

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Inland Empire Chapter *Fall 2007*



FALL MEETING

Friday, October 19, 2007

Blue Mountain Forest Fire Restoration

Youth Building at the Columbia County Fairgrounds
 105 Columbia County Fairgrounds Road
 Dayton, WA 99328
 Phone: (509) 382-2398

*The Columbia County Fairgrounds are located approximately
 3/4 mile Southeast of Downtown Dayton on S 3rd Street*

- 9:00 A.M. Registration..... Esther Patterson, Chapter Treasurer
- 9:30 A.M. Welcome..... Larry Hooker, Southeast Washington Director
- 9:35 A.M. SWCS Chapter Business Meeting Ann Swannack, Chapter Vice-President
- 10:30 A.M. Forest Erosion Estimation, Measurement
 And Mitigation Bill Elliot, Pete Robichaud, and Craig Busskohl, USDA - Forest Service
- 11:15 A.M. Fire Restoration Projects..... Columbia Conservation District (CCD)
- 12:00 P.M. Lunch
- 1:00 P.M. Fire Recovery Tour Clay Hutchens, Farmer and Columbia Conservation District
 Board Member
 Dave Fritts, Bennett Lumber Co.
- 2:45 P.M. Adjourn

Chapter Officers					
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I hope that each and every one of you had a good summer. It seemed an incredibly short time between our Spring Meeting and today as we scramble to complete plans for our Fall Meeting and send this newsletter.

Our Spring Meeting on Bio-Energy in the Palouse raised a lot of interest and was very well attended. For those of you who were unable to attend, the program included presentations from a national perspective to realities of local production and economics, and concluded with a visit to a farmer-operated crusher.

The Fall Meeting program will focus on forest fire damages and restoration, primarily from the 2006 Columbia Complex Fire, and will include at least one of our SWCS members on the program. Our extremely dry summers in recent years have resulted in large burns and considerable property damage.

We were well represented at the SWCS 2007 Annual Conference in Tampa. Vice-President Ann Swannack was our official delegate.

We plan to bring a number of issues to the front burner this year. Among these is to actively pursue student chapters at Washington State University and/or the University of Idaho. The Roger Veseth Scholarship needs to be properly structured and activated.

My librarian wife buys most of the non-technical books in the family. Recently she handed me a book to take my mind from office tasks and problems. The book *The Worst Hard Time*, by Timothy Egan recounts some of the events that lead to the national emphasis on soil conservation in the 1930s and on into the 1940s. This book outlines the events, misplaced optimism, and out-right deception that produced the conditions that made the Great American Dust Bowl possible, if not inevitable. Included are individual stories of those who survived and were interviewed. This is a history book that is frightening but reaffirms our need to be conservation minded and support and participate in SWCS and sister organizations.

Don McCool, Inland Empire Chapter President

Abstract of Presentation for October 19 Meeting

Title: Soil Erosion following wildfire: Prediction, Mitigation, and Monitoring

Authors: Bill Elliot and Pete Robichaud, Rocky Mountain Research Station,
Moscow, ID
Craig Busskohl, Umatilla National Forest, Pendleton, OR

The presentation will describe methods for predicting the risk of soil erosion following a major forest wildfire, the treatments used to mitigate the risk of soil erosion, and the methods and results from monitoring the effectiveness of those treatments. Emphasis will be given to activities on the recent Columbia Complex and School Fires that occurred in SE Washington.

The SWCS Inland Empire Spring Meeting

The Inland Empire of the Soil & Water Conservation Society's 2007 Spring Meeting was held in Colton, Washington on April 6th, at the Colton Gun Club. The theme for the meeting was bio-energy and oil seed crops. Our morning speakers were introduced by Don McCool, Chapter Vice President, and included J. Read Smith, 25 x '25 Steering Committee Co-chair, who gave us a national perspective and Ty Meyer, Spokane County Conservation District, who discussed regional opportunities. Additionally, Jim Davis, of the Plant, Soil, and Entomological Sciences Department at the University of Idaho, spoke about oil seed production and Kate Painter from the Center for Sustaining Ag and Natural Resources covered the economics of oil seed crops.

After a great lunch, the group toured Lee Druffel's Farm-Scale Bio-Diesel operation. Lee showed us how the process is actually performed and explained all the ins and outs of oil seed production.



Lee Druffel shows members a paste which is a bi-product of oil seed production and can be used as a pre-emergent herbicide.

Fall Meeting Registration
October 19, 2007

Columbia County Fairgrounds
105 Columbia County Fairgrounds Road; Dayton, WA 99328

Name: _____ Representing: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Registration at the door - \$15.00 SWCS members, \$20.00 non-members, \$10.00 students
No Advance Registration

For "**new**" memberships received at the door (\$75.00), the registration fee will be waived

Registration includes payment for a box lunch.

Please come to the meeting with this registration form and a check payable to: Inland Empire Chapter – SWCS

Inland Empire Chapter – SWCS
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Washington State UBI 601858337

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Please Visit Our Chapter's Website: <http://www.inlandempireswcs.org>