



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2018-07**

**Title:** Allow Dike Maintenance without Emergency Declaration

**Problem:** Many flood control dikes have been installed in Washington State. Some of these dikes are in significant states of disrepair putting human life, public infrastructure, and private property at significant risk. Landowners have struggled in many cases to get permits necessary to repair dikes by doing vegetation removal and other activities necessary to maintain their structural integrity. Agencies are reticent to provide permits, let alone guidance when it is sought by the landowner, to conduct routine maintenance because dikes are not friendly in most cases to endangered aquatic species.

Without repairing these dikes, human safety is at risk. Landowners who do the right thing by seeking a permit should not be burdened to get the permit necessary to perform routine maintenance of dikes.

**Recommendation:** WACD shall work with the Washington State Conservation Commission and the necessary regulatory agencies to ensure private landowners may conduct normal annual maintenance of existing dikes without the need of an emergency declaration.

**Presented by:** Okanogan Conservation District

Passed by the North Central Area Association on 10/16/18  
Referred to the Natural Resources Policy Committee  
Recommended DO PASS on 11/26/18  
Adopted on 11/28/18