



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.

❖ **COUGAR CREEK FISH PASSAGE**

Construction for the Cougar Creek fish passage barrier is officially under construction! Replacement of the existing corrugated culvert will restore accessibility to approximately 2.25 miles of habitat for salmonids within the watershed. Replacement of the culvert passage will also significantly increase stream flow. Block nets were installed, and the stream flow is diverted during construction. Thank you to WDFW staff for leading the fish salvage which removed over 100 juvenile steelhead and chinook from the project area. Chinook spawn in the Grande Ronde but approximately 20 juvenile chinook were in Cougar Creek below the culvert. This tells us that they are utilizing the tributaries for cold water refuge. The replacement of this culvert will allow them access to more of the stream in the future! The major construction should be completed by the end of August with paving and planting completed later in the fall.

❖ **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

- ❖ **Resource Technician:** The duties of this position are to address natural resource issues by working cooperatively with private landowners, district staff, and state, local, and federal agencies to implement Best Management Practices (BMP's), implement conservation plans, provide technical assistance, and collect and analyze natural resource data. This position's primary responsibility will be coordinating the District's Bighorn Sheep Health Outreach Program and Non-Commercial Small Farm Program. Funding for this position is subject to availability and successful attainment of grant money.
- ❖ **Monitoring Specialist:** The duties of this position are to implement natural resource monitoring in Asotin County. Monitoring includes the collection, analysis, reporting, and presentation of natural resource and Best Management Practice (BMP) data. This position's primary responsibilities will be monitoring and reporting for the Voluntary Stewardship Program and district implemented projects. Funding for this position is subject to availability and successful attainment of grant money.

To apply for either open position, visit our website - <https://asotincd.org/employment-2/>

❖ **WSDA COMPOST PROGRAM**

The Washington State Legislature has allocated grant funding to reimburse Washington farmers for purchasing and spreading compost on their land. The Compost Reimbursement Program aims to encourage on-farm use of commercial compost. For eligible farms, the program will pay up to 50% of the cost to obtain, transport, and spread compost, not to exceed \$10,000, per farm per year.

The program also studies the benefits of compost application on soil quality. Farms participating in the program are required to collect and submit soil samples for several years from fields where compost was applied. Soil sample collection prior to compost application is required for participation. WSDA will analyze and evaluate the results of the soil samples over time for department reporting requirements.

Farms must sign a grant agreement contract with WSDA to participate in the program. All program records and data are subject to public disclosure.

<https://agr.wa.gov/departments/land-and-water/natural-resources/soil-health/compost-reimbursement/how-to-apply>

UPCOMING DATES

- **ACCD Closed: Labor Day Holiday: *Monday, September 4th***
- **ACCD Monthly Board Meeting: *September 7th at 6pm***

FUN FACT!

The Cougar Creek road culvert is the last significant fish barrier to be removed on the Grande Ronde River in WA!



Construction on Cougar Creek fish passage