



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

**Resolution 2019-06** Support legislation to authorize rangeland fire protection districts

**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:**

Many areas of Washington State are not in a fire district or protected by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. These rural lands are typically remote, grasslands and pockets of agricultural lands that have very low populations and minimal services. Local farmers and ranchers are often the only individuals that see some of these lands in any given year. However, they know the landscapes, know the terrain, understand prevailing winds, and typically have seen wildfires spread across these unprotected lands.

These individuals can be an integral part of a first responder force to stop wildland fires while they are still small which protects agricultural production, safeguards critical wildlife habitat, and reduces smoke pollution for area and regional population centers. Given the right training and limited equipment, these individuals can be the difference between a fire that is stopped at a few acres and one that can easily grow into 10,000 or more acres in a matter of hours if pushed by the winds.

**RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:**

WACD shall support legislation that authorizes and supports the creation of rangeland fire protection districts in Washington State.



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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):