



# ASOTIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Assisting, protecting, and restoring Asotin County's natural resources.



*The Dirt is intended to provide a monthly summary of recent activities and inform you of upcoming events and important information. We have other mailing lists that target specific land uses or topics and communications are sent throughout the year. If you are interested in receiving additional information from ACCD, please contact us at [info@asotincd.org](mailto:info@asotincd.org) or 509-552-8117.*

## **WELCOME TO THE ACCD TEAM KODIE WIGHT**

Kodie joined the ACCD team on May 17<sup>th</sup> as a Resource Technician. She will be responsible for implementing the District cost-share program, providing coordination for the weed control programs and assisting with environmental compliance requirements for projects. Kodie earned a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Resources from the University of Idaho and has most recently been working with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. She has a diverse background focusing mostly on habitat management. In her free time, Kodie likes to hike, fish, kayak and spend time with her family. She grew up on a farm in St. Maries, Idaho which has influenced her love for conservation.

## **BACK TO THE OFFICE!!!**

May marks the 14<sup>th</sup> month that the majority of ACCD staff has been telecommuting due to COVID restrictions. We want to thank everyone for their patience and willingness to work with us on a remote basis. We are excited to share the good news. The District board approved COVID Workplace Procedures which allow all employees return to the office! Starting June 1<sup>st</sup> all staff will be back under one roof but the office will remain closed to the public. We hope to welcome members of the community into our office again in the near future. Our focus is to continue provided support to our cooperators while promoting public safety.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENT**

We have missed seeing the cooperators and it was with much regret we cancelled the 2021 ACCD Annual Meeting in March. We are excited to announce ACCD will host a public outreach event to kick off some very important activities that will be taking place in the new fiscal year and introduce the Grande Ronde Geomorphic Assessment and Conceptual Restoration Plan. The event will take place June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm at the Asotin County Fire District #1. More details will be coming soon...

## **GRANDE RONDE PLANNING EFFORTS**

The Grande Ronde geomorphic assessment and conceptual restoration plan draft documents are available for review and comment. The assessment and conceptual restoration plan will provide the District with valuable information to guide decision for future project selection and funding requests that focus on ESA list fish species. We are requesting comments or questions be submitted as soon as

possible to finalize the documents by the end of June. The drafts can be found on the ACCD website at <https://asotincd.org/geomorphic-watershed-assessments>.

#### **VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PLAN**

The Asotin County Voluntary Stewardship Plan five-year report was submitted in December 2020 and the review process was finalized in April 2021. On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Washington State Conservation Commission Director sent a letter to Asotin County concurring with the assertion made by the County workgroup that it is meeting the VSP work plan goals. Now we will be focusing on implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the critical areas for another five years. As a key piece to preparation for the next five-year report that is due in December 2025, ACCD staff will be developing an inventory of the critical areas in Asotin County to provide a 2021 evaluation of the critical area conditions. We will be contacting landowners to gather data regarding land uses as well as gain access to priority locations for monitoring.

#### **UPCOMING DATES**

- Non-Worked Holiday - Monday May 31<sup>st</sup> in observance of Memorial Day.
- Next Monthly Board Meeting: June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm – In person and virtual options available. The meeting link is available upon request.

#### **FUN FACT!**

Juvenile steelhead leaving Asotin Creek travel 470 miles through the Snake and Columbia Rivers to reach the Pacific Ocean.