



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2007 Final Resolutions

Resolution No: 2007-01

Title: Creation of a Statewide Land Trust for Conservation of Working Lands

Problem:

There does not exist in Washington a statewide land trust that emphasizes conservation of working lands.

Recommendation:

That WACD investigates the feasibility of creating a non-profit statewide land trust to provide trust services for owners of working lands.

Presented by:

Thurston Conservation District

Note: Resolutions 2007-01A, B, C, E, and F were terminated in lieu of 2007-01D.

Motion by Hal Hawley, Cascadia CD. Second by Doug Rushton, Thurston CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Steve Keirn, Clark CD

Resolution Passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-02

Title: Funding Farmland Preservation

Problem:

Due to the increased development pressure and the inflated valuation of property values with the corresponding taxation, many farm & forest land owners are selling out to development. Washington State is currently losing over 400 acres per day of productive ag and timber land. With the loss of land base, all related infrastructure is also lost.

Recommendation:

WACD take a leadership role working with the appropriate agencies, non-governmental organizations and the Washington State legislature to develop the necessary language in Washington State law to provide for purchasing development rights / conservation easements.

Presented by:

Okanogan Conservation District

Motion by Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second by Karen Willard, Pierce CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO NOT PASS.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Mike Naylor, Skagit CD

Amendment Lynn Brown, Kittitas CD
2nd Wade Troutman, Foster Creek CD
Amendment Passed.

Amendment 2 Monte Marti, Snohomish CD
2nd Steve Keirn, Clark CD
Amendment Passed.

Resolution passed as amended.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-03

Title: Funding for Urban Support

Problem:

The 47 conservation districts of Washington have a successful model for addressing conservation of natural resources on rural lands. That success has generated a number of new requests from landowners and municipalities in urban and suburban areas. Technical assistance and information to assist those areas requires funding to support technical training as well as informational tools for district clientele, supervisors, and personnel.

Recommendation:

WACD support conservation districts by requesting technical assistance funding from the legislature for technical training as well as website design and maintenance that will allow CD's to become the clearinghouse for conservation information and service delivery regardless of whether a request for service originates from urban, suburban or rural lands.

Presented by:

Spokane County Conservation District

Note: Resolutions 2007-03 and 04 were combined and 06 was terminated in lieu of the other two.

Motion by Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second by Bobbi Lindemulder, King CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Steve Keirn, Clark CD.

Resolution Passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-05

Title: SW Cluster Engineer Funding

Problem:

The SW Cluster Engineer budget for this biennium was reduced by 25%. During the Construction season (June 15- to Often October 15) our SW Cluster Engineer is traveling between six CD's and is working from day light till dark, 6 to 7 days a week. During the remainder of the year our engineer is conducting surveys and completing designs for the following year's projects. Our engineer has only the help of CD staff to assist through this process. Our engineer works on 10-15 projects per year depending on the scope of the projects and again does the majority of the work by himself. Through past workload and financial need surveys from the WACD and the WSCC, more than one CD in the SW area has asked for additional Cluster Engineer funding to provide a part time technician to the cluster engineer to alleviate a portion of the workload.

Recommendation:

That WACD works with WSCC to restore engineering funding.

Presented by:

Pacific Conservation District

Motion by Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second by Steve Keirn, Clark CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin CD

Resolution Passed.



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Title: WSCC/WACD Funding Assistance

Problem:

Although Washington State Conservation Commission recorded a banner year in securing funding for conservation programs delivered through conservation districts, districts still face some of the same basic difficulties.

Numerous broad approach plans exist that define national, regional, state, and to a limited extent local resource concerns. Districts are one of the few entities attempting to work with landowners at the ground level to plan and implement strategies to address local resource concerns. Local resource concerns do not always conveniently align with state mandated issues.

