

# Engineering – New Area Draft Process



WSCC Regular Meeting, March 21, 2024

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# LET'S GET CAUGHT UP

- Engineering area program was first implemented in 1999.
- Established 9 areas – composed of various CDs.
- The number of areas has not changed - composition and host duties have varied
- A process for establishing a new engineering area had not been developed

# HOW WE GOT HERE TODAY

- Spring 2023, a request to create a new area was made.
- At the time, the engineering guidelines were being updated
- Commissioners requested a survey be sent to CDs.
- July 2023 meeting, guidelines were approved, but a request for more work on formation of new areas was requested.

Forming a Cooperating Engineering Area - Currently, the number of cooperative engineering areas is capped at nine until further work is concluded to establish a set process and criteria by which to evaluate requests to form a new engineering area or reorganize existing engineering areas.

## SURVEY QUESTION & RESPONSE

*Currently, there are 9 organized cooperative engineering areas (engineering areas) in Washington. Does your district support the formation of new cooperative engineering areas in the state? Why or Why not?*

13 answered Yes, 9 answered No, 3 did not answer.

# DRAFT PROCESS

New section to the Engineering Guidelines – Forming a Cooperating Engineering Area

*A minimum of 4-conservation districts is required for a new engineering area. Current engineering areas with less than 4 districts would continue. For all other engineering areas, if the engineering area falls below 4 districts, the engineering area has a one year grace period to get back to 4 cooperating districts. If after one year this has not occurred, the Commission reserves the right to halt grant funds.*

# DRAFT PROCESS

- New Section 1 – New Cooperating Engineering Area Development Timelines
  - Lays out what the CDs would need to consider for timing
- New Section 2 – Workload Analysis
  - Details information needed to do evaluation
- New Section 3 – Evaluation Criteria used by SCC
  - Provides criteria to approve or deny a new area

# REQUESTED ACTION

A motion to approve sending revised guidelines to CDs for 45-day review and comment





Thank you! Questions?



Washington State  
**Conservation Commission**