



# ACCD NEWSLETTER

## Conservation Mission Statement

*"To advocate, educate and assist people in responsible land management and agricultural practices that conserve and improve air, soil and water quality and fish and wildlife habitat for present and future generations."*



### *From the District Manager*

It's that time of year again -- where did 2011 go? And, what will 2012 bring? It's been a good year for the District and the community we serve. We are proud to announce that ACCD was recognized by the Washington State Conservation Commission as the Southeast Area Conservation District of the Year and Pat Worle was selected as the Southeast Area Conservation District Employee of the Year. Congratulations to us all!

Once again, it's important to let you know that the concerns about the State deficit and funding adjustments continue. As always, we will be working closely with the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), a professional lobbyist, and Conservation Districts from around the state in support of our conservation efforts. We have a dedicated team looking out for District interests. This is why it is imperative that when project applications are approved by the ACCD Board of Supervisors and money is allocated to these projects, they must be completed on time. If for some reason you are unable to get your project done, please let us know in advance so we can use the money for another project before the Grant runs out. The District staff is available to be of assistance to you whenever necessary.

Looking forward to 2012 -- the planning for both the ACCD Annual Meeting and our Annual Tree Sale is underway. Both events are a lot of fun and we look forward to your participation! Additional notification and information will be sent to everyone well in advance of the events.

On behalf of the ACCD Board of Supervisors and staff, we want to thank each and every one of you for your continued involvement in our programs and for supporting our ongoing efforts to conserve and improve our natural resources for current and future generations.

*Wishing you and your family a very happy, healthy and memorable Holiday Season and all the very best in the New Year!*  
**Sandy Cunningham**



**Board of Supervisors**

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**Secretary**

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**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 once a month on Thursday of the first full week of the month.

Apr – Oct at 7:30 p.m.

Nov – Mar at 6:30 p.m.

720 6<sup>th</sup> Street

Suite B, in Clarkston, WA

The Asotin County Conservation District is proud to announce that the District was recognized as the 2011 Southeast Area Conservation District of the Year by the Washington State Conservation Commission.

Luhn's CREP Tree Planting – and a winter visitor.



Hostetler's



**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION**

The Asotin County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will hold a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on January 5, 2012 at 720 6<sup>th</sup> St., Suite B, Clarkston, WA 99403 to adopt a resolution setting the date, time, and location of an election to fill a Conservation District Supervisor's expiring term. For more information, please contact Sandy Cunningham, (509) 758-8012.

BY ORDER OF THE ASOTIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011

By: Sandy Cunningham, District Manager

**USDA – NRCS**  
**Program Signup Deadlines For 2012 Funding**

**WHIP** – (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program) – Jan. 6, 2012

**CSP** – (Conservation Stewardship Program) – Jan. 13, 2012

**EQIP** – (National Energy Incentives Program) – Feb 3, March 30, June 1, 2012

**EQIP** – (National Organic Incentives Program) – Feb 3, March 30, June 1, 2012

**EQIP – CAP** (Conservation Activity Plans) – Feb 3, 2012

**GRP** – (Grasslands Reserve Program) – March 4, 2012

## **BIG CROP YEAR = IMPORTANT RESIDUE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS**

I won't forget Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011. It was the day when it seemed the majority of stubble fields between Pomeroy and Walla Walla were a flame. The Lewis Clark valley was completely smothered in smoke with little or no air movement. Obviously the prevailing breezes were from the west with visibility less than a mile in the valley's. For the first time in my life I remember it difficult to breathe outside and my eyes burned from all the smoke in the air. Tossing a match into a stubble field on a hot dry fall day is not a particularly good decision, and not one that probably takes a lot of thought. Asotin County producers are typically not field burners and I believe that's because they put a little more thought into it.

This year we will be dealing with Palouse-like residue levels from the excellent crops of 2011. These heavy levels of straw will need to be managed properly in order to be ready for seeding next fall or spring. In a direct seed system the straw is utilized as a mulch and moisture saver. After all a dryland farmer is essentially in the business of harvesting and maintaining moisture that falls from the sky. The heavier the mulch the better job of conserving moisture that mulch will provide. That is why years like this should be viewed as an opportunity and not a problem. In areas where stubble is high and heavy it might be best to flail or mow that material down close to the ground to reduce the size of the straw and begin the degradation process early. The earlier the better. A heavy harrow may also help bust up some of those heavy areas and reduce straw size to make it more manageable at seeding time. Harrows are tough on low residue crops often exposing more soil surface resulting in moisture loss through the fallow period. This can make the surface excessively hard and lacking seed zone moisture at seeding. The earlier you harrow a light residue crop the more soil moisture will be lost. If you plan to utilize any form of tillage to aid in seedbed preparation it should be postponed as late as possible. Again, for moisture conserving reasons. Most importantly remember that residue management begins with harvest. Straw and chaff issues can often be alleviated by altering cutting height and spreading chaff with the combine. This will set the stage for the remainder of the fallow period. JS



2 ton/acre of wheat straw on lower Anatone flat 8/11. A rare event.

