



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Week 10 Legislative Update

March 24, 2025

Today the House and Senate Operating [budgets](#) were released. The House budget more closely resembles former Governor Inslee's proposed budget. Next week we will have a fuller picture of what the actual budget looks like when Capital budgets are released. Until then, WACD will be sending a budget reconciliation letter to the House and Senate budget leads outlining the importance of retaining CTA, Forest Health and Wildfire Resiliency, and Science Hub base funding.

As always, if there are additional ways WACD can be of service to our membership during session, all you have to do is pick up the phone or write to [Tom](#) or [Heather](#), who are working on Olympia activities while [Ryan](#) is in Washington, D.C.

1. Rates and Charges Bill Update

[House Bill 1488](#) was "pulled" by the Senate Rules Committee last week, further moving it down the path towards adoption. This keeps the bill moving and ahead of the line of most other proposals. The action allows the proposal to be voted on at any time the Senate is in session at any point between now and April 16.

2. Opportunities to Comment

Below are some bills from WACD's [bill tracker](#) that are scheduled for committee hearings this week, should districts' wish to comment. You will need to follow [this link](#) and complete your comments at least one hour before the start of the committee meeting.

- [SB 5391](#) (Concerning the sustainable farms and fields grant program.) will be heard on Tuesday, March 25 in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural

Resources at 10:30 AM.

- [SB 5669](#) (Concerning irrigation district elections.) is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Committee on Local Government at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, March 25.
- [HB 1912](#) (Concerning the exemption for fuels used for agricultural purposes in the climate commitment act.) will be heard on Tuesday, March 25 in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy, & Technology at 1:30 PM.

3. Approved Last Week

Six bills from our tracker were adopted in committee last week:

- [HB 1135](#) (Ensuring that local government planning complies with the growth management act.)
- [HB 1294](#) (Extending the pesticide application safety committee.)
- [HB 1539](#) (Addressing wildfire protection and mitigation.)
- [HB 1553](#) (Extending the dairy inspection program until June 30, 2031.)
- [SB 5212](#) (Concerning filing of adjudication claims for uses of groundwater and surface water in the water resource inventory area 1 water rights adjudication.)
- [SB 5485](#) (Concerning livestock identification.)

4. Yet to Be Scheduled

April 2nd is the next legislative cut-off, when bills have to be passed out of the opposite chamber's policy committee (i.e. - House bills passed by Senate Ag). Here are some bills that have yet to be scheduled for a vote before next Wednesday's cut-off.

- [HB 1758](#) (Calculating the inflation rate for aquatic land leases.)
- [SB 5360](#) (Concerning environmental crimes.)

5. General Legislative Update

WACD's Lobbyist Brynn Brady writes a weekly update for those interested in the general happenings of Olympia. [This week](#) she provided details on the House's and Senate's proposed revenue proposals and breaks down the impact of the departure of several key staff members from Governor Ferguson's administration.



"Spring Showers Move Across Canyon Grassland Above the Snake River", courtesy of [WSCC's Flickr account](#), as a treat for those who read to the bottom of the page.

Taken by Lovina England, Palouse Conservation District



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