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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for April 2, 2026

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



Last week, during NACD Spring Fly-In, the cherry blossoms were in full bloom, putting on a spectacular display around the Capitol. Photo Credit: Michael Crowder, Benton CD Supervisor

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Five Things To Know

1. WACD April 29th Virtual Legislative Engagement Meeting - Register Now

WACD will host a virtual Legislative Engagement Meeting on **April 29 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.**

During this session, we will strategize around supervisor elections and the upcoming legislative session, as well as hear updates from WACD committees and gather your feedback.

Please register in advance for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/jf9vWj5gT2CpWmHAt-K9Q>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information on how to join.

2. WADE Conference Deadlines

2026 WADE T-shirt

NEW THIS YEAR! Represent the valuable work of WADE members all year long with your new WADE swag! Our very own WADE Board Director Kenna Fosnacht has designed our first-ever WADE T-shirt. These shirts feature original artwork by Kenna - a beautiful graphic capturing the rich diversity of our working lands in WA, and are available in crewneck T-shirt, crewneck sweatshirt, and hoodie options. Kids sizes also available, so grab an extra one for those little people in your life!

Order and pay online by April 10th!

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID - NO ONSITE SALES

YOU WILL PICK UP YOUR PRE-PAID ORDER AT WADE

(you will see other pick up instructions during your order process - ignore those!)



Employee Of The Year Nominations

Celebrate that stand-out employee or co-worker with a [nomination](#) for **WADE Employee of the Year!** Nominations are accepted for any WADE member (past and current CD employees, WACD and WSCC employees), and anyone can submit a nomination. **Deadline to submit nominations is May 1st.**

Registration Form

Register! Let us know what days you plan to attend, what meals you need, and if you'll stay onsite. Discounted rates apply until April 1st, all registrations are **due by May 1st.**

Payment is not due at time of registration, so each individual can register separately and a district can send one payment for all.

3. Upcoming WACD Webinars

Introduction to NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Program

The NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Program offers a powerful way to expand your capacity while engaging community members who want to make a difference.

Earth Team volunteers support NRCS and its partners in helping farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners protect and conserve our nation's natural resources. Volunteers come from all walks of life—students (age 14+), retirees, veterans, and others—bringing diverse skills and energy to conservation efforts.

From planting projects and invasive weed removal to site preparation, education, and outreach events, Earth Team volunteers can play a vital role in advancing conservation. **Join us on April 22 at noon** to learn how this program can support your conservation projects. You'll also hear directly from Okanogan Conservation District staff about how they've successfully partnered

with the Earth Team program to support their education and outreach efforts.

Register [here](#) for this **FREE** webinar.

Introduction to American Farmland Trust's Land Transfer Support Program

Is your district interested in helping to keep agricultural land in production? Do the landowners you work with ever ask for resources about succession and transfer planning?

Join the Pacific Northwest team from American Farmland Trust (AFT) on **May 6th at noon** to hear about their Land Transfer Support Program, and how they're working with farmers, ranchers, and landowners across Washington State to assist with succession planning and intergenerational transition. During the session, you'll get to meet AFT's Land Transfer Specialists, learn how the program works, what it can provide (and what it can't), and how to refer landowners to access services.

Presenters include:

Addie Candib, Pacific Northwest Regional Director

Chantel Welch, Deputy Director

Elizabeth Bragg, Land Transfer Specialist

Tanner Williams, Land Transfer Specialist

Register [here](#) for this **FREE** webinar.

4. NRCS Practice Standards - Open for Review

NRCS is conducting internal reviews for **4 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. It is also recommended that partners review the full practice standard, not just the changes, for comments.

NRCS WA welcomes any partner comments on these 4 draft practices. All comments are to be sent to [Lynelle Knehans](#), State Conservation Engineer and [Bobby Evans](#), State Resource Conservationist by **April 22, 2026**.

Practices For Review and Comments:

391 NHCP CPS Riparian Forest Buffer

462 NHCP CPS Precision Land Forming and Smoothing

601 NHCP CPS Vegetative Barrier

548 NHCP CPS Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment

Copies of the practices standards can be accessed [here](#).

5. Local Working Group Meeting Dates

Below is a list of upcoming **Local Working Group** Meetings. Details and connection information can be found [here](#).

