

Washington Partners in Conservation: Regional Managers Supporting District Success

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NASCA Annual Meeting
October 5, 2026



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
OF WASHINGTON STATE

your window to healthy lands



Locally-led Conservation – Regional and State Support

- 45 Conservation Districts
- 5 Regional Managers + 1 Director of Conservation District Services
- 1 Washington state conservation mission

The Regional Manager team connects District leadership with state resources for conservation outcomes.



What Regional Managers Bring:

- Connection
- Listening
- Support
- Strengthening
- Risk management
- Communication



Monthly 'District Digest'

Topics:

- Important dates
- General news and updates
- Policy
- Programs
- District operations
- Elections
- In partnership
- Funding opportunities
- Training
- Q & A of the month



Important Dates

Events

- September 7 – Labor Day (SCC Closed)
- September 10 – CDs & SCC Roundtable (contact your [regional manager](#) for the meeting link)
- September 16-17 – Commission Tour & Business Meeting (Underwood Conservation District)
- September 18 – WACD Legislative Engagement Meeting (see below to register)
- September 29 – Annual CD Elections Training (read more below)
- October – WACD Area Meetings occurring throughout the state. Find your area's meeting date here: [2026 Area Association Meetings](#)

Deadline

- September 25 – 2026 Conservation District Photo Contest Deadline (read more below)

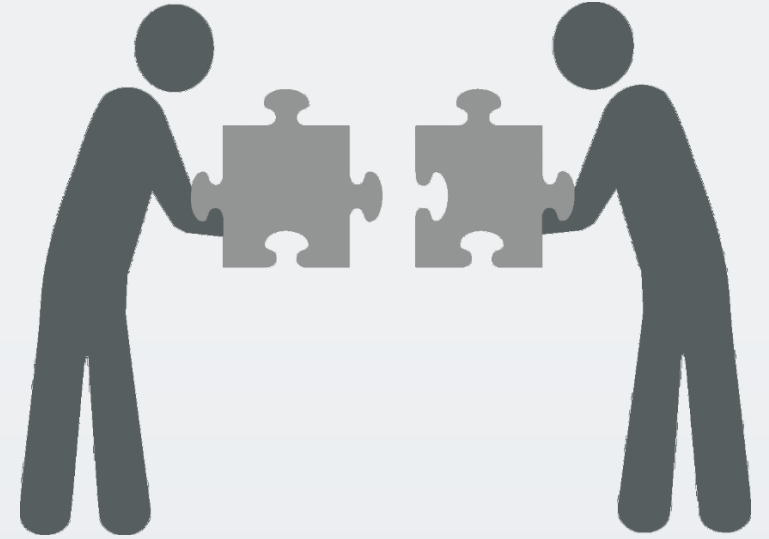
State Conservation Commission (SCC) Announcements

Conservation District Appointments & Elections Training

The annual elections training will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 10:00 AM –

