

The Dirt

Asotin County Conservation District
Monthly Newsletter



May, 2026

www.asotincd.org

Wildfire preparedness starts now.
We're bringing the chipping to you.



FOREST WILDFIRE RESILIENCE COMMUNITY CHIPPER DAYS

2026 CHIPPER DAYS:



ALPHA:

Anatone, WA
May 26th
(6) Spots available



BRAVO:

Anatone, WA
May 27th
(6) Spots available



CHARLIE:

Cloverland, WA
May 29th
(6) Spots available

ACCD is hosting (3) FREE
community chipper days to help
you reduce wildfire hazards in
your forestland.

**RESERVE
YOUR
SPOT
ONLINE:**



Visit our website:
www.asotincd.org/wildfire

It's easy to participate:
Reserve your spot, meet with your
forester, pile your slash, and the ACCD
crew will come and chip it up on the day
of your reservation!

The Dirt Newsletter

Noxious Weed Spotlight: Canada Thistle *Cirsium arvense*

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



Noxious Weed Profile:

Impacts

Single plant can form dense patches quickly, and can colonize an area 3 – 6 feet in diameter in a year or two. Crowds out forage grasses. Reduces crop yield and pasture productivity. Often found in disturbed or heavily grazed areas.

Habitat

Highly adaptable, can tolerate a range of conditions, including: exposed, sandy soil to saturated soil in pastures, natural areas, waste places and disturbed areas. Scattered throughout Asotin County, however populations of Canada thistle are relatively small.

Identification

- Starts as a rosette before a stem emerges reaching 1 - 4 feet tall
- Leaves are deeply lobed and are edged with yellow spines
- When flowering from July to August, urn shaped lavender to deep rose-purple flowers form, typically ½ to ¾ inches wide
- The flowers form in clusters at the ends of branches

Biology

- Spreads mainly through extension of horizontal roots
- Roots extend 15 feet or more outward and 6-15 feet deep
- Perennial weed that reproduces by seed
- Has both male and female plants
- Flowers from July through August
- Seeds may remain viable for up to 22 years
- Seeds are transported by erosion, animal, rain, and human activity

How to Control it:

Cultural

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

Manual

It is difficult to achieve control with this method as the deep and widespread roots of this thistle. However, an option is to cut plants before their roots develop, usually when the thistle has formed tight green buds by June. The area must be closely monitored, and regrowth cut each time the buds appear again.

Mechanical

Cultivation at regular intervals, every 21 days, for 4 to 6 months, until the first killing frost. A root fragment of ½ inch, up to two years old, may be capable of regenerating a new plant. Repeated mowing two to four times per year for 1 to 4 years has been successful. Seedlings colonizing a new area are easy to control with tillage.

Biological

Canada thistle is attacked by seven known biological control agents; the seed head weevil, *Larinus planus*, the beetle, *Cassida rubiginosa*, the native painted lady butterfly, *Vanessa cardui*, the crown root weevil, *Baris subsimilis*, the rust, *Puccinia carduorum*, the seed head fly, *Terellia ruficauda*, and another seed head weevil, *Rhinocyllus conicus*. Although several of these agents damage the thistle they do not consistently reduce seed production or root regeneration.

Chemical

- Herbicide may be useful for large, dense infestations. If the site is wet or along the water's edge, it may require a permit issued by the state Department of Ecology.
- Follow all applicable laws and regulations regarding herbicide use. Follow chemical label instructions for application. Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, and eye protection.
- Apply to foliage in the early spring or fall on rosettes and dense regrowth.
- Chemical control can be effective but must be maintained for several years to exhaust seed bank and root fragments. Spray when the plant is actively growing and majority of leaves have emerged, but prior to bud stage. Chemicals that are effective are amitrole, chlorsulfuron, sodium chlorate and/or sodium borate, dicamba, picloram (more restrictions on use), glyphosate, clopyralid, triclopyr and clopyralid together, and diflufenzopyr and dicamba together.



