

ACC D NEWSLETTER

720 6th Street, Suite B Clarkston, WA 99403 509-758-8012



**Season's Greetings From
The Asotin County Conservation District!**

From The District Manager:

It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner and we will soon be ringing in 2010. Where did the year go? 2009 has been a very busy, productive year for us. Interest in our programs continues to grow which keeps all of us on the lookout for additional funding opportunities.

The last few months have been "nail biters" for all districts while we waited to see the outcome of the Governor's 2010 proposed supplemental budget. We knew the Governor needed to make significant cuts to the state budget and did not know how much it would affect the area of natural resources. I'm happy to say we fared reasonably well during the process. Many agencies in the state did not. The fact that conservation districts are considered to be one of the most cost effective natural resource agencies in the state of Washington, giving the most "bang for the buck" proved to be of great benefit. In addition, the fact that we "*do what we say we are going to do*" gives us credibility with our funding sources. When we request funding, we must specify what we intend to use the money for. After the cost-share application is approved, we continue to work closely with our landowners to ensure those projects are completed and the money is spent prior to the grant ending. As strange as it seems, it is not a good thing to return grant money to the funding source as it has been made clear to us that doing so will not be looked upon favorably. We also understand that unforeseen circumstances sometimes arise that prevents you from doing the project you had planned. If you ever find yourself in this position and for some reason are unable to complete your project as planned, please let the technician know as early as possible so the money can be used on a different project. With the continued uncertainty of future state funding, it is even more important that we work together to ensure that we "*do what we say we are going to do.*" To view the Governor's proposed supplemental budget go to: www.ofm.wa.gov/budget.

On behalf of all of us here at the District office, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to assist you in your conservation efforts.

Wishing you and your family a very "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy and Healthy New Year!"

Board of Supervisors

Chairman
Keith Ausman

Vice-Chairman
Rich Witters

Auditor
Jerry Hendrickson

Secretary
Ron Scheibe

Member
Rod Hostetler

Associate Supervisors

George Brott
Don Dotson
Jay Holzmilller
Elaine Nagle
Dan Schlee

District Staff

Sandy Cunningham
District Manager
Megan Stewart
Financial Coordinator / Res. Tech.

Casey Scott
Resource Technician / CREP

Mike Miraglio
Resource Technician / Firewise

Pat Worle
Office Assistant

NRCS Staff
Jim Schroeder
Courtney B. Smith

Board Meetings

All District Board meetings are open to the general public and are normally held on the Thursday of the first full week of the month and the Thursday of the third full week. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. during the winter (Nov - Mar) and at 7:30 p.m. during daylight savings time (Apr - Oct). Meetings are held at the District Office located at 720 6th Street, Suite B, in Clarkston.

DISTRICT AWARDS

ACCD District Manager, Sandy Cunningham was acknowledged at a meeting in Dayton, WA as the recipient of the *2009 Southeast Area Manager Of The Year Award.*

This award was given to recognize managerial contributions to the Asotin Conservation District. Ongoing efforts in working with the rest of the staff to make improvements to the District's operations made the District's program of work more effective. Sandy was thanked for bringing her experience and work ethic to the Asotin County District and the Washington State Conservation Commission was pleased to recognize her work with this award.

Jerry Hendrickson, ACCD District Supervisor, was selected by the Washington Association of Conservation Districts for the *Eugene Schloz Memorial Award* presented at the 2009 WACD Annual Meeting in Spokane, WA.

This award is given to an outstanding Conservation District Supervisor who has made an especially valuable contribution to District Conservation Programs and to the State Conservation movement. The award is meant to publicly thank an outstanding Supervisor for their many contributions.



Don't forget to contact the District about cost-share projects that need to be completed by the end of the year. If for any reason your project will not be completed by December 31st – please contact us asap!! Thank you!



SMALL ACREAGE PROGRAM

The Asotin County Conservation District has been offering a cost-share program to assist landowners with addressing resource concerns on properties with 1 to 20 acres. The District's goal is to provide cost-share based on cost rates set by the board of supervisors. Recently the District increased the rate for fencing in order to be reflective of actual implementation costs.

Financial assistance is available for water developments, cross fence, heavy use area protection, windbreaks, roof runoff systems and pasture planting. The small acreage program is still limited to \$8,000 per landowner and is available on a first come first served basis.

Landowners interested in the small acreage program; please contact Megan Stewart at the District at 758-8012 or meganaccd@cablone.net.

