

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Inland Empire Chapter Spring 2008

SPRING MEETING

Friday, April 25, 2008
Conservation in North Idaho



Idaho Fish and Game Department Office
 2885 W. Kathleen Avenue
 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
 Phone: (208) 769-1414

The Idaho Fish and Game Department Office is located on Kathleen Avenue in Northeast Coeur d'Alene approximately 1 mile west of Ramsey Road and 1/8 mile East of Atlas Road (see directions on page 2).

- 9:00 A.M. Registration..... Esther Patterson, Chapter Treasurer
- 9:30 A.M. Welcome..... Mark Cottrell, North Idaho Panhandle Director
- 9:35 A.M. SWCS Chapter Business Meeting Don McCool, Chapter President
- 10:30 A.M. Community Forestry..... Angel Spells, City Forester, City of Post Falls
- 11:00 A.M. Lake-A-Syst Program Jamie Davis, Water Quality Resource Conservationist
 Idaho Association of Conservation Districts, Sandpoint
- 11:30 A.M. Eurasian Milfoil Issues..... Nina Eckberg, Weed Supervisor, Kootenai County Noxious
 Weed Control, Coeur d'Alene
- 12:30 P.M. Lunch
- 1:30 P.M. Panhandle Stormwater and Erosion Representative, Panhandle Area Council, Coeur d'Alene
 Education Program (SEEP)
- 2:30 P.M. Cougar Bay Tour and Adjourn

More details on page 2

Chapter Officers					
President	Don McCool e-mail: dkmccool@wsu.edu	509.335.1347	North Idaho Panhandle Director	Mark Cottrell e-mail: mark.cottrell@id.usda.gov	208.686.1699
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Past President	Georgie Leinweber e-mail: georgie.leinweber@wa.usda.gov	509.397.4636	Southeast Washington Director	Larry Hooker e-mail: Lhooker@my180.net	509.522.6340 ext. 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

While we may not agree as to whether climate change and variation is part of a long-term natural cycle; random extreme occurrences; or is a result of human activity, it is hard to dispute that it is real. Drought conditions in many parts of the world have created a rare situation where world wheat surpluses are depleted and recent prices briefly peaked at over \$20 in some markets. Global grain reserves are now at only 1.7 months of consumption, down from 3.5 months in 2000. If you have a taste for Jasmin rice from Thailand, you may want to restock your supply, as some Asian countries have halted rice exports in order to keep local markets stocked. The construction of ethanol plants in the Corn Belt has created a conflict between food supply and energy production with increased corn prices and proposed conversion of CRP back to cropland. Some ethanol plants have been shut down because the current price of corn makes operation uneconomical. You can also feel the effect of increased cost of grains at the grocery store in the price of bread and meat.

Currently in the US, about 2 million acres of privately owned land is converted annually into urban or industrial use. About 500,000 acres is cropland, another 400,000 acres is pasture land and the remainder forest land. At a time when energy supply is competing with food production for cropland, this conversion seems inappropriate and fool-hardy.

On the positive side, there is an emphasis on developing multi-functional landscapes, where there is joint production of crops for grain and biomass and alternative crops that reduce fertilizer and herbicide requirements and break disease cycles. Perennial crops in riparian buffer strips and in cropland rotations provide diversity, improve water quality, and create potential for ecological service payment.

Our natural resource base, including fertile soil that absorbs and retains the rain and snow that falls, is important to maintaining our ability to produce food and fiber and to set aside and retain areas for recreation and wildlife. As dedicated and informed members of SWCS, we remain committed to our mission to advocate the protection, enhancement, and wise use of soil, water, and related natural resources to achieve sustainability.

Don McCool, Inland Empire Chapter President

Spring Meeting Topics

We will focus on water quality and erosion issues at the spring meeting. Some presentations will address the conservation and educational efforts that help prevent erosion from damaging water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and other bodies of water. Other presentations will overview similar efforts underway on Lake Coeur d'Alene and other affected bodies of water.

Getting there

Turn off I-90 at exit 11. Travel north on Ramsey Road approximately 1.5 miles to Kathleen Avenue. Travel west on Kathleen Avenue for approximately 1 mile to the Idaho Fish and Game Department Office. The office is located on the north side of Kathleen Avenue. Please use the parking area on the northeast portion of the property.

The SWCS Inland Empire Fall Meeting

At the last Inland Empire meeting held on October 17, 2007, in Dayton, Washington, we were privileged to have had a fire photo tour and some post fire erosion prevention training. In what proved to be a series of informative lectures by some of the individuals who actually were involved in fighting the fires and then applying land treatments to address erosion in the affected areas, we learned about what it was like to battle both fire and water in order to protect wildlife, soils, vegetation, property, and other resources. Clay Hutchens, Farmer and member of the Columbia Conservation District spoke about the Columbia Complex and School fires and showed photos.



Orange glow fills the night sky from the Columbia Complex fire.



An aerial view of the Columbia Complex fire.

Bill Elliot gave a great presentation on Forest Erosion Estimation, Measurement and Mitigation and showed photos and research results from work done in the aftermath of these two fires. Afterward the group went on an auto tour of some of the area affected.



Wildlife is displaced when habitat is destroyed by fire.

Spring Meeting Registration
April 25, 2008

Idaho Fish and Game Department Office
2885 W. Kathleen Ave.; Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815; ph. (208) 769-1414

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
Federal EIN 23-7437604
Washington State UBI 601858337

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