

National Association of Conservation Districts: *Program Updates and Opportunities*



Ariel Rivers, PhD
Pacific Region Representative
National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
OACD Annual Meeting | Nov. 9, 2021











National Association of
Conservation Districts

NACD MISSION:

To promote the wise and responsible use of natural resources for all lands by representing locally-led conservation districts and their associations through grassroots advocacy, education and partnerships

www.nacdnet.org



NACD: 30,000' Level

- Established in 1946, NACD serves as the **unified, national voice** for the nearly 3,000 conservation districts across the US
- NACD's **member-driven board of directors selects conservation policy priorities** which are used to develop and review environmental and natural resources legislation
- We work to secure **adequate federal funding** for natural resources conservation programs



National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

NACD advocates for nearly 3,000 conservation districts across the United States, ensuring federal policy and funding levels reflect the mission and goals of our district members.

NEWS

NACD keeps our members informed of the latest conservation news affecting districts and their customers, newly available tools and resources and NACD's latest activities.

MEMBERSHIP

NACD is your national association working side by side with conservationists nationwide to promote natural resource management at the grassroots level.

EDUCATION

Educating young people about the benefits of conservation helps to ensure the next generation will be wise stewards of America's natural resources.

EVENTS

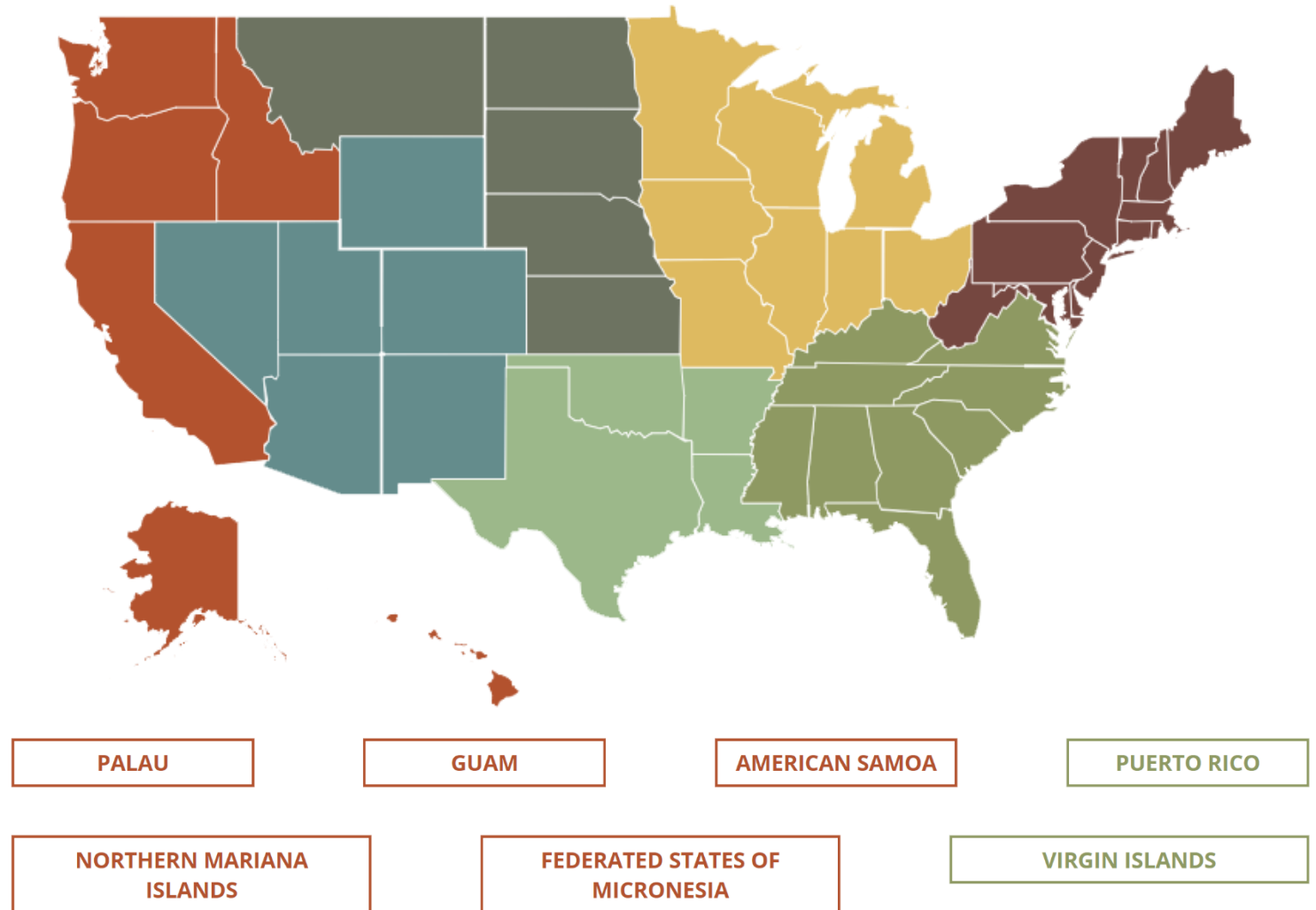
NACD events provide conservation leaders nationwide with the opportunity to network, discover emerging technologies and services, develop education and outreach strategies and influence national conservation policy.



