



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resolution 2019-05 Support legislation to restrict out of basin water transfers

SPONSOR CD: Okanogan Conservation District

AREA: NW SW NC SC NE SE

RESOLUTION TYPE:

- Policy
- Position Statement
- Recognition
- Study

RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY

- WACD
- WSCC
- OTHER STAGE AGENCY _____
- NRCS
- NACD
- NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER _____

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:

Water availability is a growing conservation issue for all of Washington State especially as communities work to provide adequate domestic water for a growing population and retain water for agriculture and industry. Agricultural water right holders in many watersheds are being contacted and encouraged to sell their water rights to municipalities and private developers that will convert their water to other uses.

The conversion of agricultural water rights to other uses poses a significant risk to the viability of agriculture, particularly in arid areas of Washington State. There are growing concerns that if sufficient acres of irrigated agriculture are dried out due to these sales, agriculture in some communities will suffer secondary impacts due to loss of infrastructure necessary to grow, harvest, and process crops as businesses that support agriculture will not have sufficient business to remain viable. When support industries suffer, agriculturalists will find it increasingly difficult to sustain their operations.

Communities in tributaries of the Columbia River are particularly concerned with this situation as the growing population centers downstream demand more water for growth and recreation.

RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

WACD shall support legislation that restricts, inhibits, or denies the transfer of water rights outside of the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) in which they are originally located.



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TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION

- Technical (changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes **NO** substantive change(s) to the existing policy.
- Substantive change to existing policy. If in doubt, check the box.
- New policy.

IS THERE A BUDGET IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?

- NO**
- YES** (briefly explain):