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# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

## Five Things to Know for January 15, 2026

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



**New this year at the PMC**, we are offering [Alaska Yellow Cedar](#). This important native conifer can be found from northern California to the Kenai Peninsula in southern Alaska. According to the [US Forest Service](#), traditionally the species was prized for its fibrous bark and soft but durable wood used to carve utensils, vessels, paddles and more. [Contact Jacquie](#) at the PMC to learn how you can add this ecologically important species to your project sites!

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## Five Things To Know

### 1. 2026 Legislative Day & Legislative Resources

#### WACD 2026 Legislative Day

WACD Legislative Day will be **February 10th**. You have until **tomorrow, January 16th to RSVP** for breakfast, lunch, help making legislative appointments or to table at the event.

#### Schedule

6:30 AM to 8:00 AM – Breakfast (at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Olympia)  
7:00 AM – Welcome from WACD & Overview of WACD priorities  
7:15 AM – Welcome from the Commission  
7:30 AM – Briefing from WACD Lobbyist and Q&A  
8:00 AM – Attendees depart for meetings with Legislators  
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM – Attendees have access to the Columbia Room in the Legislative Building ~ Come take a break between meetings!

#### Hotel Information

We have a new hotel this year: the DoubleTree by Hilton in Olympia. If you are planning to come to Olympia, there will be a breakfast at the hotel the morning of the 10th before everyone descends on the Capitol. Follow the link here: [WACD Booking Link](#) and complete your registration by January 24th.

#### WACD Legislative Resources

You can learn more about other natural resource agencies, and our first look at 2026 legislation, by reading our [Legislative Newsletter](#), or attend our new [Legislative Check-In](#) every Monday at Noon for districts to interact face-to-face (virtually speaking). You can read about more ways to participate on the [Advocacy section](#) of the Hub.

## 2. 2026 Legislative Outreach Campaign

WACD staff are fully engaged in the legislative session, and we've developed multiple tools to help conservation districts amplify your voice—both individually and collectively—with legislators.

### Postcard Campaign

Our postcard campaign was launched several months ago to allow time for questions and planning. The most effective window for legislators to receive your postcards is **now through the end of February**. You can find the complete [User's Guide](#) here.

### WA Grown TV Partnership

WACD is partnering with *WA Grown* during **Season 13 (airing January–March 2026)**. Each half-hour episode features a short conservation district story. Districts can amplify the positive impact of CDs by sharing these episodes within your networks. Episode links take viewers directly to the conservation district segment.

The accompanying [Media Guide](#) includes ready-to-use messaging, hashtags, and sample posts for LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter/X, websites, and more. We encourage you to tailor the content—especially if the featured service aligns with work your district provides or if your district appears in the episode. The Media Guide will be updated with episode links shortly after each airing.

### Custom Carousels and Reels

Finally, we are offering custom social media **Carousels and Reels** designed to build support for funding Conservation Technical Assistance and Forest Health and Wildfire Resiliency. Carousels use a sequence of slides to tell a story and drive a call to action, while reels deliver the same message through short, impactful videos. A dedicated [User's Guide](#) explains how to access and use these materials.

*Special thanks to **KR Creative Strategies** for their thoughtful and effective design work, and to the districts that provided financial support through supplemental dues, making these resources available to conservation districts statewide.*

## 3. Last Call ~ Volunteer Now for New WACD Task Forces

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

## 4. Funding Locally-led Conservation: Preparing for the Next Biennial Budget

SCC staff 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.

- **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 at DoubleTree by Hilton, 415 Capitol Way North, Olympia
- **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](#)

If you have questions, please contact [Kate Delavan](#), SCC Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs.

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## 5. NRCS Practice Standards ~ For Your Review and Comment

The NRCS is conducting internal reviews for **7 Conservation Practices** and is inviting partner comments on the draft documents. This is a review of a draft document prior to posting practices on the Federal Register. The intent is to help streamline changes and gather potential comments. All comments received may not be incorporated into the practice standard. The Federal Register is still the official response for the public. Partners are encouraged to review all Conservation Practice Standards on the Federal Register as they are posted.

