



Summer 2008

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

Forever Soil & Water

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Environmental Awareness Days 20 Years Of Hands-On Education

Handling live insects, touching real wildlife furs, experiencing the life cycle of a salmon, getting to see a Great Horned Owl up close and personal... where can you find fun education like this? At the Conservation District's annual Environmental Awareness Days event!

This May marked the 21st year that the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District (District) has hosted Environmental Awareness Days; a fun hands-on education event for local sixth grade students. Over four hundred sixth graders from Lewiston, Clarkston, and Lapwai got a chance to experience nature outside of the classroom on this awesome field trip. The two day event was held May 7th and 8th at Hells Gate State Park, and with generous sponsors and wonderful volunteers, the event was a great success!

The idea behind this event is not only to teach students about the environment but to give them the opportunity to experience it. In each class students participated in activities geared to engage them by hearing, seeing and doing so that they really retain the information presented. Rather than just hearing about different types of soils, the students got to feel the textures of sand, silt

and clay in their hands. When students were asked "How can you tell an herbivore skull from a carnivore skull?" they got to examine skulls to

"One of the reasons I love to bring my students to this event is the wonderful instructors...Having so many specialists, from so many different fields, at one location makes this event very worthwhile!"

find the answer (eye placement and teeth).

The event classes were taught by specialists and educators from the surrounding area, each volunteering time to share their knowledge with local youth. Mrs. Goldsworthy, Orchards Elementary School, said "One of the reasons I love to bring my students to this event is the wonderful instructors! In the classroom I can read from a book or help the students find information on the

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At the Conservation station students learned about soil erosion. Pictured are students from McGhee Elementary competing in a runoff race.



Cover photo by Lynn Rasmussen

Workshops for Control of Noxious Weeds



The Nez Perce Bio-control Center in collaboration with local Weed Departments, UI County Extension, CWMA's and the Idaho Forest Owners Association are offering 8 biological control workshops for anyone interested in learning more about noxious weeds and their natural enemies (biological control of noxious weeds) and other methods used for weed control. The Bio-Control Center is offering biological control of noxious weed workshops throughout many of Idaho counties and two of them are offered on the Nez Perce Reservation. They are advertised on the Nez Perce Bio-control Center web page (<http://www.nezperce.org/~biocontrol/upcomingworkshops.html>). There is no cost for attending the workshops. The Bio-Control Center will be offering participants a free release of bio-control agents for the featured weed (Spotted knapweed and Yellow starthistle) and you may get an opportunity to collect your own biological control insects from field nursery sites. If you are interested in attending one of the workshops, please register with:

Paul Brusven, Nez Perce Bio-Control Center
208-843-9374 or email: pbrusven@nezperce.org
Or web site: <http://www.nezperce.org/~biocontrol/upcomingworkshops.html>

Workshops

All workshops run from 9am-3pm with a free lunch

July

- 2 - Lapwai, Idaho – Nez Perce Bio-control Center, 22776 Bever Road – Yellow starthistle
- 10 - Orofino/Fraser, Idaho–Fraser Community Center, located at top of Greer Grade, Hwy 11 at Mile marker 11– Knapweed & Yellow starthistle
- 17 - Bonners Ferry, Idaho – County extension office – Knapweed
- 24 - Sandpoint, Idaho – County Extension Office – Knapweed

August

- 7 - Princeton, Idaho – Community Center – Knapweed
- 14 - Deary/Kendrick, Idaho – Community Center – Knapweed
- 21 - St. Maries, Idaho – Federal Building
- 28 - Salmon, Idaho – UI County Extension Office

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Idaho OnePlan: www.oneplan.org

The Idaho OnePlan offers a solution for streamlining your conservation planning, making sense of local natural resource laws, and applying for conservation program funding. Idaho OnePlan includes free online software with the resources to do your own farm plan in the privacy of your home, a secure login, GIS maps of your farm/ranch and access to soils and climatic data, technical information on conservation practices, and links to resources.

