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Nez Perce Soil & Water Conservation District  
www.nezperceswcd.org

# Forever Soil & Water

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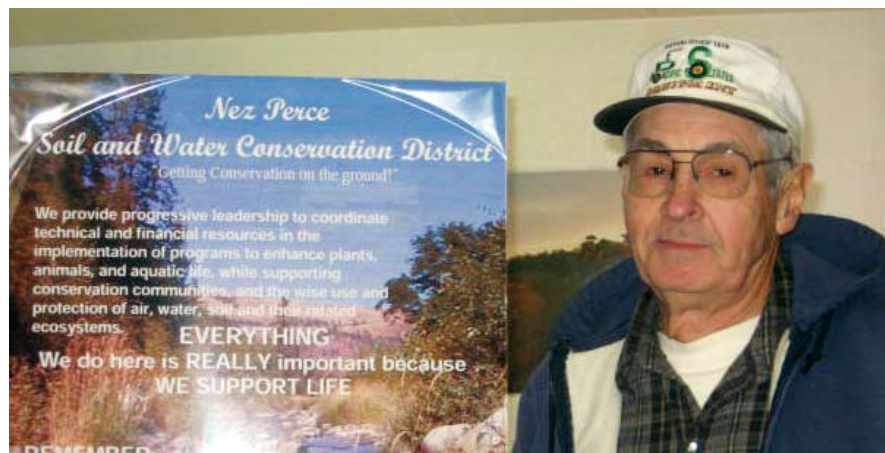
## Don Herndon nominated for 2008 National Association of Conservation District's "Friend of Conservation Award"

Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District nominated Don Herndon for the National Association of Conservation District's (NACD) "Friend of Conservation Award".

The Friend of Conservation Award recognizes an individual, business, organization, agency, etc. outside the association for outstanding contributions to the conservation of our nation's natural resources.

Don Herndon resides near Culdesac, Idaho and has been a friend of the District's for over 20 years. Don has farmed in the Culdesac area since the late 1940s and has implemented conservation practices such as sediment basins, grassed waterways, filter strips, and habitat conservation projects for as many years.

Don strengthened the District's local partnership through his outstanding dedication. Not only does he demonstrate conservation on his own land, he assists with the implementation of projects on his neighbor's lands. Don has directly assisted the District with implementing projects such as wetland developments and riparian plantings. Last fall Don Herndon assisted in the implementation of a 3 acre wetland development project by providing a backhoe, digging wetland



Don Herndon

plants, and transporting the plants to the project site.

Don provides encouragement and training to District staff through attending staff meetings and assisting with customer relations. Don is driven to solve resource problems as demonstrated through his latest conservation efforts.

In August of 2008, Don worked with the District and Nez Perce Tribe to remove the 2nd highest priority fish passage barrier in Lapwai Creek. This has been an on-going effort for Don since 1996. He overcame numerous hurdles with funding, property ownership, and permitting over the past 12 years. His patience and dedication resulted in the

*His patience and dedication resulted in the restoration of 15 miles of habitat for steelhead access.*

restoration of 15 miles of habitat for steelhead access. In addition to the removal of the fish passage barrier, Don worked to restore access to the floodplain through the removal of a dike.

The District considers Don a valuable asset to our conservation efforts. Although Don was not selected for this award, NACD recognized his local efforts. Congratulations and Thank you Don.



Cover photo by Lynn Rasmussen

# USDA'S Interim Final Rule Amends Environmental Quality Incentives Program

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 2009-Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer today announced changes to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's largest conservation program for working agricultural lands.

USDA published an interim final rule containing the statutory changes to EQIP in the Federal Register today. USDA is seeking public comment on the rule through March 16, 2009.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, or 2008 Farm Bill, includes non-industrial private forestland as an eligible land use and provides payments for conservation practices related to organic production or the transition to organic production. It also provides for increased payment rates to historically underserved producers, including limited resource, beginning, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The EQIP interim final rule can be viewed at the

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's (USDA-NRCS) Web site; at the official government regulation Web Site; and at the Federal Register.

The public comments will be used to finalize the interim final rule. USDA will publish a final rule, which will incorporate statutory changes and establish the program's policy for the life of the 2008 Farm Bill.

USDA-NRCS administers EQIP, a voluntary conservation program that provides technical assistance and payments to help crop and livestock producers address environmental concerns through conservation improvements on agricultural and non-industrial private forest lands. Farmers and ranchers can use EQIP to farm in an environmentally friendly manner and still meet their agricultural production goals. It is designed to produce significant environmental benefits to the public, such as improved soil, water and air quality; and enhanced wildlife habitat. In addition, farmers and ranchers use EQIP to meet federal, state, tribal and local environmental regulations.

