

2011 ENVIROTHON HELD AT CHIEF TIMOTHY PARK

On Thursday, April 28th, 2011 the Asotin County Conservation District held our annual Envirothon at Chief Timothy Park. I believe this is the fourteenth year that the district has put on an Envirothon for southeast Washington high schools. It's a fun event for us at the District. We keep a connection with the high school teachers and students and the students learn about natural resource conservation. The Envirothon is a national program generously sponsored by Canon Office Equipment. Our local winning team continued on to state competition this year at Stanwood, WA on Puget Sound.



This year we had two teams from Pomeroy High School join in the Envirothon for the first time, along with five teams from Clarkston High School. The national theme this year was freshwater and saltwater estuaries and our local Envirothon reflected that topic throughout the event. The day started out with Del Groat talking about the lifecycles of salmon and steelhead in the Snake River along with the physiological changes they make as smolts and back again as adults as they go from fresh water to salt water and back to fresh water. Courtney Smith gave the students a tough test as he usually does on the the theme topic "Estuaries". The oral presentation topic this year was to present one idea or concept that would attract more folks out to Chief Timothy Park without having a big impact on the existing ecology of the park. All students must participate in the oral presentation for their team to score high. This is not an easy assignment as the students are given twenty five minutes to prepare a presentation on a subject they did not know in advance. The students presented their ideas like rock concerts or motorcycle races that would bring more people to the park and hopefully not scare the ducks and deer away. The rest of the Envirothon presented even more challenges as the kids went on to soil, forestry and wildlife stations.

Estuaries



Environmental



Forestry



Wildlife



Soils



Presentation Judges



Presentation



This year's winning Envirothon team that scored the highest through all the grueling stuff above was from Clarkston High School.

Team members were Ashlie McClintock, Chris Davidson, Kayla Mainwaring, Summer Millage, Samantha Lenz, and Andrew Simpson. Congratulations to the winning team! All the students this year had great attitudes and lots of enthusiasm – even with the windy moments.



The first place team from Pomeroy High School was Mitch McGreevy, Jose Cruz, Mike Wymore, Blaine Barber.



Have to close by thanking all the volunteers who make the Envirothon a good hands on learning event. Washington Fish and Wildlife has put on the Wildlife Station probably every year. This year we got help from the Forest Service, NRCS Pomeroy, Asotin PUD, the entire NRCS staff in our office, and our conservation district staff and supervisors. Special thanks to Blue Mountain RC&D for their generous contribution toward footing he bill and for their ongoing encouragement and assistance in putting on the Envirothon. Also to Northwest Land Management and Jerry Pinkerton for providing the facilities at Chief Timothy free of charge.



It was a great day and a good time was had by all! We look forward to next year – watch the website at www.asotincd.net and our quarterly newsletter for updates and information about our local, annual Envirothon.

– Mike Miraglio