Funding is being delivered toward the ground through several issue focused grant programs or through the Conservation Commission as conservation programs. The grant sources can only be applied to a narrow band of activities (salmon recovery, water quality, and estuary) that do not necessarily allow for resolution of the natural resource concerns at the landowner level. Conservation programs through the commission are excellent tools but they too only target a small range of needed practices or are only eligible to a small fraction of landowners meeting program requirements. Funding to apply these programs is typically awarded in small quantities explicitly earmarked for implementation of elements of that program.

Districts have to expend considerable time and energy piecing together the various pieces of the natural resource puzzles to obtain funding necessary to sustain qualified staff and to resolve resource concerns in partnership with an individual land owner or watershed community group. Districts are still in need of some level of basic funding that can be used at the district discretion in order to sustain qualified staff to implement district long range plans to address local resource needs.

None of the landowners we have assisted in the last two years were aware of the local Salmon Recovery Strategy or the WRIA level Watershed Management Planning process. The next level of planning is required to implement those plans. This is the person in their boots working on the ground.

When approaching the State Conservation Commission or legislators directly; we seem to hear a common response. What about local money? Have you explored an assessment? There is no new money.



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Assessments do not fit all districts. Some simply do not have the tax base to generate any appreciable operating funds. Some alternatives need to be explored. Where did the funds go from all the positions lost in this area over the last 10 years?

Recommendation:

That the WACD convene a committee that can begin to explore a wider range of funding opportunities to assist districts in meeting local resource needs. Some opportunities would include a state to local funding match program in areas that would not appreciably benefit from the assessment process. Look into opportunities to promote efficiencies in program administration and processes and focus these savings to the field level for implementation.

Presented by:

Cowlitz Conservation District

Motion by Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second by Rose Ehart, Pierce CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Steve Keirn, Clark CD

Resolution Passed.



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Resolution No: 2007-08
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Title: Forestry Assistance Programs

Problem:

Of the forest land base in Washington State about 16 million acres is forested. Half of the 8 million acres are in private ownership. Of the private ownership, about half (4 million acres) is managed by about 96,000 non industrial or family forest owners. These forestlands make critical contributions to the public natural resource values enjoyed by the State's citizens including by providing and wildlife habitat, water quality and flood control, biodiversity, aesthetics and contributions to rural communities' economy and culture. Family forests are facing a multitude of challenges for those owners interested in long-term stewardship of their forests. Keeping abreast of natural resource issues such as water quality, fish and wildlife, forest health, as well as the associated management opportunities can be overwhelming. The demographics of the "family forest" are rapidly changing. Fragmentation continually introduces new forest land managers to the equation. These new managers are typically not familiar with forest management or its relationship to the basic natural resources that are dependent on proper management.

Water quality, wildlife habitat, and salmon recovery are the predominant statewide resource issues. In Southwest Washington, 80 percent of our land base is forested increasing forest managements influence on these resource concerns within our watersheds.

An understanding of silvicultural treatments available to reduce the risk of wild land fires is becoming increasingly important as people continue to encroach into the wild land interface and as demands for recreational opportunities increase.

Increasing State and Federal regulatory complexity has been shown to have a disproportionate impact on the family forest. The increasing demands on the family forest are resulting in increasing fragmentation and loss of family forest acreage to other land use. The ability to provide both technical and regulatory assistance to the family forest owner is difficult to begin with due to their large numbers and diverse interests. Resource agencies ability to provide service to this group has become increasingly hampered due to loss of funding for committed staffing levels. As recent as 10 years ago; a conservation district/USDA NRCS forester, a WSU Cooperative Extension forester, and a DNR Stewardship Forester were available to provide service to non industrial small forest landowners in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties. Today, assistance is provided by only 1/6 of one DNR stewardship forester.



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Department of Natural Resources has been forced to recently restructure and reprioritize workload due to budgetary constraints. The Stewardship Program is being merged into the Small Forest Landowner Office and priority is being placed on administering compensatory programs such as the Forest Riparian Easement Program. Priority for stewardship functions is shifting toward classroom instruction rather than direct on the ground assistance to landowners. This diminished program is the last viable source of technical assistance this state has made available to forest land managers.

