



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.

❖ **NEW PROJECT FUNDS**

July 1st marked the beginning of the new fiscal year and new funding! Now is the opportune time to think about new projects, whether it is a new windbreak, a water development, or a riparian project, we can help. Come talk to us so we can help you get the planning underway!

❖ **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:** Sustainable Farms and Fields Program

The District has the opportunity to apply for a Sustainable Farms and Fields grant from the Washington State Conservation Commission. Funding is available for fall 2023 and spring 2024 plantings.

Eligible practices include:

- **Cover Crop**
- **Pasture/Hayland Planting**
- **Windbreaks**

If you are interested contact:

Tony: 509-552-2615, tony@asotincd.org or Brad: 509-552-8121, brad@asotincd.org

❖ **COUGAR CREEK FISH PASSAGE**

Construction for the Cougar Creek fish passage barrier is set to begin next week! Replacement of the existing metal culvert will restore accessibility to approximately 2.25 miles of habitat for Steelhead within the watershed. Replacement of the culvert passage will also significantly increase stream flow. The existing culvert currently is underneath the Grande Ronde Road connecting into the Grande Ronde River. The culvert was identified in 2008 as a barrier to ESA Snake River Steelhead by a Walla Walla Community College Road Crossing Barrier Assessment and included in a Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) Inventory Assessment in 2016. There will be a bypass road completed to keep the flow of traffic and minimize delays for people traveling in the area. This project will complete the final significant fish passage needed in the lower Grande Ronde River Watershed.

❖ **BIO-CONTROLS ON NOXIOUS WEEDS**

Over the last week, ACCD and the Asotin Co. Noxious Weed Control Board have been able to distribute 4,500 yellow starthistle weevils to landowners. The weevils allow for an eco-friendly attack on terminating noxious weeds. The bio-controls were collected by the Nez Perce Tribe Bio-Control Center in Lapwai. If you are interested in receiving bio-controls for yellow starthistle, rush skeleton, Canada thistle, poison hemlock, or puncturevine in the future, contact Kodie: kodie@asotincd.org or 509-552-8119.

❖ **FIRE MITIGATION**

Land use planning can reduce wildfire risk by helping communities grow and develop with wildfire in mind. Land use planning tools such as zoning, plans, regulations, and building codes can influence the design, layout, and placement of homes built in wildfire-prone areas.

Land use planning measures are diverse and can be customized to fit the needs of the neighborhood, community, or county. For example, land use planning regulations can require defensible space in the home ignition zone, adequate water supply, road widths and access, and home hardening materials for homes built in high wildfire hazard areas.

❖ **FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE POSITION**

FSA is currently taking nominations for our local County Committee. The FSA committee is a paid position. The elected officials apply their knowledge and judgement to help administer FSA programs. The area of consideration is LAA 3 which is the north section of Asotin County. Mike Becker is currently holding this position and is eligible for re-election. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else, please contact the Clarkston FSA office for a list of eligible producers and/or a nomination form.

UPCOMING DATES

- **ACCD Monthly Board Meeting: August 10th at 6pm**

FUN FACT!

In addition to preventing helpful nutrients from leaving the soil, cover crops also suppress weeds, fix nitrogen, reduces surface crusting, and even disrupt pest cycles.



Newly established and successful cover crop
in Asotin County