



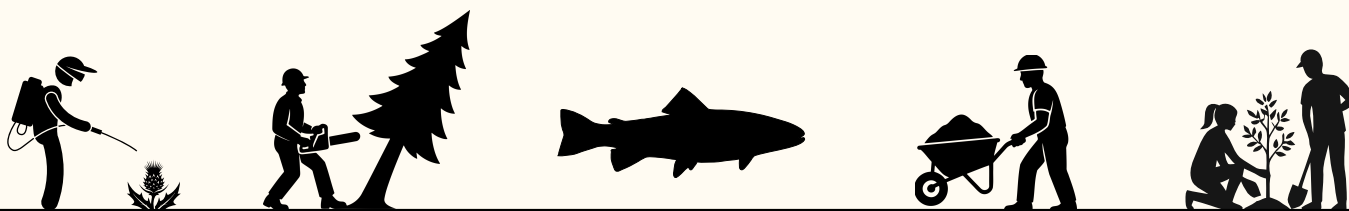
THE ACCD RESTORATION CREW: PUTTING BOOTS ON THE GROUND

In 2025, ACCD welcomed our first in-house restoration crew members to implement conservation projects large and small. The crew built Steelhead habitat in multiple watersheds, completed forestry and fuel-reduction projects in the Blue Mountains, planted and watered hundreds of trees, renovated the “Kerry Johnson Memorial Playground and Demonstration Garden,” enhanced many acres of wildlife habitat, removed and inventoried copious amounts of noxious weeds, assisted with the District’s Annual Tree Sale, provided outreach at the Asotin County Fair, and much, much, more.

**Our conservation planners get the projects ready...
but the crew makes them happen.**



Image: ACCD Restoration Crew installing Steelhead Habitat.



Salmon in the Classroom: Getting Fishy with Local Education

ACCD kicked off another new year of the “Salmon in the Classroom” program, an educational project encouraging respect for water resources and promoting responsible behavior towards the environment. ACCD currently has 9 fish tanks successfully rearing fish in Asotin County Classrooms!

ACCD brings cold water aquarium tanks into classrooms and supply them with salmonid-eggs ready to hatch! Students and teachers get to watch the magic as young fish emerge from the eggs and grow, accompanied by salmonid-themed lessons over a 50-75 day period. The program is topped-off with a fieldtrip with ACCD to release the fish! Students love the up-close connection with live animals, even if their finned research subjects smell... a little fishy.



Above Image: Juvenile Steelhead trout and sculpin fish.

Below Image: Salmon in the Classroom fish release in Clarkston.



Curriculum elements correlate with Next Generation Science and Common Core Standards. Curriculum includes: salmon life cycle, water quality concepts, wildlife observation, habitats and watershed evaluation, real-world mathematical calculations to track fish, and estimation of fish growth rates.

Are you a teacher interested in hosting a fish-tank for Salmon in the Classroom?
Looking for more salmon education resources?

• • • • • **Contact Jennifer Zipse for more info: jennifer@asotincd.org**

The Dirt Newsletter



Board of Supervisors Election

We are looking for a volunteer to join our Board of Supervisors Team!

The Asotin County Conservation District is governed by a five-member board of supervisors. A board supervisor is a public official who serves without compensation, and who sets policy and direction for the conservation district. The published election procedures can be viewed at the District office, and are available from the Washington State Conservation Commission at: <http://scc.wa.gov/>

NOTICE OF ADOPTED ELECTION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the Asotin County Conservation District operates under the laws of the State of Washington applicable to conservation districts.

WHEREAS the District is governed by a five-member board, as set out in RCW Chapter 89.08 and WAC Section 135-110.

It is resolved that a poll-site election for an open position on the District board of supervisors will be held on **Thursday, March 12, 2026, from 2:30pm until 7:30pm at the Asotin County Conservation Office located at 1397 Port Drive, Clarkston, WA 99403.**

- The elected position whose term is expiring in May 2026 is currently held by Jesse Greene.
 - The new term will commence May 2026 and expire in 2029.
- The appointed position whose term is expiring in May 2026 is currently held by Jerry Hendrickson.
 - The new term will commence May 2026 and expire in 2029.

Interested candidates must be registered voters who reside within the boundaries of the District. Candidates may be required to be landowners or operators of a farm, depending on the current composition of the District board of Supervisors. The filing deadline for candidates to file their candidate information is **February 9, 2026, no later than 4:30pm. Interested candidates must file their candidate information at the District's office at 1397 Port drive, Clarkston, WA.**

Eligible voters are registered voters who reside within the boundaries of the District. The last day and time that voters can request absentee ballots from the District is **February 19, 2026, by 4:30pm.** Absentee ballots can be requested from Asotin County Conservation District staff located at 1397 Port Drive, Clarkston, WA - Tel: (509) 552-8117.

A conservation district supervisor is a public official who serves without compensation and who sets policy and direction for the conservation district. The published election procedures can be viewed at the District office and are available from the Washington State Conservation Commission at <http://scc.wa.gov/>.

Adopted at a regular board meeting of the District Board of Supervisors on December 11, 2025.