**Welcome to our newest
Asotin County Noxious Weed
Control Board Member:**

**ALAN ROACH
DISTRICT 1, PEOLA.**

The Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board (ACNWCB) consists of five members appointed by the Asotin County Commissioners, each representing a different geographical section of Asotin County.



Need help managing your noxious weeds?

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

Journey To The Ocean Asotin County Fair Exhibit, 2026

The Asotin County Conservation District designed, built, and hosted a “Salmon Maze Game” for the Asotin County Fair, April, 2026. The interactive educational exhibit followed the life of a Steelhead born in Asotin Creek, and their journey to the Ocean. Players decorated wooden fish, and then picked random game cards throughout the maze to collect or lose points as you and your fish encountered obstacles and predators. If you had any points at the end... your fish “Survived the Snake!”



Fencing panels for this exhibit
generously donated by:



THE ASOTIN RIPARIAN ASSESSMENT PROJECT HAS BEGUN!

DO YOU LIVE NEXT TO A STREAM,
WETLAND OR OTHER SURFACE WATER?

ACCD IS SEEKING **YOUR** INPUT ON THE
CURRENT STATE OF OUR STREAMS TO
GUIDE FUTURE RESTORATION
PROJECTS IN ASOTIN COUNTY.

On March 24, 2026, ACCD hosted a community meeting to kick-off our Asotin Riparian Assessment Project.

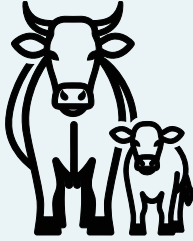
ACCD staff is working directly with streamside landowners to complete on-site evaluations of our watersheds to provide an accurate understanding of our current conditions, pinpoint priority project areas, develop customized restoration plans, and inspire community-driven stream restoration projects.



Contact Brad Riehle for more
information, or to schedule your **FREE**
stream and riparian assessment!
Brad@asotincd.org (509) 552-8121

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FROM OUR PARTNERS AT NRCS:



RANGE AND PASTURE PRODUCER FIELD DAY

WHEN: May 29, 2026 | 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

WHERE: 17211 S. Brooks Rd Cheney, WA

(Drive past this address to the very end of S. Brooks Rd and follow the signs)

PLEASE RSVP by MAY 22nd to Karli Bugni at Karli.bugni@usda.gov or 509-925-9871

Working Lands, Working For You

In the Intermountain West, healthy rangeland is a rancher's greatest asset. Learn how science-based management and accurate stocking rates protect your "Working Lands" and your legacy:

- **Boost Your Bottom Line:** Why balanced grazing leads to higher long-term forage production and better weights.
- **Drought Proof Your Ranch:** Techniques to keep your grass growing longer into the season.
- **Win the War on Weeds:** Out-competing noxious weeds with healthy, deep-rooted perennials.

Live Field Demonstrations

- **Soil & Runoff Demos:** A visual look at how management styles affect water infiltration.
- **Range Monitoring 101:** Hands-on training for taking transects and grass clippings to accurately calculate your available forage.
- **Plant Identification:** Basics for identifying forage plants, what's desirable and what isn't.

SAVE THE DATES:

Forest Chipper Days: May 26th, 27th, 29th

NRCS Field Day: May 29th



Asotin County
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1397 Port Drive, Clarkston, WA 99403
Phone: (509) 552-8117 Email: Info@asotincd.org
Website: www.asotincd.org

Important Upcoming Events:

ACCD Board Meeting: June 11, 2026, at 6pm

ACNWC Board Meeting: June 16, 2026 at 6pm

ACCD Board Meeting: July 9, 2026, at 6pm

ACCD Office Closed:

MAY 25, 2026: MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE 19, 2026: JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

Fun Fact:

The four lower Snake River dams turn a 140-mile stretch of river into a series of slackwater lakes, allowing ships and barges to travel over 400 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean to Lewiston, Idaho. Wheat Highway: Roughly 10% of all US wheat exports travel by barge through these four locks and dams, making it a critical, albeit debated, agricultural shipping route. (U.S. Wheat Associates)