

Asotin County Conservation District Newsletter

720 Sixth Street, Suite B * Clarkston, Washington * (509) 758-8012



WANTED:



COST-SHARE PROJECTS

Do you have a natural resource concern?

If so, let the District help you! The District has cost-share funds available for several Best Management Practices (see page three). If you are interested in utilizing the cost-share program please contact the District staff for more information regarding rates and restrictions that may apply.

We can help you with technical & financial assistance for projects. If you have an area of concern, we will help you find the right solution.

The District is a non-regulatory agency & all programs are voluntary.

NEW EMPLOYEE

For those of you who do not know me, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Sandy Cunningham and I am the new Administrative Assistant/Technician for the Asotin County Conservation District. I have lived in Asotin County my entire life and have a grown daughter, son and daughter-in-law, and one very special little granddaughter.

After working for Asotin County for fourteen years (first in the Public Works Department and later as Clerk of the Board/H.R. Director in the Commissioners' Office), I left to explore a career in the health care field, which was something I had always wanted to do. After 2 ½ years, I realized it was not the best fit for me. My last day at Tri-State Hospital was May 11th and I started working for the Conservation District on May 14, 2007.

There is a lot for me to learn here and I hope that you will bear with me while I settle into this position and become more familiar with the District's operations. I am very excited to be a part of the Asotin County Conservation District and look forward to working with all of you.

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. The cost is \$25 and the permit is good for the entire calendar year. Field burn permits are issued for any burning which is definable and predictable.

Any individual burn area, which consists of over 5 contiguous acres, would be considered a field and requires a field permit. Permit are issued by the Dept. of Ecology and costs \$2 per acre. Applications are available at the District office.

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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.

How Invasive is Sulfur Cinquefoil?

Is sulfur cinquefoil invasive? Ask the folks who live and work in Grouse Flats. Every year they do battle with sulfur cinquefoil in their pastures and fields. Every year I find sulfur cinquefoil in a few more places around the County; bunch grass and sagebrush communities, flood plains, road edges, gravel bars, logged and disturbed areas and especially forest communities. I have found sulfur cinquefoil from the Snake and Grande Ronde Rivers to at least 3,700 feet. (It's probably found higher). According to USFS sulfur cinquefoil researcher, Dr. Catherine Parks, this weed will probably be extremely competitive in a variety of environmental conditions.

Recognizing sulfur cinquefoil can be a challenge to many landowners since it shares similar characteristics with a native cinquefoil. The native cinquefoils have been in bloom since the end of May. Sulfur cinquefoil is just beginning to bloom at higher elevations. It has been in bloom at lower elevations since the end of May.

Sulfur Cinquefoil

Palmately shaped leaves

Yellow-green colored leaves

Under side of leaf is yellow-green

Leaflet indentions less than half

Cream colored flowers

No basal leaves when in bloom

Rough, shiny hair perpendicular to stem

Native Cinquefoil

Palmately shaped leaves

Deep green leaf color

Under side of leaf is silver color

Leaflet indentions more than half

Bright yellow flowers

Basal leaves present

Silky hairs lay flat on stem

Sulfur cinquefoil only reproduces by seed, and it is a prolific seed producer. Seeds may be spread by mud carried by animals, humans, or machinery. Some seeds may be carried by water or melting snow. Because of its high tannin content, it is thought to be unpalatable to most wildlife and livestock. However, various studies have produced conflicting results demonstrating seed movement by ingestion of seed heads.

Because of the tremendous seed production of this plant and thus the seed bank that will be present in any infestation, care should be taken to carefully clean all soil from equipment and vehicles before moving from an infested area to an uninfested area. Livestock taken from an infested area to an uninfested area are highly likely to move cinquefoil by seed attachment to hair and by mud adhering to the animals.

Tilling is an effective control option as is hand grubbing for small populations. Picloram and aminopyralid herbicides have been shown to produce the best chemical control. Please call the Weed Office for more specific rates and products.

Sulfur cinquefoil is not yet wide spread throughout the County. Treating small populations quickly is the key to preventing the population from expanding. Do you have sulfur cinquefoil on your property? If you have Ponderosa pines on your property, you have a high probability of having it right now. If you have any problems recognizing it, please give me a call (243-2098 (office) or on my cell 751-7505) and I will be happy to teach you to recognize the difference.

Submitted by:

Nelle Murray, Coordinator, Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES & COST-SHARE RATES - THEY HAVE CHANGED!

