



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for June 5, 2025

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The 2025 Washington State Envirothon Competition held in May was a huge success! Congratulations to the first-place team, Roosevelt High School. If you want to support the Envirothon, and you will be attending WADE, don't miss Trivia Night on June 10th.

In This Issue

Five Things to Know

1. WACD Dues Letter and Survey

2. Incoming and Outgoing Supervisors in 2025
3. Partner Reports of Interest
4. ECY is Accepting Feedback on their Non-Point Plan
5. Conservation District Event Spotlight!
6. Lynn Brown Memorial

Upcoming Events

Executive Corner

Latest Posts on the Hub

Thank you to Sponsors

Five Things To Know

1. WACD Dues Letter and Survey

WACD dues letters will be going out later this month, and they have a brand new look. If you would like a preview please [click here](#). The letter highlights the past fiscal year's accomplishments and looks forward to the work ahead of districts and the Association.

In addition to standard dues, WACD has also added an optional supplemental dues investment for specific initiatives. There is a lot of work to do, and we do not want to raise dues to meet our communities needs. The optional dues category allows CDs who can afford to, and want to help with the additional lift the opportunity to do so. Great idea? Terrible idea? Please let us know your thoughts oly@wacd.org.

Lastly, we want to hear from you. As WACD prepares to develop our next strategic plan we want to make sure we are investing our resources in the areas most important to our members. Please take a moment to participate in this very short [survey](#).

2. Incoming and Outgoing Supervisors

With their certification at the May Commission meeting, thirteen new volunteers are joining their local conservation district as supervisors. You can find the full list [here](#).

And please take a moment to honor the [fourteen outgoing supervisors](#). Between them, eighty-nine years of local service to the cause of voluntary conservation practices are departing our community.

3. Partner Reports of Interest

The **National Association of Conservation Districts** (NACD) [Annual Report](#) is now available. The report provides updates on:

- Activities across NACD's seven regions,

- Friends of NACD District Grants Program 2024 recipients,
- Tips on district outreach efforts,
- NACD's FY2024 finances, and more!

The **Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative** (WSRRI) released its first [partner newsletter](#). The newsletter is intended to provide updates on the progress and implementation of WSRRI activities.

4. ECY is Accepting Feedback on their Non-Point Plan

Ecology is in the process of updating Washington's Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Sources of Pollution (Nonpoint Plan). This statewide plan outlines our strategies to address nonpoint pollution and ensures funding for us and our partners to implement clean water solutions.

You are invited to review and comment on the draft Nonpoint Plan from midnight on **May 22 to 11:59 p.m. August 29, 2025**.

- [Draft Plan to Control Nonpoint Sources of Pollution](#)
- [Reading guide](#) - This is an overview of the plan and highlights updates

How to comment

- Submit comments online through the [Nonpoint Plan Comment Form](#).
- Submit comments by mail to:
Kathryn Loy
WA State Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program
P.O. Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696


Join the public webinar

- June 11, 2025 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
[Register](#) in advance on Zoom.

At the webinar, ECY will discuss their process and provide an overview of updates made to the plan. There will be time for questions, however this is not a formal hearing so we will not be taking oral testimony and encourage comments be submitted through mail or online.

5. Conservation District Event Spotlight

Whitman CD is hosting a Riparian Restoration Tour of Alkali Flat Creek on June 18th. Discover firsthand how riparian restoration is transforming our waterways and supporting healthier ecosystems. This two-stop walking tour offers a unique opportunity to witness:

 A newly established restoration site (2025) featuring 1,400 feet of streambank and over 1,000 native trees and shrubs.

🌲 A mature 7-year-old project with 14,000+ trees and shrubs, covering 7,839 feet of Alkali Flat Creek and its tributary.

Our conservation team will guide the tour, share restoration insights, and discuss the environmental benefits of native plantings and streambank stabilization.

🌟 Whether you're a community member, landowner, or just curious about habitat restoration —you're invited!

Please register to attend [here](#). If you have questions please email jlarsen@whitmancd.org.



JUNE 18TH 9-11 am

**RIPARIAN
RESTORATION
TOUR**

ALKALI FLAT CREEK

**Come see two projects along
Alkali Flat Creek.**

One new and one 7 years Old.

