



*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.*

#### **2022 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION**

The ACCD election was conducted on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Eligible voters have “unofficially” re-elected Levi Luhn for another three-year term. The election will become official when the Washington State Conservation Commission certifies the election results at their May Commission meeting.

#### **2022 NOXIOUS WEED LIST**

Every year the WA Noxious Weed Control Board updates their weed list per public participation proposals from WA residents. The Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board makes changes to the Asotin Co. list that reflect the state’s changes. A public comment period was open to all county residents; no comments were made during this time. The ACNWCB formally adopted the 2022 Asotin County Noxious Weed list on February 22, 2022. The list can be viewed here: <https://asotincd.org/weed-control/>.

#### **NOXIOUS WEED HIGHLIGHT**

Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus bifrons*) – Class C noxious weed: Control is recommended. It is found all throughout Washington, including Asotin County, often growing in riparian areas, fields, pastures, and roadsides. Early detection is key to prevent invasion. Perennial, woody shrub with stems and leaves that contain thorns. Blackberries grow into large impenetrable thickets. It outcompetes native understory vegetation and forms dense thickets. These dense thickets are impassable to wildlife and livestock. Increases flooding potential and can take over stream channels and banks.

#### **DOE GRANT**

The District secured a \$250,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology to work with landowners to plan and implement best management practices and projects to reduce water quality issues in streams throughout Asotin County. The projects eligible include streambank stabilization, riparian buffer implementation and enhancement, livestock exclusion, off-stream watering, and instream structures. Landowners interested in learning more about project opportunities should contact the District.

### **HOME IGNITION ZONE ASSESSMENTS**

The response to our home ignition zone assessments has been incredible! We will continue to complete additional assessments as requested. If you received a post card from ACCD, contact us today! It truly takes an entire community's effort to lower the risk of wildfire to communities.

### **SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM**

For the 2021-2022 school year, there are nine fish tanks setup throughout schools in Asotin County. This means we have over 1,000 fish in the fry stage currently. The fish (rainbow trout) have been thriving for the last two months while students dive deep into learning about the salmonid life cycle. This special learning experience also helps students understand why watershed health is extremely important.

### **PALS STAGING IN PROGRESS**

As the snow begins to break in the mountains and the creeks begin to increase flow in the lower watersheds, we are ramping up for our summer 2022 Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration work in Couse Creek, Tenmile Creek, and Lick Creek. Materials are being staged near habitat-restoration project areas to be built into the streams as Post-Assisted Log Structures (aka: PALS) for Steelhead habitat. The PALS will be constructed during the "fish in-water work window" this summer. Right now, adult Steelhead are using the streams for spawning, and young smolts are making their way down to the Snake River to begin their journey to the ocean. To reduce any potential negative impacts to fish, the Asotin County in-water work window begins in mid-July, when Steelhead are much less active in the watersheds.

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### **UPCOMING DATES**

- **Monthly Board Meeting: April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** – In person and virtual options available. *The meeting link is available upon request.*

### **FUN FACT!**

Not only does Washington have the #1 apple and cherry crops, but the #1 hop and spearmint crops! In 2017 Washington produced 65% of the U.S. hop crop and 62% of the spearmint crop in the U.S.