With Idaho OnePlan, you can:

- Plan your conservation practices on a field-by-field basis.
- Determine and schedule animal waste and fertilizer rates.
- Review federal and state regulations impacting your farm/ranch.
- Indicate your interest in conservation program funding
- Use the Conservation Planner, Nutrient Management Planner and, soon, the Pest Management Planner and Range Planner.



For more information call Wayne Newbill, OnePlan Coordinator at (208) 338-4321 or visit the website: www.oneplan.org.

Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District's Word Search

<p>mu o n d e t d f v n a t u r a l a a b m v e i i n o h n i e o s s k p n s h l l e v a r g f r h i z o m e g e p e g a l l i t b b e i r i p d n m r e c e u p k g t n y e l l a v e d w e n n e o o w n o a u h n g f i b r o u s e r r e r a o d n o a o n i n i c b w c a e n c t i t n o m g i a r c s e i s d f e a a e e w a e r i s b k o n l e i w n o t s i w e l m t f o e m s l r c i i g e n e s e e e i p f r h c o o a l v n s p j d h e d g o a o e s w l t d a p c a p o l y g o n u m r d d f i l r o p h b h r u i i d a k r d d n o i t a v r e s n o c n e r r w f r i n f n k e a e s w s u o r b i f a k g e e t t d n a l t s e r o f f b c h l s t a b u c k w h e a t s t r e a m e a w r r e u r i p a r i a n p a i k</p>	<p><i>ispen</i> <i>mountain</i> <i>bird</i> <i>native</i> <i>iohemian</i> <i>natural</i> <i>wuckwheat</i> <i>nezperce</i> <i>onservation</i> <i>owl</i> <i>raigmont</i> <i>peck</i> <i>ropland</i> <i>ped</i> <i>uldesac</i> <i>polygonum</i> <i>radication</i> <i>ponderosa</i> <i>rosion</i> <i>rangeland</i> <i>ibrous</i> <i>ravine</i> <i>ibrous</i> <i>redd</i> <i>ir</i> <i>reubens</i> <i>orestland</i> <i>rhizome</i> <i>tenesee</i> <i>riparian</i> <i>jifford</i> <i>shebang</i> <i>ravel</i> <i>lawk</i> <i>ybrid</i> <i>nflorescence</i> <i>apanese</i> <i>endrick</i> <i>notweed</i> <i>apwai</i> <i>ewiston</i> <i>noscov</i></p>
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Environmental Awareness Days, continued from page 1

Internet but at Environmental Awareness Days, the students have a chance to ask professionals their questions. Having so many specialists, from so many different fields, at one location makes this event very worthwhile!”

The District would like thank this year’s instructors for volunteering their time to enrich our local youth. Many of the schools agreed that this year’s instructors have been the best yet! This year’s awesome instructors included:

Agriculture: Zack Wolf and Rachelle Ruddell (Northwest Farm Credit Services)

Conservation: Bill Lillibridge (Idaho Soil Conservation Commission)



The wildlife station included skulls, hides, pelts and furs from around our area. Students from McSorely Elementary are pictured examining the variety of wildlife donated by Idaho Department of Fish & Game



The students favorite station was entomology! Here students from Whitman Elementary take turns passing around a living walking stick.

Entomology: Frank Merickel (University of Idaho – WFBARR Entomological Museum)

Fisheries: Megan Johnson and Susan Sawyer (Dworshak National Fish Hatchery)

Forestry: Bill Furstenuau (Nez Perce County Community Forestry Advisory Board), Clark Christiansen (Idaho Department of Lands), and Mike Bauer (University of Idaho – Nez Perce County)

Geology: Tom Walker (Lewis-Clark State College – Natural Science Division)

Livestock: Kerry Sanford (University of Idaho – Nez Perce County)

Soils: Nancy Becker, Andy Helkey, Angela Scott, Trevor Anderson (North Central District Health Department)

