



**To: NACD's Pacific Region Board Members, District Staff and Supervisors, and others**  
**Re: Fall 2021 Update**

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

**Contact:** Ariel Rivers, PhD, NACD Pacific Region Representative; [ariel-rivers@nacdnnet.org](mailto:ariel-rivers@nacdnnet.org); (925) 290-8925

Rick Gomez, NACD Board Member for California, Inland Empire RCD; [rickaicp5252@outlook.com](mailto:rickaicp5252@outlook.com)

### **Legislative Update:**

Please reach out to Mariah MacKenzie, [@MariahMacKenzie](https://twitter.com/MariahMacKenzie), Government Affairs Associate or Mary Scott, Natural Resources Policy Associate, with any questions about the fall policy process

- **Build Back Better Act** - NACD submitted a letter w/ investment in conservation
- **Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act** – NACD is tracking for funding opportunities
  - Big opportunity to funding, roads, rail, broadband
- **Waters of the US (WOTUS)** – [NACD submitted comments](#) in October emphasizing local expertise in defining WOTUS
- **USDA Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program** – NACD's Climate Action Task Force [submitted comments](#) emphasizing the role of conservation planning in climate smart ag
- **Two federal public comment periods** - Open until end of December. NACD's Natural Resources Policy Committee is reviewing closely
  - [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.

### **Policy Deadlines:**

*The NACD fall policy process is underway. See important deadlines below, with relevant documents attached.*

#### **Sunseting Policies – November 5, 2021 Deadline – [Sunsetting Policy Challenge LINK](#)**

The Board-approved sunset process removes policies after five years unless challenged. **Only NACD Board of Directors members (including alternates)** may challenge the sunseting of policies. Policies scheduled to sunset may be found attached and on the [Board of Directors webpage](#). If any edits are being proposed to a sunseting policy, the edits must be submitted as a new resolution as described below. Please contact a member of the NACD policy staff team if you have any questions about a specific sunseting policy.

#### **Bylaw Amendments – December 10, 2021 Deadline**

Under the NACD Bylaws, the NACD Board of Directors, region boards, the executive board, and state associations of conservation districts may submit proposed by-law amendments for consideration by the Board at the next full Board Meeting. Proposed amendments must include the date or time at which the amendment would become effective if adopted. Please send any bylaws amendments to me at [jeremy-peters@nacdnnet.org](mailto:jeremy-peters@nacdnnet.org). NACD's current Bylaws can be found on the [Board of Directors webpage](#).



## **Resolutions – December 31, 2021 Deadline – [Resolutions Submissions LINK](#)**

The NACD Bylaws also provide that state associations, region boards, national foundation committees, and the executive board may propose new resolutions to be considered by the full board at an Annual Meeting. The policy development process is described in detail in the attached paper and on the [Board of Directors webpage](#). This briefing paper provides information on what type of resolutions will be considered by the national board, how to prepare resolutions, and how they are handled. **If you are a new Board Member or new state association Executive Director, we would highly encourage you to review this document.** In order for a resolution to be presented to the NACD Board, the sponsor(s) must meet the requirements on pages 3-4 of this document. Although the deadline for submitting resolutions for the 2022 Annual Meeting is December 31, 2021 your submissions are appreciated as early as possible. As in past years, only those associations whose annual meetings are held in January 2022 will be able to submit resolutions later if done so promptly.

## **Region Work Plans:**

- Most states are reviewing plans
- Inter-region communications are a huge opportunity for the region and may be a good focus for 2022.
- We will revisit the work plans and plan to finalize at the next bi-monthly region meeting: Jan. 4, 2022

## **Resource Policy Group (RPG) Updates:**

- **Invasive Species** – reviewing sunset policies and potentially submitting a new policy on national issues of feral animals.
- **Tribal Outreach and Partnerships** – finalizing work plan; Larry recently attended annual conference of Indian Nations Conservation Alliance, with opportunity to network and learn about tribal rangeland issues.
- **Coastal RPG** – Laws of the Seas Treaty is something that Alaska is looking in to. RPG has been conducting interviews with states to learn more about coastal issues, a few states remain (AK, HI), and the RPG is also looking for feedback from tribal conservation districts.
- **Forestry RPG** – Webinars on Nov. 18: invasive species and climate change
- **Urban and Community RPG** – Monthly Urban and Community Webinars have a new time – 1 PM Pacific. [Urban Ag Conservation Grants](#) will open today, so please also promote those widely

## **Insurance platform:**

- Members who pay dues at the \$775 level or higher to NACD will have access to a platform for insurance services through Mercer as of Oct. 4
- **More information available online: <https://nacd.mercerindigo.com/home>**

## **Dates:**

- Forestry and Urban [Webinars](#), Nov. 18, 2021
- [Friends of NACD Grants](#) due Nov. 30, 2021
- [NACD Annual Meeting](#), Orlando, FL, Feb. 12-16, 2022
- [Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants](#) due Jan. 31, 2022
- NACD Summer Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 16-20, 2022
- NACD Pacific Region Meeting, Maui, Hawaii, likely September



## **NACD Staff Updates:**

- ***New Staff:*** NACD has hired several new individuals over the last month. Please feel free to reach out to welcome to them to NACD, and/or learn more about their roles!
  - Mariah MacKenzie, [@Mariah MacKenzie](#), Government Affairs Associate
  - Carly Long, [@Carly Long](#), Marketing Coordinator
  - Jen Nelligan, [@Jennifer Nelligan](#), Chief Partnerships Officer
  - Annica McGuirk, [@Annica McGuirk](#), Northeast Region Representative
  - Terrence Curtiss, Director of Membership
- ***Staff Departures and Changes:***
  - Rich Duesterhaus will now serve as a Senior Advisor
  - Keith Owen will now serve as Director of Education
- ***Open Positions: Please promote to anyone who may be interested:*** <https://www.nacdnet.org/get-involved/careers-and-internships/>
  - South Central Region Representative
  - Stewardship and Education Coordinator