



June, 2026

www.asotincd.org



WILDFIRE RESILIENCE SPECIAL EDITION



Farewell to Supervisor Jerry Hendrickson

Jerry Hendrickson served on the Asotin County Conservation District Board of Supervisors for 27 years! Jerry was born and raised in Asotin County, where he raised cattle, timber, wheat, and most importantly, he raised a beautiful family with a love of natural resources and agricultural values.

His impacts on conservation programs in Asotin County are immense, diverse, and difficult to quantify. Jerry has provided our community with invaluable experience, knowledge, and wisdom to guide our farmers, ranchers, conservation planners, and land stewards. He championed local programs for sustainable farming, direct tillage, logging, rangelands, and fish and wildlife habitat restoration.

Jerry deeply believes that we can conserve our natural resources best by managing the land sustainably. Jerry will still serve at ACCD as an associate supervisor, and we are grateful to keep his wisdom in the building as long as we can!

Thank you

**27 Years of
Service to Our
Community**

Six Ways a Vehicle Can Start a Wildfire

Exhaust Sparks - OHVs and dirt bikes must be equipped with spark arrestors.



Dragging Metal - Ensure that trailer chains and other equipment are not dragging.



Brakes - Severely worn brake pads cause metal on metal contact throwing sparks.

Tire Pressure - Under inflated tires may compress causing wheel to road/trail contact throwing sparks.

Hot Engine - Never park or drive over dry vegetation. Hot components may ignite grasses and brush.

Catalytic Converter - And other exhaust components can ignite fuels they come in contact with. They can also fail and propel white-hot pieces of metal over the terrain.

Managing Weeds for Wildfire Prevention During Fire Season.

What starts as yardwork can quickly become a wildfire.

Wildfire season arrives earlier each year, and the drought in our region has created a buildup of hazardous fuels and noxious weeds. Several recent wildfires in Asotin County were started by lawn mowers, trimmers, or weed torches. These people were trying to do the right thing by managing weeds and removing fire hazards, but a wind gust changed everything in a matter of moments. The uncomfortable truth is that people who think they're "careful enough" are often the ones who accidentally start fires.

**Don't do the
RIGHT thing,
the WRONG WAY!**



Maintaining defensible space is critical, but equipment must be used with extreme caution this time of year. Tools with metal blades are at an increased risk of starting fires by striking rocks and causing sparks. Weed torches and burning debris piles spread sparks that can travel over fences and ignite whole neighborhoods. Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can easily start fires while driving or parking on dry vegetation. Safe practices are critical to reducing your risks of unintentional wildfire ignitions.



Photo by Miguel Riopa/AFP/Getty News

Reducing Wildfire Risks While Doing the Right Thing:

CHECK THE WEATHER. Wind will turn a small spark into a big problem. Never use spark emitting equipment in windy or red-flag conditions, or when temperatures are high.

SHOVEL, BUCKET, WATER, EXTINGUISHER. Accessible safety tools could help you stop a fire before it spreads. A shovel, and a bucket are critical. Dirt isn't flammable, and you can use a shovel to throw dirt on flames to smother the fire out.

PREVENT SPARKS. Plastic blades or string trimmers have lower risks of causing sparks. Remove strike-hazards like rocks and never use metal blades in dry vegetation. ALWAYS use equipment with proper spark arresters.

MOW BEFORE 10AM. Mow in the morning when the fuel-moisture is highest, as the day progresses the risk of starting a fire increases drastically.

SKIP THE TORCH. Put the weed torch away for the season. **You can bring it back out in the fall when the pumpkin spice shows up.** Weed torches are great tools for removing weeds and dead vegetation, but **torches are extremely hazardous this time of year.** 

DON'T DRIVE ON DRY GRASS. Hot pipes under your vehicle may ignite a fire you won't see until it's too late!

For more information about wildfire prevention while removing noxious weeds, check out this website from our partners at WA DNR:

<https://dnr.wa.gov/wildfire-resources/wildfire-prevention>

**Asotin County
Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting:
October 20, 6:00pm at the ACCD office.
1397 Port Drive, Clarkston, WA 99403
(509) 552-8117**

**Need help managing
your noxious weeds?**

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



Employee Spotlight: Jennifer Zipse

Jennifer Zipse, our District assistant, outreach technician, and “Salmon in the Classroom” program lead has officially been with the Asotin County Conservation district for **10 YEARS!**

Jennifer “wears many hats” at ACCD, and has been an integral part of District operations, leading outreach for multiple projects and programs, and has impacted thousands of students with her facilitation of the “Salmon in the Classroom” program. She has become a “pro” at managing steelhead education fishtanks in classrooms around Asotin County, and enjoys watching the kids release the fish at the end of the school year.

The ACCD team appreciates her decade of commitment to our District, our community, and to conserving our natural resources.

Congratulations Jennifer!!!



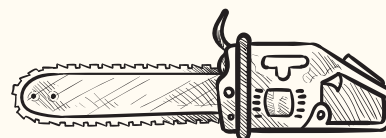
Jennifer Zipse, ACCD Tree Sale, 2019

NEW EMPLOYEES ON THE ACCD TEAM:

ACCD Board of Supervisors: *Rich Witters, Supervisor*

Rich is a lifelong resident of Asotin County, descended from pioneers that homesteaded in the area in the late 1800's. The Witters' family runs a cattle operation on the Snake River, and raised a beautiful family to include 11 grandkids. He recently retired after a 40-year career with Poe Asphalt, and is happy to return to ACCD as an Associate Supervisor.

