



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.

❖ **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

The Asotin County Conservation District is seeking a **Restoration Crew Leader** to join our team. This will be a full-time, hourly position. The person in this position will work closely with landowners, ACCD professional staff, and partners to implement restoration projects. The crew leader provides direction for the restoration crew members. Starting compensation is \$25.00 per hour DOQ/DOE plus a competitive benefit package. (Wage Range 4 - \$19.74 to \$36.49)

Job description and ACCD application instructions are available on our website at www.asotincd.org

❖ **INSTREAM PROJECTS**

- Kelly Creek PA-45: In-Stream Habitat Restoration Project construction kicked off in September, which will improve conditions for ESA listed Snake River Summer Steelhead migration, spawning and rearing. This project will result in the implementation of 80-100 Post-Assisted Log-Structures (aka: PALS) to restore approximately 7,300 feet of stream channel in Kelly Creek. Structures will provide new channel complexity, create pools, increase water-holding capacity and increase habitat diversity for Summer Steelhead within 2-3 flow cycles. All woody materials for this project were sourced from local wildfire fuel-reduction projects in Asotin County. Improving wildfire conditions in the headwaters will help protect the rest of the watershed as we continue our mission to improve and protect fish habitat throughout our county!

❖ **NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

September is National Preparedness Month. At this time of year people come together as a community to prioritize safety and readiness for unforeseen challenges. From disasters caused by natural hazards to man-made emergencies, being prepared is the key to protecting ourselves, our families, our property, and our homes. Preparing for natural disasters can greatly reduce the risks to health and the environment. Hurricanes or floods can contaminate drinking water sources. Forest fires or volcanoes harm air quality. Tornadoes or earthquakes, by damaging factories or storage facilities, can release contaminants where people live or into the environment. (<https://www.epa.gov/natural-disasters/general-information-disasters>)

❖ **NOXIOUS WEED SPOTLIGHT**

Ventenata (*Ventenata dubia*) is an invasive winter annual grass that is listed as a class C species in Washington state. Stems are usually hairy and grow 4 to 18 inches long. Nodes are hairy and appear reddish black in the late spring. It has rolled or folded leaves and membranous ligules. Awns are typically bent and twisted. Ventenata contains silica making it poor forage but is not known to be toxic. It has a shallow root system, like many other annual grass species and may cause soil to be prone to erosion and lead to decline of land conditions. Seeds remain viable in the seedbank for approximately 3 to 4 years.

Manual removal is possible with small populations when plants are young. There are no approved biological control agents and grazing is not recommended as a management practice because livestock tend to avoid it. Prescribed fire can be used to reduce plant biomass and aid in a more successful herbicide treatment. Pre-emergent herbicides are effective and show long term control. Pre-emergent herbicide recommendations include indaziflam (Rejuvra) and flufenacet + metribuzin (Axiom DF). Post-emergent herbicide recommendations include imazpic (Plateau or Panoramic) and sulfosulfuron

(Outrider). Fall herbicide applications are the most effective for invasive winter annuals. For additional herbicide recommendations, visit the Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks.

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/problem-weeds/wiregrass-african-ventenata-ventenata-dubia>

Ventenata is found in Asotin County in pastures, rangeland, crop fields, and roadsides. It prefers dry, open disturbed areas and is commonly found on south-facing hillsides. If you have any questions, please contact Kodie Wight at (509) 552-8119 or kodie@asotincd.org.



❖ **EQUIPMENT RENTAL**

Even though the mornings are now chilly, it is the perfect time to think about fall chores. Whether your project is big or small, ACCD has the right size equipment available to rent! The goal is to assist livestock producers with manure management projects.

- Large-scale manure trommel
- Large-scale manure spreader
- Small-scale manure spreader

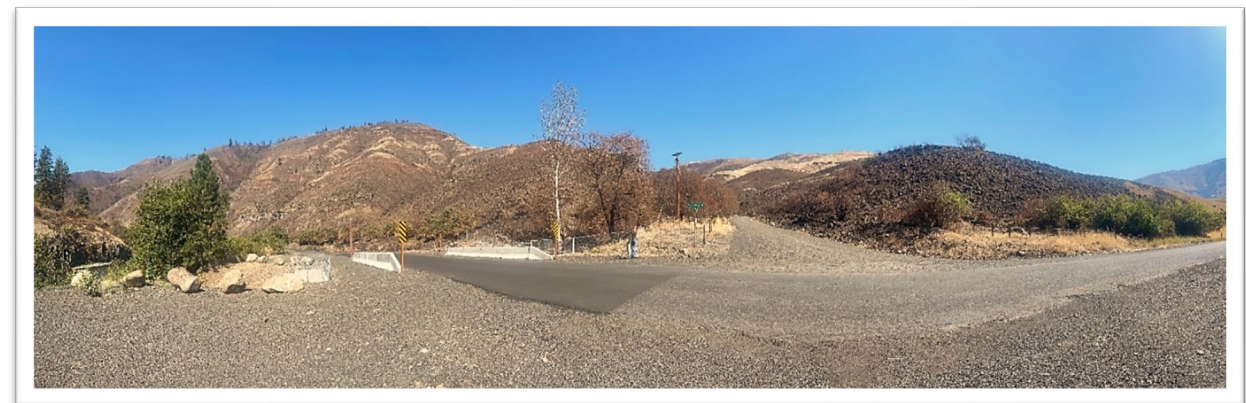
To learn more about our equipment, rental program, and to schedule spring manure spreading, contact Tony Monzingo at 509-552-2615 or tony@asotincd.org

UPCOMING DATES

- **ACCD Board Meeting: *October 10th at 6pm***

FUN FACT!

During winter there is not enough light for photosynthesis to occur, so as the days shorten throughout autumn, the trees begin to close down their food production systems and reduce the amount of chlorophyll in their leaves.



Cougar Creek Fire, Asotin County: post fire recovery