

WADE Report - 2023

A total of 289 in-person attendees participated in various tracks, including Riparian Restoration, Farms and Fields, Forestry and Agroforestry, Education, Communication and Outreach, IT and GIS, Management and Leadership, Administration and Finance, and in our general and closing sessions.

Envirothon Trivia raised \$1,626 to support the travel expenses of Washington State Envirothon students. Thank you to Ryan Baye, our entertaining trivia night host, and everyone who donated prizes as well as those who participated in this fundraising effort.

The feedback from our WADE Conference Evaluation was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees particularly enjoying the networking opportunities within tracks and the valuable insights shared by our speakers. The evening social activities were well attended and enjoyed by all. We received suggestions for topics, speakers, and general improvements, which will be essential in planning the next WADE Conference.

The WADE Board hosted a Track Coordinator Kick Off meeting last month, setting the stage for our volunteer track coordinators to assemble a lineup of presenters for the 2024 WADE Conference, which will take place June 10, 11 & 12, at the Sleeping Lady Inn in Leavenworth.

The WADE Conferences are not just an event; they're a call to action to ensure that our peers in Conservation Districts feel supported, connected, and equipped to navigate the unique challenge we all encounter daily. The WADE Board strongly encourages all of you to send your employees, supervisors, and team members to the WADE Conference. The opportunity to connect and network with others is invaluable for training and guiding all of us in our Conservation Districts to play a unique and vital role across the state, and mission to conserve natural resources, in cooperation with landowners, agricultural producers, and the communities we represent empowers us to be leaders in natural resource conservation at the local, state, and national levels.

We would like to thank our WADE Board representatives: Cindy Pierce, President, Skagit CD, Chevelle Yeckel, Vice President, Okanogan CD, Dawn Bekenyi, Treasurer, Whatcom CD, Maria Chang-Ward, Secretary, King CD, Dave Hedrick, Director 1, Ferry CD, Zorah Oppenheimer, Director 2, Clark CD, Bobbie Lindemulder, Director 3 Snohomish CD (she has stepped down and Sarah Moorehead from Thurston CD is her replacement continuing forward), Andrew Phay, Information Technology and Facilities Lead Support, Whatcom CD, and Jan Thomas, CTD Lead Representative, Underwood CD. Each one of these individuals, along with our dedicated 31 Track Coordinators, work collectively as a team to ensure our 2024 WADE Conference will be successful and beneficial for all CD employees across our state.