NACD: Regions

Pacific – 274 Members

- 6 states:
 - Alaska
 - Washington
 - Oregon
 - Idaho
 - California
 - Hawaii
- 5 territories:
 - Guam
 - American Samoa
 - Federated States of Micronesia
 - Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands
 - Palau





National Association of Conservation Districts

Advocacy

Resource Policy Groups (RPGs)



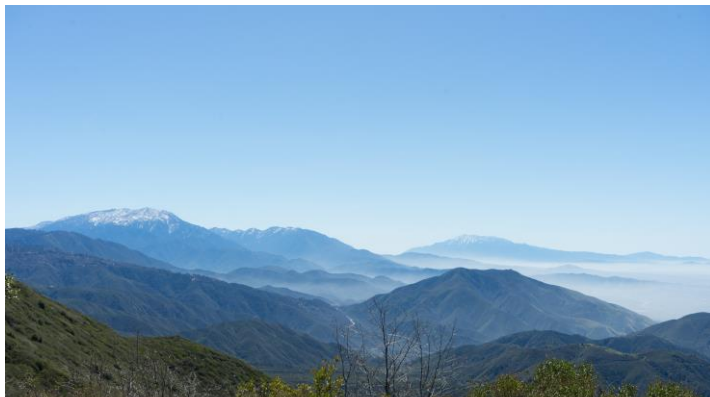
Forestry



Coastal



Tribal Outreach and Partnership



Public Lands

Conservation Districts and Invasive Species Management

The webinar featured representatives from conservation districts in Hawaii, Oregon and New Mexico discussing innovative, cross-boundary efforts to manage invasive species. The webinar was moderated by **Travis Thomason**, Director – Pacific Islands Area, NRCS. Panelists included **Mae Nakahata**, Director, Maui County Soil and Water Conservation District; **Michelle Delepine**, Invasive Species Program Manager, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District; **Lindsey Karr**, WeedWise Specialist, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District; and **Debbie Hughes**, Executive

Conservation Districts and Invasive Species Initiative

WEBINAR SERIES
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1

Conservation Districts and Invasive Species Management

MODERATOR:
• Travis Thomason, Director – Pacific Islands Area, Natural Resources Conservation Service

PANELISTS:
• Mae Nakahata, Director, Maui County Soil and Water Conservation District

Invasive Species



Urban and Community



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Advocacy Updates



- **Build Back Better Act**
- **Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act**
- **Waters of the US (WOTUS)**
- **USDA Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program**
- **Federal public comment periods**
 - NEPA – proposed rule to restore regulatory provisions that were modified in 2020
 - ESA – proposed rule would remove the regulatory definition of “habitat” established by a rule that went into effect in January 15, 2021.