Under the amended EQIP, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as well as beginning and limited resource producers are authorized to receive payments of up to 90 percent of the costs of installing or implementing a conservation practice. These producers also can receive advance payments of up to 30 percent of the anticipated costs incurred to purchase materials or to contract services to implement a conservation practice.

EQIP will offer financial and technical assistance for conservation practices to certified organic farmers and ranchers as well as producers interested in transitioning to organic farming. Organic producers must develop and carry out an organic system plan. These producers can receive a maximum payment of \$20,000 annually, or \$80,000 over six years to apply or carry out approved conservation practices contained in that plan.

EQIP will offer financial assistance to forest landowners to develop a forest management plan, along with carrying out the conservation practices contained in the plan. The 2008 Farm Bill also encourages producers to use innovative technologies and cost-effective methods under approved conservation practices to address air quality.

The 2008 Farm Bill reduced the overall payment limitation from \$450,000 to \$300,000 for a six-year period, except for environmentally significant projects.

The new farm bill also established the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) as a component of EQIP. AWEP provides technical and financial assistance to help producers carry out water enhancement activities on private agricultural land for the purpose of conserving surface and ground water and improving water quality. USDA published a Request for Proposals for AWEP in the Federal Register on Jan. 14, 2009.

For additional information about EQIP, please visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/> or call (202) 720-1845 during business hours.

## Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

*An innovative mentoring program for high school students*



Hutton scholars spend the summer exploring a career in fisheries science while working alongside a local mentor in a marine and/or freshwater setting. All Hutton scholars receive a scholarship award of \$3,000.

### Who Can Apply?

Students are eligible for the summers after tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades. Applicants should have an interest in the biological sciences and should maintain a satisfactory grade point average in mathematics, English, sciences, and social sciences. Applicants should also be physically fit, as some fieldwork activities can be very rigorous.

### Length of Assignment

Each assignment normally begins in May or June after the school year ends and lasts for 8 weeks.

### Reporting Requirements

Students are required to provide written reports to the American Fisheries Society at mid-summer and at the close of the program.

### Scholarship

The Hutton scholarship is \$3,000. Students must provide their own transportation to and from the work site; however, travel expenses associated with fieldwork are borne by the mentor's organization.

### How to Apply

Applications for the program can be found under the Hutton Program navigational bar on the AFS website at [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org). Submit a complete Application Package by February 15th to the American Fisheries Society, Attention: Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, MD 20814-2199.

### Selection

Selection is made competitively from applications submitted to the American Fisheries Society. Selection criteria include: academic ability, recommendations, and communication skills. As the principal goal of the program is to increase diversity within the fisheries field, preference will be given to qualified women and minority applicants.

## Forever Soil & Water

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### Culdesac Office

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### NPSWCD Board Members

Steve Becker, Chair

Tracy Hill, Vice Chairman

Kyle Wilson, Treasurer

Lisa Swanson, Dale Nichols, Todd Wittman, John Hermann

Design by Melissa Rockwood, Rdesign

## Planting is for the Birds

What is the easiest way to attract birds? Just put a feeder out and they will show up? Imagine what would happen if you planted for the birds. Building a “bird pantry” has many benefits and planting the right species will bring in all different kinds of birds for all different reasons. Birds like trees and shrubs to perch on allowing them rest and catch “bird’s eye view” of their surroundings, hiding from your cat and other predators and building nests for babies. Like humans, birds prefer a variety of foods. A diversity of trees and shrubs with help satisfy this need. Plants provide seeds, nuts, berries, insects and fruit. Planting native plants attracts birds because specific plant species provide the nutrition that the birds need. Native plants not only increase the aesthetic value they also provide environmental value while providing for the birds.



**Hummingbirds:** Red Flowering Currant, Red and Blue elderberry, Huckleberries, Salmonberry, Serviceberry, Snowberry.

**Doves:** Ponderosa Pine, Shore Pine, Bitter Cherry, Black Hawthorne, Red Huckleberry.

**Finches:** Variety of conifers, Big Leaf Maple, Oregon Ash, Bitter Cherry, Black Hawthorne, Thimbleberry

**Grosbeaks:** Black Hawthorne, Pacific Crabapple, Rose species, Red and Blue Elderberry

**Orioles:** Bitter Cherry, Black Hawthorne, Red Huckleberry, Salmonberry, Red and Blue Elderberry, Snowberry, Red Huckleberry

**Chickadees:** Ponderosa Pine, Shore Pine, Big Leaf Maple

**Towhee:** Pacific Crabapple, Red Flowering Currant, Evergreen Huckleberry



**Thrushes:** Black Hawthorne, Red Flowering Currant, Rose hips, Salmonberry, Red and Blue Elderberry, Low Oregon Grape

**Waxwings:** Black Hawthorne, Pacific Crabapple, Red Flowering Currant, Indian Plum

**Woodpecker:** Conifers, Black Hawthorne, Pacific Crabapple, Red Flowering Currant, Red and Blue Elderberry

Start creating your bird sanctuary today!