NRCS WA welcomes any partner comments on these 7 draft practices. All comments are to be sent to Lynelle Kneehans, State Conservation Engineer ([lynelle.kneehans@usda.gov](mailto:lynelle.kneehans@usda.gov)) and Bobby Evans, State Resource Conservationist ([robert.d.evans@usda.gov](mailto:robert.d.evans@usda.gov)) by **January 20, 2026**.

### Practices For Review and Comments:

314 Brush Management

382 Fence

442 Sprinkler System

511 Forage Harvest Management

512 Pasture and Hay Planting

574 Spring Development  
590 Nutrient Management

You can find copies of the practice standards [here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

### 2026

- January 15: [State Conservation Commission Meeting](#)
  - January 26: [WACD Board of Directors Meeting](#)
  - February 9: SCC Meeting on 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](#)
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## Inside WACD

### Let the whiplash begin

Washington State's legislative session convened on Monday of this week. WACD has already testified on one bill. We heard there would be no election bill and hours later: boom, the bill dropped. WACD staff are tracking many bills, but right now, the two big ones are [HB 2154](#) that would prohibit some kinds of land acquisition by conservation districts and [HB 2499](#) on *"modernizing conservation district election procedures and requiring financial disclosures from district supervisors and candidates for district supervisor."*

It might sound like I'm complaining. I'm not. This is actually an exciting time of year for WACD staff. We read a lot of legislation. We have more interactions with partners than perhaps the entire rest of the year. We hear from conservation districts more than any other time of the year. All this adds up to: we are kept hopping and, surprisingly, we feed off this energy.

Most of all, this is the time of year when our entire conservation community can help inform and educate legislators, legislative staff, agencies, and partners about the important roles conservation districts fill in their communities. If you take nothing else from this short column, please remember that all of the challenging legislation and relationships we experience provide wonderful opportunities to inform and educate. All of us can do that.

We are very fortunate to have Ceiba Consulting (principal Brynn Brady) performing advocacy work for us. We would be in far worse shape without Brynn's strong relationships, deep understanding, and expert guidance. During legislative session, we really have a "Fantastic

Four" team for WACD and districts: Brynn, Ryan, Heather, and Tom.

On this subject of the Fantastic Four, I have to say that I have never enjoyed working with a small team as much as I do this one. We have at least three generations represented. That means we have multiple perspectives on even the simplest things. That could make our conversations contentious, but instead, each person listens carefully to others, takes in the different points of view, and collaborates to craft a strategy that we believe will work best. There is laughter. Sometimes there are tears. There is always a collegial respect for each other. What this means is we are able to accomplish far more than a small group that doesn't get along well. Maybe the best word to describe it is magical. It is an awesome feeling to be a part of your WACD team.

We do want to hear from you. In fact, we *must* hear from you in order to do the best job possible for WACD members. If you are hesitating to write or call because WACD staff are busy, please write that email or pick up the phone. We "undeniably and reliably" (hat tip to the Wizard of Oz) need to hear from you.

So here we are, four days into session. We testified once and are now examining the elections bill that dropped yesterday. Four days down, 56 to go. Thank you for taking this journey with us. We look forward to hearing from you.

## 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](mailto:oly@wacd.org). Emails sent to that address reach the entire Executive Office team!

Always yours for conservation,



Tom Salzer  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Latest Posts on the Hub

- [Whitman County Conservation Districts Invite Community to 2026 Joint Meeting](#)
- [Project Partnership to Restore Passage and Refuge for Struggling Salmon Populations](#)

- [Underwood CD Wildfire Resilience Specialist](#)
- [Underwood CD Administrative Operations Lead](#)
- [Multifunctional Buffers: Design Guidelines for Buffers, Corridors, and Greenways](#)
- [Mason CD Shore Friendly Program Coordinator](#)

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1219 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

(564) 669-7540

 MailPoet