Palouse Team

April 3rd from 9am-1pm

Pullman Plant Materials Center; 4900 SE, Terre View Dr Bldg 195A, Pullman, WA 99163

Northeast Team

April 10th from 12:30pm-4pm

Forest Service / NRCS Colville Service Center Office; 765 S Main St, Colville, WA 99114

South Central Team

April 8th from 9am-noon

Sunnyside Irrigation District Conference room, 120 S 11th St, Sunnyside, WA 98944

North Central Team

April 16th from 6pm-8pm

Lake Chelan School District Office, 309 E Johnson Ave, Chelan, WA 98816

Puget Sound Team

April 29th from 4pm-6pm

Virtual meeting only

Southwest Team

May 27th from 10am-noon

Cowlitz Historical Museum, 405 Allen Street, Kelso, WA 98626

Snake River Team

May 28th from 9am-noon

Dayton Best Western Inn meeting room; 507 East Main Street, Dayton, WA 99328

West Palouse Team

June 3rd from 11am-2pm

Adams County Public Works Building, 210 W Alder Ave, Ritzville WA 99169

Northwest Team

July 6th, 1pm-2:30pm & August 3rd, 1pm-2:30pm

6975 Hannegan Road, Lynden, WA 98264 or Virtually

Big Bend Team

July 22th from 9am-noon

Columbia Basin Conservation District conference room, 903 W 3rd Ave, Moses Lake WA 98837

6. SCC Decision Package Survey Deadline ~ April 17th

To prepare for the next biennial budget development process, SCC is collecting information that will help create the 2027-29 decision packages. Decision packages, also known as budget requests, are the formal process for an agency to communicate its 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.

This survey will help us evaluate the collective needs of conservation districts and SCC programs. If you have not had a chance to **complete the survey** please do so by **April 17th!**

Fill out the survey [here](#).

This survey will help SCC learn more about individual program demands from all 45 conservation districts. The information collected from this survey will help us tell a better story to the legislature about the work that you are doing on the ground and your continued needs to maintain and/or expand that work.

7. Name that Future Conservation Changemaker - Answer Key

In last week's *Five Things to Know* we published photos of future conservation leaders in nature. Now is your chance to see how well you did guessing who was who. See the answer key below.



Can You Match the Photo to the Future Conservation Changemaker?

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Craig Nelson, WADE Co-President | 4. Nick Vira, NRCS Partnership Liaison |
| 2. Cherie Kearney, SCC Chair | 5. Sarah Moorehead, WADE Co-President |
| 3. Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director | 6. Heather Wendt, WACD Deputy Director |

Upcoming Events

2026

- April 20: [WACD Board Meeting](#)
- April 29: WACD Spring Legislative Engagement Workshop (virtual)
- May 7: [NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee](#)
- May 18: [WACD Board Meeting](#)
- May 19 - 21: [SCC Meeting, Hosted by South Yakima CD](#)

Inside WACD

The People You Meet

There are many reasons why I look forward to participating in the Congressional Conservation Fly-in. While I am a big government nerd who loves museums and learning about history, the special perk of traveling during National Ag Week means running into other Washingtonians while in the District of Columbia.

One year, I had the shock of a lifetime sitting one table away from former Lincoln County Conservation District Supervisor and Washington State Grain Commissioner Mike Carstensen. I flew nearly 3,000 miles to find myself sitting 5 feet away in a congressional cafeteria from someone who I had known for years. Another year, I almost collided with Jon DeVaney, Executive Director of the Washington State Tree Fruit Association, coming out of the bathroom in a House Office Building.

This year was no exception. While leaving the office of Congressman Rick Larsen, our group ran into a delegation of organic farmers, including a Organic Valley Dairy co-op member from Boistfort. We spent nearly 30 minutes talking with Maynard Mallonee about his dairy operation, his experience with Lewis County's Voluntary Stewardship Program, his restoration projects with Lewis CD, and his efforts with NRCS over the last fifteen years to keep a unique lupine species off the Endangered Species List. We spent more time talking with Maynard and his group than in almost all of our congressional meetings.

Those interactions, going across the country to talk about conservation that is happening just down the road, is so heartening. It is incredible the connections that exist through conservation districts across so many geographic areas, and across multiple subject areas. Nowhere else can you go from [reducing coastal erosion](#) to a youth competition to see who can [grow the largest tree](#) to bringing [farmers markets into abandoned quarries](#).

Conservation is truly something that transcends distance and social boundaries.



Director of Legislative & Membership Services

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,



Latest Posts on the Hub

- [Voluntary Stewardship Coordinator Walla Walla CD](#)
- [Fire officials encourage early home preparation ahead of wildfire season](#)
- [Opportunities for Beginning and Veteran Farmers: Webinar April 1 at 10 a.m.](#)
- [Southwest Washington Grazing School to hold multi-day course in Tenino](#)
- [Mason CD Field Crew Member Position](#)
- [Executive Director Jefferson Land Trust](#)

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