

NACD Update

Washington Association of Conservation Districts and Washington State Conservation Commission Meetings of November-Early December, 2025

Information is current as of November 3, 2025. K:\WACD\2025\Board Meetings & Work Sessions\11-17-25\Nov-Dec 2025 NACD Update for WSCC-WACD.docx This update is excerpted from NACD CEO Jeremy Peters' [Updates on Recent Congressional and Executive Actions](#), NACD's [eResource](#) and conversations with NACD staff. Keep in mind these things change. Click on the links above for the latest information.

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR NACD'S HALL OF DISTINCTION

NACD celebrates members and their contributions to conservation, and one of the ways we do that is through our [Hall of Distinction](#). Through NACD's Hall of Distinction, state and territory associations can recognize current and past conservation leaders for work advancing conservation at the national level. States and territories may induct one person to the Hall of Distinction every year. Inductees are reviewed by NACD's District & Partner Relations Committee and are announced at the 2026 NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

To make an induction, state and territory associations are asked to send NACD information via this [online form](#) by **December 19, 2025**. Learn more about the Hall of Distinction, including eligibility criteria, [here](#).

Washington state has one member in the Hall of Distinction, **Wade Troutman** from the Foster Creek CD and current central representative at the State Conservation Commission.

FRIENDS OF NACD DISTRICT GRANTS

Grants are offered of up to \$2,500 for districts or state associations with innovative approaches to locally led conservation. Applications are accepted through **November 30**. Read the full request for proposals and eligibility criteria [on NACD's website](#).

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

- **Courts and RIFs:** As the Trump administration sent over 4,000 Reduction in Force (RIF) notices during the government shutdown, a federal judge has granted a temporary restraining order prohibiting any more RIFs "during or related to the shutdown". [American Federation of Government Employees, et al., v. United States Office of Management and Budget, et al.](#)
- October 20, the Senate Agriculture committee passed a marked-up version of the [Fix Our Forests Act](#) (FOFA) with bipartisan support. If this bill moves forward to the Senate floor and passes, it will have to be reconciled with the House bill passed earlier this year and then voted on again by both houses. NACD supported the House bill and is encouraged by the inclusion and consideration for local input and natural resource recovery in the Senate's version.
- October 21, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins announced the Trump administration is planning to **reopen around 2,100 Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices** and resume core agency operations.
- October 22, NACD sent a letter to Undersecretary of Farm Production and Conservation Richard Fordyce applauding the reopening of FSA offices, while urging USDA to also resume NRCS operations and allow conservation districts access to shared office space.
- **Federal Hiring Freeze:** President Trump signed a new [executive order](#) (EO) indefinitely extending the federal hiring freeze, in effect since January 20.
- **Plan for America's Ranchers and Communities:** (link to [Successful Farming article](#)) USDA unveiled its "Plan for America's Ranchers and Consumers" (PARC) on Wednesday, October 22. The broad plan outlines current and anticipated actions taken by USDA, DOI, and EPA to "protect and improve the business of ranching" through stabilizing the US beef industry, easing market volatility, and ensuring access and support for ranchers.

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- Conservation districts are urged to document and communicate local impacts of the shutdown and executive actions through NACD's [Impact Survey](#) and to share stories directly with their Members of Congress.

INFORMATIONAL NOTE

- In the October 6 [CEO Policy and Partnership Update](#), there is advice (page 4) on Grassroots Advocacy.

UPCOMING NACD EVENTS

- [NACD's 80th Annual Meeting](#) - San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter, February 14-19, 2026.
- Summer July 18-22, 2026 Grand Rapids, MI
- SW/Pacific Region meeting Date is TBD. Guam
- Annual February 6-10, 2027 Las Vegas, NV
- Summer Meeting 2027 Washington State?
- Annual February 5-9, 2028 Louisville, KY
- Summer Meeting 2028 To be determined.
- Annual February 3-7, 2029 New Orleans, LA

Status of Washington's 2024 Resolutions that went to NACD's 2025 Annual Meeting September 29, 2025

The NACD policy is the first information under the title of the resolution. The bulleted paragraphs are the status of where NACD is with the resolutions.

1. 2024-03 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signature requirements.

NACD supports changing Schedule USC 3832 (the CRP handbook) allowing districts the option to submit a signature waiver opting out of signing CRP conservation plans.

- CRP changes have not gained attention since our Annual Meeting as the program was not included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the budget reconciliation bill which addressed many other conservation programs. The program may be modified throughout the "Farm Bill 2.0" negotiation process through marker bills such as Sen. Thune's CRP Improvement and Flexibility Act of 2025, which could present a legislative vehicle for this ask. However, the timeline for a farm bill is unpredictable and prone to delay.

2. 2024-06 Improving the USDA Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant Scoring Process.

NACD supports working with the Forest Service to improve and make the Community Wildfire Defense grant scoring process more transparent.

- Note from Policy Disposition Report: "The CWDG program has continued this year, but with wildfire services proposed to move from the US Forest Service to the Department of Interior, it is unknown how this program will persist or be managed in coming fiscal years. In the interim, opportunities exist for NACD to engage with affected districts as well as western state forestry partners, like the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition. Additionally, as USDA authorizes new obligations and USFS contemplates release of an FY26 solicitation, NACD will re-engage with USFS staff to elevate concerns about CWDG scoring inconsistencies and elevate feedback on proposed ranking criteria."
- Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins [announced](#) the latest round of CWDG grants last week (week of 9/22), an investment of \$200 million to 58 projects. Secretary Rollins has made streamlining and transparency a priority for her tenure, including the timely dissemination of information on awardees and the scoring process. Included in the recent CWDG announcement was a site dedicated to this purpose, which can be found [here](#).

3. 2024-09 The Role of FSA and NRCS in Managing CREP and CRP

NACD supports transferring full management of CREP, CRP, and similar programs to NRCS, with FSA handling non-technical financial functions, and establishing an inter-agency collaboration framework ensuring program effectiveness.

- Note from Policy Disposition Report: "Given the priorities set forth by the Secretary and USDA's pending reorganization, discussions relating to such topics have been on hold. Due to the sensitive nature of proposed reorganizations and transfers of functions, NACD will engage with the USDA leaders as appropriate."

**Status of Washington's 2024 Resolutions that went to NACD's 2025 Annual Meeting
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- Outlook has not improved since PD report. This administration has indicated an interest in maintaining, if not increasing, FSA's portfolio. When combined with staffing decreases across multiple agencies, management shifts into NRCS are not likely.

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