Application Period for NRCS 2010 Program Funds Ends 12/31/09

If you are interested in programs such as WHIP Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, GRP Grasslands Reserve Program, WRP Wetlands Reserve Program, or Special EQIP Funds for CRP breakout for 2010 you will need to sign an application by December 31, 2009 with NRCS. Those who have CRP contracts expiring in 2010 have already received information regarding the special EQIP funds available for those planning to bring CRP fields back into crop production. These special EQIP funds are limited and will be available to those with expiring contracts in 2010. It is not known if this type of funding will be available in future years for expiring contracts. The cutoff for CSP Conservation Stewardship Program funding application for 2010 will be January 15th 2010. This will be the 2nd window of opportunity for 2010 CSP funding that has been made available for Washington producers. The application deadline for 2010 general EQIP funding was August 15th 2009 in Washington. www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov

Direct Seed Meeting December 22, 2009 ~ 1:00 PM USDA Service Center Office

The Conservation District and NRCS is holding a round table discussion for farmers to share their experiences, success, problems and other issues regarding direct seed or no-till operations. Below is a list of the topics that will be covered during the meeting.

Round Table Discussion Topics

1. Results from 2009 crops. What type of things did you try that were new or different this year? Examples: New chemical treatment for weeds, or new piece of equipment, new or alternative crop. What were the results? Discuss those with the group.
2. How to kill a Russian Thistle, or China Lettuce, or Italian Ryegrass? What worked, and what didn't?
3. Do you have CRP or other grass that you plan on bringing back into production in the near future? What is your plan to preserve the soil quality benefits that have occurred in these fields? Do you have a plan?
4. Jim and Megan – Program funding opportunities in 2010, Conservation District and NRCS.

UPDATED CONTRACTORS LIST

We are in the process of updating our "**Contractors List**" which is made available to all cooperators to assist them in selecting a contractor for their approved cost-share project(s).

Cooperators can request a copy of this list by contacting the district office or by going to the District Web Site

www.asotincd.net. A copy will also be included with the initial letter we send to cooperators informing them that their cost-share application was approved. This list is provided as a courtesy only and **cooperators are not limited to using only those contractors on the list**. It is at the sole discretion of each cooperator to select a contractor for their project. ACCD does not endorse, recommend, promote or provide opinions about any contractor. Anyone wishing to be included on the "**ACCD Contractors List**" should submit in writing pertinent information including business name, contact information and the service(s) you provide to:

ACCD
720 6th Street, Suite B
Clarkston, WA 99403

If you are already included on the Contractor's List, you must still contact the District office 758-8012 to let us know you want to remain on the list and update

WASHINGTON FARM FORESTRY MEETING

The Blue Mountain Chapter of the WFFA will hold a meeting at the Conservation District Office, 720 6th St., Clarkston, WA, Tuesday night, January 12, 2010 at 7 p.m. Thinning and fuel reduction projects will be the main topic. Some members will talk about past and current projects. They will discuss what dollars may be available to assist forestland owners with these projects. *Bob Coats*, a Forester with Norwest Management, will talk about the role of consulting Foresters in managing private timber ground. All forestland owners are welcome. For further info call Mike at the ACCD office 509-758-8012 or Greg Kelly, WFFA chapter president at 509-520-5458.



The Sixth Annual North Central Idaho Grazing Conference will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at the LCSC Williams Conference Center in Lewiston. The conference will begin with a trade show that starts at 8:00 a.m. and the presentations begin at 9:00 a.m.

The cost of the conference is \$20 if you register by December 22nd, or \$25 per person at the door. Mark your calendar today and plan on attending this worthwhile conference.

Jim Church
Extension Educator
208-983-1050


Idaho SWCD
102 S. Hall St.
Grangeville, ID 83530

FORESTRY COST SHARE PROGRAM

The ACCD has two programs that can assist forest landowners in improving their forest health and /or reducing the risk of wildfire.

One program is the *Western States Grant* which is a 50% cost share match. The grant is available to landowners who have 1 to 5,000 acres of forested ground. It is also for multi-homeowner associations, county/local government entities, and nonprofit groups. The program is administered thru the Washington DNR and the ACCD can help you get started with this grant.

The second program is new and it is a grant administrated by the conservation district. This grant has basically the same purpose to reduce fire risk and improve forest health. This grant can also be used for water development in conjunction with wildfire protection. Cost Share Rates will be set soon for this grant.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

ACCD BULLETIN BOARD

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/7/10 ~ ACCD Board Meeting
3/4/10 ~ ACCD Annual Meeting
3/26-27/10 ~ ACCD Annual Tree Sale



AG-BURN PERMITS

Spot Burn Permits
will be expiring on December 31, 2009!

Please contact Casey Scott with any questions at
(509) 758-8012 or caseyaccd@cablone.net.

Snowflakes Over The Rainbow



Be sure to check the Asotin County Conservation District website for news, information and updates on programs and cost-share rates.
www.asotincd.net