*“Planting is for the Birds!”, The Seedling 1.8 (June, 2008):1*



## Big Canyon and Lapwai Project Deadlines

If you are interested in voluntarily participating in a cost-sharing program to improve your riparian areas, enhance fish habitat and/or reduce erosion, the District would like to help you get started.

Applications are accepted for conservation projects to be installed in 2009/2010. Cost-share dollars are available for projects in the Big Canyon Creek and Lapwai Creek watersheds for the improvement of fish habitat. Projects include erosion control practices, tree planting, fencing, water developments, grass seeding, and in-stream fish habitat projects.

For an application stop by the office, mail, fax, or call the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District with the following information: name, address, phone number, e-mail address (optional), type of project you are interested in, and best time to reach you.

Phone: (208) 843-2931, Fax: (208) 843-2234  
PO Box 131, Culdesac, ID 83524

Or stop by the office to pick up an application and other useful information.  
27880 Chambers Road, Culdesac, ID 83524

## Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District 2008 Annual Report

The Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District completed its annual report for 2008. Copies can be obtained from the District web site at [www.nezperceswcd.org](http://www.nezperceswcd.org). Highlights include:

- Developed conservation plans on 6,700 acres cropland, forest lands, rangeland, and prairie grasslands.
- Protected 140 acres of ponderosa pine communities through tree plantings.
- Improved, protected, and restored 3.2 acres of wetlands.
- Controlled 25 acres of hybrid knotweed within the Lapwai Creek watershed.
- Released yellow starthistle and spotted knapweed biocontrol agents at 22 sites within the Lapwai and Big Canyon Creek watersheds.
- Completed certification of carbon sequestration on 1,200 acres for the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association.
- Inventoried and mapped existing prairie remnants in the Taylor Canyon watershed.



- Identified and prioritized areas for noxious weed treatment. Completed roadside weed inventory reports for Lapwai and Big Canyon. In addition prioritized invasive weeds identified as control, eradicate and control in the Clearwater Basin WMA and within 300 linear feet of a road or stream corridor as a priority for treatment.
- Coordinated an interagency bio-control agent day. Over 3,000 insects

were collected in coordination with Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Nez Perce Tribe.

- Collected, analyzed, and compiled stream temperature data for Big Canyon, Lapwai, Cottonwood, Catholic, Hatwai, Lindsay, Tammany, Jacks, and Bedrock Creeks.
- Coordinated meetings and administrative functions for the Cow Creek, Lindsay, and Tammany Creek Watershed Advisory Groups to assist in meeting TMDL obligations within those drainages.
- Reduced sediment delivery to the Clearwater and Snake Rivers through the protection of over 6,500 acres of cropland from excessive erosion.



**Nez Perce Soil and Water  
Conservation District**  
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Orange Hawkweed Survey Project

The Nez Perce SWCD prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability and marital or family status.

## Orange Hawkweed Survey Project

### The Weed:

Orange hawkweed is a perennial plant which grows up to about 15 inches high and has bright orange flowers and hairy stems and leaves. Each flowering shoot consists of 5-30 flower heads, 1/2 to 1 inch in diameter. Orange hawkweed is also known as 'devil's paintbrush' and 'red devil.'

### Where it grows:

Orange hawkweed is native to the mountains of northern and central Europe. It was introduced as a garden plant and has since spread into a noxious weed in the United States. This weed invades disturbed areas (eg. roadsides, drains, residential areas), grasslands, pastures, stream areas, and wet areas.

### Why we need to be aware of orange hawkweed:

Orange hawkweed can out compete native plants and disturb local ecosystems. It fills the spaces between grass plants that are necessary for the regeneration and survival of native species.



Photo: UAF Cooperative Extension Archive, University of Alaska - Fairbanks, Bugwood.org

### What you can do to help:

If you have seen orange hawkweed or have this weed on your property, please contact the Nez Perce Soil & Water Conservation District. The District is trying to identify areas with orange hawkweed. We plan to develop a treatment strategy from this survey. The District will use the survey and treatment strategy to request grant funds to assist landowners with hawkweed control. With your help, we can stop the spread of this noxious weed.

ment strategy to request grant funds to assist landowners with hawkweed control. With your help, we can stop the spread of this noxious weed.

### Contact:

Nez Perce Soil & Water Conservation District, P.O. Box 131, Culdesac, ID 83524, (208) 843-2931, [npswcd@co.nezperce.id](mailto:npswcd@co.nezperce.id), [www.nezperceswcd.org](http://www.nezperceswcd.org)

Resources: [www.weedsrc.org.au](http://www.weedsrc.org.au), [www.shortcourses.com](http://www.shortcourses.com)



Photo: Washington State University Archive, Washington State University, Bugwood.org