National Association of Conservation Districts

Funding Updates



PLEASE JOIN US!

Soil Health for School Gardens Educator Workshop

LEARN about soil health!

REVIVE your school garden!

ENGAGE your students!

GROW your school garden program!




garden for every school
an education program of the environmental center 

Upper Willamette SWCD (right) NACD Technical Assistance grantee and Deschutes SWCD (left) Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative grantee.



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Technical Assistance Grants

*An NACD-NRCS agreement supports these grants for **Conservation Districts**, funded through the Conservation Operations program.*

Availability of funds each year subject to approval by NRCS.



The Northeast Elko Conservation District (NV) developed a resource management group to teach conservation



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Technical Assistance Grants

Certain districts will be able to renew in Fall 2021.

Other districts may apply in Spring pending availability of funds.



Deschutes SWCD addressed irrigation efficiency.

- Clackamas SWCD
- Deschutes SWCD
- Harney SWCD
- Morrow SWCD
- Tiicham Tribal Conservation District
- Upper Willamette SWCD
- Wallowa County SWCD
- Wasco County SWCD
- West Multnomah SWCD



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Urban Agriculture and Community Grants

Since 2016, \$5.6 million awarded to 102 conservation districts in 35 states



Technical Assistance to small scale producers and refugee farmers,
Cuyahoga CD, Ohio
2016 Grantee



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Urban Agriculture and Community Grants

*An NACD-NRCS agreement supports these grants for **Conservation Districts**, funded through the Conservation Operations program.*

Any conservation district may apply before Jan. 31, 2022



Zion Garden Park Demonstrations,
CD of Southern Nevada
2016 Grantee



Community Soup Night, featuring food made by
the local schools, Nevada Tahoe CD
2017 Grantee



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Urban Agriculture and Community Grants

*Grants support **community** food security, school gardens, beginning farmer training programs, backyard livestock education, learning gardens, **small-scale conservation practices**, etc.*



Pollinator Habitat and Community Garden, Upper Big Blue Natural Resource District, Nebraska
2017 Grantee





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Urban Agriculture and Community Grants

*Districts may apply for up to \$50,000, with a 25% non-federal match required. Budgets should mostly cover **staff time to provide small-scale conservation technical assistance.***





National Association of
Conservation Districts

Urban Agriculture and Community Grants

*Grant applications typically accepted in **fall**, with awards made each **spring**. Grantees have **1 year** to use funds and finalize project activities (including quarterly and final reports).*