Recommendation:

That the Washington Association of Conservation Districts encourage cooperation amongst resource agencies and interest groups to restore the ability of resource agencies to educate family forest owners as to resource concerns and opportunities and to provide technical assistance to landowner to improve management for societies benefit; the irreplaceable resource assets that enrich our state for all citizens are being placed at risk if the quality of forest management by family forest landowners diminishes.

Presented by:

Cowlitz Conservation District

Motion by Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second by John Keatley, Cowlitz CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Mike Naylor, Skagit CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-09

Title: Restore biennial budget

Problem:

The Washington State Conservation Commission and the Washington Association of Conservation Districts are commended on their success at securing additional funds to advance conservation of natural resources. Along with the increased budget came a shift from a biennial budget to an annual budget. Subsequent response indicates that this was due to a shift in the source of the budgeted funds from the water quality account to the general fund.

As a recipient of increased funds, we feel it critical to point out how the annual budget process hamstrings (constrains) conservation district because:

There are no assurances that the same level of funding will be awarded to the district beyond the current year. We need to add a staff position to meet the local workload in our district. It is difficult at best to entice a qualified applicant to come work for the district with two year's worth of funding, but one year is almost impossible.

It takes time to respond to increased funds. Once they are awarded the process alone to either hire staff or make a new program known to our constituents can take months. This makes it difficult to utilize the funds by the end of the fiscal year.

Most project work of any scale takes up to 2 years to complete. A lot of the work we are involved with must be completed during the hydraulic window (July1 – Sept 30). Project planning, inventory/surveying, design and permitting can usually be completed in the first year with construction of the project in the following year's hydraulic window. If the project requires additional funds through other granting entity the process can be delayed even longer to fit their proposal process.

Recommendation:

That the WACD and WSCC seek opportunities for longer term funding 4-5 year grants.

Presented by: Cowlitz Conservation District

Motion by Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second by John Keatley, Cowlitz CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO NOT PASS.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Rose Ehart, Pierce CD



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Amendment Lynn Brown, Kittitas CD
2nd Paul Stoker, Grant CD
Amendment Passed.

Resolution as amended passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-10

Title: Expanding Washington Department of Ecology water quality funding to appropriate upland practices

Problem:

Current Washington Department of Ecology water quality grants only allow funding for conservation practices directly related to riparian areas. Some of these practices include: livestock exclusion fencing, riparian plantings, livestock crossings, and off-stream livestock watering. While riparian practices are effective, many upland conservation practices are also effective in controlling water pollution. Some of these practices include, but are not limited to, animal waste storage structures, gutters and down spouts, vegetated filter strips, conservation tillage practices, nutrient management, and cross fencing. Expanding grant eligibility to appropriate upland practices would greatly enhance the ability of conservation districts to work with landowners in planning and implementing comprehensive management plans that can better protect water quality.

Recommendation:

WACD and the Conservation Commission will work with Ecology's Water Quality Program to expand grant funding eligibility to appropriate upland conservation practices. Information regarding the water quality benefits of upland conservation practices should be provided to Ecology. NRCS and our other partners who work with landowners to protect or restore water quality should be included in the discussions with Ecology.

Presented by:

Thurston Conservation District

Motion by Fred Colvin, Thurston CD. Second by Rose Ehart, Pierce CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Rose Ehart, Pierce CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-11

Title: Develop a Budget Monitoring Format for Conservation Districts to Use

Problem:

WHEREAS: conservation districts get their funding from many sources including the Conservation Commission. In most cases, Conservation Districts work with a budget derived from multiple sources, with multiple objectives, staggered timeframes, and various monitoring requirements.

Currently, each Conservation District must develop its own system to manage its particular financial situations. Processes vary from using Microsoft Excel, QuickBooks, or other financial packages. Usually one program or package doesn't meet all the unique needs of CD, and financial management involves combining several packages.

