

2025 WACD Adopted Resolutions

Resolution	Title	Sponsoring District
2025-01	Resolution to Release Full CREP Audit Results to Washington State Conservation Districts and the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC)	Skagit CD
<p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD will send a letter requesting that the Farm Service Agency (FSA), in coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), shall release the full results of the recent CREP audit to all Washington State conservation districts and to WSCC, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) County-level summaries of audit findings; 2) Conservation district-specific summaries for each of Washington’s 45 districts; 3) Watershed-level data, such as HUC-8 or an equivalent scale; 4) Statewide summary tables that report: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Total CREP acreage reviewed, b) Total acreage lost or removed from the program, and c) Primary causes of acreage loss (e.g., failed replanting, voluntary withdrawal, enforcement, land use change). <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington State Conservation Districts collectively and respectfully request that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All data shall be released in accessible, machine-readable formats (e.g., Excel, CSV), with clear metadata and documentation to support interpretation and use at the local level; • Where feasible, data shall include contract identifiers or anonymized references to support district-level follow-up and planning for technical assistance; • The full audit dataset shall be released within 60 days of the adoption of this resolution to ensure that conservation districts and WSCC can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and respond to regional and ecological trends, • Improve the implementation of CREP practices, • Support transparent communications with landowners, • Participate in the ongoing redesign and improvement of the CREP program. <p>BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Washington State Conservation Districts collectively and respectfully request that access to complete and localized audit data will empower conservation partners to make informed decisions, strengthen the conservation delivery system, and improve long-term outcomes for riparian restoration, habitat conservation, and water quality throughout Washington State.</p>		

2025-02	Resolution to Clarify Agency Responsibilities under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	Skagit CD
<p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD will send a letter to the agencies below requesting the formation of a workgroup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting Director (FSA), • Roylene Comes-At-Night (NRCS), • James Thompson (WSCC), <p>or their successors, to define and clarify agency roles and responsibilities under CREP.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington State Conservation Districts collectively and respectfully request that the workgroup consider shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult existing CREP agreements, federal and state program guidance, and partner feedback to inform decisions; 2. Regularly solicit feedback from CD technical staff during the clarification process and incorporate this feedback into recommendations; 3. Explicitly define: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Which agency(ies) is responsible for the technical workload in CREP; b. Whether FSA will accept technical products prepared by CD staff, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Status Reviews, ii. Form 848s, iii. New and revised CPOs, iv. MCM prescriptions; c. Whether FSA will accept such products without NRCS signature when completed by CD staff with delegated JAA; d. Whether FSA will reinitiate consultation with NMFS to renew conservation measures for salmonids and update its CREP Biological Opinion; e. What formal recourse is available when CD staff disagree with FSA decisions; f. Whether FSA or NRCS can make CREP eligibility or compliance determinations without visiting the site; g. Whether FSA staff must respond within a defined timeframe to CD, NRCS, or landowner inquiries once deadlines have been imposed. <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington State Conservation Districts collectively and respectfully request that the workgroup shall produce a Written Guidance Document outlining the clarified roles and responsibilities of CDs and partner agencies in the current CREP structure, to be distributed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSA County Offices, • NRCS Field Offices, and • All Washington State Conservation Districts. <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington State Conservation Districts collectively and respectfully request that the workgroup shall recommend policy revisions to ensure flexibility for CDs, allowing conservation districts to decline to provide technical products or conservation plans without penalizing the landowner or affecting CREP eligibility when the district:</p>		

- Lacks staffing capacity,
- Cannot technically support the proposed practice, or
- Cannot ethically or legally sign off on the plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington State Conservation Districts collectively and respectfully request that:

- The workgroup shall convene within 30 days of this resolution’s adoption;
- A draft guidance document and policy recommendations shall be completed within 60 days;
- Final guidance and implementation shall be approved and released within 90 days.

2025-03	Shellfish Aquaculture Practices	Pacific
WACD staff will engage with WSCC leadership and advocate for supporting shellfish aquaculture practices and programs through the creation of a workgroup to:		
1. Expand the list of eligible practices based on the initial recommendation from the 2025 Recommendations for Supporting Shellfish Aquaculture		
2. Specifically, look at adding blue carbon practices to the SFF Program.		
2025-04	Evaluating Impacts to Agricultural Viability	Ferry
WACD will form a committee to work with the WSCC to define ag viability and to develop or identify a simple, trackable metric that would rate the impact an SCC funded project would have on agricultural viability. The committee could be comprised of conservation districts, state agencies, and other entities as determined by WACD. The system could be adopted across agencies and used to evaluate legislative actions. The rating may or may not be used in deciding if a project would be funded.		
2025-05	CRP Mid-contract Mowing	South Douglas
WACD will send a letter requesting that FSA and NRCS consider bio weed control, and other emerging science, in farm plans and recommend less disruptive practices for mid-contract CRP maintenance.		
2025-06	State CREP Agreement	Asotin County
Request WACD work with WSCC to create a task force that includes Conservation Districts to review the current Washington State CREP agreement, identify problems and opportunities, and propose modifications to be presented to the Washington State Legislature, Governor’s office and USDA.		
2025-07	Protecting Agriculture	Ferry
WACD will actively support legislation that requires public entities to analyze the impact to agriculture and agricultural viability when enacting legislation and policies. . This would involve engaging legislators, agencies, NGOs, the public, and conservation districts to promote the benefits that this information and legislation would provide.		
2025-09	Conservation Commission’s Paramount Duty	Okanogan
The WACD President, serving as an Ex-Officio voting member of the Conservation Commission, shall introduce and promote a policy change, until it is approved, that reaffirms the Commission’s paramount duty to design and manage policies and programs—at both the Commission board and staff levels—that enable conservation districts to carry out locally developed and administered programs with maximum efficiency for the districts, placing district needs above the Commission’s own operational convenience.		

2025-10	Legislatively Recognized Conservation District Day	Okanogan
WACD shall work with the Washington State Legislature and the Governor's Office to enact legislation that adds March 17, Washington Conservation District Day to the official list of "legislatively recognized days" in 1.16.050 RCW.		
2025-11	Sustainable District Funding	Okanogan
WACD will develop a preferred option and an implementation strategy for the Association's consideration at the 2026 WACD Annual Meeting.		
2025-12	Support ENABLE Conservation Act	Foster Creek
We request that WACD and NACD support SAFE Acres that are not subject to the County and National CRP cap in any ongoing legislation dealing with the Food Security Act of 1985.		
2025-13	Supervisor Elections	Pacific
<p>WACD will support the recommendations put forth by the Joint Committee on Elections. In addition, WACD will actively oppose any legislation, policy, or other proposals to place the elections of CD Supervisors under the 29A election process without the authorization of the individual conservation district. WACD will oppose any requirement for all CD supervisors to submit personal financial affairs statements through the F1 form.</p> <p>This would involve engaging legislators, agencies, NGO's, the public, and CDs to promote the current CD supervision election process and to oppose a mandate requiring all CDs to hold elections through the Title 29A election process.</p>		