



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 or 509-552-8117.

This is the last monthly update for 2021! We appreciate all the cooperators who engaged in conservation this year. If you have an outstanding project that should be finished by the end of the year, it is not too late to submit invoices. We are excited to announce an addition to the ACCD Team. Brooke Chase joined us earlier this month. We had a great year and are looking forward to what 2022 has to offer.

NEW EMPLOYEE

Hello! My name is Brooke Chase, and I am the new program assistant for the Big Horn Sheep Health Outreach Program. I will be graduating from LCSC in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in biology, minors in chemistry and natural science. Growing up in the valley with a family of outdoor enthusiasts, I have experienced and enjoyed many of the activities our native landscape offers. Being a part of a program that helps conserve and protect wildlife is the reason I chose this career pathway. There is no better place to do that, than the place that I call home! I cannot wait to dive in and work with the community members on this project and look forward to meeting all of you in person.

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

ACCD was awarded a grant by the Department of Ecology that will start January 1, 2022. The funding will target projects that protect and enhance riparian conditions and water quality. If you are interested in more information or implementing a project, contact us at 509-552-8117 or by email at info@asotincd.org.

The Conservation District and Weed Board are excited to announce the 2022 Weed Control Programs that will be available.

The 2022 Cost-Share program is available for all Class B and C weeds. Treatment of Russian thistle is also eligible. There are two options available, but landowners may only participate in one of the options. Ground application will be 50% cost-share not to exceed a payment of \$50.00 per acre with a cap of \$400 per landowner. The Aerial applications will be 50% cost-share not to exceed a payment of \$25.00 per acre with a cap of \$1,250 per landowner. To apply for the cost-share program, applicants need to submit a map identifying the location of the treatment, number of acres that will be treated and

weeds that will be sprayed. If you need assistance with weed identification, ACCD technical staff can assist you. Acres enrolled in CRP, CREP and CCRP or acres in a cropping rotation are not eligible for the program. Landowners must have a weed management checklist and plan completed with ACCD to be eligible for cost-share.

There will also be funding available for the Early Detection, Rapid Response program. This program targets all Class A weeds and the following Class B weeds: orange hawkweed, meadow hawkweed, spotted knapweed, Japanese knotweed, and white bryony. This program covers 100% of the costs for treatment by a consulting contractor or conservation crew provided by ACCD. New this year, we will also provide reimbursement of 100% of the chemical cost if the landowner treats the weeds themselves. Landowners must provide written consent/agreement for treatment and allow monitoring of the infestation prior to treatment.

HOME IGNITION ZONE ASSESSMENTS

The district will be able to do “Firewise” type home assessments this fall and winter. Research around home destruction vs. home survival in wildfires point to embers and small flames as the main way that most homes ignite in wildfires. There are procedures for homeowners to prepare their homes to withstand ember attacks and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire reaching the home or any attachments. ACCD will plan to do a minimum of 10 homes (forested and rangeland/rural urban interface). Contact us if you’d like a free home assessment!

WEED CONTROL BOARD NEWS

The 2022 meeting schedule has been set for the Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board. Meetings are held at 6:00 pm at the ACCD office and a virtual option is available upon request.

- February 15
- April 19
- June 21
- August 16
- October 18
- December 20

There are two vacant positions of the Weed Board. If you live in (District 1) Peola or (District 3) Asotin Flat and would like to apply for an open position, please contact Megan Stewart at the Conservation District at 509-552-8100 or email weeds@asotincd.org

NRCS UPDATE

March is only three months away! That also marks the beginning of the sign-up period for CSP! Please contact Mitch and Angela for more information about CSP opportunities.

BUILDING FUTURE PROFESSIONALS AND A CONSERVATION NETWORK

On December 1, 2021, ACCD Conservation Planner, Lacy Ausman-Ditto was invited to host a virtual-lecture for the Washington State University Restoration Ecology class. Students learned about the Asotin County Conservation District’s programs and in-stream habitat projects, explored low-tech restoration strategies, and discovered local opportunities for careers in conservation. Over 40 resource management students were in attendance for the virtual lecture, and the District was thrilled to participate in educating future natural resource professionals and expanding our network of conservation partners.

*If you are interested in hosting an outreach event with District Staff, please contact:

jennifer@asotincd.org

UPCOMING DATES

- December 24th Christmas Eve – Office Closed
- January 31st New Year's Eve – Office Closed
- **Monthly Board Meeting: January 6th at 12pm** – In person and virtual options available. *The meeting link is available upon request.*

FUN FACT!

Clarkston was first settled in 1862 by Robert Bracken and was officially incorporated on August 14, 1902. Before becoming an official town, the area was called Jawbone Flats. The name Clarkston is a reference to William Clark, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition fame.