



Equipment installing a livestock bridge made from a re-purposed rail car in a critical spawning stream.

## Steelhead habitat restoration projects in major spawning areas: Supporting fish, livestock and rangeland management.

Conservation of natural resources and responsible land management go hand-in-hand. Livestock producers in Asotin County partnered with the conservation district to implement several instream habitat restoration projects for Steelhead. Projects primarily aim to restore stream conditions for the fish, but are each designed with livestock and agriculture in mind.

Installing a livestock bridge in an important spawning area can protect water quality and wildlife, while also supporting sustainable agricultural operations and rangeland management. The bridge provides a safe, reliable crossing for livestock which allows the producer more flexibility in their range management activities, and keeps the cows from “mucking up” the creek during critical spawning times. Livestock improvements like this last far into the future, and will help sustain Asotin County working lands and our natural resources.

## Asotin County Drought Watch: USDA designates three counties as primary natural disaster areas

Whitman, Garfield and Asotin are now under a primary federal drought designation as portions are now in D3, or “extreme drought” status on the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#). The new designation makes farmers in primary and neighboring counties eligible to apply for federal Farm Service Agency emergency loan assistance. The District is ready to help connect our farmers and producers with available financial resources.



### 2025 Drought Statistics:



<https://www.drought.gov/states/washington/county/asotin>

## Got Manure? We've got you covered.

Take advantage of your compost to super-charge your soil! Manure is a valuable fertilizer for crops and fields, but specialized equipment to screen and spread manure can be tough to find. ACCD has rental equipment available for livestock producers to help with manure management operations, no matter how large or small.

- Equipment Available For Rent:**
- Large-scale manure trommel
  - Large-scale manure spreader
  - Small-scale manure spreader

Contact ACCD today to schedule your rental, or to learn more about manure management:  
(509) 552-8117  
info@asotincd.org



# The Dirt Newsletter

## Noxious Weed Spotlight: Kochia, aka: Fireweed, burning bush



**LISTING STATUS: CLASS B REGULATED NOXIOUS WEED: CONTROL RECOMMENDED.**

### Noxious Weed Profile:

#### *Kochia scoparia, L*

##### Impacts

Potentially toxic to livestock due to the plant's accumulation of nitrates. Reduces crop yields in agricultural fields.

##### Habitat

Typically found in disturbed areas including rangelands, roadsides, ditches, cultivated fields, and waste areas. In Asotin County, it is most commonly found in wintering cattle feeding areas.

##### Identification

- Many branched, erect plant, 1 to 6 ft. tall
- Stems are round, softly hairy and red-tinged
- Leaves lance shaped, fringed edges, 1/2" - 2" long
- Upper side of leaves smooth, underside with soft hairs
- Flowers green and inconspicuous, form dense, hairy clusters
- Flowering and seed production: July to October
- Several flushes of seedlings per year

##### Biology

- Tap rooted summer annual, reproduces via seeds
- One plant can produce up to 14,600 seeds
- Seeds are typically viable for only 1 or 2 years
- Extremely drought tolerant
- Plants break off and roll as tumbleweeds when dead, and spread seeds while tumbling

### How to Control it:

#### Prevention

When any ground disturbing activity occurs, seed/plant the appropriate native vegetation once the work is complete.

#### Manual

Digging/pulling young plants can control small populations.

#### Mechanical

Cultivation works well in controlling Kochia, especially in early spring. Work should begin when the plant is less than a foot tall. Several cultivations will be required throughout the season because of new flushes and germinations. Mowing or slashing the plants before flowering is effective in reducing the seed production, repeat during new flushes and germinations,

#### Chemical

Follow all applicable laws and regulations regarding herbicide use and always follow chemical label instructions for application. Dicamba mixed with Diflufenzopyr or 2,4-D can be effective when applied to actively growing seedlings. Imazapic can provide preemergent and post-emergent control. Glyphosate can be effective as well as a non-selective herbicide.

#### Need help managing your noxious weeds?

Contact the Noxious Weed Board at ACCD:

(509) 552-8119 - [weeds@asotinncd.org](mailto:weeds@asotinncd.org)

## WASHINGTON AND OREGON ISSUE RECALL FOR WILD BIRDSEED CONTAINING PALMER AMARANTH

The WSDA and OSDA issued a recall of "Signature Pet Care Songbird Blend Wild Bird Food 7 LB," sold at Albertsons, Safeway and Haggen stores in WA and OR due to the presence of Palmer Amaranth seeds. Palmer Amaranth was first identified in Washington in 2023 and added to the state noxious weed list as a class A species in 2025. It's also on the Washington State quarantine list and is prohibited to transport, buy, sell, offer for sale, or distribute in the state.

WSNWCB: <https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/palmer-amaranth>



# The Dirt Newsletter

## Special Project:

### Kerri Lynn Johnson Memorial Park: A Community Showcase of Low-Impact Landscaping

Since 1984, the Kerri Lynn Johnson Memorial Park has been a community “green space” and children’s playground at the Asotin County Fairgrounds. ACCD took over management of the park in 2024 to create a community demonstration-garden to showcase the beauty and ease of conservation landscaping.

The park features an assortment of native plants, xeriscaping irrigation and design concepts, pollinator plots with native wildflowers, and a variety of sustainable landscaping materials.

Thanks to generous donations from our community, ACCD purchased and installed new playground equipment in the park to demonstrate how conservation landscaping can serve everyone. Come check out the progress on the garden, and stop by our ACCD booth at the next Asotin County Fair in April, 2026!



Kerri Lynn Johnson Memorial Park: Conservation Garden

## Thank You

The KLJ Memorial Park came to life thanks to contributions from these folks:

- Pat Johnson
- Dave & Mary Browne
- Rod & Debbie Hostetler
- Melinda & Danny Schmadeka
- Justin & Megan Stewart
- Early Bird Supply
- Gateway Materials
- Asotin County Fairboard

## “XERISCAPING”

THE SUPERHERO OF WATER-WISE GARDENING!

IT'S ALL ABOUT USING TOUGH, DROUGHT-LOVING PLANTS, PRECISE WATERING, AND CLEVER DESIGN TRICKS TO TURN YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE INTO A LOW-MAINTENANCE, WATER-SIPPING WONDERLAND.

## Important Upcoming Dates:

- ACCD Board Meeting: October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
- ACNWCB Board Meeting: October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm

## Looking for More Information?

The Dirt newsletter is a monthly summary of recent ACCD activities and to inform you of upcoming events and important information. If you are interested in additional information from ACCD, please contact us at: [info@asotinco.org](mailto:info@asotinco.org) or 509-552-8117



## Fun Fact:

Beef production contributes over \$2.17 billion to Washington State’s economy each year. As of January 2025, there were approximately 1.1 million cattle in Washington State.

Source: Washington State Beef Commission