



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for July 3, 2025

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



Meeting with legislators outside of session is one of the best ways to educate them about the important work conservation districts do. Pictured above (left to right) is Jennifer Colvin, Colvin Ranch, giving a tour to Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland and Sarah Moorehead, Executive Director, Thurston Conservation District. Photo credit:

<https://www.facebook.com/RepStricklandWA/>

Five Things to Know

1. Legislative Engagement Survey ~ Responses Due Today!
2. CD Elections Study Report
3. NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
4. NACD Summer Meeting ~ Forward Together
5. National CD Employees Association Mid-Year Meeting
6. Bonus Item ~ Forests for Communities StoryMap

Upcoming Events

Inside WACD

Latest Posts on the Hub

Thank you to Sponsors

Five Things To Know

1. Legislative Engagement Survey ~ Responses Due Today!

WACD, in partnership with the SCC, is gathering input from conservation districts on hosting legislative tours.

Whether your district regularly hosts these types of tours or has not yet done so, your feedback is important. Please take a few moments to complete this brief survey and help us better understand the needs, interests, and opportunities for supporting districts in organizing legislative tours.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DT2GR56>

Please submit your responses by **July 3rd**. We do have limited staff and resources, so be sure to fill out the survey soon if you would like assistance! If you have questions or comments please reach out to us at oly@wacd.org.

2. CD Elections Study Report

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy released [their study](#) on CD elections on June 27. Ryan Baye wrote a summary, an ["at a glance" version](#) of the fifty one page report, with some of his reflections.

The main takeaways is that there were no surprises for anyone who's taken part in these conversations over the last few years. Districts are concerned about the costs and the impact on operations. That cost? WSIPP estimates \$25,567,700 over four years if all five supervisor positions of all forty-five CDs had to be on the August primary and the November general ballots.

3. NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

The next [State Technical Advisory Committee](#) meeting will be held virtually on **July 10th**. The meeting agenda with connection information can be found [here](#).

The State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is a group composed of agricultural producers, owners/operators of nonindustrial private forest land, federal and state agency representatives, and other professionals who provide information, analysis, and recommendations to officials of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on implementing and establishing priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs.

For more information about the State Technical Advisory Committee contact NRCS Partnership Liaison, Nick Vira at nick.vira@usda.gov.

4. NACD Summer Meeting ~ Forward Together

Registration is now open for **NACD's 2025 Summer Conservation Forum & Tours!** Hosted with Wisconsin Land + Water, the NACD Summer Meeting will be held in Milwaukee, WI, this **July 25-29, 2025**.

Early bird registration is only open for a limited time, so don't delay. Save \$50 per person by registering **before July 7th**.

This summer, experience conservation in Milwaukee and surrounding counties by [joining the tours!](#) Included in the cost of registration are two tours that explore water research and conservation, regenerative agriculture, habitat restoration, and more.

Learn more about both of the tours on [NACD's website](#) and register for the meeting!

5. National CD Employees Association Mid-Year Meeting

The [National Conservation District Employees Association](#) (NCDEA) each year, hosts its mid-year meeting in a different state or territory and uses this event to connect with employees through hosting a companion tour and training, including participation by representatives from other national partners.

When: Wednesday, August 27th - Thursday, August 28th

Location: Doubletree by Hilton, Spokane City Center, 322 N Spokane Falls Ct, Spokane, WA 99201

Wednesday 8/27: full day training at the Doubletree Spokane City Center, focused on a range of financial, operational, technical assistance, and resource management topics identified as

critical to conservation district employees in state and nationwide surveying. Highlights include:

- Five-partner Q/A panel with representation from the National Association of Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of State Conservancy Agencies, and the National Association of RC&D Councils
- Employee-led presentations on diversifying funding; grants 101; effective board engagement; creativity in education and outreach; and connecting with core regional and local partners.
- District spotlights and Q/A
- Time for networking and connecting with other attendees

Thursday 8/28: full day tour and training at Spokane Conservation District's main property and nearby farm, featuring presentations and walking tours of programs and supporting funding; lunch on-site at Spokane CD and dinner/networking at adjacent event venue, Barn and Blossom.

Who should attend: Conservation District employees from Washington and surrounding states representing a range of positions and experience levels; this training/tour opportunity will have speakers and content applicable to both entry-level and long-term CD employees. In addition to the training/tour, networking is a large part of this event. You'll have the opportunity to make connections with employees and partners from around the country.

For more information contact:

Craig Nelson, District Manager, Okanogan Conservation District

Email: craig@okanogancd.org Phone: 509-846-6216

6. Bonus Item ~ Forests for Communities StoryMap

Community-owned forests around the Pacific Northwest provide a wide-ranging suite of benefits. These benefits include clean drinking water, recreation and education opportunities for all ages, income derived from carbon credits and timber harvest, and more!

The [Forests for Communities StoryMap](#), a new interactive storytelling tool from [Sustainable Northwest](#) and the [Northwest Community Forests Coalition](#), highlights these many co-benefits by telling the stories of unique properties around the region. This project was supported in part by financial assistance from the United States Forest Service, an equal opportunity provider.

Check out the [StoryMap](#) to learn more!



Upcoming Events

2025

- July 10: [NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting](#)
- July 16 - 17: [SCC Meeting](#)
- July 25 - 29: [NACD Summer Meeting](#)
- August 27 - 28: [NCDEA Mid-Year Meeting](#)
- September 7 - 10: [NACD Southwest & Pacific Region Meeting](#)
- September 12: WACD Funding Opportunities Newsletter is Published

Inside WACD

Take Time to Recharge

The work we do together to support conservation across Washington State is vital—and often feels never-ending. While our shared commitment keeps us moving forward, it's just as important to pause and recharge.

As we head into the Independence Day holiday, I hope you take a moment to celebrate with family and friends, enjoy the beauty around you, and restore your energy. You are a valued

member of our conservation community, and we celebrate you!

Wishing you a safe and refreshing holiday weekend.

Tom, Heather & Ryan

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

- [No Surprises in Elections Study](#)
- [Public tour highlights forest health and wildfire risk reduction work around Lake Wenatchee](#)
- [Report Published on Conservation District Elections](#)
- [Whidbey Island Natural Resource Planner Position](#)
- [King County Farmland Preservation Program Manager](#)
- [WACD ~ Working Together for Conservation](#)

Recent Posts

Jobs

Reading List

2024 Annual Conference Sponsors!

Sponsors

Thank you to the 2024 WACD Annual Meeting Sponsors



Pass it on!

Please pass this newsletter on to others in our conservation community so they can subscribe and be as informed as you are!

SUBSCRIBE

More information is available on the WACD Hub!

Visit the WACD Hub

We welcome your [feedback](#)

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#) | [Contact WACD](#)

1219 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

(564) 669-7540

MailPoet