Practice Name	Component	Unit	Unit Cost	Rate	Cost-Share	Comments
Pipeline*	Hydrant, Frost Free	EA	\$85.00	75%	\$63.75	
	Pipeline, Plastic, Installed	FT	\$3.50	75%	\$2.63	
	Pipeline, Steel, Installed	FT	\$5.50	75%	\$4.13	
	Difficult Terrain, (addition to cost)	FT	\$1.50	75%	\$1.13	
Pumping Plant*	Pump	EA	\$2,000.00	75%	\$1,500.00	
	Pump, Hydraulic Ram	EA	\$500.00	75%	\$375.00	
	Solar Pump with solar panel	EA	\$2,000.00	75%	\$1,500.00	
Spring Development*	Spring Box and collection system	EA	\$1,500.00	75%	\$1,125.00	
Watering Facility*	Tank, Storage Cistern, Installed	EA	\$5,000.00	75%	\$3,750.00	
	Trough, Installed w/appurtenances	GAL	\$2.50	75%	\$1.88	Trough is nte 1000 gallons
	Trough, Insulated, Installed	EA	\$2,000.00	75%	\$1,500.00	
Livestock Well*	Drilling, casing & sealing, pipe to well head	EA	\$10,000.00	50%	\$5,000.00	
	Drilling, casing & sealing, pipe to well head	EA	\$5,000.00	100%	\$5,000.00	Available for feeding operation adjacent to streams where ESA listed fish are present and livestock will be excluded
Fish Screen	Screen, Installed	EA	\$500.00	75%	\$375.00	Livestock water only
Structure for Water Control	Diversion	CY	\$3.50	50%	\$1.75	Nte \$1,750 cost-share
	Rock, Placed	CY	\$50.00	50%	\$25.00	Streambank Stabilization Nte \$2,000 cost-share
Feed Area Rocking	Rock, Placed & Geo-textile fabric	CY	\$50.00	50%	\$25.00	Nte \$2,000 cost-share
Cross Fencing	Easy Terrain	FT	\$2.50	50%	\$1.25	Maximum cost-share paid for cross fence shall not exceed \$7,500 per cooperator per year.
	Moderate Terrain	FT	\$3.25	50%	\$1.63	
	Difficult Terrain	FT	\$3.75	50%	\$1.88	
Riparian Fencing	Easy Terrain	FT	\$2.50	75%	\$1.88	
	Moderate Terrain	FT	\$3.25	75%	\$2.44	
	Difficult Terrain	FT	\$3.75	75%	\$2.81	
	Easy Terrain	FT	\$2.50	100%	\$2.50	100% not to exceed cost-share rates will be paid according to District Policy
	Moderate Terrain	FT	\$3.25	100%	\$3.25	
	Difficult Terrain	FT	\$3.75	100%	\$3.75	
Protection Fencing	Fence around water developments	FT	\$4.00	75%	\$3.00	Nte \$1,000 cost-share
Corral Fencing	Corral fence including gates	FT	\$10.00	75%	\$7.50	
Direct Seeding	One or Two pass system	AC	\$50.00	50%	\$25.00	Nte 60 acres. See policy for requirements & restrictions.
Pasture/hayland planting	Seedbed Prep, Seed and Seeding	AC	\$100.00	50%	\$50.00	Maximum 100 acres per cooperator per year
Tree Planting	Shrub or Tree and Planting	EA		75%		Amount determined by board
Windbreaks				50%		Amount determined by board
Livestock/Equipment Crossing	Culverts, rock and dirt work	EA	\$2,000.00	75%	\$1,500.00	
Multi-purpose pond	Earthfill and excavation	CY	\$3.50	50%	\$1.75	Nte \$1,500 cost-share
Sediment basin	Earthfill and excavation	CY	\$3.50	50%	\$1.75	Nte \$1,500 cost-share
Terrace	Terrace construction, all types	FT	\$0.34	50%	\$0.17	
Grassed Waterways	Earthmoving, grading and shaping	FT		50%		Amount determined by board
Critical Area Planting	Site Prep, Seed and Seeding	AC	\$125.00	50%	\$62.50	

The District Board of Supervisors approved Cost-Share rates on March 8, 2007. Some restrictions apply, contact the District staff if you are interested in applying for cost-share or have any questions.



BACKYARD CONSERVATION TIPS!!!



Water Conservation

Save water with efficient systems and healthy plants.

Wise use of water for garden and lawn watering not only helps protect the environment, but also saves money and provides for optimum growing conditions. Simple ways of reducing the amount of water used for irrigation include growing plants that are adapted to dry conditions, mulching, adding water retaining organic matter to the soil and installing windbreaks and fences to slow winds and reduce evapotranspiration. Watering in the early morning before the sun is intense helps reduce the water lost from evaporation. Installing rain gutters and collecting water from downspouts also helps reduce water use.

Choosing Plants for Low Water Use

You are not limited to cacti, succulents, or narrow leafed evergreens when selecting plants adapted to low moisture requirements. Many plants growing in humid environments are well adapted to low levels of soil moisture. Numerous plants found growing in coastal or mountainous regions have developed mechanisms for dealing with extremely sandy, excessively well-drained soils, or rocky cold soils in which moisture is limited for months at a time.

Find more Backyard Conservation tips at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Feature/backyard/>

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