Soil health workshops and pocket gardens,
San Juan SWCD, New Mexico
2017 Awardee

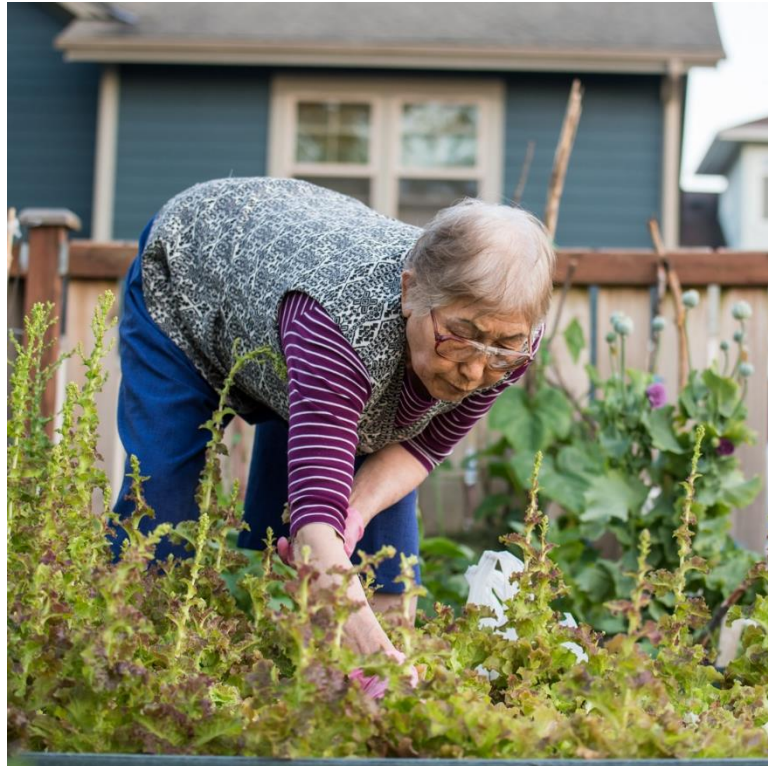




National Association of
Conservation Districts

Urban Agriculture and Community Grants

*Districts must **apply online**, detailing project activities, outreach plans, partners, etc. Projects focusing on **underrepresented clients** may be given priority by the RPG review team.*



Korean and Vietnamese Cultural Ambassadors,
Pierce CD, Washington
2019 Awardee



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Conservation Districts

Urban Agriculture and Community Grants

*Projects should focus on **community-oriented** activities and **small-scale technical assistance** related to agricultural conservation. **Rural districts** are also eligible for these grants!*



Hoop house and small livestock workshops,
Marquette County CD, Michigan
County Population 67,000, 2019 Awardee





URBAN AND COMMUNITY

When conservation districts were first established in the Dust Bowl era, they mostly worked with farmers, ranchers and forest owners. But landscapes have changed, and districts have adapted.

Like other types of landscapes, urban and suburban communities face natural resource challenges. Water quality and quantity, air quality, non-native species, habitat degradation and reductions in open space all affect land-use management in developed and developing areas.



What We Do

[Soil](#)[Forestry](#)[Federal Policy](#)

The FY 2022 application period for the UAC grants is now open, with an **application deadline of 11:59 PM local time, January 31, 2022**. Only conservation districts as defined by state statute are eligible to apply for these grants.

ht

Interested conservation districts must review the full request for proposals (RFP) linked below for information about applicable projects, eligibility, and full application instructions. ***Please read the instructions carefully, districts who do not adhere to the application instructions and submit all required documents will not be considered for funding.*** The application instructions are also provided as a word document so districts may use that document as a template when drafting their application materials.

Districts should read the frequently asked questions (FAQs) and the reporting instructions, below, before applying. Interested applicants are also encouraged to review past grantee projects described in the story map and other materials linked above. NACD leadership and staff will host an information session on Dec. 14, 4:00 PM eastern via zoom to answer any questions. Please review all application materials before the session; [register online](#) to receive the link to attend.

If you still have questions after reviewing the RFP, FAQs, and reporting instructions, please contact Ariel Rivers, PhD, ariel-rivers@nacdnet.org, NACD's staff lead on urban conservation programs.

[UAC REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS](#)

[UAC APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS](#)

[UAC FAQs](#)

[UAC REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS](#)



National Association of
Conservation Districts

District Grant Program



Friends of NACD

\$2,500 Grants, Unrestricted, due Nov. 30

<https://www.nacdnet.org/get-involved/friends-of-nacd/>



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Friends of NACD – Butte SWCD



<https://www.nacdnet.org/get-involved/friends-of-nacd/>



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Education: Youth

*NACD members can access
stewardship & education materials
free of charge*

Stewardship Week 2022:
April 24 – May 1
*Healthy Soil,
Healthy Life*





National Association of
Conservation Districts

Education: Webinars

NACD Urban and Community (U&C) Conservation Webinars

Restore America's Estuaries



Daniel Hayden

President and CEO,
Restore America's Estuaries

PRESENTER

WHAT

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is a national alliance of 10 coastal conservation groups dedicated to restoring and preserving America's estuaries and coasts, and also one of NACD's partners through the Scott's MiracleGro Foundation National Partner Network. During this webinar learn from Daniel Hayden about the diversity of projects and activities that RAE conducts on behalf of their members and coastal conservation. In addition to contributing to local projects that restore coastal wetlands, open fish passages, and restore shellfish habitat, RAE also works on advocacy and policy issues that affect coastal communities. Additionally, RAE promotes equity within conservation through campaigns like their Inclusive Coasts Initiative. Come learn more about the great work of RAE and their members!