### **CREP Cost-Share Opportunities**

#### **Water Development:**

50% cost-share increased from \$3,000 to \$3,600 of up to \$7,200 total cost. Additional cost-share from other sources is available to complete project.

#### **Pipeline:**

50% cost-share increased from \$2,000 to \$2,400 of up to \$4,800 total cost. Additional cost-share from other sources is available to complete project.

#### **Livestock Watering Facilities:**

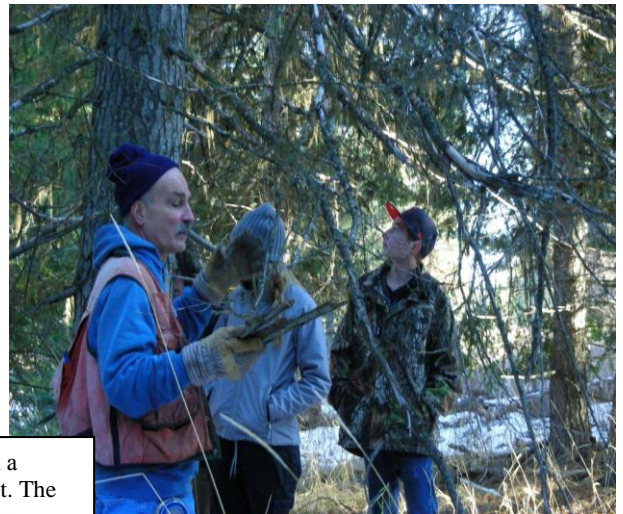
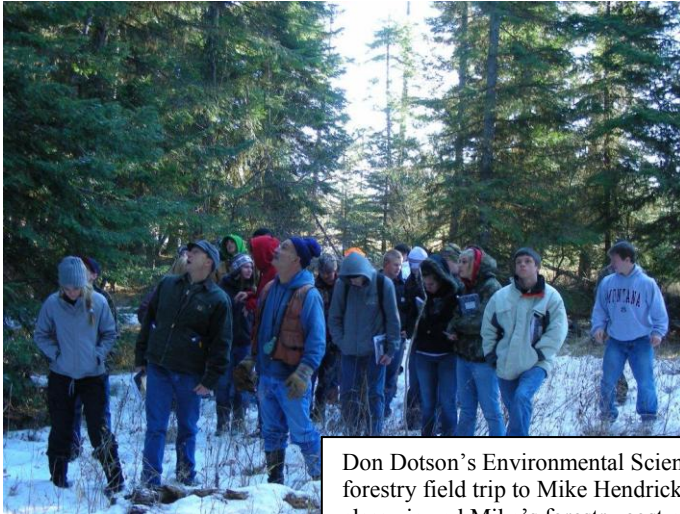
50% cost-share increased from \$2,000 to \$2,400 of up to \$4,800 total cost. Additional cost-share from other sources is available to complete project.

Contact Casey Scott at the  
ACCD District Office  
for information and assistance.  
509-758-8012 or  
[caseyaccd@cableone.net](mailto:caseyaccd@cableone.net)



Ausman's Water Development

# FORESTRY NEWS



Don Dotson's Environmental Science class on a forestry field trip to Mike Hendrickson's forest. The class viewed Mike's forestry cost-share thinning project that he recently completed and learned about the bug and diseases killing Mike's trees. For a hands on project the class measured tree heights and diameters and determined the volume of timber growing per acre on Mr. Hendrickson's ground. Afterwards we went to Fields Spring Park for lunch and snowball throwing.



## FORESTRY GREETINGS

Another year has come and almost gone. I wish all of you a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas season. I have enjoyed working with the staff here and especially the time and support everyone offers to try and teach me something. I am amazed by the variety of agricultural questions and programs the district, NRCS, and FSA cover. It's been a long learning curve for me from fence building 101 to potential water quality problems that might not be water quality problems after all. I am so happy when someone comes in with a plain old forestry question. I can usually help those folks or at least find the information for them.

