, and our clients view us through the lens of the label we apply to ourselves: conservationists. We are, each and every one of us, leaders in the conservation movement that began nearly a century ago.

So let's dwell on what leadership means. I found some additional thoughtful quotations for your consideration:

We start with the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers. – Ralph Nader

The business of leaders is tricky. Leadership is not something that is done to people, like fixing your teeth. Leadership is unlocking people's potential to become better people and leaders themselves. – Bill Bradley

Good leaders keep their eye on the mission and the horizon, not just the bottom line. A company or team should stand for something, fulfill a purpose, and contribute something useful — hopefully something special, even wonderful — or it shouldn't really bother being a company at all. Tomorrow, who will really care how fast we grew? Isn't it more important to know what we are building with our growth and why? – Mark David, in [The Gifted Leader](#)

Here's the principle: mission leads, money follows. It isn't the money that creates the mission; it's the mission that creates the money. – Mark David

The takeaways I hope you'll get from this are:

1. We are all — each and every one of us — leaders in the conservation movement. Each of us brings value, and every one of us is the face of the movement. Give yourself, and your peers, the space and grace to learn and excel. Our success is measured not only by how many conservation practices are implemented, but also by how we grow and build new leaders that will take voluntary conservation to new levels.
2. In the face of change and uncertainty, hold true to our conservation mission and values. We share common themes like being locally led. Voluntary. Incentive based. Persuading instead of coercing. When we stay true to what we believe, we build trust with others, even when exterior forces seem intent on shaking our house.
3. Be open to potential opportunities. While change may be the loudest note we hear in today's orchestra, there are other instruments still present. Don't get so wrapped up in the joy or dismay of change that you become unable to see or hear new opportunities.

Do support each other during these difficult, uncertain times. Share the conservation message with pride. You do worthy, honorable work that is not only meaningful today but also benefits future generations. You are a leader in the conservation movement with an important role and voice. Use it. Lean on your fellow conservation leaders so we can all remain strong, stay true, and build an even better future.

Because of your leadership, commitment, and support, we are **45 Strong**.



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

- [Mason CD Forester Position](#)
- [Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant for Cowlitz & Wahkiakum CDs](#)
- [Week 2 Legislative Update](#)
- [Benton Conservation District plans to build a new facility](#)
- [Pend Oreille CD Agricultural Program Coordinator Position](#)
- [Hood River and Underwood Conservation Districts native plant sale](#)

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