WHEN

Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021 from 4:00-5:00p.m. Eastern



National Association of
Conservation Districts



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

Learn more and register at nacdnet.org/webinars

REGISTRATION IS FREE!



National Association of Conservation Districts

Education: Future Leaders

CONSERVATION CAREERS WORKSHOP

Applications due each December



CHRISTINE CHARLES
PURDUE UNIVERSITY



DORIANN DAMERAU
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY



ASHLEY DITTMAN
PURDUE UNIVERSITY



ANNA FISHER
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY



FRIDA ISAKSEN-SWENSEN
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONSERVATION CAREERS PARTICIPANTS 2019



National Association of Conservation Districts

The Conservation Careers Program offers current undergraduate college students an opportunity to learn about conservation careers from experienced professionals. These students were selected through a competitive application process and will participate in the workshop during the 2019 NACD Annual Meeting.



CHRISTINE KREBS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



HOLLY PUMMELL
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



MIKAYLA SMOLENSKY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



KRTI TALLAM
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT U-C



KATRINA VAITKUS
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Education: Upcoming Leaders

National Conservation Foundation

LeadershipInstitute

#**NCF**NextGen



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Education: Events

2022 NACD Annual Meeting

New Orleans, FL

February 12-16, 2022

*Opportunities for networking,
educational breakout sessions, skill-
building seminars, etc.*



LIMITED FIRST TIMER SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:

