



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**Resolution No. 2018- 14**

**Title:** Support for Regional Conservation Planning Training

**Problem:** Conservation planning is without a doubt the bread and butter of locally led conservation delivery. Recent developments at USDA NRCS have resulted in severe staff shortages to do conservation planning. Partner organizations, primarily conservation districts, need to increase capacity to complete conservation plans by certified conservation planners in order to assist landowners to conserve natural resources and access essential Farm Bill program funding.

Currently, one 3-week training event, a Conservation Planning Bootcamp, occurs annually in Nebraska. Fifty seats are available in this annual training session for conservation district employees. There are more than 3,000 conservation districts nationwide and this 1 annual event is woefully insufficient to build the capacity necessary to efficiently conduct conservation planning to allow Farm Bill programs to be implemented on the ground.

**Recommendation:** WACD work with the WA Conservation Commission, other interested parties, WA Conservation Districts, WADE, NCDEA, neighboring states, and state conservation agencies to urge NACD to support flexibility for holding additional conservation planning boot camps, or similar, training sessions on a regional scale each year. These boot camps/trainings would utilize NRCS-provided curriculum and trainers for quality, consistent training while still allowing for specific regional needs to be addressed. Training event coordination and logistical coordination would be supplied by regional partners.

**Submitted by:** Palouse Conservation District

Approved by the Southeast Area Association on 10/23/18  
Assigned to the Legislative, Bylaws & District Policies Committee  
Recommended DO NOT PASS on 11/26/18  
Adopted as amended on 11/28/18