

The Dirt!



April 2020



ASOTIN COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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

National Arbor Day

April 24, 2020

Whereas, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.



ACCD office is currently closed due to safety of health concerns from COVID-19.

Please check our website for future updates. We will continue to telecommute during this time, please view our [staff page](#) for specific contact information.

If you do have a pressing matter you may call 509-552-8117 or email info@asotincd.org. We apologize for the inconvenience, but we are committed to continue District operations to the best of our abilities during this uncertain time.

Thank you for your patience.

18th Annual Tree & Shrub Sale

Thank you for your support!



We still have a small quantity of trees and shrubs available at discounted rates. Contact Megan or Jennifer for more information.





The Importance of Mountain Snowpack to Water Resources

In climate & environment, footprints 10/12/2018



Snowpack that collects on mountains is vital to the water resources of the United States, but also to the waterways and water supplies around the world. As mountain snowpack melts, it slowly releases water into streams, rivers and lakes. Although snowmelt supplies up to 50 percent of the world's freshwater and around 75 percent of water to the American West, snowpacks are becoming less reliable because of climate change.

How Mountains Act As Natural Water Towers

Mountains can be called natural "water towers" because they are vital headwaters to many rivers and other freshwater sources. This freshwater arrives from melting snow that produces streamflow that winds up in streams, rivers, lakes and eventually oceans. This meltwater can also replenish aquifers. In total, mountain meltwater and runoff account for more than 50 percent of the world's freshwater. From the Himalayas in Asia to the Alps in Europe to the Rockies in North America, high-elevation-mountains are all important sources of water to the billions of people in the lowlands.

The Relationship Between Snowpack and Snowmelt

Even though it seems straightforward, the relationship between snowpack and snowmelt runoff is complex. Snow accumulates in the cold winter months to form the snowpack, which thaws during the spring and early summer, and the subsequent snowmelt produces the streamflow that fills rivers and lakes below. The amount of snow that accumulates depends on such factors as moisture content of the soil, air temperature, precipitation patterns, storm frequency, the number of plants in the area and their water use, and how much snow runoff feeds groundwater. Not only are these factors in constant flux, the location (geography) makes a significant difference in how these factors play out. For instance, before snowpack builds in the cold months, the amount of moisture stored in soil by early winter determines the amount of runoff available, since dry soils tend to absorb more water than moist soils.

Another major consideration regarding the amount of water runoff that comes from snow is its texture (the structure of the snow) and density (the amount of water per unit volume of snow). While "powder" or "dry snow" is prime snow for skiing, it does not contain as much water moisture as "wet snow." Air temperature and air moisture determine the dryness or wetness of the snow. Deeper snowpack and wetter snow both increase density and compress lower layers. This compression changes the crystalline structure of snowpack. Both density and structure help regulate how quickly the snowpack melts and how much water runs off.

<https://www.watercalculator.org/footprint/importance-mountain-snowpack-water/>

Important Dates & Reminders for ACCD, NRCS & FSA

- ACCD Board meeting on May 7th at 7 p.m. (format to be determined)
- Do you need to burn? Don't forget your permit!
- Please contact Zack to complete your Ag Stewardship Checklist

