



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for October 16, 2025

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Fall seed planting at WACD's Plant Materials Center.
Photo Courtesy of Jim Brown, PMC Director of Nursery Operations.

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Five Things To Know

1. WACD's Annual Conference & Business Meeting ~ Register Today!

Hotel Registration

WACD is excited to be hosting our **2025 Annual Conference and Business Meeting** at the Northern Quest Resort and Casino this year from **Monday, December 1st to Wednesday, December 3rd**. We've secured a group rate at the state per diem amount of \$126 for conference attendees.

To secure the discounted rate, you will have to call the Northern Quest Casino Reservation Department at 1-877-871-6772 and reference either the "*Washington Association Conservation Conference*" group rate or mention the **Group Discount ID 30560**. You can only utilize the discount over the phone, it will not be possible to make hotel reservations with the group discount online. **Our group rate at the Northern Quest runs until Friday, October 31st.**

Conference Registration

Registration for the Annual Conference on Monday and Tuesday and for the Business Meeting on Wednesday, whether you're planning to participate online or in-person, can all be done on one form – [just click here](#).

WACD is offering a single price for conference registration and meals at \$550 per person. The cost to attend virtually will be \$150/per person. If your district sends 3 or more supervisors to attend in person, your entire district can attend virtually for only \$75.00.

As in years past, we are discounting registration for new supervisors and new district staff to encourage their attendance and meet the statewide community. The first 15 to register as first-time conference attendees pay 50% of the regular registration price. There will be a dedicated new supervisor and manager training session on Monday morning with a leadership consultant for new managers / executive directors and supervisors elected or appointed in 2023, 2024, or 2025. **Regular registration ends November 21st.**

For more information visit the Conference Page on the HUB [here](#).

2. WACD Awards Reminder ~ Submittals Due October 31st!

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. Area Association Meetings

Every October, each of the six area associations gather for the opportunity to discuss topics, meet face to face with state leadership, and vote on regional representatives. WACD is

maintaining a [webpage](#) on the WACD HUB with area meeting information from the host districts. You can also find area resolutions posted to be voted on at the annual meeting.

WACD officers and staff will be at every area meeting to provide updates on the happenings in the Association, give our initial assessment of the 2026 legislative session, and answer all your questions. See you soon!

4. Friends of NACD District Grants Program

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has opened the application period for the [2026 Friends of NACD District Grants Program](#). The application period is open from **October 1** through **November 30, 2025**.

NACD is partnering with the Scott's Miracle-Gro Foundation to bring a seventh round of funding to member districts. Since its inception in 2020, nearly \$96,000 has been distributed to 39 districts across the country and in overseas territories. In 2026, this program will award grants of up to \$2,500 each to top-ranking applicants.

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that take a creative approach to locally led conservation and expand the scope of their district's current operations. To be eligible for a grant applicants must meet the following criteria:

- District must have paid NACD membership dues at any level in the previous fiscal year
- Projects must contribute to the mission of NACD
- District must be able to complete proposed activities within 13 months of notification of the award and commit to providing quarterly updates to NACD
- District must not have been a previous recipient of a Friends of NACD grant

Find the request for proposals, view eligibility criteria, and apply for a grant on [NACD's Friends of NACD webpage](#). Any questions about this program can be directed to Jackson Moody at Jackson-Moody@nacdn.net.

5. Western WA SCC Commission Seat Candidate Forms

The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) has adopted [Interpretive Statement 24-01](#) describing the election process of the district representative to the SCC and to accommodate the Washington Association of Conservation District's annual meeting being held in a hybrid format. A hybrid format allows participants to meet in-person with options to also participate online, if they choose. This year there will be one district elected position on the SCC up for election - the western Washington conservation district representative.

The western area representative seat corresponds with the [WACD Northwest and Southwest Areas](#). This position represents the following conservation districts.

