



October, 2025

www.asotincd.org

Clarkston High School Citizen Scientists Collect Water Quality Data on Couse Creek

For the 5th consecutive year, Clarkston High School Environmental Science students conducted water quality monitoring on Couse Creek, a critical stream for Snake River Steelhead and the location of several high-priority habitat restoration projects. Students learned about stream restoration techniques, water quality, and the value of agriculture and land management as “conservation keystones” of habitat restoration.

CHS students monitored habitat conditions, stream temperatures, dissolved oxygen, pollutants, and surveyed macroinvertebrates. As far as we know, this is the only current-running data set of water quality monitoring on this creek. Data collected by these citizen scientists will help inform decisions regarding future restoration projects.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to the “Queen of CHS Environmental Science,” Lisa Swanson. Her undying love of Asotin County watershed health and her commitment to educating students about local conservation and agriculture has made this project possible.



Photos: CHS Students conducting water quality tests.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

Join us for FREE in-person workshops at the Asotin County Conservation District office to learn about land stewardship, virtual grazing technology, manure management, pasture and rangeland seeding and weeding, protecting water quality, wildlife enhancements, and tips and tricks on how to make your chores around the farm easier.

Location: 1397 Port Drive, Clarkston, WA 99403

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK AND RANGELAND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 18TH 10 AM - 12 PM

SMALL FARM, LIVESTOCK, AND HORSE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 19TH 5:30 - 7:30 PM



FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER:

TIPTON HUDSON

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
HOST OF “THE ART OF RANGE” PODCAST



Pre-registration not required, but RSVP's are appreciated: info@asotincd.org, or call (509) 552-8117



**Got Manure?
We can help
with that.**

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

Schedule your equipment rental:
(509) 552-8117
info@asotincd.org

The Dirt Newsletter

Noxious Weed Spotlight: Russian Thistle, aka: Tumble Weed



LISTING STATUS: NON-LISTED NOXIOUS WEED SPECIES, CONTROL RECOMMENDED.

Noxious Weed Profile: *Salsola tragus* L.

How to Control it:

Impacts

Reduces crop yields and quality, mature plants unpalatable for grazing and can be poisonous to livestock in the absence of desirable forage. Dry plants are highly flammable; tumbleweed accumulations are an extreme fire hazard. In wind-driven fire events, tumbleweeds become mobile to spread embers across long distances and may breach firebreaks. Cars were buried in tumbleweeds on State Route 240 in Eastern Washington on New Year's Eve, 2019 in an event nicknamed "Tumblegeddon." (USA Today, 2020.)



Habitat

Prefers disturbed sites, empty lots, roadsides, crops, and non-crop areas, this plant is well established throughout Asotin County.

Identification

- Round, bushy, summer annual that grows up to 6 feet tall.
- Flowers are small and white, deep woody taproot.
- Stems dark green with purplish-red stripes.
- Leaves alternate and scale-like, stiff spines at the tips.
- Seedlings dark green, narrow, with finely dissected pine needle like leaves.

Biology

- Reproduces by seed only, one plant produces up to 200,000 seeds. Seeds germinate within the first year and few seeds survive longer than two years in the soil.
- Mature plants break off at the stem, and spread seeds as they roll and tumble in the wind.
- Extremely drought tolerant and highly competitive species.

Mechanical

Can be pulled by hand or with tools in the early growth stages. Light tillage can disrupt growth and prevent seed production. Discing is not recommended in abandoned areas because loose soil will promote new growth.

Cultural

Burning may be used to reduce accumulated tumbleweeds, but is not an effective long-term strategy for control of Russian Thistle. Landowners must obey all Asotin County burning ordinances and secure all necessary burn permits as required by the WA Department of Ecology prior to burning. Effective long-term strategies for Russian Thistle control include planting desirable drought tolerant species such as sheep fescue, intermediate wheatgrass, or native bunchgrass, or applying heavy mulch.

Biological

Biological controls are not currently available. However, international studies are underway to explore potential agents including a stem boring caterpillar and a blister mite.

Chemical

- Follow all applicable laws and regulations regarding herbicide use. Follow chemical label instructions for application.
- Several post-emergent herbicides are available including active ingredients triclopyr, glyphosate, 2,4-D, clopyralid, dicamba, and aminopyralid. Recommended broadleaf selective products include but are not limited to Crossbow (triclopyr+2,4-D), Curtail (clopyralid), and WeedMaster (dicamba+2,4-D). For non-selective control, Roundup (glyphosate) and Imazapyr 4SL (imazapyr) are recommended.
- Herbicides with preemergent and post emergent control such as Plateau (imazapic) and Rejuvra (indazafam) are effective on annual species like Russian Thistle.
- For non-vegetated areas including driveways, sterilant such as Roundup365 and Pramitol are available for preventing vegetation growth.

