



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for September 4, 2025

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



An August sunrise at WACD's Plant Materials Center.
Photo credit: Jim Brown, Director of Nursery Operations

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Five Things To Know

1. Area Meetings - Save the Date!

Save the date for upcoming Area Meetings! More information on exact locations and times are coming soon. Check the WACD webpage for the latest updates:

<https://wadistricts.us/annual/2025meetings/2025-area-association-meetings/>

- Wednesday, October 15 – Northwest Area meeting – hosted by King CD
 - Thursday, October 16 – Southwest Area meeting – hosted by Wahkiakum CD
 - Wednesday, October 22 – Northeast area meeting – hosted by Stevens CD
 - Thursday, October 23 – North Central Area Meeting – hosted by Foster Creek CD
 - Tuesday, October 28 – South Central Area Meeting – hosted by Eastern Klickitat CD
 - Wednesday, October 29 – Southeast Area meeting – hosted by Columbia CD
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2. WACD Awards

Each year, WACD seeks to recognize the best and brightest in our community. We are looking for nominations in eleven different categories, ranging from Associate Supervisors to local co-operators. Applications should take no more than a few minutes of your time. The 2025 nomination forms are now available on the [WACD Hub](#).

WACD awards nominations are due **October 31st** (no tricks only treats!).

3. State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Dates

NRCS has set State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting dates for the next year.

Meeting dates and information can also be found on the STAC Webpage:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/washington/technical-committee>

- November 20, 2025 (remote)
- February 19, 2026 (remote)
- May 7, 2026 (In person, Western Washington)
- August 20, 2026 (remote)
- Fall 2026 (to be determined)

For questions about the STAC please reach out to [Nick Vira](#), NRCS State Partnership Liaison.

4. Puget Sound Stewardship & Mitigation Fund Grant

The [Puget Sound Stewardship & Mitigation Fund](#) is currently accepting applications. The deadline to apply is **September 26, 2025**.

Our geographic priority areas for this funding cycle are as follows:

- South Sound, especially Budd Inlet and associated waters
- Waters Associated with the Port of Tacoma & Commencement Bay
- Central Sound between Seattle & Everett
- Skagit River watershed and associated reaches of Puget Sound
- North Sound & including parts of the Salish Sea and San Juan Islands

Grants will be awarded up to a maximum of \$40,000 but may be awarded in the \$20,000 to \$30,000 range. If your organization has an annual budget of \$150,000 or less, we recommend applying for a grant of \$10,000 or less.

We strongly encourage proposals from local, regional, and environmental justice-oriented organizations. Project proposals centered around equity and with strong community involvement and participation are especially encouraged to apply. Large, nationwide organizations may be considered but should have a local partner meaningfully involved in the project.

Eligibility and application information can be found [here](#).

5. Update on the NCPP Conservation Planning Survey

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent National Conservation Planning Partners (NCP) **Conservation Planning Survey** that was co-sponsored by NACD. Your input is invaluable in helping NCPP better understand the needs, resources, and opportunities available to support conservation work across the country.

The survey received responses from all 50 states and four territories, with contributions from over 1,000 individuals representing more than 1,600 staff members. A few highlights from the results include:

- 83% of staff are currently assisting farmers and ranchers with conservation work
- 30% of the responding staff are certified conservation planners
- 34% indicated a need or desire for classroom and field training
- 96% indicated they prefer email as the means to be informed
- 55% have access to a LincPass, 58% have access to AgLearn, and 33% have access to CD/Cart

The information collected will guide future training, communication, and resource development to better serve conservation professionals.

Questions can be directed to the NCPP coordinator at coordinator@ncpp.info.

6. Bonus Item - NACD's Urban Webinar: From Service To Soil

Join NACD on **September 17** at **1:00 p.m.** PT to learn about Vets on the Farm, a Spokane Conservation District program that empowers military veterans through agriculture and conservation.

Since 2015, the initiative has provided training, hands-on farming experience, and career pathways in agribusiness—helping veterans rediscover purpose, build community, and transition into civilian careers. Discover how this award-winning program blends education, mentorship, and land stewardship to transform lives—and why it recently celebrated a decade of impact across seven Washington counties.

Register for the webinar [here](#).

Upcoming Events

2025

- September 7 - 10: [NACD Southwest & Pacific Region Meeting](#)
- September 12: WACD Funding Opportunities Newsletter is Published
- September 15: [WACD Board Meeting](#)
- September 17-18: [WSCC Meeting](#)

Inside WACD

Summertime for WACD's Plant Materials Center

The summer sun has been fueling the robust growth of plants at the Plant Materials Center (PMC). But in the last week or two, the nights have started to cool and the mornings carry that crispness that reminds us fall is just around the corner.

Change is in the air at the PMC in more ways than one. After 28 years of dedicated service, Jim Brown, PMC's Director of Nursery Operations, will transition to semi-retirement on October 1. Stepping into the role of Nursery Manager will be John Knox, currently our Assistant Nursery Manager.

With John moving into his new position, we are thrilled to welcome Zinny Hansen as the new Assistant Manager. Zinny brings a degree in horticulture along with valuable experience in the nursery industry. Please join us in welcoming Zinny to the conservation community!

In other exciting news, the public television show [Washington Grown](#) recently visited the PMC to film an episode. Hosts Kristi and Tomas, along with their producer and videographer, toured the facility and learned more about WACD and the PMC's work. The episode will air as part of the show's 13th season, premiering in the new year. We'll be sure to share the details once it's scheduled to air.

If you have questions, need plants or would like to tour the nursery please do not hesitate to reach out to Jim and our amazing team at the PMC - <https://wacdpmc.org/>.

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

- [3 New DNR/NRCS Conservation Planner Positions \(Olympia, Omak and Colville\)](#)
- [Snohomish CD Community Conservation Crew Lead Position](#)
- [Pierce CD Marine Shorelines Senior Program Manager Position](#)
- [Plant the Palouse with Palouse Conservation District and Port of Whitman Industrial Park](#)
- [USACE Issues License for \\$1.2 Million Initiative to Improve Salmon Habitat on Yakima River](#)
- [‘If you give it water, it’ll grow’](#)

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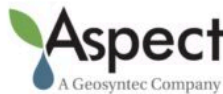
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