



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

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## Five Things to Know for March 20, 2025

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

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*"When spring came, even the false spring, there were no problems except where to be happiest."*  
- Ernest Hemingway

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## **Five Things To Know**

### **1. Save the Date ~ Spring All CD's Meeting**

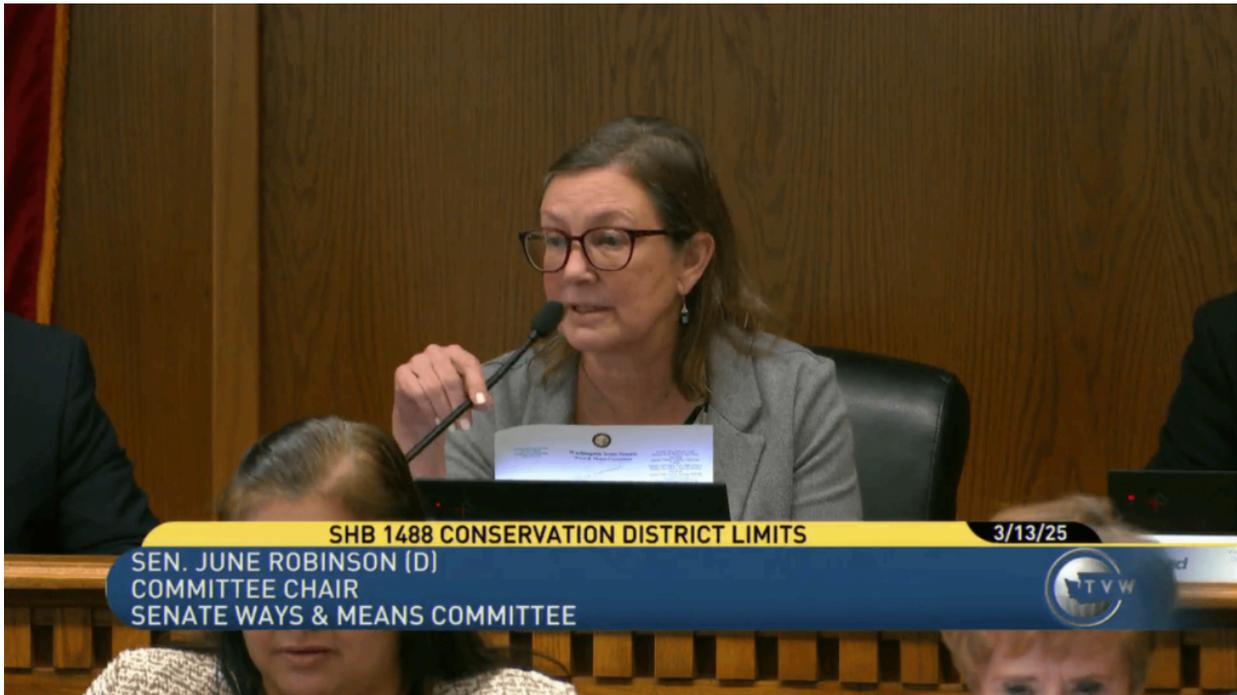
WACD and SCC will be hosting a joint Spring All CD's Meeting on **June 12th**, the day after the WADE Conference. We are holding this meeting in June as we anticipate that the Legislature may go long with all of the uncertainty at the Federal level and with the current State budget challenges. Stay tuned, more information to follow.

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### **2. Rates & Charges Bill Update**

Last week [Substitute House Bill 1488](#) was heard in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Although we hoped that this time around the Committee would not re-impose the Gildon Amendment that slightly raises the cap for each population category, that amendment was adopted.

On the bright side, the bill is still alive and will now advance to rulemaking. Stay tuned as there will likely be more twists and turns as the process proceeds!



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### 3. WADE Conference Information!

#### **WADE Registrations:**

[How to Register](#)

The early registration deadline is **April 1st**, so if you want the best rate, don't wait! Final deadline to register is **May 1, 2025**. After that, no new registrations will be accepted. You don't have to pay right away, but you must be signed up by then to attend. Do you have new employees at your district? Please forward this email their way! [Registration](#).

