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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. Season 13 of Washington Grown a Celebration of Conservation

Washington Grown—a field-to-table television show that features the farmers, food producers, and communities that make Washington agriculture so unique—proudly included a short conservation district story as part of every half-hour episode of Season 13. WACD partnered with WA Grown to create a media toolkit to help conservation districts share these stories so we could reach as many viewers as possible. If you missed an episode, here is a recap:

- Episode 1 - [Washington's Sweet Spot \(Conservation Planning\) featuring Cascadia CD](#)
- Episode 2 - [Grounded Growth \(Odessa Groundwater Replacement\) featuring Columbia Basin CD](#)

- Episode 3 - [Bloom & Bounty \(Irrigation Improvements\) featuring North Yakima CD](#)
- Episode 4 - [Northwest Berry Goodness \(Soil Health & Water Quality/Quantity\) featuring Whatcom CD](#)
- Episode 5 - [River & Vine \(Soil Health & Farm Tool Library\) featuring Underwood CD](#)
- Episode 6 - [Taste of Skagit \(Trees for Conservation\) featuring WACD's PMC](#)
- Episode 7 - [Resilience in Bloom \(Forest Health & Wildfire\) featuring Cascadia CD](#)
- Episode 8 - [The Heart of the Sound \(Stewardship on small farms\) featuring Thurston CD](#)
- Episode 9 - [Potatoes by the Sea \(Ag Resilience\) featuring Snohomish CD](#)
- Episode 10 - [Barley & Barstools \(Youth Education\) featuring Lincoln County CD](#)
- Episode 11 - [From Bog to Bite \(Shoreline Stabilization\) featuring Pacific CD](#)
- Episode 12 - [Pulse of the Palouse \(Soil Health\) featuring Palouse CD](#)
- Episode 13 - Inland Northwest Flavors (Education, Outreach & Research) featuring Ferry CD - *coming soon - broadcast week of 3/28.*

3. Name that Future Conservation Changemaker

My love for this work started in childhood—and I have a feeling yours might have too. So, we thought... why not celebrate that?

Below are childhood photos of people in our community—capturing moments spent enjoying the outdoors, whether fishing, horseback riding, exploring, or simply soaking it all in. Because long before it was a career, a board meeting, or a big project—it was simply a connection to the land.

Test your guessing abilities by trying to match the picture to one of the names below. We will post the answers in the next edition. If you want to participate in future editions, send your photos to [Heather Wendt](#).



Can You Match the Photo to the Future Conservation Changemaker?

- Cherie Kearney, SCC Chair Amy McKay, WACD President Sarah Moorehead, WADE Co-President
- Craig Nelson, WADE Co-President Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director
- Jeff Schibel, WACD Vice President James Thompson, SCC Executive Director
- Nick Vira, NRCS Partnership Liaison Heather Wendt, WACD Deputy Director

4. 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.

5. 2026 State Envirothon T-shirt Design Contest

The Washington State Envirothon Committee is seeking original t-shirt designs from **high school students** that highlight natural resources and/or Washington State themes. The winning design will be printed on the **2026 State Envirothon t-shirt**, worn by students across Washington state and shared with students throughout North America.

The winning student will receive:

- 3 free T-shirts
- An article in their local newspaper
- A social media post on Washington State Envirothon platforms
- An "Art in the Outdoors" prize pack

Visit the [contest webpage](#) for design guidelines, submission instructions, and full rules. Submission deadline is **April 17th by 5:00 pm**.

6. Thank you San Juans Island CD

By all accounts the SCC Tour hosted by the San Juan Islands CD last week was a huge success. Tour goers got to visit Overmarsh Farm Commons, a Community Agricultural Project, The Farm at Krystal Acres featuring a Garry Oak afforestation project, and Lime Kiln State Park for whale watching and lighthouse viewing. Thank you to Craig Nelson, Okanogan CD Executive Director, for sharing these great photos!



Upcoming Events

2026

- March 25: [NACD Spring Fly-In](#)
- 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

Celebrating success, preparing for the next round

WACD is coming to the end of the current legislative cycle and it's been quite a ride this year. Governor Ferguson has until April 4, 2026 to sign the proposed supplemental budget. The budget includes significant cuts to state services and agencies to balance the budget. But conservation program funding for the State Conservation Commission and conservation districts fared well, especially when compared to other natural resource agencies. Sustainable Farms and Fields took a hit but the possible rescission of riparian grant funding was avoided. Forest Health base funding to the SCC and DNR's 1168 Account was restored.

I attribute this successful session to some of the best teamwork I've seen in my 34 years in the conservation community. SCC and WACD coordinated extensively throughout session on strategy and messaging. Because of that, we were able to present a more united front and address key talking points from our different perspectives. Conservation districts were very effective this session, too, with frequent and on-point communications with legislators. Our lobbyist even remarked on a couple of conservation district heroes who were persistent, consistent, and influential.

Job well done.

Well, almost done. As I write this, WACD has a team in Washington, D.C. for the NACD Spring Fly-In (see photos below). This year, we sent a team of three: President Amy McKay, National Director Heather Smith, and Member & Legislative Services Director Ryan Baye, who were also joined by SCC Executive Director James Thompson. They will be home within hours of this Five Things newsletter arriving in your email inbox.

To wrap up this session, we are looking forward to Governor Ferguson signing the budgets as passed by the Legislature. It ain't over until it's over, and we've seen governors make last minute changes with their red pen, but I'm confident we will fare well in the final, adopted, official budgets.

Time to rest? Well, no. Historically, our community has been reacting to issues that pop up in front of us. We are trying to get ahead of this, and one way is with a WACD Spring Legislative Engagement Meeting scheduled for April 29th. This is where you will help set the table for the 2027 legislative session. We know funding will continue to be a challenge. We know district election reform will continue to be on our plate.

I encourage you to join the conversation on April 29th. I think we can be even more effective if we can carry the teamwork we demonstrated this session into the 2027 session, amplified by stronger, more unified positions on critical needs.

It's important to celebrate our successes because that reinforces what helped us succeed. But it's also important to invest in the next round of challenges and opportunities. Your help is critical. Please join us on April 29th to help us get started on 2027 legislative strategies.



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

- [Mason CD Field Crew Member Position](#)
- [Executive Director Jefferson Land Trust](#)
- [Palouse CD Research & Monitoring Technician Position](#)
- [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](#)

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