

The Dirt

19th Annual Tree Sale

The Asotin County Conservation District is kicking off the annual tree and shrub sale. There are limited quantities available for certain species. In the past, we have sold out of some trees quickly! Order early to ensure you get the species and quantities you want. **We will be conducting our sale by pre-orders only this year.**

Attached is an order form. Simply fill out the form, mail it back or drop it by our office to the drop box with your payment no later than March 23, 2021 at 4:30 pm. **Please have exact change if paying in cash; checks are also accepted (we do not have the ability to take debit/credit cards).** Please make sure you fill out the entire contact information section (including phone number) on the order form. **Your trees will be packaged and ready for you to pick up on March 25th and March 26th (9 am to 4:30 pm).**



Tree order form and species information can be found on our website <https://asotincd.org/tree-sale>



ACCD Board of Supervisors Election

The Asotin County Conservation District will be conducting the 2021 mail-in only election for an open position on the District Board of Supervisors. A conservation district supervisor is a public official who; serves without compensation, sets district policy, and provides direction for the conservation district.

The election will be held on Thursday, March 18, 2021 and closes at 4:30 pm. Eligible voters are registered voters who reside within the Asotin County Conservation District boundaries. Because this election will be held by mail-in/drop-off voting, ballots are available by request only. Ballots must be requested from the District by February 25, 2021 at 4:30 pm. Ballots can be requested by phone, mail, or email. All information regarding the election can be found on the District website at <https://asotincd.org/elections>.

Phone: 509-552-8117

Email: info@asotincd.org

Mail: 720 Sixth Street, Suite B, Clarkston, WA 99403



Spawning of Steelhead

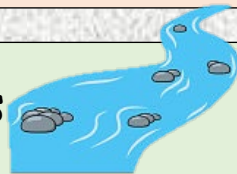
Steelhead have started the process of swimming back upstream in preparation of spawning. Resource technician, Amanda Schmidt was able to capture these photos on lower Cottonwood Creek in a CREP contract. Spring is spawning season for Idaho's steelhead. These fish make an incredible journey to reach their home streams to spawn. Sometimes, it is not their first trip home.

Young steelhead live in Idaho for one to five winters. When they get big enough, they make their way to the ocean where they pass eight dams in the Snake and Columbia rivers. In the ocean, steelhead head immediately offshore sometimes as far as the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia on the far side of the North Pacific! When they return to Idaho, they have to swim farther and climb higher than any other steelhead, passing the same eight dams again.



For some steelhead, the journey doesn't stop there. Unlike salmon, steelhead can survive spawning and return to the ocean. If they survive in the ocean and return to spawn again, they are called repeat spawners. At that point, they will have passed a dam 32 times in their lives. Outwardly, they look like any other steelhead, but the stress of spawning leaves marks like ragged scars on their scales. If they are tagged with a [PIT-tag](#), detections of that tag let us track them when they on their second spawning migration. (<https://idfg.idaho.gov/blog/2020/04/repeat-spawning-steelhead-amazing-adventure>)

George Creek Watershed Planning Efforts



The Asotin County Conservation District will be launching a planning effort for the George Creek Watershed. The ultimate goal of this planning process is to identify and address resource concerns to protect and enhance natural resources for the watershed as a whole. This will serve as the foundation for project implementation in this area for the next 10 years.

During 2020, we reached out to the WA Department of Fish & Wildlife about developing a Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRM) in Asotin County. The CRM will focus on watershed based natural resource planning and project implementation. We will identify resource concerns and the CRM team will explore project and practices that are available to address those concerns on both public and private property.

ACCD completed a geomorphic assessment and conceptual restoration plan for 5 watersheds in Asotin County in 2018, which included George Creek. That assessment focused on habitat actions for stream reaches that are identified for anadromous fish, primarily steelhead.



The restoration strategy that will be developed in this planning process will build off of that information by identifying additional stream reaches that are priorities for restoration activities. This will include the headwaters and small tributaries where restoration actions will provide support to the downstream reaches. Appropriate sequencing for projects will provide a "road map" for project implementation and help us engage landowners while securing funding for projects.

The strategy will identify project needs in all area of the watershed utilizing the ridge-top to ridge-top approach. All landowners in the George Creek watershed are welcome and encouraged to engage in this process. All projects are implemented on a voluntary basis and we strive to implement projects that will benefit natural resources while maintaining agriculture viability. For more information, please reach out to Megan Stewart or Brad Riehle.

Fun Fact!



Northern Scorpion *Vejovis boreus* (Girard) is the species found in the PNW region on dry southwest slopes. They can be locally common but are rarely seen. The species is nocturnal like most scorpions but enter warm places in the cool days of fall to hibernate. The Northern Scorpion is not known to sting humans. The venom of this small (30 mm) species is mild, but allergic reactions are possible from any venom. Scorpions hunt and feed on insects and other small prey they can handle with their Chelicerae (claws). The sting injects a dose of paralyzing venom similar to that of spiders. They are very beneficial animals but are innocuous due to their rarity. This specimen was found in a grocery store in Pomeroy, WA.

- ACCD Board Mtg. March 11th at 7 pm
- Tree Sale Pickup March 25-26th, 9am – 4:30pm