Cost: Registration for the training is \$800/(\$900 after April 1st) per person. That fee includes registration, 2 nights lodging (June 9 & 10) at Sleeping Lady, and all meals beginning at dinner on June 9th through lunch on June 11th. Additional cost information is on the registration form.

There won't be a live virtual option this year, but some sessions may be recorded and shared later at the track coordinators' discretion. Slide decks and other materials will also be available when provided by speakers.

#### **WADE Scholarships:**

Need Help with Costs? [Scholarships Available!](#)

If cost is a concern, scholarships are available! The deadline to apply is 4:30 PM on **March 21, 2025**. Don't miss it!

#### **WADE Employee of the Year:**

Help Recognize Your Staff!

The WADE board is now accepting nominations for the WADE Employee of the Year award. All past and current CD employees, WACD, and WSCC employees are eligible for nominations, and anyone can nominate a person for this award. A person may submit more than one nomination. Please visit the [WADE website](#) for additional information and guidelines.

If you wish to make a nomination, please fill out the [nomination form](#).

The deadline for nominations 4pm on **Friday, May 9, 2025**.

If you need any assistance or have any questions, please contact [Zorah Oppenheimer](#).

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## 4. New Interactive Map on Urban Wildfire Potential

Headwaters Economics has released an interactive map that identifies communities that face similar risks to Los Angeles and other places with recent urban wildfires.

While the recent fires in Los Angeles were shocking, hundreds of communities across the United States—including in Florida, Oklahoma, and Alabama—are ripe for a similar scenario. Because it's important to take action and prepare for these urban wildfires, Headwaters Economics has created an interactive map that shows which communities have risk factors comparable to Los Angeles.

You can read the full article here: [America's urban wildfire crisis: More than 1,100 communities at risk - Headwaters Economics](#)



## 5. WSDA Releases Climate Resilience Plan

Farmers have always found ways to adapt and overcome obstacles, but with increasing climate pressures—such as extreme weather, drought, and shifting growing conditions—they need more than resilience. They need a plan, the right tools, and strong partnerships to ensure the

long-term viability of Washington's agricultural industry.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture's new [Climate Resilience Plan for Washington Agriculture](#), outlines key strategies to enhance farm resilience, support agricultural innovation, and encourage the adoption of climate-smart practices. It also provides a playbook for institutions that support agriculture, such as state agencies, local jurisdictions, and research universities.

**Next steps:**

Actions in the plan require a high level of coordination and collaboration. WSDA is committed to: 1. Working with stakeholders to carry out the 27 actions; 2. Supporting stakeholders as they integrate the strategies into their own operations; and 3. Proactively updating the plan based on stakeholder feedback, evolving science, and changing conditions. While some strategies can move forward with existing resources, fully realizing the plan will require additional funding and collaboration. We are committed to working alongside our partners to pursue opportunities, maximize available resources, and take meaningful steps toward greater agricultural resilience.

For more information and to download factsheets, individual chapters, or the full plan, please visit the Washington State Department of Agriculture website at <https://agr.wa.gov/ClimateResilienceWaAg>.

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## 6. Bonus Item ~ New Funding Opportunities Newsletter

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](#).

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## Upcoming Events

### 2025

- **March 19 - 20:** [SCC Meeting, Grays Harbor](#)
  - **March 26:** [NACD Spring Fly-In](#)
  - **April 21:** [WACD Board of Directors Meeting](#)
  - **May 19:** [WACD Board of Directors Meeting](#)
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## Executive Corner

### **Thank you Grays Harbor CD!**

Grays Harbor CD hosted an *amazing* tour as part of the SCC March meeting. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about and handle invasive European Green Crab, visit Mount Olympus Brewing Company to learn about the River Roots beer collaboration, and much more! Thank you, Grays Harbor CD!



## 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

- [Week 9 Legislative Update](#)
- [Cascadia Conservation District to host Conservation Fair at Pybus](#)
- [DNR Urban Forestry Engagement Specialist Position](#)
- [More than just birds](#)
- [Action This Week on Rates-and-Charges Legislation](#)
- [Soap Lake Liaison Committee eyes partnership with CBCD](#)

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## 2024 Annual Conference Sponsors!

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# Thank you to the 2024 WACD Annual Meeting Sponsors



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