

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Inland Empire Chapter *Spring 2009*



SPRING MEETING

Friday, April 24, 2009
Global Climate Change Issues

L. J. Smith Engineering Bldg., Washington State University, Pullman, WA

- 9:00 A.M. Registration.....Emily Pickron, Chapter Treasurer
- 9:30 A.M. Welcome.....Steve Sprecher, Southeast Washington Director
- 9:35 A.M. SWCS Chapter Business MeetingDon McCool, Chapter President
- 10:00 A.M. Global Climate Change and the Palouse.....Ann Swannack, Chapter Vice-President
- 10:20 A.M. Global Climate Change: Agricultural Mitigation andDr. Dave Huggins, Soil Scientist
Adaptation Strategies for the PNW.....USDA-ARS, Pullman, WA
- 10:40 A.M. Soil Carbon Sequestration in the Inland PNWTabitha Brown, Associate in Research, Crop and
.....Soil Sciences, WSU
- 11:00 A.M. Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Agriculture.....Dr. Jeff Smith, Soil Scientist
.....USDA-ARS, Pullman, WA
- 11:20 A.M. Projected Climate Change Impacts on DrylandPawel Szafruga, Undergraduate Honors Program
Agriculture in Washington State.....WSU
- 11:40 A.M. Trade-offs between Crop Residue Harvest and.....Dr. Dave Huggins, Soil Scientist, USDA-ARS,
Soil Carbon Sequestration on the PalouseUSDA-ARS, Pullman, WA
- 12:00 P.M. Lunch
- 1:00 P.M. Soil Carbon Sequestration at the Cook Agronomy Farm.....Dr. Dave Huggins and Tabitha Brown
- 2:00 P.M. Nitrous Oxide Emissions—Palouse Conservation Field Station..Dr. Dave Huggins and Dr. Jeff Smith
- 3:00 P.M. Adjourn

Chapter Officers

President	Don McCool e-mail: dkmccool@wsu.edu	509.335.1347	North Idaho Panhandle Director	Dave Brown e-mail: david.brown@wa.usda.gov	509.323.2971
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

In a recent house clearing campaign, I found a copy of AARP magazine from 2005. Perhaps I had intentionally set it aside, as the front page contained warnings from financial gurus warning that the inflated housing market and the financial schemes supporting it were not sustainable. It has developed that these experts were absolutely correct. I wonder if they anticipated the broad impact of the implosion of this part of our financial structure. For those of us who are resource technologists and professionals, watching and perhaps actively dealing with, the fluctuations in prices of crops and production costs during the past two years has been a mind-boggling experience.

Our spring meeting will center on another issue coming to the forefront for agriculture, particularly in the Pacific Northwest—is it possible for production agriculture to positively impact greenhouse gas emission and sequester carbon? Can we harvest and remove biomass for energy production and still maintain soil carbon levels? Join us for our Spring Meeting where results of studies at the Cook Agronomy Farm and Palouse Conservation Field Station will be presented in the context of what is realistically possible.

At our last IE SWCS Executive Council meeting we discussed need for some tweaks in our by-laws. There is a move by all chapters to adopt 2-year terms for all officers. The Council also proposes a limit of three consecutive 2-year terms for all officers. Other proposed changes deal with clearing up some minor inconsistencies in the by-laws.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the spring meeting in Pullman on April 24.

Don McCool, Inland Empire Chapter President

Spring Meeting Topics

We will focus on climate change, carbon sequestration, energy, and air quality issues at our Spring Meeting.

Renew Your Membership On-Line

Go to www.swcs.org for more details

Parking Information

Parking permits are available at the WSU Visitor Center in downtown Pullman for \$4.80. They also have a campus map and can give directions to the L.J. Smith Engineering Building. (Note, there are three Smith buildings so they need to know which one.)

For more information, check out:

<http://www.parking.wsu.edu/VisitorParking>



**** Parking Free for Government Vehicles ****

Technology Presented at SWCS Spring Meeting Applied on Colville Indian Reservation

By Patrice Beckwith, Northeast Washington Director

The Spring 07 meeting held in Dayton, WA featured research presented by chapter member William Elliot, Research Civil Engineer at the [Moscow Forestry Sciences Laboratory](#). Dr. Elliot outlined the use of the Erosion Risk Management Tool (ERMiT). ERMiT is a web-based application that uses the Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP) technology to estimate erosion, in probabilistic terms, on burned and recovering forest, range, and chaparral lands with and without the application of mitigation treatments. User inputs are processed by ERMiT to combine rain event variability with the spatial and temporal variability of hillslope burn severity and soil properties. These are then used as WEPP input parameter values. The modeling program rated the use of seeding, straw mulch, and erosion barriers such as contour-felled logs or straw wattles, with wood straw mulch providing the greatest erosion control.

In attendance at this meeting were several Colville Tribe employees, hoping to gain knowledge on how to apply the tools to treat areas after severe wildfire. Todd Thorn, Forester on staff for the CCT Environmental Trust Department, sought additional advice from Mr. Elliot. He provided the Tribe with a copy of his research presentation to take back to the reservation and work up a scenario for their specific geographic location. Not long after Todd became proficient at understanding the software, a large and catastrophic wildfire, the Manila Creek Fire, devastated 26,000 acres on the south end of the reservation on the breaks of the Columbia. Todd put the software to work enabling him to identify what was needed to treat the resource and protect the soil. This type of documentation is also required for funding through the BAER (Burn Area Emergency Response) program. The BIA recognized the value of the results of the research and was prepared to grant \$800,000 to apply the recommended conservation measures. Sadly, the fire season was so immense that funds quickly dried up and this grant was pulled. Still, the Tribe was able to prioritize the most critically affected areas and treat them with what funds they did have. This same ERMiT technology was used by the BLM last year on a complex of fires west of the Colville Indian Reservation. In specific watersheds, rehabilitation efforts were funded and treated with the wood straw mulch as well as the other conservation treatments.

Opportunities such as our semiannual tours provide a valuable venue for technology transfer. SWCS members must continue to reach out to partnering agencies and colleagues and invite them to share in this prospect so that we may all benefit from each other's experience.

2009 Elections

2009 Ballots will be coming soon for the following positions.

Vice-President (President Elect)

Secretary

Northeast Washington Director

South Idaho Panhandle Director

Spring Meeting Registration
April 24, 2009

L. J. Smith Engineering Bldg., Washington State University
Pullman, WA

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

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Washington State UBI 601858337

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