There is no state wide format or system for managing CD budgets, therefore creating a piecemeal financial strategy. The amount of work required for each CD to set up its own budget management system is inefficient and costly as well as vulnerable to problems in audits and other financial obligations

Recommendation:

THEREFORE IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT, WACD work with the WADE and WSCC to provide training on budget development and financial management for CD to use as a base at the annual WADE training in June.

Presented by:

Underwood Conservation District

Motion by Sherry Penney, Underwood CD. Second by Paul Blau, Skagit CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS.

Monte Marti, Snohomish CD
2nd Nicole Berg, Benton CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-12

Title: Provide Contract Preparation and Administration Training to District Managers

Problem:

WHEREAS, currently protocols for administering contracts are unclear, yet there is growing pressure to get projects done on-the ground.

On-the-ground restoration or conservation projects inevitable entail contracting out work, yet each district generally cobbles together their own contracts and administering procedures. This can lead to claims or possible litigation if the conservation district does not follow correct procedures in developing a project contract, requesting bids, awarding contracts, and carrying out contracts. Such legal programs could lead to the Districts or commission being liable for the costs incurred in such claims or litigations.

There needs to be a statewide protocol and training effort to ensure that districts have the capability of understanding, preparing and administering project contracts properly and to protect the Conservation Commission and District funds from depletion through possible litigation.

Recommendation:

THEREFORE IT IS RECCOMENDED THAT, WACD and WADE work with the WSCC to provide training on contract preparation and administration to Conservation District employees to be done at the annual WADE training.

Presented by:

Underwood Conservation District

Motion by Sherry Penney, Underwood CD. Second by Paul Blau, Skagit CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS.

Monte Marti, Snohomish CD
2nd Nicole Berg, Benton CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-13

Title: Reporting of Unspent, Unallocated WSCC Grant Funds

Problem:

WSCC funds not spent or allocated by the end of the fiscal year are returned to the General Fund.

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that WACD recommend to WSCC that it require conservation districts to report any unspent, and unallocated WSCC grant funds- by the end of March each year, so that these funds may be redistributed to conservation districts that can allocate and expend the funds before the end of the fiscal year. The WSCC shall also request state-wide information on potential projects that could use redistributed funds.

Presented by:

Skagit Conservation District

Motion by Dave Howard, Clark CD. Second by Larry Cochran, Palouse CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Monte Marti, Snohomish CD
2nd Dave Howard, Clark CD

Amendment Paul Blau, Skagit CD
2nd Lynn Brown, Kittitas CD
Amendment passed.

Resolution as amended passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-14

Title: Develop and Implement a Training Program for Conservation District Employees

Problem:

Conservation Districts in Washington State have relied heavily upon our agency partners, most notably the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), for providing technical assistance on district sponsored projects. Districts also rely upon the NRCS to provide training for conservation planning, conservation practice design and installation certification, and a multitude of other needs.

The Conservation Commission, and other agencies, Cost-share policies require practices implemented using public funds to meet NRCS BMP standards. NRCS has become increasingly unable to provide the amount and type of training necessary for District employees to effectively develop conservation plans, design BMPs, and certify accurate installation of those practices

Recommendation:

WACD work with the Washington State Conservation Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other agency partners to develop a Commission/WACD/WADE training program whereby District employees may receive conservation planning training and certification, and other courses deemed a priority.

Presented by:

Okanogan Conservation District

Motion by Paul Blau, Skagit CD. Second by Bill Knutsen, King CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS.

Monte Marti, Snohomish CD
2nd Rose Ehart, Pierce CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-15A

Title: Conservation District Supervisor Cost-Share Policy

Problem:

The issue of supervisors receiving cost-share was taken care of by legislation that created a **RCW 42.23.030 Interest in contract prohibited – Exceptions exemption** in RCW 98.08.220(4) “*For purpose of this subsection only, land occupiers who are also district supervisors are not subject to the provisions of RCW 42.23.030*”. During the last two legislative sessions, exemptions to RCW 42.23.030 have been under heavy scrutiny.

WACD O&D finds that there needs to be a process in place that ensures districts have a consistent, transparent, accountable, fair and public process to award cost-share contracts.