- Clallam Conservation District
- Clark Conservation District
- Cowlitz Conservation District
- Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Jefferson County Conservation District
- King Conservation District
- Kitsap Conservation District
- Lewis Conservation District
- Mason Conservation District
- Pierce Conservation District

- Pacific Conservation District
- Skagit Conservation District
- Thurston Conservation District
- Whatcom Conservation District
- San Juan Conservation District
- Snohomish Conservation District
- Wahkiakum Conservation District
- Whidbey Island Conservation District

Conservation district supervisors will have the ability to vote online via a secured link provided and emailed by the SCC. Voting will be open for 48 hours beginning Monday, December 1st at 6:00 p.m. and closing on Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in this position, please submit your [Candidate Interest Form](#) to the Commission no later than 11:59 p.m. Saturday, November 15, 2025.

Please note, the only requirement in statute for the position is that the candidate resides in western Washington for the west region position.

For additional information on the process and timelines, please click on the document link titled: [Interpretive Statement 24-01](#)

If you have any questions about the information provided above, or need assistance with the electronic submittal form, please contact Lori Gonzalez at lgonzalez@scc.wa.gov or by phone at 360-791-0226.

6. In Case You Missed It (ICYMI)

Here is information that went out via email to CDs in the last month -

- Mid-September - WACD Published another edition of its [Funding Opportunities Newsletter](#) in partnership with the Washington Conservation Society.
- Mid-September - WACD Published its [Strategic Plan Draft](#) for Review - [Comments](#) are Due **today**.
- Mid-September - WACD published its SCC Supplemental Budget Support Letter template for district use. Contact [WACD staff](#) for the template. Letters are Due **by the end of the month**.
- Early October - WACD launched its [postcard campaign](#) to aid districts in supporting funding requests for Forest Health and Wildfire Resiliency and Conservation Technical Assistance Funding.

Upcoming Events

2025

- October 16: [Southwest Area meeting](#)
- October 20: [WACD Board Meeting](#)
- October 22: [Northeast Area meeting](#)
- October 23: [North Central Area Meeting](#)
- October 28: [South Central Area Meeting](#)
- October 29: [Southeast Area meeting](#)

Inside WACD

Did someone say legislative tours?

On October 3rd, I had the pleasure of joining the **Okanogan County Forest Health and Fire Resiliency Tour**, organized for members of the Washington State Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Okanogan Conservation District, in partnership with the Methow Okanogan Beaver Project, led participants through three project sites highlighting local collaboration and innovation.

On October 10th, I had the pleasure of attending the **Chelan County Wildfire Resiliency Tour**, which hosted nine state legislators. This tour was a collaborative effort among The Nature Conservancy, Sustainable Northwest, Chelan County, Cascadia Conservation District, the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative, and Chelan County PUD.

Why are tours like this important?

These events showcase the power of collaboration among local, state, federal, and private partners working together to advance conservation initiatives. They provide legislators with a firsthand look at projects that demonstrate how strategic investments are making a tangible difference on the ground.

Equally important, these tours offer legislators the opportunity to engage directly with landowners who are benefiting from conservation programs. Hearing their stories helps illustrate the real-world impact—both of continued funding and of funding shortfalls—on Washington's communities and landscapes.

A heartfelt **thank-you** to all the conservation districts across the state who have hosted or are planning legislative tours. Your efforts help bring the value of conservation work to life.

P.S. Special thanks to Sam Nurmi, Forest and Wildlife Planner, Okanogan CD, for all of the great people photos below!

Yours in conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather L. Wendt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Heather" being the most prominent part.



We'd like to hear from you

People make Washington's conservation delivery system work. Whether it is people you work with, people you serve, or the statewide community of conservation districts, success is built on working with people. Success is built on 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

- [Jefferson County CD Conservation Planner Position](#)
- [WACD Plant Materials Center email addresses have changed!](#)
- [Palouse CD Resource Conservation Planner Position](#)
- [Two Spokane-area organizations win millions in federal grants for wildfire mitigation](#)
- [Underwood CD Natural Resource Technician Position](#)
- [USFS awards \\$69.5 million in PNW wildfire grants](#)

Recent Posts

Jobs

Reading List

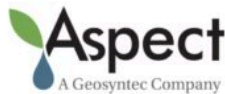
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