Benefits of a “one-stop shop” newsletter

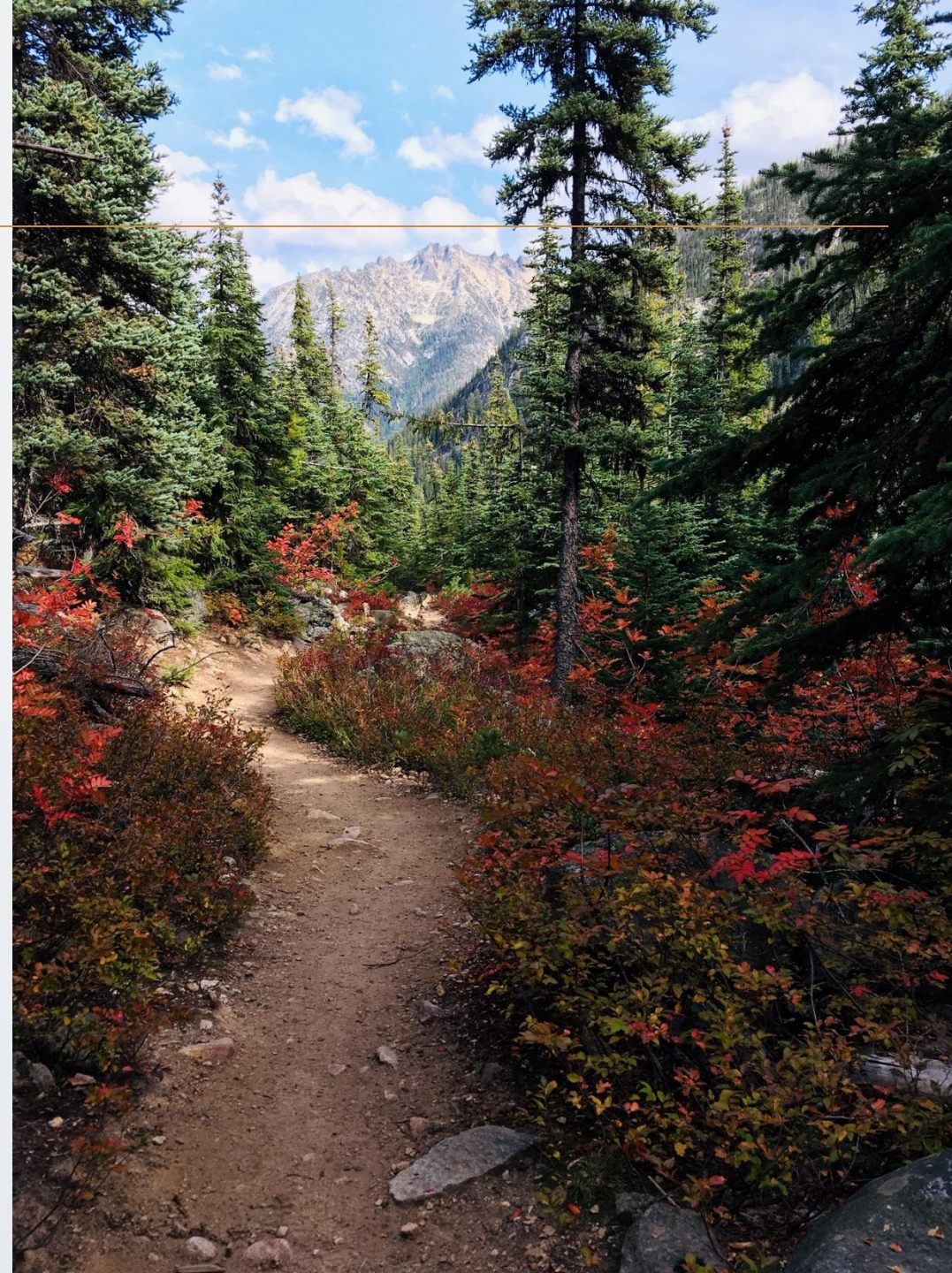
- A proactive tool
 - Directs to a variety of information
 - Promotes transparency, builds relationships
- Raises awareness
 - Busy volunteer board members gain awareness of risk, such as the Open Public Meetings Act
 - Policy details and new requirements
 - Share training opportunities
- All in one place, consistently delivered
 - Saves time! Districts can focus on putting conservation on the ground.



Stay in the know, reduce the risk!

The Ombuds Working Group

- The SCC Grants & Contracts Policy Manual was due for updates and revisions.
- Conservation Districts drove a major overhaul!



Why is it called the “Ombuds” Working Group?

Ombuds: a person who investigates, reports on, and helps settle complaints: an individual usually affiliated with an organization or business who serves as an advocate for patients, consumers, employees, etc.

- Merriam-Webster



Grants Manual Improvement: The Ombuds Working Group

- Working group launched – early 2025
- Broad geographic representation
- Districts contributed 500+ comments across 41 topic areas
- Tiger Teams dig into key issues, collect feedback
- District insights shaping every recommendation
- Regular workgroup touchpoints
- Adoption target – July 1, 2027



SCC – CD Roundtables: Staying Connected



- Monthly virtual meetings
- Share updates, raise issues, gather district input
- Mix of “shallower dive” updates and deep-dive focus
- Serves as a running record of priorities, progress, and challenges

SCC – CD Roundtables: Districts Shape the Conversation

- Contribute ideas through topic-generation tool
- Up-vote ideas to prioritize agendas
- Collaborate to plan focused conversations
- Encourages active district participation



Key Takeaways

- **The Goal: Help Washington's 45 districts put conservation on the ground.**
 - Listen, provide a sounding board
 - Connect people, programs, resources, opportunities
 - Support accountability, operations, program delivery
 - Create space for innovation and learning
 - Facilitate solutions





Thank you!

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