Recommendation:

That WACD request the Washington State Conservation Commission to adopt and provide to districts model policy language for awarding district supervisor cost-share; and that the Washington State Conservation Commission require a policy to be adopted by each conservation district that receives cost-share funding.

Presented by: WACD Officers

Motion to combine Resolutions 15a, 15b, and 15c by Larry Cochran, Palouse CD. Second by Paul Blau, Skagit CD. Motion Carried.

Motion by Larry Cochran, Palouse CD. Second by Ron Schiebe, Asotin CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Monte Marti, Snohomish CD
2nd Larry Cochran, Palouse CD

Amendment Wade Troutman, Foster Creek CD
2nd Lynn Brown, Kittitas CD
Amendment passed.

Resolution as amended passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-16

Title: State Land Judging Contest

Problem:

The State Land Judging Contest has been in existence for many years. It appears to be an Eastern Washington endeavor although there is interest from some of the schools on the Westside. Adams County CD, Columbia County CD, Lincoln County CD, Spokane County CD, Stevens County CD, Walla Walla County CD, and Whitman Conservation Districts have all hosted the contest in years past on a rotational basis. Our records show that Stevens County hosted it in 2002, followed by Walla Walla 2003, Whitman 2004, Adams 2005, Lincoln 2006 and Stevens will again host it October 31, 2007. Some districts have had personnel changes and, for whatever other reasons, have been unable to host the contest when it has been their turn. There is a lot of interest from high school FFA programs all over who call to find out when and where the contest will be held. The program is hosted voluntarily and is expensive for each of the districts. A soil expert from NRCS officially tests the soil prior to the students testing the soil. The winning team goes on to compete in the nationals. There is a concern that this program will disappear unless there is a way to ensure that it does not fall by the way side.

Recommendation:

WACD work with CD's and NRCS to make this an official regional effort to ensure that this program continues to provide natural resource educational opportunities for high school kids.

Presented by:

Stevens County Conservation District

Motion by Diana Comini, North Yakima CD. Second by Paul Blau, Skagit CD. Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS.

Monte Marti, Snohomish CD
2nd Sharon Call, Kitsap CD

Amendment Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD
2nd Lynn Brown, Kittitas CD
Amendment passed.

Resolution as amended passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-17

Title: WACD Convention Date Change

Problem:

The WACD Convention is always the last weekend in November. This does not allow the Washington Conservation Commission Staff enough time to get the issues to the lobbyists who must understand and explain the issues to our legislators in Olympia as well as Washington D.C. Therefore these resolutions are not acted upon the same year as they are submitted.

Recommendation:

That WACD discuss and evaluate our annual meeting date and whether we should split the meeting into a Spring and Fall session format, and report back at the 2008 annual meeting with a recommendation.

Presented by:

Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District

Motion by Tracy Ericksen, Palouse-Rock Lake CD. Second by Paul Blau, Skagit CD.
Motion Carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Monte Marti, Snohomish CD
2nd Karen Willard, Pierce CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-18

Title: NACD Capitol Court Campaign

Problem:

The National Association of Conservation Districts is requesting funding to update the office that NACD owns in Washington DC. This is known as the "509 Capitol Court Campaign" (the office address). NACD has owned the office for many years with little updates or remodeling being done over those years. NACD does not want to go into debt for this project, and so they are requesting funding assistance from the conservation district across the country. The estimated cost is \$280,000, which is roughly \$100 per conservation district. The Officers and Directors of the WACD voted to support this request, and offering the following resolution for consideration by the members:

Recommendation:

That WACD donate \$4700 to NACD to support the "509 Capitol Court Campaign", and that WACD ask each district in Washington to reimburse WACD by \$100 per district.

Presented by:

WACD Officers and Directors

AMENDMENT: Combine Resolutions 18A,B, and C.

Motion by Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County CD. Second by Bill Gillespie, North Yakima CD.
Motion carried.

