



WADE

Washington Association of District Employees

2024 Annual Report

The **Washington Association of District Employees (WADE)**, established in 1986, strengthens the effectiveness of conservation districts across Washington State by facilitating training, enhancing communication, and promoting professional development opportunities for conservation district employees.

FY24 Highlights:

In June 2024, 297 conservation professionals gathered at the Annual WADE Conference at the scenic Sleeping Lady Inn in Leavenworth, WA. The event offered another wonderful opportunity to connect as a statewide conservation community, learning from each other and from experts across all areas of conservation district work. We were proud to honor Jen Thurman-Williams, Environmental Specialist from Mason CD as WADE Employee of the Year for their exceptional teamwork and invaluable contributions to our shared mission. Special thanks to our partner, the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), for their generous contribution of \$30,000 in scholarships, which made the conference more accessible for around 50 district staff from across the state.

Mark your calendars! The next WADE Annual Conference returns to the Sleeping Lady Inn, **June 9-11, 2025**. Track Coordinators from your own conservation districts are hard at work, crafting sessions across various specialties to bring new perspectives, practical tools, and valuable information to fuel our collective efforts in conservation in Washington State.

To learn more about WADE or connect with our board, please reach out to any of our WADE Board Members:

President Chevelle Yeckel - *Okanogan CD*

Vice President Alison Crowley - *Walla Walla County CD*

Treasurer Dawn Bekenyi - *Whatcom CD*

Secretary Maria Chang-Ward - *King CD*

Director 1 Zorah Oppenheimer - *Clark CD*

Director 2 Dave Hedrick - *Ferry CD*

Director 3 Sarah Moorehead - *Thurston CD*

Technical Support Andrew Phay - *Whatcom CD*

CTD Representative Jan Thomas - *Underwood CD*

Conservation
from the Ground Up