

FOOD POLICY FORUM UPDATE



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
OF WASHINGTON STATE
your window to healthy lands

*WSCC Regular Meeting
September 17, 2020*

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BACKGROUND

The Food Policy Forum was established in 2016 by budget proviso establishing as co-leads the SCC, WSDA, and OFP.

Recent legislation during the 2020 session put the Forum in the SCC statute.

In March of this year, the Governor's office asked the Forum to examine the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our state's food system.



BACKGROUND

This report, the *Early Action Implementation Report*, was completed in July.

The Commission was briefed on the report and its implications for conservation districts and the Commission at the May Commission meeting.

Now the report is completed, staff are moving to the implementation phase.



NEXT STEPS

Forum members have been divided into four groups, each assigned one of the opportunity challenge areas:

Challenge #1: COVID-19 threatens both the near and long-term economic viability of individual agriculture and food enterprises; these businesses need appropriate relief and relevant services to continue to remain economically viable and operational as they pivot to serve new market and operating demands during the pandemic and beyond.



NEXT STEPS

Challenge #2: COVID-19 public health responses resulted in transformational shifts in the food system requiring systems-level supports and investment to maintain the functional capacity and flexibility of our food system to meet immediate needs and build resiliency for an uncertain future.



NEXT STEPS

Challenge #3: COVID-19 has increased the need for nutrition services and assistance due to massive unemployment and economic insecurity for Washingtonians.

Challenge #4: COVID-19 underscores the need to foster resilience in the face of a changing climate to ensure long-term food security.



NEXT STEPS

The attached document describes the process these groups will be using to review the list of recommendations in each challenge area and identify specific actions to implement the recommendation. Results are expected at the end of October.

This will allow us to have a list of Forum recommended actions in time for legislative consideration should any of the recommendations require legislative action.





Thank you!

Contact me...

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