Motion by Bill Gillespie, North Yakima CD. Second by Joe Shulke, Cowlitz CD.
Motion carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Lynn Brown, Kittitas CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-19

Title: WACD Participation in the Cooperative Sagebrush Initiative (CSI)

Problem:

With the growing probability that the greater sage grouse will be listed as either threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act, involvement by conservation districts will be necessary to address the issue. The Cooperative Sagebrush Initiative is a group addressing shrub steppe habitat conservation issues in the West. The CSI is composed of state fish and wildlife departments, NRCS, USDA, BLM, USDI, the petroleum industry, state and national cattlemen's associations, the Western Governors Association, and the Sand County Association.

Recommendation:

That WACD support funding not to exceed \$5,000 to engage in the Cooperative Sagebrush Initiative including sending representative(s) to CSI events around the West. This resolution should be forwarded on to the National Association of Conservation Districts to recommend their supporting of resources and involvement as well.

Presented by:

Foster Creek Conservation District

Motion by Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD. Second by Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County CD
Motion Carried.

AMENDMENT: Motion by Terry Willis, Grays Harbor CD. Second by Eddie Johnson,
Lincoln County CD. Motion carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-20

Title: WACD Participation in Habitat Credit Trading Opportunities

Problem:

Land development, conversion, and natural resource extraction around the country is creating natural resource concerns for fish and wildlife habitats. Farmers and ranchers in Washington State are good stewards of their lands and possess a valuable commodity in the habitats they care for. Efforts to develop and use habitat credit trading programs, similar to carbon credit trading, are now in their beginning stages. Our agricultural industry should be involved from the earliest stages to ensure knowledgeable and realistic programs are developed.

Recommendation:

That WACD support processes and programs for habitat credit trading. This resolution should be forwarded on to the National Association of Conservation Districts to recommend their supporting of resources and involvement as well.

Presented by:

Foster Creek Conservation District

Motion by Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD. Second by Joe Shulke, Cowlitz CD
Motion carried.

AMENDMENT: Motion by Terry Willis, Grays Harbor CD. Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County CD. Motion carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-21

Title: Scale appropriate inspections criteria from USDA

Problem:

The inspection of USDA animal slaughter / cut & wrap facilities is implemented in an unequal proportion. For a mobile slaughter unit and associated cut and wrap facility, the USDA requires an inspector on site when butchering is in process. This means every animal is inspected, along with the travel time for the inspector is paid by the processor, including separate bathrooms. This is unfairly expensive to the small producer. However in a large facility, (Washington Beef, etc.) not all carcasses are inspected, cost of inspector is born out by USDA, and the cost of other infrastructure is spread across a larger scale of operation.

The argument of safer food is totally erroneous, due to the number of recalls from large factory processors compared to the independent cut and wrap facilities. The small, local processor has far more stringent criteria from its patrons, who they have to look in the eye, than the nameless masses being sold factory meat without real accountability.

Recommendation:

WACD work with the state cattlemen's associations and other such stakeholders to urge the Washington State Department of Agriculture, NACD, and members of Congress to change the regulations of USDA-associated with small scale, local, meat processors. WACD to also work with the WSDA to reinstate intrastate inspections of meat.

Presented by:

Okanogan Conservation District

Motion by Albert Roberts, Okanogan CD. Second by Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County CD.
Motion carried.

AMENDMENT: Motion Duke LeBaron, Whidbey Island CD. Second by Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County CD. Motion carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Bill Gillespie, N Yakima CD

Amendment Gale Thornton, N Yakima CD
2nd John Preston, Warden CD
Amendment passed.

Resolution as amended passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-22

Title: CREP Soil Rental Rate Reductions

Problem:

In the summer of 2007 FSA changed some of the soil rental rates (SRR) within the State of Washington. Some areas SRR increased, the majority stayed the same and a few decreased. In our area the rates decreased by 21% (highest in the State). Due to the changes we have had interested producers back away from the program due to the SRR reductions. The CD and the WSCC were never notified prior to the changes being made or had any input in the process. According to FSA the CD must go out and survey leased and rented land rates to make any further changes. This task was not a projected budget expense and if done would alter the scope of work under our existing CREP contract.

