



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

## Five Things to Know for May 15, 2025

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



Did someone say selfie? CD executive directors, partners and supporters (big and small) celebrate the signing of SHB 1488, the Rates and Charges bill, by taking a selfie with Governor

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## Five Things To Know

### 1. Rates and Charges Bill ~ Signed!

[House Bill 1488](#) was signed by the Governor Ferguson on Tuesday May 13th. The final version of the bill raises the cap for all district requests for rates and charges funding to \$25, regardless of county population size. The bill will also require the Department of Revenue to adjust the rate every three years based on inflation. Rates and Charges was originally added to RCW 89.08 in 2012.

Enjoy these pictures from the bill signing in 2012 and from this week!





## 2. Together for Conservation: Statewide Leadership Forum RSVP

SCC and WACD are co-hosting this meeting to bring together conservation districts to discuss issues facing Washington state.

The meeting will cover the following topics:

- A conversation on shared leadership and working together
- Legislative updates and planning for 2026
- Communication strategies on water quality
- WACD Sustainable Funding Committee update

📍 **Location:** Enchantments Ballroom, [Icicle Village, Leavenworth](#)

📅 **Date:** June 12, 2025 from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. ([Add to calendar!](#))

💛 **What:** A statewide forum with SCC, WACD and conservation districts.

🚗 **Travel:** SCC is also excited to offer up to \$1,000 in reimbursement per district to attend in person. Supervisors and staff are encouraged to attend.

Please register for the event below, even if you plan on attending virtually. Registration closes on **May 29, 2025**.

[Register Here](#)

## 3. May Washington Water Supply Outlook

The USDA-NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program is reporting:

Despite some precipitation in April, the month was relatively dry and warm, with only 2 SNOTEL stations receiving near normal precipitation (Stevens Pass and Grouse Camp SNOTEL stations). Anomalously warm temperatures (see image below) and fairly low cloud coverage in April promoted, in some cases, near or record high melting at several stations east of the Cascade crest. For example, Salmon Meadows SNOTEL in the Upper Columbia Basin lost about 65% of its water-year peak snowpack in nearly 10 days, with snow melting out 10 days earlier than normal. Snowpack and water year precipitation in all major basins have degraded since April 1, exacerbating persistent and pervasive snow drought conditions

and precipitation deficits in the central and northern Washington Cascades. Precipitation deficits are now emerging on the Olympic, Lower Yakima, and Naches basins, while late-season snowpack deficits have emerged for the Lower Yakima, Naches, Spokane, and Lower Pend Oreille basins.

You can read the full report here: [May 2025 WSOR.pdf](#)

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#### 4. WSCC's New Community-Based Social Marketing Project

The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) is launching a new project focused on Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM), a proven approach for encouraging behavior change in support of voluntary conservation. Many conservation districts are already using CBSM strategies, even if not by name. Examples include:

- Incentives and recognition – offering cost-share, technical assistance, or recognition such as farm signs or newsletter spotlights.
- Social norms – messaging that highlights conservation as a shared community value (“Most farmers in this area already...”).
- Prompts and reminders – using signs or seasonal mailings to cue timely action, like planting or water conservation.
- Commitment tools – asking landowners to pledge to actions like planting native vegetation or reducing water use.

To support and expand this work, SCC is developing a CBSM curriculum and resource framework for Washington's conservation districts. This will include practical tools such as training materials, outreach templates, and locally adaptable strategies.

We want your input to help shape this effort.

Please take a few minutes to complete this [short survey](#) by **Monday, May 19**.

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#### 5. Conservation District Event Spotlight!

##### **Pacific County Marine Resources Committee Annual Science Conference - Saturday May 17th**

This free event will take place at the Cranberry Museum in Long Beach from 9 am to 3 pm and will be followed by a Surf and Turf Feast at 4 pm. Join us for great food, and networking opportunities, in addition to hearing from our amazing speakers who will cover scientific topics related to our coastal communities!

**Please RSVP for this FREE event [here](#).**



# 2025 Science Conference & Surf & Turf Feast

**Saturday May 17th**  
**@ The Cranberry Museum, Long Beach**



## Draft Agenda

9 am Welcome & Introductions - Mike Nordin, Chair PCMRC	1:00 pm Brandii O'Reagan (WA Sea Grant) - Fisheries Supply Chains
9:15 am Local Updates including hatcheries, ports, MRC, and Conservation District	1:30 pm Sally Hacker (OSU) Dune change and native/non-native dune grasses
10:15 am Jennifer Ruesink (UW) Native & Non-native eelgrass competition and use	1:45 pm Nathan Johnson (WA State Parks) Ecological Fire in Coastal Dune Restoration
10:45 am Kendall Valentine (UW) Willapa Bay Sediments, burrowing shrimp, and benthic carbon	2:00pm Break & Networking
11:15 am Andy Suhrbier (Pacific Shellfish Institute) Are Manila Clams "On the Menu" for Willapa Bay Predators?	2:15 pm Christie Hegermiller (UW) Wave monitoring at the mouth of Willapa Bay
11:30 am Poster session and Networking	2:30 Lauren Bauernschmidt (WDFW) Community Beach Monitoring
Noon: Lunch	2:45 Kaden Coty Shorebird Habitat Use & Monitoring
	3:00 pm Closing Statements
4:00 pm Surf & Turf Feast	

RSVP at  
[mrc.pacificcd.org](http://mrc.pacificcd.org)



## Upcoming Events

### 2025

- **May 13-15:** [SCC Meeting & Tour](#)
- **May 19:** [WACD Board of Directors Meeting](#)
- **June 9 - 11:** [WADE Conference](#)
- **June 12:** Together for Conservation: Statewide Leadership Forum
- **June 16:** [WACD Board Meeting, Bow, WA](#)
- **June 18:** SCC Meeting

## Executive Corner

### Thank you North Yakima Conservation District!

The North Yakima Conservation District hosted a wonderful tour this Tuesday as part of the SCC's Meeting in Yakima. The district showcased numerous programs including their low water-use landscaping program known as the Heritage Garden program, virtual fencing and conservation easements.





## 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

- [San Juan Conservation District: Federal Cuts Cripple Island Conservation Corps Training Program](#)
- [Local salmon projects win state funding; Middle Nemah gets \\$1M](#)
- [Environmental nonprofit aims to recoup after funding cut](#)
- [FY 25-27 State Budget Takeaways](#)
- [Week 15 Legislative Update](#)
- [Week 14 Legislative Update](#)

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