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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for March 19, 2026

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



The warmer than usual weather has me thinking about spring. In celebration and anticipation, enjoy this photo of a Western Bluebird, courtesy of Benjamin Carroll, Okanogan CD, *SCC Flicker Account*

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Five Things To Know

1. WACD News and Notes

New Funding Opportunities Newsletter

WACD, in partnership with the Washington Conservation Society, published another edition of our Funding Opportunities Newsletter. You can find that document [here](#).

Save the Date ~ 2026 District Legislative Engagement Workshops

- **April 29th** - Virtual Workshop
- **September 18th** - In-Person Workshop (*this is the Friday after the SCC meeting hosted by Underwood CD*). We will also try and secure remote access for those who cannot attend in person.

New Article on Seed Germination Techniques by PMC Nursery Manager

PMC Nursery Manager John Knox has an article featured in **Forest Stewardship Notes**. The article focuses on seed germination techniques. We invite you to read it [here](#).

National Director's Recap of the NACD Annual Meeting

WACD's National Director, Heather Smith, has provided a written update from her recent attendance at NACD's Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX. You can read that report [here](#).

2. The Future of Conservation ~ Scholarships Available

The Washington Conservation Society has two scholarships opportunities that are currently accepting applications.

Conservation Future Scholarship

The [Conservation Future Scholarship](#) was created by the Washington Conservation Society (WCS) in 2020. Annually, the Washington Conservation Society will award one scholarship in an amount up to \$1,000. This merit-based scholarship supports students with a demonstrated commitment to natural resources conservation through their coursework and/or community involvement. Applicants must demonstrate an interest in: conservation and the environment; and planned employment in the broad field of natural resources. Applications are due **May**

31st.

New ~ Lynn Brown Memorial Scholarship

The [Lynn Brown Memorial Scholarship](#) was created by the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) and the Washington Conservation Society (WCS) in 2026. Annually, the Washington Conservation Society will award one scholarship in the amount of up to \$2,500. This scholarship is open to anyone, regardless of age, who can demonstrate a commitment to: "Getting things done and done right." Applicants must demonstrate an interest in planned employment in the broad field of natural resources. Applications are due **May 31st.**

3. AFT's Farmland Succession Planning Resources

American Farmland Trust (AFT) has announced the expansion of its [Pacific Northwest Land Transfer Support Program](#), which provides succession planning assistance for Washington's farmers and ranchers. With a focus on tailored, one-on-one coaching and long-term support, the program addresses a critical gap in Washington State.

"Two-thirds of farmland owners are approaching retirement and ready to transfer their land to the next generation, yet few have a clear plan in place for doing so," said AFT Pacific Northwest Regional Director Addie Candib.

The risks are high for farmers and ranchers without a succession plan. For example, an unexpected illness or accident can precipitate the rapid sale of a farm, undermining opportunities for the next generation of producers and the stewardship investments made into the land.

According to Candib, "Until now, no one entity in Washington State has served as a regional hub for succession planning resources or provided affordable, accessible, and inclusive succession planning support, especially for small-scale farms and those without an identified heir. American Farmland Trust is filling this gap with a unique programmatic approach designed to meet producers' needs."

Through the Land Transfer Support Program, farmers, ranchers, and landowners can access information and resources, get help to clarify their goals and vision for their succession planning process, prepare for conversations with family members and business partners, and connect with attorneys, business advisors, and other experts.

Interested in learning more about the Land Transfer Support Program? Visit the program webpage to access resources, get to know the Land Transfer Specialists, and request support: <https://farmland.org/pnw-land-transfer-support>. **WACD will also be hosting a webinar for CDs, featuring staff from AFT, on this topic on May 6th at 12 pm. Save the date!**

4. NRCS' New Regenerative Pilot Program

NRCS' new [Regenerative Pilot Program](#) addresses whole-farm resource concerns through support for voluntary regenerative agriculture conservation plans.

As part of participating in the Regenerative Pilot Program, producers must:

- Work with NRCS staff, partners, or technical service providers to conduct a whole-farm assessment;
- Use at least one primary regenerative management practice; and
- Agree to perform soil health testing in the first and last year of the contract (at a minimum) to establish a starting baseline and to record the resulting changes.
- The whole-farm assessment includes all resource concerns, and it must meet NRCS planning criteria in the soil and water resource categories.

Farmers and ranchers interested in regenerative agriculture are encouraged to apply through their local NRCS Service Center by their state's ranking dates for consideration in FY2026 funding. For more information contact [Nick Vira](#), NRCS Partnership Liaison.

5. NRCS Working Effectively with American Indians Training

The [Working Effectively with American Indians training](#) is hosted by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Yakama Tribes.

Date: May 11-15, 2026

Location: Yakama Nation, Legends Casino Hotel 580 Fort Road, Toppenish, WA 98948

Who: Training is open to NRCS employees, Washington Conservation Districts and tribes. Others may be considered if room permits.

Cost: No registration fee. Participants are responsible for food and lodging costs. A block of rooms will be reserved

Registration: Contact [Josh Madison](#), WA Training officer to secure a seat. Space is limited.

Deadline to register is April 1st

Upcoming Events

2026

- March 18-19: [SCC Meeting & Tour](#) in San Juan County
 - March 25: [NACD Spring Fly-In](#)
 - April 20: [WACD Board Meeting](#)
 - April 29: WACD Spring Legislative Engagement Workshop (virtual)
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Inside WACD

Spring into Conservation Month

March is a season of momentum for conservation districts—when many host plant sales, hold elections, and welcome volunteers as the weather begins to warm. As Leo Tolstoy wrote, “Spring is the time of plans and projects.”

Whether you’re eager to learn, plant, remove invasive species, build, vote, or simply enjoy the outdoors, there’s something happening at a Conservation District near you.

Here is a sample of events happening around the state:

- March 19 – [Okanogan CD Supervisor Election](#)
- March 19 – [Pacific CD Native Plant Sale Order Deadline](#)
- March 21 – [Plant the Palouse with Palouse CD](#)
- March 21 – [Chehalis River Weed Pull with Grays Harbor CD](#)
- March 21 – [Community Garden Building Party with Thurston CD](#)
- April 11 – [Plan, Plant, Protect Riparian Restoration Series with Pend Oreille CD](#)
- April 17 – [Spokane CD Willow Warriors Planting](#)
- April 25 – [Ferry CD Spring Conservation Fair and Plant Sale pick-up](#)

I will leave you with one of my favorite quotes by Margaret Atwood, "In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." So dig in, tis the season.

Your friend in gardening,





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,

Tom Zaher
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Latest Posts on the Hub

- [Pasco wants to rejoin conservation district. Here's why it matters](#)
- [Guest Column: Well-intentioned but misguided ideas about green crab](#)
- [Wrapping up a successful Invasive Species Awareness Week](#)

- [Happy Conservation Month!](#)
- [March 9, 2026 | Wake Up Wenatchee Valley - Featuring Cascadia CD](#)
- [Week 8 Legislative Update](#)

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