

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Inland Empire Chapter *Spring 2006*



SPRING MEETING

Friday, April 7, 2006

Conservation in Southeastern Washington

Hells Gate State Park, 5100 Hells Gate Rd., Lewiston, ID 83501

Phone: (208) 799-5015

Web Site: <http://www.idahoparks.org/parks/hellsgate.aspx>

- 9:30 A.M. Registration..... Esther Patterson, Chapter Treasurer
- 9:30 A.M. Welcome..... Don McCool, Southeast Washington Director
- 9:35 A.M. SWCS Chapter Business Meeting Tim Dring, Chapter President
- 10:15 A.M. Nez Perce History in Southeastern Washington Marie Marek, Nez Perce Museum
- 10:45 A.M. Lewis and Clark's Travels in Washington..... Craig "Rocky" Rockwell, Corps of Engineers
- 11:30 A.M. Fisheries of the Lower Snake River Mark Schuck, Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- 12:00 P.M. Lunch
- 12:30 P.M. Asotin Creek Tour Jim Schroeder, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 3:00 P.M. Closing Discussion..... Don McCool, Southeast Washington Director
- 3:15 P.M. Adjourn

Directions to Hells Gate State Park

From Highway 12 in Lewiston, go south on Snake River Ave. for 3.3 miles to Tammany Creek Rd; then follow Tammany Creek Rd. south for 0.5 miles to the park entrance.

Chapter Officers

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Past President	Steve Durgin e-mail: steve.durgin@wa.usda.gov	509.323.2957	Southeast Washington Director	Don McCool e-mail: dkmccool@mail.wsu.edu	509.335.1347

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Spring always seems to slip by so quickly. As a wetland biologist, I mark its beginning a little earlier than most folks. The skunk cabbage starts blooming at the end of February, well before March 21st, the first official day of spring. And the male red-wing blackbirds are already fighting to establish territory in the cattail marshes. But before I know it, it's mid-June and the kids are out of school. The ponds are filled with hen mallards towing a whole row of ducklings behind them and soon the days will be getting shorter. But before the spring manages to completely slip by, I'm sure I'll stop and enjoy a day with my fellow SWCS'ers at the spring meeting.

April in the Lewiston/Clarkston area, along the lower Snake River, always seems more like May. All the better reason to hold the Inland Empire's spring meeting in Lewiston, Idaho at Hell's Gate State Park. The weather promises to be so nice that I understand even William Clark will be attending! After the business meeting and morning speakers, we plan to have a catered lunch and then explore the Asotin Creek watershed in search of conservation on the land. Jim Schroeder will lead us like a modern day Bill Clark. I hope to see all of you in Lewiston for what will definitely be a conservation corps of discovery adventure. And don't forget to vote.

Tim Dring, Inland Empire Chapter President

Attention Members!!

Please find ballots for the 2006 Officer and Regional Director Election with the newsletter. Please vote according to the directions on the ballot.

We distribute the newsletter by email. If you received this newsletter by mail it was because we don't have your email address. Please send your email address to Ann Swannack at ann.swannack@wa.usda.gov. If you do not have email, we will continue to mail it to you.

2005 Fall Meeting Priest River, Idaho:

Forest Research was the focus of the Fall Meeting at the Priest River Experimental Forest near Priest River Idaho. Gina Rone, Forest Service Soil Scientist for the Idaho Panhandle National Forest discussed forest soils and the impact of fire on soil properties. Following Gina's talk, Bob Denner of the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station gave us a historical overview of the Priest River Experimental Forest. Bob then led participants on a tour of the grounds and historic ranger station for the Forest.

After lunch, participants traveled to several experimental plots in the forest. We viewed a variety of pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest treatments at each site. At one first site, Brandon Glaza, Civil Engineer from the Rocky Mountain Research Station explained the operation of an automated device used to measure runoff and sediment delivery. Brendan explained how he and his associates used these apparatus to do comparative analysis of runoff, erosion, and sediment transport in small experimental watershed areas. He explained how the apparatus could be used to measure the effects of alternative harvest and fire suppression alternatives occurring in various watersheds.



2006 International Conference - Keystone, CO from SWCS Website

The SWCS annual conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers at all levels of government, along with a broad cross-section of other interest groups, to explore current issues in natural resource management and planning. The 2006 environmental management conference will be held on July 22 through July 26 at the Keystone Resort in Keystone, Colorado.

Conference information can be found at:
<http://www.swcs.org/index.cfm?nodeID=7620&audienceID=1>. Abstracts of the symposiums, oral presentations and poster presentations will be posted on this website, sometime in May, 2006.

Spring Meeting Registration
April 7, 2006

Hells Gate State Park, 5100 Hells Gate Road
Lewiston, ID 83501

Name: _____ Representing: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Advanced Registration by Friday March 31, 2005 - \$15.00 SWCS members, \$20.00 non-members
At the Door - \$20.00 SWCS members, \$25.00 non-members

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

Indian Tacos are planned for lunch. Please circle your preference: Tacos with meat or meatless tacos

No refunds will be issued after April 3, 2006.

Send registration form and check payable to:

Inland Empire Chapter - SWCS
c/o Esther Patterson, Treasurer
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Ellensburg, WA 98926

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Our Chapter's Website will be back soon.