Dated this 11th day of December 2025

By: Jennifer Zipse, Election Supervisor

Please Note: future election information will be posted ONLY on the Asotin County Conservation District's web site (www.asotincd.org)

The Dirt Newsletter



Image: Herbicide application gear and personal protective equipment.

The Noxious Weed Control Board: Small program, BIG impacts.

In 2025, ACCD completed over 426 acres of Mediterranean sage treatment, 12 acres of common Crupina treatment, and one acre of Japanese knotweed treatment. The board provided \$1,500 for noxious weed control cost-share and \$2,025 in noxious weed management reimbursement payments through the Weed Management Program.

The weed board led a county noxious weed tour where participants learned how to collect biological control agents, studied the extent of the Mediterranean sage infestation in the county, and watched a high-tech drone herbicide application demonstration. Two new boot brush stations were installed at the North Fork of Asotin Creek trailhead and the Chief Joseph Wildlife Area Green Gulch trailhead to keep weed seeds at bay in recreational areas.



Need help managing your noxious weeds? Contact the Noxious Weed Control Board at ACCD: (509) 552-8119 - weeds@asotincd.org www.asotincd.org



Image: Drone demonstration provided by Alpine Aerials LLC

WSDA Pesticide Applicators Certification and Training Update: New Rules Effective January 1, 2026

WSDA is updating rules that will affect your pesticide license. Most licensees will need to do something to meet new requirements and maintain their license. Many will need to take a C&T-specific recertification course. Some will also need to pass an updated exam. WSDA created the Washington Pesticide Licensing and Recertification (WAPLR) portal to assist licensee's with meeting these requirements and accessing licensee information.

The portal is now live!

<https://agr.wa.gov/services/licenses-permits-and-certificates/pesticide-license-and-recertification/pesticide-and-spi-licensing/portal-access>



2026

NOXIOUS WEED LIST ADOPTION PUBLIC HEARING

The noxious weed list adoption public hearing will be held on January 26th. Following the hearing, the county noxious weed board will adopt the state noxious weed list on February 3rd. View the proposed 2026 county noxious weed list and adopted state weed list on the district website:

www.asotincd.org/weed-control

2026 Washington State Noxious Weed List Additions:

CLASS 'A' ADDITIONS:

- WATERHEMP (AMARANTHUS TUBERCOLATUS)
- DELTA ARROWHEAD (SAGITTARIA PLATYPHYLLA)
- SUNFLOWER BROOMRAPE (OROBANCHE CUMANA)

CLASS 'C' ADDITIONS:

- BLACK LOCUST (ROBINIA PSEUDOACACIA)
- COMMON HOLLY (ILEX AQUIFOLIUM)
- NORWAY MAPLE (ACER PLATANOIDES)



The Dirt Newsletter



TREE Sale

Save the Dates:

March 23-24, 2026

*Pre-orders for trees will begin
February 2nd on the ACCD website:

www.asotincd.org/treesale

Watch your email inbox for more info!

ACCD Annual Meeting:

March 12, 2026



NEW BATCHING DEADLINE FOR NRCS PROGRAM SIGN-UPS: **JAN. 15, 2026**

All NRCS conservation programs remain continuous sign-up. Farmers and ranchers have until January 15, 2026, to apply for the first batching period. National and State Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) will follow later in the year. PL-566 and Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) opportunities remain open for sponsors based on available funding. **For more information, please visit nrns.usda.gov or contact your local USDA Service Center.**

NRCS Programs with a January 15, 2026, batching period deadline:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)
- New NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program (EQIP & CSP)

We want to help you achieve your conservation goals!

Contact ACCD for FREE on-site technical assistance:

(509) 552-8117 - info@asotincd.org - www.asotincd.org



Important Upcoming Dates:

ACNWCB Weed List Adoption Public Hearing: Jan. 26th at 9am

ACNWCB Meeting: Feb. 3rd at 1pm

ACCD Board Meeting: Feb. 5th at 12pm

ACCD Board of Supervisors 2026 Election Dates:

Deadline to File Candidate Interest: Feb. 9th at 4:30pm

Deadline to request absentee ballot: Feb. 19th at 4:30pm

Election Polls Open/Close: March 12th from 2:30-7:30pm



Asotin County
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1397 Port Drive,

Clarkston, WA 99403

Phone: (509) 552-8117

Email: Info@asotincd.org

Website: www.asotincd.org

ACCD Office Closures:

JAN. 19TH - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

FEB. 16TH - PRESIDENTS DAY

**Fun
Fact:**

"Petrichor" is the distinctive, earthy, usually pleasant odor we know as the "smell of rain." Geosmin, a compound produced by soil bacteria, and a combination of volatile plant oils are released into the air when rain hits dry soil.

The Dirt Newsletter: 2025 Reflections Special Edition

CLEANING OFF "THE DIRT" OF 2025

As ACCD wraps up 2025, we are kicking the "2025 Dirt" off our boots, reflecting on our accomplishments, and gearing up for 2026. We want to thank our Asotin County producers, contractors, project sponsors, agency partners, and especially our land managers and residents for their commitment to conserving our natural resources.

