



# Area Meeting 2014 Partner Report

**USDA: Natural Resources Conservation Service – Washington (NRCS)  
Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)  
Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC)**



Partner Report:

# USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (WA)

## FY14 Conservation Programs at a Glance

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Obligated: \$13,306,896 (includes all initiatives) (dark blue)

### Conservation Stewardship Program

Obligated: \$2,305,218 (red)

### Wetlands Reserve Program (Farm Bill 2008 )

Agreements: 7 Obligated: \$528,241 (green)

### Agricultural Conservation Easement Program:

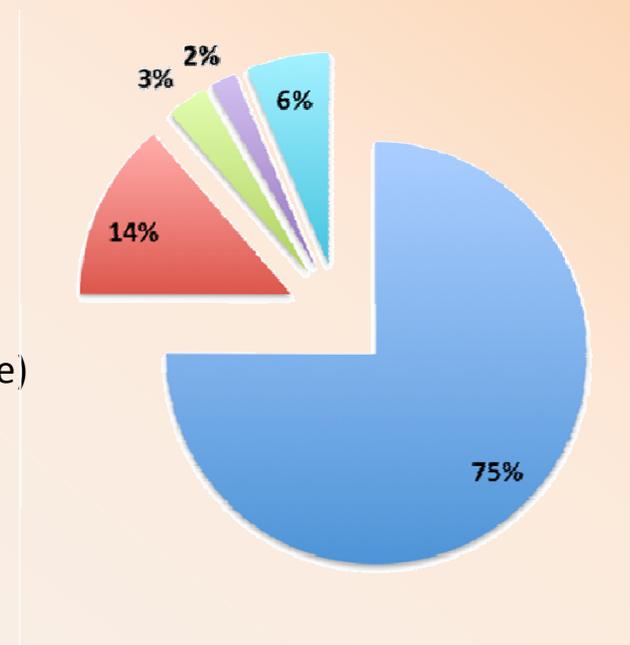
Wetlands Reserve Easements (Farm Bill 2014) (purple)

Obligated: \$327,756

### Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Ag Lands Easements (light blue)

Easements Obligated: \$1,074,850





Partner Report:

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (WA)

- **Conservation Compliance**
  - > National NRCS website has additional information
- **Voluntary Natural Resources Conservation Plan Initiative**
  - > Announcement coming in January
- **State Resource Assessment Accomplishments**
- **Office Space Lease Update**
- **Farm Bill Informational Webinars**



Partner Report:

## Washington Association of Conservation Districts

- **Legislative** – *Budget*, Affiliates, Elections, Assessments, WACD Legislative Days 3/25/15
- **Policy** – Conditioned Buffer Practices, Nutrient Management, Ecology Advisory Committee, TA, WOTUS; NACD, Congress and USDA
- **Outreach** – TOTF; WSCC and NRCS CAs, LWGs
- **Stormwater Initiative** – Municipalities, Counties, Ecology; Puget Sound and Statewide
- **Supervisor Leadership Development** Training
- **WACD Board** – Area Directors; Communication with Conservation District Chairs



Partner Report:

## Washington Association of Conservation Districts

### WACD Annual Meeting

- Ann Mills, USDA – keynote
- Farm Bill – Conservation Compliance/Insurance Subsidy; Programs/Changes; *your role*
- Stormwater Opportunities
- Emergency Preparedness; CD Experiences
- Tribal Outreach – Next TOTF Steps, Training
- Dryland Ag – Cover Crops, Direct Seed, *Plus*
- *Your* Committees, Resolutions, Elections
- Sponsor Appreciation
- WACD Awards



Partner Report:

## Washington Association of Conservation Districts

### District Budget Support Letter to Governor Inslee

- Emphasis at this time is on **recovering 15% cut**.
- Describe **impact to your local district** – details
  - > Consider impact of shifting other funds.
- Loosely track WACD September 5 letter, referencing **issues of key importance** to Gov that are relevant to your district.
- Express support for **full** budget package.
- **Avoid distracting messages.**
- **Critical** that **all 45 districts** respond.



Partner Report:

## Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC)

- 15-17 Budget – submitted in September
  - > Includes required 15% reduction
- Results Washington
  - > SCC lead for two indicators (CREP, shellfish) and participating in third (no net loss of farmland)
  - > Governor heard CREP presentation in September

*“I encourage you to be vocal about your success. I think that’s important — getting citizens, taxpayers, to know they’re getting their money’s worth, that [CREP] really produces results...There’s a place for humility—this is not it.”*

*– Governor Inslee’s response to CREP success stories featured in Results WA presentation*



Partner Report:

## Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC)

- Carlton Complex, response and recovery
  - > Sponsoring Emergency Watershed Program (Okanogan CD lead)
- Buffers / Treaty Rights at Risk
  - > Working on list of response areas
- Changes in staff since last area meetings
  - > Welcomed Shana Joy, Melissa Vander Linden, Alicia Johnson
  - > Seeking new Habitat and Monitoring Coordinator (CREP)