Rich is here to serve his community by helping other land managers succeed with their conservation projects. He believes that agriculture is part of our heritage, and “paying it forward” to assist other land managers is key to the longevity and sustainability of agriculture in Asotin County.



ACCD Restoration Field Crew Member: **TYLER HOFFMAN**

Tyler joins the ACCD restoration crew with local experience, a passion for environmental restoration, and an optimistic attitude. He grew up in the LC Valley fishing, backpacking, hunting, skiing, and rafting. Tyler graduated from CHS in 2024, and worked as a rigger for ThunderJet until joining the ACCD Crew in April 2026.

So far, Tyler is enjoying forestry work and spraying noxious weeds, and is looking forward to helicopter drops of habitat materials in upcoming projects.

**ARE YOU
PREPARED FOR
WILDFIRE?**



WILDFIRE SEASON IS HERE.

BASIC WILDFIRE PREPARATION GUIDE:

1: SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

Asotin County has an emergency notification system called Hyper-Reach. This is a FREE one-way form of communication that sends out emergency alerts. You can register to receive calls or texts on your mobile phone, emails, alerts in your web browser, or a smart-home device.

 **REGISTER NOW**

IT'S EASY TO SIGN UP FOR ALERTS:

Scan or click on the QR code

Visit: <http://hyper-reach.com/waasotinsignup.html>

Call or Text "alerts" to (509) 800-5227



2: MAKE A PLAN: EVACUATION READINESS SAVES LIVES

READY

Prepare Early.



**Make
Your
Evacuation
Plan**

- **Where will you meet your family members if your neighborhood has already been evacuated?**
- **What if there are pets or children home alone?**
- **Do you have a go bag prepared with your medicines, critical documents, and pet supplies?**

READY SET GO!

Ready

Be Prepared

Make a plan. Build a kit.
Take steps to reduce your risks.

Set

Be Alert

Prepare to evacuate. Leave early if you need extra time or feel your life is in danger.

GO!

Evacuate Now!

Gather your family, pets, emergency kit and essential belongings and leave immediately.

The Dirt Newsletter: Wildfire Resilience Special Edition

ARE YOU
PREPARED FOR
WILDFIRE?



WILDFIRE SEASON IS HERE. BASIC WILDFIRE PREPARATION GUIDE:

3: PACK YOUR "GO BAG"



1		People & Pets
2		Papers- Important documents and Phone Numbers
3		Prescriptions- Medications and Glasses
4		Pictures- Irreplaceable Memorabilia
5		Phones- Tablet/Laptop/USB
6		Plastics- money



4: PREPARE YOUR HOME TO STAND ALONE

ONLY IF YOU HAVE TIME:

- Locate your pets and take them with you. Grab leashes and pet food.
- Shut all windows and doors. Close metal shutters if possible.
- Shut off gas at the meter; turn off pilot lights. Shut off the air conditioning.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running, they can affect critical water pressure.
- Gather flammable items like patio furniture, decorations, and door mats from the exterior of the house and bring them inside.
- Turn off propane tanks. Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- Back your loaded car into the driveway and keep all doors and windows closed.
- Ensure your emergency supplies kit and your go-bag inside your vehicle.



GO NOW. LEAVE EARLY. DON'T RISK YOUR LIFE.



**BE PREPARED TO EVACUATE AT A MOMENT'S
NOTICE. OBEY ALL EVACUATION ORDERS FROM
OFFICIALS.**

DON'T WAIT, EVACUATE.

The Dirt Newsletter: Wildfire Resilience Special Edition



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

WASHINGTON STATE AGRICULTURAL VIABILITY

Agricultural Viability Survey

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) recognizes the critical role that profitability, sustainability and responsible land stewardship play in the success of Washington's agricultural industry. We acknowledge that farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses are confronting both longstanding and emerging challenges that threaten viability and future prosperity. To address these issues, WSDA is committed to fostering opportunities that enhance the competitiveness of our state's agricultural sector.

TAKE THE SURVEY TODAY:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R96KJ78>

ACCD is Closing Out the Fiscal Year:

The end of the fiscal year is June 30th, 2026. All cost-share projects expiring this fiscal year need to be completed. Please coordinate with your technician regarding the status of your projects to ensure proper close out and prompt payments. The new fiscal year will begin July 1st, 2026, and with it comes new grants and funding opportunities.

New funding will be available for projects that enhance and protect natural resources. Stop by the office, give us a call, or send an email to talk to us about your next project! Planning ahead gives our staff ample time to plan the specific details of your project and coordinate with our funding sources within funding cycles.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



ACCD Celebrates
86 years of
Conservation!



Asotin County
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Important Upcoming Events:

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

ACCD Board Meeting: August 6, 2026, at 6pm

ACNWC Board Meeting: June 16, 2026 at 6pm

ACNWC Board Meeting: October 20, 2026 at 6pm

ACCD Office Closed:

JUNE 19, 2026: JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

JULY 3, 2026: INDEPENDENCE DAY

1397 Port Drive, Clarkston, WA 99403
Phone: (509) 552-8117

Email: Info@asotincd.org Website: www.asotincd.org

***NOT
Fun
Fact:**

According to the 2020 "Wildfire Risk to Communities" analysis by the USFS, homes in Asotin County have a greater risk from fire than 91% of counties in the United States (USFS, 2021). EMBERS (aka: firebrands) are responsible for >90% of homes lost in wildfires and can travel miles ahead of an advancing wildfire front.