



ACCD NEWSLETTER



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

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

Almost like clockwork every year, Anatone ends up having a snow blizzard on the day of our Annual Meeting. Regardless, we diligently haul supplies and equipment up to the Community Hall wading through the snow and hoping people show up. Thankfully, we have always had a good turnout and we really appreciate it. Unfortunately, this year, Mother Nature had different things in mind. Two days prior to the scheduled meeting date we were told by residents in that area that massive amounts of snow had fallen the night before and some of you were snowed in. We had to make a decision that day since we had speakers and a caterer lined up. After much discussion, our Board Chairman made the decision to postpone the meeting. Then, as luck would have it, March 3rd apparently ended up to be "not so bad" in Anatone and the meeting probably could have taken place after all. If only we would have had a crystal ball – but we didn't, and the best decision was made under the circumstances. Hopefully the postponement didn't inconvenience all of you too much because we really want you to attend the Annual Meeting which will now be held on March 31, 2011. And, because we don't want to take a chance on the unpredictable weather in Anatone, we have decided to hold the meeting at Floch Hall at the Asotin County Fairgrounds. An agenda is enclosed. And please bring your thoughts and great ideas to this meeting. The District is in the process of developing our new Long Range Plan (5-year) and we need your input. Our existing plan ends the end of this year so we will be having several meetings over the next few months to develop an accurate plan that best reflects the direction ACCD wants to go. As landowners, your input will be invaluable to help our Board of Supervisors determine the best programs, practices, etc. for the district to offer over the next 5 years. We will notify our cooperators once the meetings are scheduled. And please don't forget about the ACCD Annual Tree Sale March 25 & 26. It gets bigger and better every year!

On behalf of all of us here at the district, thank you for all you do to conserve and preserve our natural resources. See you at the 2011 Annual Meeting on March 31st !

Sandy Cunningham

Board of Supervisors

Chairman
Keith Ausman

Vice-Chairman
Rich Witters

Auditor
Jerry Hendrickson

Secretary
Ron Scheibe

Member
Rod Hostetler

Associate Supervisors

Don Dotson
Jay Holzmiller
Elaine Nagle
Ashlee Heger

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, WA.



**GRASSED FIELD
BUFFER PROGRAM**

We are currently working with funding sources to create a new program for 2011-2013. The Grassed Buffer Program will provide an annual incentive payment to cooperators to maintain a grass buffer around the perimeter of fields bordering highly erodible rangeland. The buffer shall be a minimum of 30 feet and a maximum of 60 feet wide and will not be part of the adjacent cropland rotation. There will be an annual payment per acre for each year of the program that the buffer is maintained and is left specifically for wildlife habitat. Buffers will receive reduced payment per acre if grazing, haying or mowing takes place. The District is taking applications for the program.

If you are interested in this program please contact Megan at 509-758-8012 or meganaccd@cablone.net.



Don't Forget Your 2011 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.

New fees effective January 1, 2011

Spot Burning - \$30 for 10 acres or less.
Field burning - \$30 for the first 10 acres.
And \$3 for each additional acre.

Please contact Casey Scott at the ACCD Office with any questions at 509-758-8012 or caseyaccd@cablone.net

**WASHINGTON
WITHOUT NOXIOUS WEEDS
IS A WONDERFUL SIGHT!**

www.nwcb.wa.gov



CRP SIGNUP 41 BEGINS

Applications for enrollment of cropland into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup 41 will begin March 14 and continue through Friday, April 15. Highly erodible land which has been cropped or designated as conserving use for 4 years between 2002 and 2007, expired CRP acreage, and land coming out of the program on September 30, 2011 is eligible for enrollment.

Contracts will be offered for ten years, beginning October 1, 2011. Payments will be made for annual rentals, based upon soil types. Cost-sharing at 50% of estimated costs is also available on practices to establish acceptable cover.

As in the past, offers in Signup 41 will be ranked on an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). Points are given for soil erodibility, the type of vegetation cover planned, cost factors, and other criteria such as location in a designated wildlife or air quality area. Most of these factors are out of the participant's control, but applicants can improve the EBI for their offers by committing to plant complex mixtures of grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Multiple-species seedings have higher ranking than monocultures, and native plant species are preferred over introduced species. Accepting up to a 15% reduction in the annual rental can also raise the points for the bid.

Interested people should plan to come into the USDA office and go over their options with FSA or NRCS staff. Plan to spend a little time reviewing program rules (it's not real complicated, but it can take a while). Calling for appointments would be appreciated.

So, the choices are pretty wide and uncertain this year. Wheat and cattle prices have been good, but the cost of petroleum is also threatening to go through the roof. Changes to federal spending may also be coming. So add to this uncertain mix the chance to enroll land into CRP. (There is a reason they call it March Madness).



New Fencing Rates

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.

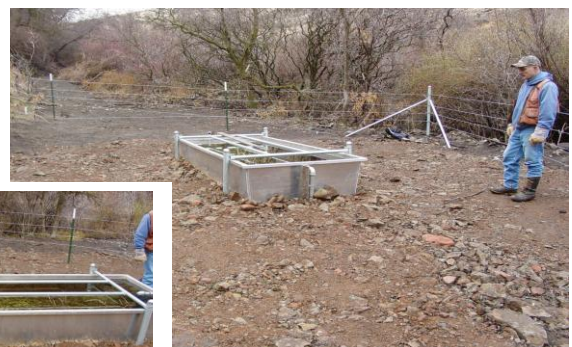
Financial assistance is available for water developments, cross fence, heavy use area protection, windbreaks, roof runoff systems and pasture planting. The small acreage program is still limited to \$8,000 per landowner and is available on a first come first served basis.

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

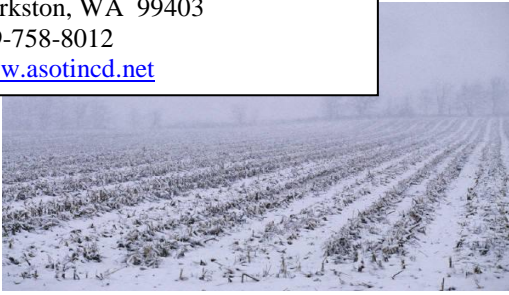
Increased CREP Cost-Share Rates

- Water Development:
From \$3,000 to \$3,600
(total reimbursement of \$7,200)
- Pipeline:
From \$2,000 to \$2,400
(total of reimbursement \$4,800)
- Livestock Watering Facilities:
From \$2,000 to \$2,400
(total reimbursement of \$4,800)

Contact Casey Scott at the
ACCD District Office
509-758-8012 or
caseyaccd@cablone.net
for information and assistance.



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720 6th St., Suite B
Clarkston, WA 99403
509-758-8012
www.asotincd.net



ACCD BULLETIN BOARD

2011 ACCD Annual Tree Sale

Friday - March 25 (9 am to 6 pm) and Saturday – March 26 (9 am to Noon)

Preorders With Payments Are Due March 23 – Preorder Form Is In Newsletter and On Line www.asotincd.net

ASOTIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2011 ANNUAL MEETING - **Rescheduled**

Floch Hall, Asotin County Fair Grounds, Asotin, WA 99402



Thursday – March 31, 2011

Registration – 8:30 a.m.

Pesticide Credits

Door Prizes

Lunch Provided

RSVP - 509-758-8012