As the year winds down I am already planning for next fall's forestry tour. If there are aspects of forestry you want covered please let me know. I thought folks at the last tour were interested in plants, forest ecology, and noxious weeds growing in the forest. Also the district still has 75% cost share money to give out if you have forest stand improvement or fuels reduction work. You need to sign up for this cost share by next spring to make sure funds are available. You can do the work yourself or hire a contractor.

Looking forward to working with you in the New Year!

## WANTED! Forestry Fuel Reductions Projects

The District will reimburse up to 75% of hold down rates for forest stand health improvements, Firewise clearing directly around your home, or fuelbreaks around forest subdivisions!

Contact Mike Miraglio at 509-758-8012 or [mikeaccd@cablone.net](mailto:mikeaccd@cablone.net)

# Orange Hawkweed

*Hieracium aurantiacum* L.

The last time this weed was found in Asotin County was July, 2003. This summer two separate infestations were found approximately 2 miles apart (approximately 4,000 feet in elevation). Thanks to alert landowners, these plants were treated and the surrounding areas were surveyed for other infestations. If you own land above 2,500 feet or own riparian property you may have appropriate habitat for orange hawkweed. This is an easy plant to identify. It looks like an orange dandelion.

Orange hawkweed is also known as King devil, devil's paintbrush, or fox and cubs.

Orange hawkweed is an herbaceous perennial that was introduced from Eurasia prior to 1820 as a garden cultivar. It reproduces by seeds, creeping stems and rhizomes. The bristly stems are customarily leafless arising from a basal leaf cluster. Leaves are generally smooth and contain a milky sap. Flower heads have multiple compact red-orange flowers similar to those of the dandelion. It generally blooms in June and July.

This plant will infest forests, lawns and gardens, pastures, meadows and wetlands, limiting and out-competing native pasture and range species.

Mechanical control is ineffective for hawkweeds because of their ability to reproduce by stolons. Regular tillage and/or herbicide applications are effective control methods. When selective herbicides are applied in the spring and followed with nitrogen fertilizer, grass competition can keep this weed suppressed.

No biological control agents are available for orange hawkweed.

There are very few orange flowers in Asotin County, when you see one, stop, take a look. If it looks like an orange dandelion, give me a call.

Submitted by  
Nelle Murray, Coordinator  
Asotin County Weed Board  
509 243-2098

*Thanks to Steve VanVleet,  
WSU Extension, for information  
and picture.*

WASHINGTON  
WITHOUT NOXIOUS WEEDS  
IS A WONDERFUL SIGHT!  
[www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov)





Asotin County  
 Conservation District  
 720 6<sup>th</sup> St., Suite B  
 Clarkston, WA 99403  
 509-758-8012  
[www.asotincd.net](http://www.asotincd.net)

# ACCD BULLETIN BOARD

**Upcoming Dates**

12/26/11 Christmas Holiday  
Office Closed

1/2/12 New Year Holiday  
Office Closed

1/5/12 ACCD Board Meeting 6:30 pm.



*Don't Forget Your 2012 Agricultural Burn Permit!*

Just a reminder that burning by commercial agricultural operations requires a permit except when burning orchard prunings, natural vegetation along fence lines, irrigation and drainage ditches or natural vegetation blown by the wind. A grower must still comply with their fire protection authority's notification/approval process prior to igniting any outdoor fire even if an air quality permit is not required. Two types of commercial agricultural permits are available. Spot burn permits, which are available through the District, allow burning of up to 10 acres total area of unforeseen and unpredictable small areas such as small weed patches, spots of heavy residue, and equipment plugs and dumps. Field burn permits are issued for any burning which is definable and predictable. Any individual burn area, which consists of over 10 contiguous acres, would be considered a field and requires a field permit. Permits are issued by the Dept. of Ecology. Applications are available at the District office. Please contact Casey Scott at the ACCD Office with any questions at 509-758-8012 or [caseyaccd@cablone.net](mailto:caseyaccd@cablone.net)

**North Idaho Grazing Conference**  
 January 10, 2012  
 LCSC Williams Conference Center

Poisonous Plants / Multi Species Grazing  
 CRP Takeout / Rancher Forum  
 Idaho County SWCD and U of I Cooperative  
 Extension

Information and Pre-Order Forms for the 2012 TREE SALE will be coming soon!