**Aproximately 14,000
Trees and shrubs Established**

Effecting 1.7 miles of creek

RSVP

Go to our website or contact
Josh Larsen District Manager





6. Lynn Brown Memorial

As most of you have probably heard, we lost Lynn Brown in December. Lynn helped shape conservation on Washington's landscape in ways large and small. He served as the NRCS State Conservationist, chaired the Washington State Conservation Commission, served on the Kittitas County Conservation District, and chaired the PMC Administrative Committee, just to name a few of his contributions. To honor him, a memorial will be held on **June 16th** at 11:30 am during the WACD Board Meeting at the Plant Material Center in Bow.

You are invited to attend and share your stories of Lynn. If you have photos of Lynn, please send them to Jim Brown at the PMC at pmcmanager@gmx.com before mid-June.

If you would like to attend on June 16th (virtually or in-person) please **RSVP** to Heather Wendt at hwendt@wadistricts.org by **June 6th**.



Upcoming Events

2025

- **June 9 - 11:** [WADE Conference](#)
 - **June 12:** Together for Conservation: Statewide Leadership Forum
 - **June 16:** [WACD Board Meeting, Bow, WA](#)
 - **June 17:** WACD Strategic Planning Meeting, Bow, WA
 - **June 18:** SCC Meeting
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Executive Corner

Remembering Lynn Brown

Our successes are built on the foundational work done by those who came before us. Lynn Brown's work in support of local conservation has helped influence conservation district success for 30 years. I am honored to have worked with him in several different capacities.

Your memories and photos of Lynn will help enrich the remembrances of him for all. Please do share those.

I'll share here just one memory of Lynn, and it comes from early in my time with the State Conservation Commission. Following a separation of service by the Commission's executive director, Lynn was concerned that the momentum of Commission programs and staff would suffer without strong leadership during the recruitment phase for a new director. Lynn volunteered his time for months to serve as the acting executive director. I don't think any of us realized at the time what a huge burden this was, and how much it disrupted Lynn's life. He did it because of the love he had for local conservation. I will always honor him for that sacrifice. He saw the need and stepped in to selflessly shepherd the Commission through a rough patch. For issues he cared about, he lived the mantra: "If not me, then who?"

Tom is on part-time leave

By now, most of you are aware that my wife suffered a devastating stroke on May 8th. The right side of the brain, which controls the left side of the body, her left shoulder, arm, hand, leg, and foot are affected. She spent several days in the Swedish Hospital's neurology critical care unit and then she was transferred to a skilled nursing facility in Silverdale for recovery and rehabilitation. Judging by how the past month has gone, this is going to be a long, arduous journey to regain left-side function.

I'm with Jan every day to help with feeding, occupational therapy, physical therapy, self-care, and advocating for her. This week, I returned to work on a half-time basis.

Throughout this, WACD board and staff members have been incredibly supportive and understanding. I cannot describe what it means to know that the organization I care so much about is in such great hands. I feel blessed that we have great people ready, willing, and able to maintain great service and support to WACD members and partners. We have rock stars, and we are all better for it.

This could also be a wake-up call for each of us in the conservation community. Please take a moment to look around you at the people you work with every day, week, or month. Think about how things would change if this person or that person suddenly became unavailable. This is a clarion call to build more resiliency into your conservation role. It's important because the service you provide to your community is important. Assuring uninterrupted, high-quality service is something we should all strive for, because the people we serve deserve it.

Finally, thank you to so many who have reached out in support over the past several weeks. You can't know how much that really means. While it often feels like Jan and I are alone in this situation, each contact with my conservation family proves me wrong. Thank you.

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

- [Celebrating our Outgoing 2025 Supervisors](#)
- [Welcome to 13 new conservation district supervisors](#)
- [Longtime Spokane Conservation District leader ushers in year-round farmers market](#)
- [Palouse Conservation District Encourages Community to Explore Local Wildlife with Upcoming Spring Events](#)
- [Legislative Update - May Update on 2025 Session](#)
- [Heather Wendt Appointed as WACD Deputy Director](#)

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