



National Association of Conservation Districts Pacific Region Investments

Alaska, American Samoa, California, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Palau, Washington

Every year, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) makes considerable investments in its membership across the country to further the work of locally led conservation. Below is a compilation of some of the most recent areas of investment NACD has made specifically in the Pacific Region states and territories.

Learn more about each of these programs online at NACDnet.org, or by contacting your Pacific Region Representative: Ariel Rivers, ariel-rivers@nacdnet.org

Conservation Planning Boot Camp

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Planning Boot Camp (CPBC) is a 3-week, intensive training course for technical employees, occurring monthly between March and September in Lincoln, Nebraska. CPBC covers current conservation planning policy, procedures and guidelines as outlined in the National Planning Procedures Handbook. District participants are trained in and out of the classroom – right alongside NRCS field staff – in the skills necessary for developing and implementing comprehensive conservation plans. ***Each year, NACD covers travel costs (e.g. transportation, lodging, meals, laundry) for 75 qualified conservation district employees from throughout the country to attend.***

NACD invests an estimated \$4,000 per trainee to attend the program; in 2017-2018, the total investment equaled **\$60,000**.

16 participants from the Pacific attended sessions in 2017 and 2018 (of 98 individuals nationwide)

Alaska – 1 attendee

Guam – 1 attendee

Hawaii – 6 attendees

Idaho – 1 attendee

Oregon – 3 attendees

Washington – 4 attendees

To learn more and apply for this valuable program, visit NACDnet.org/Conservation-Planning-Boot-Camp/

Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants

NACD established the Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants Initiative in 2016 to help conservation districts and their partners provide much needed technical assistance for agricultural conservation in urban areas with limited access to fresh and healthy foods. Since then, NACD has awarded a total of \$4 million in grants to 81 conservation districts in 34 states in three granting cycles (2016, 2017, 2019).

Pacific states have received a total of \$944,412 through NACD's Urban Agriculture Grants Initiative

Alaska – 1 grant for \$49,960

California – 5 grants for \$221,862

Idaho – 3 grants for \$126,335

Washington – 11 grants for \$546,255

NACD also conducts monthly Urban Agriculture and Community webinars and provides multiple resources for conducting agricultural and conservation activities in unique urban environments. See more online at NACDnet.org/Urban-and-Community/

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Technical Assistance Grants

NACD has secured two cooperative agreements with NRCS to further enhance conservation district technical assistance across the nation by helping districts hire additional employees through our Technical Assistance Grant program. The agreements totaled \$19.5 million, with the Round 1 grantees awarded in 2018 and pending announcements (June 2019) of successful districts for Round 2.

The awards have been based on many variables including the district's application, state-wide priority needs according to state conservation partnership, the ability of districts to provide a 20% match, and the projected impact of the employees' activities.

In Round 1, Pacific states and territories received 24 technical assistance grants totaling \$1,295,636

Alaska – 3 grants for \$80,000

California – 7 grants for \$524,546

Guam – 1 grant for \$32,295

Hawaii – 1 grant for \$50,000

Idaho – 4 grants for \$168,000

Oregon – 4 grants for \$227,543

Washington – 4 grants for \$213,252

These grants have greatly increased district capacity, with many successes at the local level. Learn more and read success stories at NACDnet.org/Technical-Assistance-Grants/

NACD Soil Health Champions Network

NACD created the Soil Health Champions Network in 2015 to promote soil health education and outreach among farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners and to increase the nation's acreage managed with soil health practices. Today, the Network includes more than 200 landowners and operators who implement conservation practices and champion the benefits of soil health within their communities. Soil Health Champions have working relationships with their local conservation districts and USDA Service Centers, and as leaders and early adopters of conservation practices, help top promote these valuable practices throughout their communities.

The Pacific states are a proud home to 15 Soil Health Champions

Alaska – 1 champion

California – 1 champion

Hawaii – 1 champion

Idaho – 4 champions

Oregon – 2 champions

Washington – 6 champions

To learn more about the program, catch up on Network news, and read profiles on each Soil Health Champion, see NACDnet.org/Soil-Health-Champions-Network/

Other Investments

Not all of NACD's investments are quantifiable. Below is a list of many other areas in which NACD invests staff time:

- **Partnerships** – NACD invests staff time to support many partner activities, including the National Conservation Planning Partnership together with NRCS, NCDEA, NASCA, and NARC&DC. NACD maintains many other federal, public, and private partnerships for the benefit of districts.
- **Advocacy for Natural Resources Conservation** – providing information, representation and tools to assist members and inform legislators and the public through several efforts and the Resource Policy Groups (RPGs). Current advocacy includes the 2018 Farm Bill, NRCS staffing shortages, and continued efforts with the National Horse & Burro Rangeland Management Coalition.
- **Educational Opportunities** – multiple webinars throughout the month focused on soil health, urban agriculture and urban conservation; Stewardship and Educational materials and resources available online; a "Members Only" website with supplemental materials and resources for conservation districts and state associations.
- **Multi-media resources** – The Resource, the eResource, Conservation Clip List, Facebook, Twitter, NACD app for cell phones or other electronic devices, etc. All require subscription.

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