

# Washington State Conservation Commission

---

## Summary

The mission of the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) is to conserve natural resources on all lands in Washington state through voluntary and incentive-based programs in collaboration with conservation districts and other partners. SCC is the coordinating agency for Washington's 45 conservation districts. Tribes are essential partners for achieving our natural resources goals.

## Highlights

- SCC invested significant staff time and agency resources to develop a tribal engagement framework and began implementing new tribal engagement principles with the guidance of expert consultants. SCC is working towards developing a tribal engagement policy.
- 100% of SCC staff have now completed Government to Government training.
- After hearing Tribes elevate the importance of state agency Tribal Liaisons during the 2024 Centennial Accord meeting, SCC secured funding for a full time Tribal Liaison and will hire this position in 2025, greatly enhancing the agency's tribal engagement and consultation work.
- Grays Harbor Conservation District formed a strategic, multi-year collaboration with the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) targeting an infestation of invasive European Green Crab (EGC) at the Quinault Marina. This joint initiative centers on consistent trapping, capacity building, and educational outreach. Combined efforts have resulted in the removal of over 30,000 EGCs from the Quinault Marina area. The initiative strengthens QIN's ability to manage invasive species through training, funding support, and formal partnership.
- The San Juan Island Conservation District supported the development of the Lummi Guardians program, training tribal youth in Traditional Ecological Knowledge. The Guardians program is housed at the Northwest Indian College and works with cultural elders on the Lummi Reservation and through the Canadian gulf islands to help transition ecological knowledge to the next generation of landscape professionals.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) are a vital members of the Walla Walla County Voluntary Stewardship Program work group coordinated by the Walla Walla Conservation District. CTUIR's participation has made sure tribal 'River Vision' and first foods are considered in projects and monitoring.

## Staff contact

James Thompson, Executive Director  
564-233-9919 | [jthompson@scc.wa.gov](mailto:jthompson@scc.wa.gov)

Kate Delavan, Policy Director  
360-280-6486 | [kdelavan@scc.wa.gov](mailto:kdelavan@scc.wa.gov)