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# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

## WACD Legislative Update

**March 03, 2026**

Welcome to the eighth week of the legislative session. The end is in sight, with only 10 days left until March 12th. But between now and then the legislature has nine days of voting and a supplemental budget to reconcile. And this session like every other, takes its toll, five representatives were absent as recently as Saturday's vote in the House to adopt their operating budget.

Amidst the constant changes, we hope we are keeping our membership informed of the latest happenings in Olympia between the [WACD bill tracker](#), these newsletters, and our [Legislative Lunches](#). We hope these emails will be of use and benefit to our members. If there are additional ways WACD can be of service to our membership during session, or want to ask about anything you see in one of these newsletters, all you have to do is pick up the phone or write to [Tom](#), [Heather](#), or [Ryan](#).

### 1. Budget Reconciliation Priorities

WACD is still working to see the Senate's Supplemental Operating Budget, with additional funding for Forest Health and Community Wildfire Resilience and no cuts to district programs, in the final budget. As opposed to the House's version of the operating budget, which would cut the Sustainable Farms and Fields Program and eliminate the operating funding for the Riparian Grant Program. While districts reach out to their local elected officials, WACD is working through our lobbyist and is also reaching out to those negotiating the supplemental operating budget.

### 2. New Government Revenue

A question that arose from today's Legislative Lunch around the additional revenue that both the House and the Senate built into their supplemental budgets. The Senate does a good job of laying out those revenue assumptions, both what will add to the budget and what will result in budget savings. You can dig into [that document](#), but here are the three biggest new sources of revenue assumed in the Senate's budget:

- [SB 6346](#) (Establishing a tax on millionaires.) - \$2.34 billion over the next four years.
- [SB 6231](#) (Removing a tax exemption for the replacement of equipment for data centers.) - \$303 million over the next four years.
- [SB 6228](#) (Removing a tax exemption for the warehousing and reselling of prescription drugs and providing tax relief for critical access pharmacies.) - \$181 million over the next four years.

### 3. Reconciliation Template Letter

The two legislative bodies will start to reconcile the differences between their budgets, and this is where there is an **opportunity for districts**. WACD has developed a [template letter](#) to customize and share with your legislators by March 10th about the impacts of the proposed cuts or increases to the Riparian Grant Program, Sustainable Farms & Fields, and Forest Health funding would have to your local communities. WACD will also be working through our lobbyist to get the Senate's version in the final budget.

### 4. Cut-off Casualties

Here's are the bills that were moved from the [WACD Bill Tracker](#) to the [Defunct Bill Tracker](#), having failed to clear the two legislative cut-offs since the last newsletter.

- [HB 2223](#) (Concerning irrigation district director beneficial interests in contracts.)
- [HB 2343](#) (Protecting the public from water quality impacts of publicly owned or operated game farms.)
- [HJM 4004](#) (Requesting Congress to modify the Marine Mammal Protection Act.)
- [SB 5360](#) (Concerning environmental crimes.)
- [SB 5838](#) (Adding tribal representation to the board of natural resources.)
- [SB 5928](#) (Concerning wildfire risk models and score disclosure.)
- [SB 6079](#) (Reducing nonrenewal and cancellations of insurance policies due to wildfire risk.)

## 5. Lobbyist Update

One service our lobbyist Brynn Brady provides is coverage of the legislative highlights and trends from the week. From the seventh week of the legislative session Brynn shares a few headlines from Olympia and dives into the details around the House and Senate versions of the supplemental operating, capital, and transportation budgets released last week. Take a look at her article on the [WACD HUB](#).

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"Local Fleabane" courtesy of [WSCC's Flickr account](#), as a treat for those who reached the bottom of the page. Welcome to March.

Taken by Mckenzi Coleman, Ferry Conservation District



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