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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for December 18, 2025

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CONSERVATION DELIVERY

Help Washington's 45-strong conservation district (CD) network bring conservation to the people!

Fund the State Conservation Commission's 2026 Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) supplemental budget request.

- CDs are local hubs of non-regulatory, natural resource public services for Washingtonians.
- CTA is their lifeline—funding the workforce, programs, and facilities they need to deliver common-sense conservation services to your constituents.
- With CTA funding cut to just half of what CDs received over the past two years, these vital services—and the health of our lands, waters, farms, and communities—are at risk.

MY NAME IS:

Tiffany Straza

I'M A RESIDENT OF:

Beaver, WA

NOTE:

I was pleasantly surprised at the option to have someone come visit my land to give me realistic and place-based advice. Hugely valuable. And the low cost of purchasing native trees was surprisingly low and placed restoration within my reach.

Don't forget—WACD has created two postcards you can use when engaging with legislators to highlight the importance of CTA funding and Forest Health and Wildfire Resiliency funding. Featuring testimonials from community members, these postcards reinforce the message that conservation districts deliver trusted, on-the-ground resources that create meaningful, positive impacts in communities across Washington. Find out more on our [Advocacy Page](#).

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Five Things To Know

1. 2026 Legislative Day Information

Each year, WACD organizes a **Legislative Day** in Olympia to help coordinate district engagement with the legislative process. For 2026, our Legislative Day will be **February 10th**. We are asking districts this year to fill out [a short form](#) by **January 9th** so we know how many meals to prepare, which districts want WACD to make their legislative appointments, and which CDs are wanting to showcase their outreach materials for legislators.

2. 2026 Legislative Day Hotel ~ *Reserve Your Room Today!*

WACD has secured a block of hotel rooms at the state's per diem, and the Columbia Room in the Capitol building to rest your weary feet. This year, the hotel and breakfast will be held at the [DoubleTree Olympia](#). One perk of staying at the DoubleTree is that you do not have to find parking at the Capitol, and instead ride the Capitol Dash bus. Please make your hotel reservations by **January 24th** to ensure you **secure the state per diem rate by using this link**. If you are staying an extra night for the Ombuds workgroup you can adjust the dates at the top of the page.

Note ~ with the half day SCC budget development meeting the day before Legislative Day and the Ombuds workgroup meeting the day after, please book your rooms early in case we need to add to the hotel room block.

3. WACD's Legislative Services

During the session in Olympia, WACD offers support for each conservation district to engage with the legislative process. You can subscribe to our [Legislative Newsletter](#) for weekly updates, utilize available educational material, or simply reach out to a WACD staff member.

New in 2026, WACD will be hosting a [Legislative Check-In](#) every Monday at Noon for districts to interact face-to-face (virtually speaking). You can read more on the [Advocacy section](#) on the Hub.

4. New WACD Task Forces ~ Volunteers Needed

Three new task forces were created via resolutions from the Annual Conference: on **CREP Agency Responsibilities**, **Shellfish Aquaculture Practices**, and **Agricultural Viability**. If you or your district are interested in serving on one of these three groups, please reach out to WACD staff. You can read the full text of each resolution in the [Resolutions section](#) on the HUB.

5. Conference Recordings & Survey

For those who weren't able to attend the WACD Conference or participate online, many of our sessions are now available [online](#) or are accessible through the 2025 Annual Conference webpage.

As we reflect on the conference, we are already thinking about how we can improve next year's event. WACD asks for your participation in a quick [survey](#) so we can improve on the experience for **2026 at Skamania Lodge, December 3rd - 5th**. The survey is designed to be anonymous. WACD staff are also available if you want a longer discussion.

[Survey](#)

6. Save the Date ~ SCC 2027-2029 Budget Development Meeting

Funding locally-led conservation: preparing for the next biennial budget

To be well prepared for the next biennial budget, we are getting an early start on planning for 2027-29 decision packages. Decision packages, also known as budget requests, are the formal process for an agency to communicate their budget needs to the Governor's Office and Legislature. SCC's decision packages are jointly developed with conservation districts to reflect the needs of our local conservation delivery system.

Building on feedback and lessons learned from developing the 2026 supplemental budget, we're moving up the initial conversation with districts earlier in the year to ensure we are supporting productive engagement early in the process. Developing our decision packages for the next biennial budget will be a much more extensive process. We will need to evaluate the

collective needs of conservation districts and all SCC programs.

While we work on finalizing logistics, we're sending out a save the date so you can block this time on your calendars.

- **When:** Monday, **February 9**, Noon-4:30 PM
- **What:** Funding locally-led conservation: preparing for the next biennial budget
- **Purpose:** A conversation on the 2027-29 biennial budget, the needs of the conservation district community, and this year's process to develop decision packages
- **Who:** SCC staff, CDs, WACD
- **Where:** Hybrid meeting with in-person attendance in Olympia (exact location TBD) and virtual option
- **Travel Reimbursement:** SCC can offer up to **\$500** in reimbursement per district for travel costs (mileage, per diem, and hotel) to attend in-person. Please note staff time is ineligible for reimbursement.
- **RSVP:** Please [RSVP to Paige DeChambeau](#) by **January 9th** to let us know if you're attending in person. RSVPs will help us know who to expect and what size room to get.

Upcoming Events

2025/2026

- January 15: [State Conservation Commission Meeting](#)
- January 26: [WACD Board of Directors Meeting](#)
- February 9: Funding Locally-led Conservation: Preparing for the Next Biennial Budget
- February 10: WACD Legislative Day
- February 19: [State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting](#)
- February 23: [WACD Board of Directors Meeting](#)

Inside WACD

While it will be some time before we know the full scope of the emotional, physical, and financial impact, this natural disaster is undoubtedly one of the most devastating in our state's history.

Those were Governor Ferguson's words from his press conference Tuesday afternoon. No part of Washington is untouched by a week of incredible weather that saw mass flooding throughout Puget Sound, high winds leading to power outages in many parts of the state, and

landslide damage in the passes that could keep some roads closed for months.

But even before the rainfall began, conservation districts were offering flood preparation and planning resources. When the waters started to rise, districts were helping to connect residents to resources and sharing information about sandbag locations or organizing livestock owners to get their large animals out of harms way.

Every step of the way, districts have done what they also do, be a local source of information and assistance to their communities. Many districts are compiling and providing resources available to impacted residents, on everything ranging from lost poultry to well and septic testing. Some have already found the funds to offer small grants to impacted producers and cooperators.

Thousands are still without power or are cut off from essential services. Many more evacuated and are slowly returning to assess the damage. So far, only a single life has reportedly been claimed by this disaster. A small miracle considering how much worse it could have been.

As the water slowly recedes and recovery begins, WACD hopes to do our small part by encouraging the legislature to approve and disburse relief funding to your communities as soon as possible. Too many districts and individuals were forced to wait months or years for disaster relief funds to come through, we hope that will not be the case this time.

Ryan Baye
WACD Legislative & Membership Services Director

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

- [Payroll and HR Specialist Position Snohomish CD](#)
- [January 15 National Batching Deadline for Major NRCS Programs](#)
- [PMC Hot Sheet - 20% off Alaska Yellow Cedar! Don't wait - offer ends December 12th 2025!](#)
- [Protecting the PNW's waters; Making learning about salmon and science fun](#)
- [Join Soil Health Breakfast with Palouse Conservation District in Colfax](#)
- [Palouse Conservation District to Host Virtual Talk on Noxious Weeds](#)

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