WALLA WALLA PESTICIDES WORKSHOP

Oct. 29th, 2025 12:30-4:30pm, Walla Walla, WA

Endangered Species Act and pesticide label updates related to EPA decisions for growers and producers. Pesticide credits pending.

To register, email: Andrea Cox at andrea@wawg.org

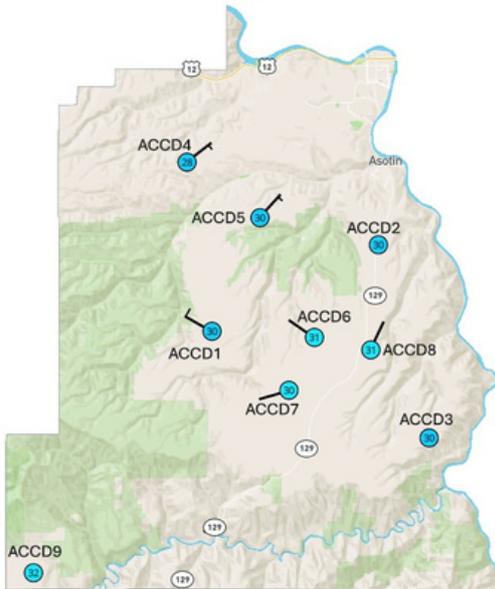


Need help managing your noxious weeds?

Contact the Noxious Weed Board at ACCD:
(509) 552-8119 - weeds@asotincd.org

The Dirt Newsletter

Special Project: ACCD Weather Station Network



Above: Map of ACCD Weather Stations in Asotin County
Below: Locations and Associated Station ID numbers.

ACCD Weather Stations:	
Location:	Station ID:
North Cloverland	ACCD1
Asotin Grade	ACCD2
Montgomery Ridge	ACCD3
Peola Prairie	ACCD4
Cloverland Prairie	ACCD5
Onstot Road, Asotin	ACCD6
Sangster Road, Anatone	ACCD7
Weisenfels Ridge	ACCD8
Grouse Flats	ACCD9

Drought impacts our food and economic stability, affecting water supplies and soil moisture, and reducing forage for livestock and wildlife. Each area of Asotin County is unique in terrain and climate, and daily weather conditions are extremely variable. ACCD installed (9) new weather stations to help our community adapt to changing weather conditions as they are unfolding.

Precipitation is the star of the drought drama, but you've got to keep an eye on those sneaky temperature trends too. Most of our annual precipitation arrives in winter, but if the heat crashes the party early, even a solid winter snowpack won't save us from being in "hot water" come fall! **shameless pun intended.*

The ACCD weather station network provides precision data to optimize land management practices and increase agricultural resilience across Asotin County.

Weather stations are lovingly monitored and maintained by ACCD, but are voluntarily hosted by generous landowners who supply the power and internet to make it happen.



2025 September Data Summary: Highs and Lows Across the ACCD Sensor Network					
Weather Station ID:	ACCD 9	ACCD 9	ACCD 1	ACCD 5	ACCD 2
Location:	Grouse Flats	Grouse Flats	N. Cloverland	Cloverland	Asotin Grade
Sensor Type:	Highest Temp	Lowest Temp	Highest Wind	Daily High Precip.	Total Precip.
September 2025 Data:	98.7°F	35.2°F	27 mph	0.96"	1.56"

FOLLOW REAL-TIME WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CHECK OUT THE ACCD SENSOR NETWORK HERE:



**WeatherUnderground.com
AnatoneWeather.com**



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

ACCD Board Meeting: November 6th at 12pm*

**Don't forget: Board meetings are held during the day between November and February*

Commercial Livestock and Rangeland Management Workshop:

November 18th, 10am-12pm

Small Farm, Livestock, and Horse Management Workshop:

November 19th, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

ACCD Office Closures:

NOVEMBER 11TH, VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 27TH - 28TH, THANKSGIVING

Looking for More Info?
Check us out online at: www.asotincd.org

Fun Fact:

During migration, Snake River Steelhead can jump up to **15 feet high** over waterfalls, provided that river conditions are ideal for building speed. Steelhead require high, fast-flowing water and deep plunge-pools to achieve the burst of speed needed to make a big jump.

Source: Sierra Forest Legacy