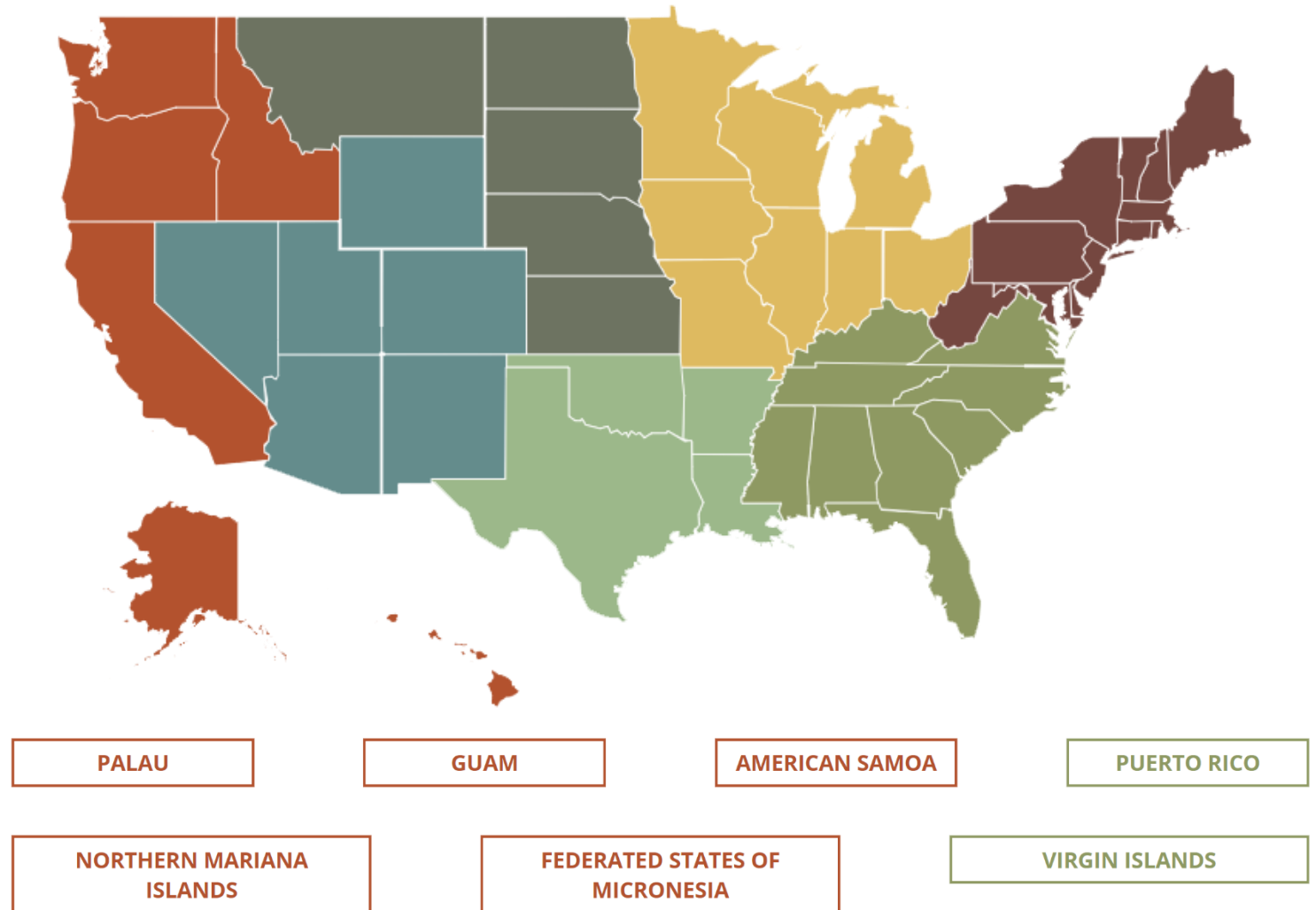
TA Grantees and All Members



NACD: Regions

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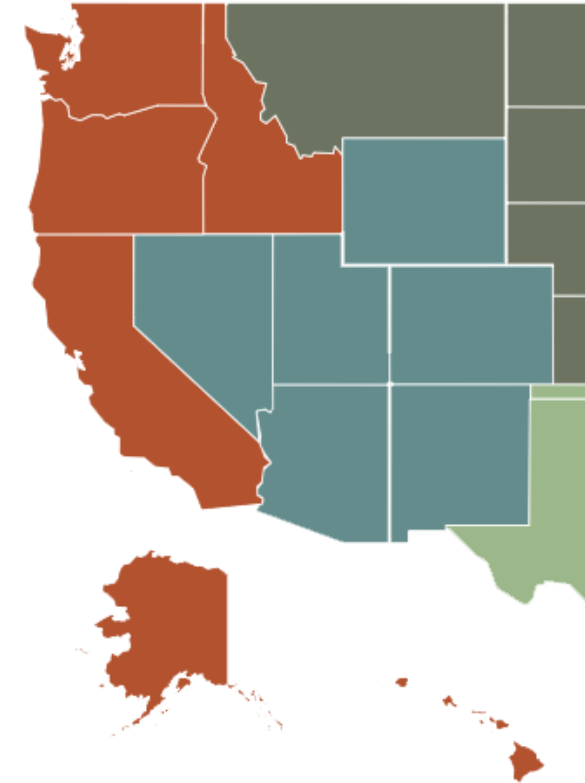




NACD: Regions

Region Strategic Planning – Goals

- Strengthen membership and participation
- Policy development and advocacy on natural resource issues
- Enhance Pacific Region member participation in NACD and build member capacity
- Sharing information and resources across region



PALAU

GUAM

AMERICAN SAMOA

NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS

FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA



National Association of
Conservation Districts

NACD MEMBERSHIP

Membership Incentives

[Click here](#) to learn more about NACD's dues structure.

PLATINUM LEVEL: \$3,001+

- 2nd registration free to NACD Annual Meeting
- 2 invitations to NACD President's Reception at NACD Annual Meeting
- 20% off a single purchase of \$100 or more from the NACD Marketplace (excluding sale/clearance items)
- Recognition in the NACD Annual Report

DIAMOND LEVEL: \$1,776 - \$3,000

- 2nd registration half-price to NACD Annual Meeting
- 1 invitation to NACD President's Reception at NACD Annual Meeting
- 15% off a single purchase of \$100 or more from the NACD Marketplace (excluding sale/clearance items)
- Recognition in the NACD Annual Report

GOLD LEVEL: \$775 - \$1,775

- 10% off a single purchase of \$100 or more from the NACD Marketplace (excluding sale/clearance items)

To learn more about your district's NACD membership or how you can be a part of NACD's unified voice on conservation, contact NACD Director of Membership [Kimberly Uldricks](#).



