

WACD 2026 Legislative Priorities



Invest in Proven Conservation Delivery Support the SCC's Supplemental Budget Request

Conservation Technical Assistance ~ \$2,250,000



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Supports voluntary conservation on over 50% of Washington's privately owned land by equipping conservation districts to provide project design, permitting support, and financial assistance. This investment accelerates salmon recovery and leverages \$100+ million in federal Farm Bill funding into Washington communities.

Forest Health & Community Wildfire Resiliency ~ \$2,500,000



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Reduces wildfire risk by working directly with private forestland owners and homeowners, including those near 951,000 homes in the Wildland-Urban Interface. Conservation districts deliver incentive-based technical and financial assistance to improve forest health and protect communities.

Business & Technology Transformation ~ \$3,200,000



Modernizes outdated systems that currently delay conservation projects. This investment reduces inefficiencies, speeds project delivery, and ensures conservation dollars translate into timely, on-the-ground results statewide.



Bill Priorities

Conservation District Elections - Oppose HB 2499

WACD supports the Joint Committee on Elections' recommendations to modernize elections while preserving conservation districts' non-regulatory, non-taxing role and opposes one-size-fits-all mandates.

Protecting Agriculture - Support SB 6104

Support legislation recognizing the cumulative impacts of state and local policies on agriculture.

Preserving Agricultural Lands - Oppose HB 2154

Oppose efforts that reduce conservation districts' ability to respond to farmland loss.

Rangeland Fire Protection District Pilot - Support HB 1048

Support establishing rangeland fire protection districts and expanding wildfire prevention and response on unprotected lands.

Local Solar Authority - Support HB 1188

Support policies that maintain local siting authority and require adequate environmental review, especially in shrub-steppe habitat.

Agricultural Worker Overtime - Support HB 1597 & SB 5487

Restore historic agricultural overtime exemptions during harvest.

Additional Priorities

Voluntary Salmon Restoration - WACD supports increased funding for salmon recovery through voluntary conservation, delivered through the Conservation Commission and conservation districts.

Effective Management Plans - WACD supports right-sized funding for public land managers to implement plans and control invasive species.

