

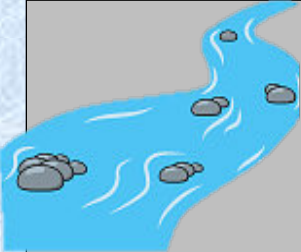
# The Dirt

## Cottonwood Creek Construction

Construction is finally complete at Cottonwood Creek to remove a fish passage barrier at the crossing of Cottonwood Creek and Grande Ronde Road.

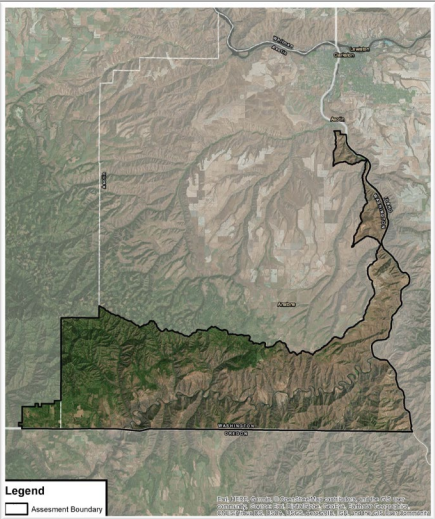


The fish passage barrier had limited access to spawning and rearing habitat for native salmonids, including Endangered Species Act-listed (ESA) Steelhead within Cottonwood Creek. The existing culvert was removed and replaced with a three-sided concrete box culvert on footings.



## Grande Ronde Geomorphic Assessment Update

The assessment and conceptual restoration plan will provide the District with information to help guide decisions for future priorities and funding requests, especially that focuses on ESA listed fish species.



The Draft Lower Grande Ronde Geomorphic Assessment and Restoration Prioritization is complete and ready for technical review. Following technical review, it will be made available for public comment. Expect to see a draft available for public comment and landowner meetings later this fall. Please be watching for additional information, we are encouraging landowners to be engaged in the process.



## NEW! NEW! NEW EMPLOYEE!

Dr. Lauren Christensen is a large animal veterinarian providing consulting services to the Bighorn Sheep Health project at ACCD. Dr. Christensen received her DVM from Kansas State University and went on to work in private practice as well as traveling throughout the country working for her family's veterinary consulting practice. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Animal Science at the University of Idaho. She enjoys community outreach and working with local 4-H and FFA groups. In her spare time, Lauren is usually camping or fishing with her dog and her boyfriend, Matt.





# Wildfire Preparedness



Wildfire season is in full-swing in the PNW Region, and even though this is a natural part of Asotin County ecosystems, it can still make many landowners feel helpless. There are several steps you can take to prepare your property and reduce your risk of losing structures in the event of a wildfire. Call your friendly neighborhood forestry technician with the Asotin County Conservation District for more information, or to get your forest-health assessment at no cost. You can also check out the WA Department of Natural Resources website anytime for more information: [www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov).

- **Maintain your defensible space** by limiting the amount of flammable vegetation within 100 feet of your home and fortify your home with flammable-resistant building materials to prevent the entrance of embers into vents/eaves.
- **Rake and clear all flammable vegetation**, leaves, and pine needles from roof, below decks, near structures, and near propane tanks often. Keep woodpiles at least 30 feet away from home and outbuildings.



- **Remove all branches that extend over roof**, and any trees or shrubs closer within 5-feet of structures. Use crushed rock and fire-resistant landscaping instead of flammable mulches within 0-5 feet of structures.
- **Remove fuel-ladders** (flammable vegetation which builds up below trees and connects ground-fires to the crowns of trees) by pruning tree branches so that the lowest limbs are 6-10 feet above the ground. Removing any buildup of dry vegetation or intruding young trees below mature trees.
- **Increase spacing between trees** so their crowns do not touch each other and keep all trees within 100 feet of structures well maintained. Within 30 feet of structures, trees should have a minimum spacing of 18 feet between their crowns.
- **Clear all standing dead vegetation** in lawn and pastures near your home regularly, especially before the dry season begins.



## FUN FACTS!

How small is Asotin County? According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has an area of 641 square miles of which 636 square miles is land and 4.4 square miles (0.7%) is water. It is the fifth-smallest county in Washington by area. The boundary for Asotin Co. has remained unchanged since 1883.



## Featured Photos

Attention all Asotin County landowners! Here is your chance to show off your fun and creative photography skills. Each month we will feature one of your photos!

Email us your favorite outdoor, landscape, or livestock photos that were taken in Asotin County to [info@asotincd.org](mailto:info@asotincd.org). Please provide your name and a brief description.