Oregon Membership: FY21

- Members paid **\$17,601** in dues to NACD during FY 2021
 - Average of \$586 per member
- 30 of 46 members
 - *Up 2 members from FY 2020*



National Association of
Conservation Districts

NEW Membership Benefit

Healthcare Insurance Plans



ACA Health Insurance

Health insurance that offers broad coverage for a variety of medical costs



Short-Term Medical

Bridging the gap between long-term health insurance coverage



Dental

Options for preventive care coverage and emergency or unplanned dental work — even special dental needs



Vision

Eye exams, eyewear (glasses/contacts) and discounts on corrective surgeries

Supplemental Insurance Plans



Critical Illness

Health coverage that pays you a lump sum for major medical issues



Accident

Pays you a lump sum for medical expenses related to accidental injuries



Hospital and Doctor Indemnity

Health coverage paying cash for eligible doctor and hospital medical services



Telehealth

Provides 24/7 access to medical professionals virtually from your home

Additional Insurance Plans



Life Insurance

Term life insurance will pay out a lump sum to your named beneficiaries in the event of your death



Auto/Home

Compare plans from multiple carriers to get the best deal and fit for your needs



Cyber

Cyber liability protects your business from legal and related costs due to either targeted or accidental cyber incidents



National Association of
Conservation Districts

NEW Membership Benefit



Karla Maldonado

To learn more about benefits and enrollment or shop before you buy, please visit NACD website at nacd.mercerindigo.com or call Mercer at 1-855-429-8836.

If you experience any issues with enrollment, issues with the website or have general questions, please to contact **Karla Maldonado**, NACD Chief Operating Officer at karla-maldonado@nacdnet.org for more information.



Membership: Online Resources

Subscribe

Marketplace

Contact

MEMBERS ONLY SECTION

Welcome to NACD's Members Only section!

Thank you for supporting your national voice for conservation by completing your NACD membership dues payment. Here you'll find an array of timely and relevant resources for conservation districts and state/territory associations to utilize. NACD regularly adds free, easy-to-download content to this page, so make sure to check back frequently.

Are you an NACD Board Member or alternate? Please visit the [NACD Board of Directors secure webpage](#) for additional materials.

DISTRICT JOB BOARD

POST A JOB

CONTENT CATEGORIES

NACD Resources

Outreach

District Operations

NACD Reports

NACD News

NACD District Guides

NAVIGATION

Members Only Section

[Board of Directors Page](#)

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

Click the Account Management headline above to:

- Update NACD username and password
- Manage subscription preferences
- View store orders
- Manage membership

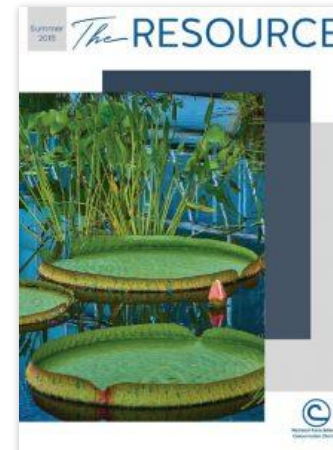


National Association of Conservation Districts

News

eResource

Weekly collaborative newsletter delivered every Tuesday; **13,200 subscribers** with nearly **13,300 subscribers**



The Resource

Electronic and print; quarterly publication delivered electronically and one printed version to 3,000+ districts

Conservation Clips

Weekly conservation news round-up distributed on Friday morning with **over 12,800 subscribers**



Forestry Notes

Monthly publication with **nearly 13,300 subscribers**



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