

# WACD 2026 Legislative Priorities

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

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### Conservation Technical Assistance ~ \$2,250,000



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



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Modernizes outdated systems that currently delay conservation projects.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.



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

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## 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.