Recommendation:

WACD requests that:

- (1) If FSA would keep partners informed about changes to a program that the CD's and the WSCC are promoting, then FSA could keep all involved partners in the program informed and engaged in the process. FSA should provide the CD's and WSCC ample time to review and respond to any proposed changes.
- (2) FSA bring the SRR for the three SW area CD's that were reduced from 8-21% back to the original SRR and look into providing higher SRR into the future.

Presented by:

Pacific Conservation District

Motion by Chris Petersen, Pacific CD. Seconded by Joe Shulke, Cowlitz CD. Motion carried.

AMENDMENT: Motion by Joe Shulke, Cowlitz CD. Second by Chris Petersen, Pacific CD. Motion carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Mike Naylor, Skagit CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-23

Title: Program Compliance

Problem:

Some tracts are not in compliance with technical contract agreements. These program payments are unfair to farmers with no contracts and are in compliance with technical standards.

Recommendation:

WACD work with NRCS and FSA to activate and increase technical compliance checks to insure programs and payments are meeting contract technical agreements in all counties.

Presented by:

Lincoln County Conservation District

Motion by Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County CD. Second by Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin County CD. Motion carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-24

Title: Fully Funded CSP

Problem:

The current watershed-based parameters of CSP have created an unbalanced financial situation between land operators of funded watersheds and those unfunded. Unless all watersheds are funded, this program should not be allowed to continue.

Recommendation:

WACD join other producer organizations that support a fully funded CSP, whether it is watershed-based or resource-based. States already have their local working groups in place from EQIP to supply the priority resources. All land operators should be eligible for some form of conservation payment.

Presented by:

Columbia Conservation District

Motion by Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County CD. Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin County CD.
Motion carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
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Resolution No: 2007-25

Title: Develop and Implement a Cultural Resource Agreement with the Washington State Historical Preservation Office

Problem:

Conservation Districts in Washington State implement many types of projects that involve soil disturbance. These projects must be reviewed for potential disturbance or alterations of cultural resources prior to work commencing. Most individual Districts do not have the financial or qualified human resources available to complete these evaluations. Furthermore, the time required to complete in-depth evaluations when they are required often hampers the ability of the landowner and District to construct the project within the funding window.

Recommendation:

WACD work with the Washington State Conservation Commission, tribal governments, and the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation, to develop and implement a cost-effective, and timely cultural resource program for Conservation District sponsored projects.

Presented by:

Okanogan Conservation District

Motion by Tom Dorn, Okanogan CD. Second by John Peterson. Motion carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2007 Final Resolutions

Resolution No: 2007-26

Title: Compensation of Landowner Losses from Wildlife Depredation

Problem:

Landowners raising cattle and other livestock on pasture and hay based feeding operations are losing their livestock feed sources due to consumption by increased elk herds and deer populations. Landowners are also struggling to maintain and repair their fence systems due to damage done by these increased elk herds and deer populations in Southwest Washington. Livestock operations operating under Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans are at risk of needing to reduce their domesticated livestock due to the nutrient load of local elk herds and deer populations grazing on their pastures.

Recommendation:

WACD and WSCC need to work with the State Legislature and Department of Fish and Wildlife toward an equitable and user friendly system of compensating landowners for all wildlife damage to crops, grasses and infrastructures with monetary reimbursement and/or Landowner Preference Permit.

Presented by:

Cowlitz Conservation District

Motion by Joe Shulke, Cowlitz CD. Second by Bill Gillespie, North Yakima CD. Motion carried.

AMENDMENT: Motion by Joe Shulke, Cowlitz CD. Second by Terry Willis, Grays Harbor CD. Motion carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Ollie Call, Kitsap CD

Amendment Joe Shulke, Cowlitz CD
2nd John Preston, Warden CD
Amendment passed.