Wildlife: Jen Bruns and Tiege Ulschmid (Idaho Department of Fish & Game)

To run this large program the District relies on the support of local businesses, sponsors and volunteers. Hells Gate State Park has graciously volunteered the use of their facilities throughout the last twenty years and the District is very grateful for this donation. This year we had more than forty individuals volunteer their time putting in a combined total of 481 hours of service! Thank you volunteers – we could not have done it without you! In addition to our wonderful volunteers the District received over \$1,800 in donations from local businesses and individuals. The District sincerely appreciates the generosity and support of youth education in the Lewis-Clark Valley! Thank you to everyone that volunteered their time, their knowledge and their resources to make this event such a success!

2008 Environmental Awareness Days Sponsors

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Army Navy Surplus | Pizza Hut |
| Bumpers Arcade | CLD Pacific |
| Coca-Cola Northwest | Columbia Grain |
| Digital Barn Productions | Happy Day Corporation |
| Hastings | Hollywood Video |
| Meacham Mills | Pepsi-Cola |
| Primeland Corporatives | Rosauers Supermarkets Inc. |
| Snyder’s Bakery | Staples Office Superstore |
| Starbucks Coffee Company | University of Idaho |
| URM Cash & Carry No. 2 | Wal-Mart |
| USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service | |

NRCS Office Moves

The Lewiston Field Office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service has moved. But don’t worry. We have not gone far. The Lewiston office has downsized. We have had a couple employees move to other offices and their positions will not be filled in Lewiston. By moving, NRCS is saving the tax payers a considerable amount. We are now located at 1630 23rd Ave, Suite 1101B. This office is just down the parking lot on the same level as our last office. Stop by and check out the new digs.



**Nez Perce Soil and Water
Conservation District**
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Culdesac ID 83524

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- Stubble Management in a Snowy Winter

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.

Stubble Management in a Snowy Winter

Was this a wet or dry winter?

Farmers are reporting that soil moisture in the Palouse is not very deep, maybe as shallow as two feet yet we had near record snow fall. Moscow, ID received almost double the normal amount of snow; 80 inches. April weather data from Pullman shows just over 16 inches of water from precipitation since September 2007, which is actually only two tenths inch above normal. The total precipitation since January was almost seven inches, about an inch shy of normal. Translated, it was a very average winter for moisture from precipitation.

Where did the unaccounted moisture go? In late April, large snowdrifts were still present across the landscape. Strong winds in the winter re-distributed the snow resulting in very wet north slopes and much

dryer south slopes. Mottled colors of green and lighter shades of green and yellow were evident in the wheat where water was absent due to the snow blowing away. Such coloring

Where did the unaccounted moisture go?

goes unnoticed in years where precipitation comes as rain instead of snow; rain falls more evenly across the landscape.

Interestingly, fewer snowdrifts were observed in no-till fields or fields where the stubble was left standing in the fall. Soil samples revealed deeper soil moisture in those fields than in tilled fields nearby. Even with the large amount of snow, the stubble was able to hold some of it and diminish the re-distribution.

A significant amount of 'snirt' was observed in the winter. Once the

snow blew off a field, it allowed the exposed soil to be blown on top of the snow banks, making a mix of snow and dirt; 'snirt'. This was very evident once the snow started melting. In contrast, some drifts next to stubble and CRP fields had much whiter snow this spring since there was less soil in the snow.

Amazing was the wind erosion that occurred during spring tillage in mid to late April. After the winter-long soil cover by wet snow, it took only a couple of tillage passes to dry out the soil enough for the wind to blow it around! Without timely spring rains, the crops planted on these dry, pulverized soils might very well run out of moisture. An inch of available soil water contributes to a potential seven bushels of winter wheat and six bushels of spring wheat per acre.

Source: Pacific Northwest STEEP Extension
Conservation Tillage Update May 2008: Pg. 3