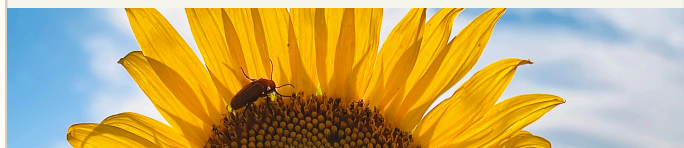
None of this is possible without our community, and we are deeply grateful for all of your hard work and participation in our programs!



Image: Kerry Lynn Johnson Memorial Playground

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION: Handing Over the Keys to Local Stewardship

The District was proud to present the refurbished Kerry Lynn Johnson Memorial Playground at the Asotin County Fairgrounds in 2025. The small space has been transformed into a water-wise demonstration garden featuring native plants and xeriscaping techniques, and also provides a place for kids to play during the fair. We could not have completed this project without generous contributions and support from our community.



Do you Have an Idea for an Educational Event or Project?

ACCD would love to present to your community, club, or chapter about various conservation topics of interest. Give us a call, and let's see if we can help you out!

Contact: info@asotincd.org

The Voluntary Stewardship Program: Celebrating a Decade of Success.

ACCD submitted the "10-year report" for The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP). Agricultural landowners are provided with farm-friendly options for protecting fragile natural resources (aka: "critical areas"). Rather than leading with regulations and enforcement, VSP uses financial incentives to voluntarily engage agricultural landowners with actions that protect critical areas.

Since 2020, the program has assisted with installation of (5) livestock watering facilities, (1) solar powered livestock water facility, 2,730 ft. of livestock fencing, 2000+ trees planted, (3) large instream restoration projects, and 6.67 acres of floodplain restoration via LTPBR. Our local VSP Work Group and our local partners at NRCS were critical in achieving and exceeding our VSP Work Plan goals!

Check out the VSP Work Plan on our website:

<https://asotincd.org/stewardship/>

Looking for more VSP Info?

Contact: keaton@asotincd.org

Image: Grassland Ecosystem on Anatone Prairie



Steelhead Habitat Restoration: Big Projects on Asotin Creek and Couse Creek

ACCD partnered with local livestock producers and funding sponsors to implement two large-scale stream restoration projects for Steelhead habitat. Projects primarily aim to restore stream conditions for the fish, but are each designed with livestock and agriculture in mind. Engineered log jams, boulder clusters, channel grading, and a livestock crossing bridge will create habitat complexity and protect water quality in major Steelhead spawning streams.



Above Image: Excavator building Steelhead Habitat



Above Image: Livestock Crossing Bridge

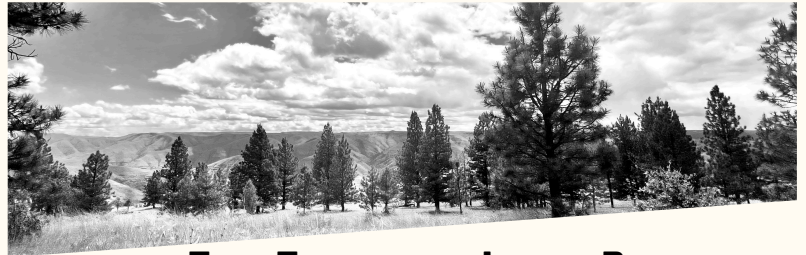
Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration: LTPBR

2025 marked 5 years since ACCD started installing LTPBR habitat for Steelhead. Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS) are small hand-built habitat structures that enhance stream complexity and habitat quality. So far, we have treated over 40,000 feet of critical spawning streams by installing 500+ PALS structures on 6 different creeks!



Above Image: LTPBR PALS Structure for Steelhead Habitat

Forest Health and Community Wildfire Resilience Program



THE TRANQUIL LANE PROJECT: GETTING AHEAD OF THE FLAMES.

ACCD, local forestry contractors, partners, and the residents of “Tranquil Lane” in Anatone joined forces on a community-scale project to improve wildfire resilience, forest health, and public safety. To get the neighborhood “wildfire ready,” 214 hazard trees were removed from 17 home ignition zones, utility corridors were cleared, evacuation routes were improved, and home wildfire mitigation items were distributed.



Thank You

Forest Health Treatments:

ACCD funded 375 acres of fuel reduction treatments, thinning, pruning, and wildlife habitat enhancements. The program served 55 private forestland owners in five salmon bearing watersheds.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan: 2025 Update

ACCD led a comprehensive update to the Asotin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), involving 15 agency partners and engaging 486 community members.

Wildfire Assessments and Free Mitigation Items

ACCD facilitated public education events, completed linked-defensible space projects, 25 Home Ignition Zone Assessments, and provided mitigation items for 57 Asotin County homes.

Thank you to our residents for all of your hard work and participation in this project. We extend our deepest appreciation to our partners at Clearwater Power Co., WA DNR, NRCS, Asotin County Roads Dept., and our FANTASTIC logging and forestry contractors for their outstanding efforts on this complex undertaking.

Your commitment to making a positive difference in our community was inspirational, and we could not have accomplished this without each of you.