Gale Thornton, N Yakima CD
2nd Lynn Brown, Kittitas CD
2nd amendment passed

Resolution as amended passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2007 Final Resolutions

Resolution No: 2007-27

Title: 2007-08 WDFW Collaboration

Problem:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) now has approximately 900,000 acres of land under its ownership and/or management on behalf of the citizens of Washington. As a result of a number of events during the past 15 years, the Department has been on a fast of land acquisition. During the same period, the Department's land management capability, in terms of both budget and technical staffing, have been diminished to the point that this State Land Management Agency is far from being able to fulfill the stewardship responsibilities it has for these public resources on behalf of the citizens of Washington. This situation remains true not only in terms of inability to manage these lands to maintain the habitat values for which they were purchased but also, in instances, being so lacking in resources as to be unable to maintain the ecological integrity and sustainability of these lands.

These same deficiencies apply to operation and maintenance of some parcels (e.g. failure to maintain fences or control destructive ORV activity) to the point of negatively impacting the economic viability of neighboring agricultural and livestock producers, many of who are constituents of conservation districts throughout Washington.

Recommendation:

That WACD take a leadership role in addressing the issues of WDFW land management and land acquisition . WACD should form a task force to assess the many facets of problems and to report their findings back to the WACD Officers and Directors at the earliest opportunity.

Presented by:

Okanogan Conservation District

Motion by Norm McClure, Okanogan CD. Second by Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County CD.
Motion carried.

AMENDMENT: Motion by Norm McClure, Okanogan CD. Second by Eddie Johnson, Lincoln County CD. Motion carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Steve Keirn, Clark CD



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2007 Final Resolutions

Amendment Albert Roberts, Okanogan CD
2nd Lynn Brown CD
Amendment passed.

2nd Amendment Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD
2nd John McLean, Foster Creek CD
Amendment Passed.

Resolution as amended passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2007 Final Resolutions

Resolution No: 2007-28

Title: Recognition of NRCS and Conservation District Stewardship Plans by the American Tree Farm System.

Problem:

The American Tree Farm System does not recognize conservation district and NRCS stewardship plans for certification.

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), and the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) work with appropriate agencies and organizations to petition the American Tree Farm System to recognize conservation district and USDA NRCS stewardship plans as meeting management planning requirements for family forest landowners.

Presented by:

Skagit Conservation District

Motion by Mike Naylor, Skagit CD. Second by Albert Roberts, Okanogan CD. Motion carried.

RECOMMEND DO PASS.

Dean Longrie, Clark CD
2nd Mike Naylor, Skagit CD

Resolution passed.



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2007 Final Resolutions

Resolution No: 2007-29

Title: WACD Local Working Group Policy for NRCS

Recommendation:

WACD supports WA NRCS Local Work Group process and believes it should be fully locally led.

Nicole Berg, Benton CD
2nd Rose Ehart, Pierce CD

Resolution Passed. (with at least 2/3)



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2007 Final Resolutions

Resolution No: 2007-30

Title: WACD work with other stakeholders to increase funding for natural resources issues

Problem:

As pressures on natural resources increase, the public funding to address natural resources issues has to cover more activities with decreased revenue sources.

Recommendation:

That WACD work with natural resources agencies, interested parties and the legislature to develop designated stable, long term revenue sources for additional natural resources funding, including the Water Quality Account and any other funding mechanisms.

Presented by:

Brought to the floor for discussion by Thurston and Whatcom CDs

Jerry Van Dellen, Whatcom CD
2nd Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin CD

Resolution passed. (with over 2/3 vote)



Washington Association of Conservation Districts
2007 Final Resolutions

Resolution No: 2007-31

Title: WACD Support funding of Forestry in the Next Farm Bill

Recommendation:

WACD support forestry throughout the new Farm Bill. Also, forward to and work with NACD on Forestry Title VIII.

Albert Roberts, Okanogan CD
2nd Jerry Hendrickson, Asotin CD

Amendment John Keatley, Cowlitz CD
2nd Mike Naylor, Skagit CD
Amendment passed.

Resolution passed as amended (with at least 2/3).