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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Week 1 Legislative Update

January 08, 2024

Welcome to the new year. This is WACD's first legislative update for 2024. We hope these emails will be of use and benefit to our members as we collectively navigate the 2024 legislative session.

We will be using this newsletter to expand on legislative priorities, break down budget language, track various proposals that relate to the world of voluntary conservation, and point out opportunities for districts to participate in the process. These weekly mailings will go into greater detail every Monday than will be provided to the membership in WACD's 5 Things weekly newsletter and is oriented for those who want to more closely observe the goings-on in Olympia.

If there are additional ways WACD can be of service to our membership during session, all you have to do is pick up the phone or write to [Tom](#), [Heather](#), or [Ryan](#)



1. WACD Bill Tracker for 2024

This year, WACD is trying something new for tracking bills in the 2024 legislative session. We have put together an app that works as a web page and can be installed on your smart device as an app. This means you can have up-to-date bill information in your pocket throughout the 2024 session. Please note that we are populating the app with bill information this week, as the bills not adopted in 2023 are back in the arena in 2024.

This is the link to our tracker (<https://wacd-bill-tracker-2024.glide.page/>) and the [full explanation](#) of our new bill tracker's options on the WACD Hub.

2. WACD Legislative Positions

Keeping our membership informed of WACD's official stance is of utmost importance, and will be a regular feature in these newsletters. Additional notations in our bill tracker explains the reasoning behind the decision or the Association resolution that puts WACD on the record, but we want to ensure there are no surprises for our member-districts of the actions of their state association. If you ever have additional questions on a position or want to better inform us, please don't hesitate to ask. Of the bills on the docket for this week, WACD is:

- **PRO** on SB 5667 [Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program](#). (Scheduled for a vote in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks on Thursday, January 11th at 1:30 PM.)
- **CONCERNED** on SB 5972 [Concerning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides](#) (Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks on Thursday, January 11th at 1:30 PM.)
- **NEUTRAL** on SB 5921 [Concerning tribal representation on the state conservation commission](#). (Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks on Thursday, January 11th at 1:30 PM.)
- **PRO** on HB 1971 [Concerning a rangeland fire protection association pilot project](#) (Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on Friday, January 12th at 10:30 AM.)
- **PRO** on HB 2147 [Concerning agriculture pest and disease response](#). (Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on Friday, January 12th at 10:30 AM.)

3. Opportunities to Comment

Online committee testimony is available for both the House and the Senate, you do not need to come to Olympia to speak at a Public Hearing for a bill. You can register to testify remotely on a bill by using [this link](#) and following the online instructions. Registration closes one hour before the scheduled start of the meeting for which you're seeking to speak. You also have the option to submit written testimony.

4. Legislative Day Information

If you haven't seen the 5 Things newsletter the last few weeks, WACD secured the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Lacey/Olympia with a group discount for folks planning to attend WACD Legislative Days on Thursday, January 25th. To reserve your room, please follow this link ([HERE](#)). The link will take you to the hotel website, where, at the top of the page, click "book now" and enter the dates (January 24th - 25th), click "search" and the next page will display the room rates and types.

WACD will be hosting a legislative breakfast and briefing on the morning of the 25th, from 7 - 8:30 AM at the Holiday Inn. WACD staff is also preparing legislative materials for districts for their potential use on Leg Day.



"Misty Morning", courtesy of [WSCC's Flickr account](#), as a treat for those who read to the bottom of the page.

Taken by Nikki Atkins, Lewis Conservation District.



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