

Council students are buzzing about their pollinator project

Kris Stone

ASWCD Supervisor

Bugs attract kids like flowers attract pollinators. Council educators are using hands-on science to feed the children's curiosity about the natural world. The students, in turn, are growing flowering plants to feed local pollinating insects.

During the 2020-21 school year, ASWCD partnered with the Council School District and the Council Community Garden to launch the Pollinator Project. The goals of the project include:

- Providing pollinators with more food resources (flowers);
- Collaborating with the Council Elementary (K-6th grade) and Middle School students (7th graders) to raise pollinator plants from seed;
- Providing the community with pollinator plants through the Elementary Garden Club End School Year Plant Sale;
- Creating a demonstration pollinator garden at the Council Community Garden;

- Creating an awareness of local native bumblebees (See p. 3).

Using the Council School District greenhouse, kindergarten through seventh grade students raised a variety of flowering plants that attract different species of pollinators. Seventh graders also created brochures describing each plant, its habitat preferences, and what pollinators it attracts. Some plants were transplanted into the Community Garden for the demonstration pollinator garden, while others

were given away at the Elementary Garden Club Plant Sale. Most people who took home plants left donations that will be used to buy seed and soil for this year. The brochures were given out with the flowers and posted on the ASWCD website.

During the summer, volunteers from the Community Garden, Elementary Garden Club, and ASWCD tended the pollinator garden.

Watch for news of this year's plant sale to pick up pollinator-friendly plants for your garden.



Council seventh-graders check on the plants they grew from seed as part of the Pollinator Project launched in 2021 by the Council School District, Council Community Garden, and Adams Soil & Water Conservation District. Kris Stone Photo

Shared Stewardship helps Meadows Valley landowners prepare for wildfire

Lynn Oliver

U.S. Forest Service-Idaho Dept. Lands
South Idaho Shared Stewardship Coord.

How safe is your property from the threat of wildfire? If you own land in the Highway 95 corridor north of New Meadows, a new Shared Stewardship project could help you “thin the threat,” reducing hazardous fuels to make your property more fire resilient.

The goal of the Highway 95 Corridor Shared Stewardship project is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire on private, state and federal lands.

“It’s called ‘shared stewardship’ because it’s a cooperative effort to address hazardous fuel conditions across ownership boundaries,” said Charlie Munden, ASWCD supervisor and project liaison. “As the project cooperater, ASWCD was awarded grant funds from Idaho Department of Lands to create demonstration sites to illustrate how landowners can create healthy, fire resistant landscapes on their private property.”

The Shared Stewardship project encompasses federal, state, and pri-

vate land along the Highway 95 corridor north of New Meadows. Participating agencies include Idaho Department of Lands, Payette National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Adams Soil and Water Conservation District.

Last summer, partner agencies

step will be to complete a demonstration project on up to fifteen acres of private land in the Circle C Ranch community.

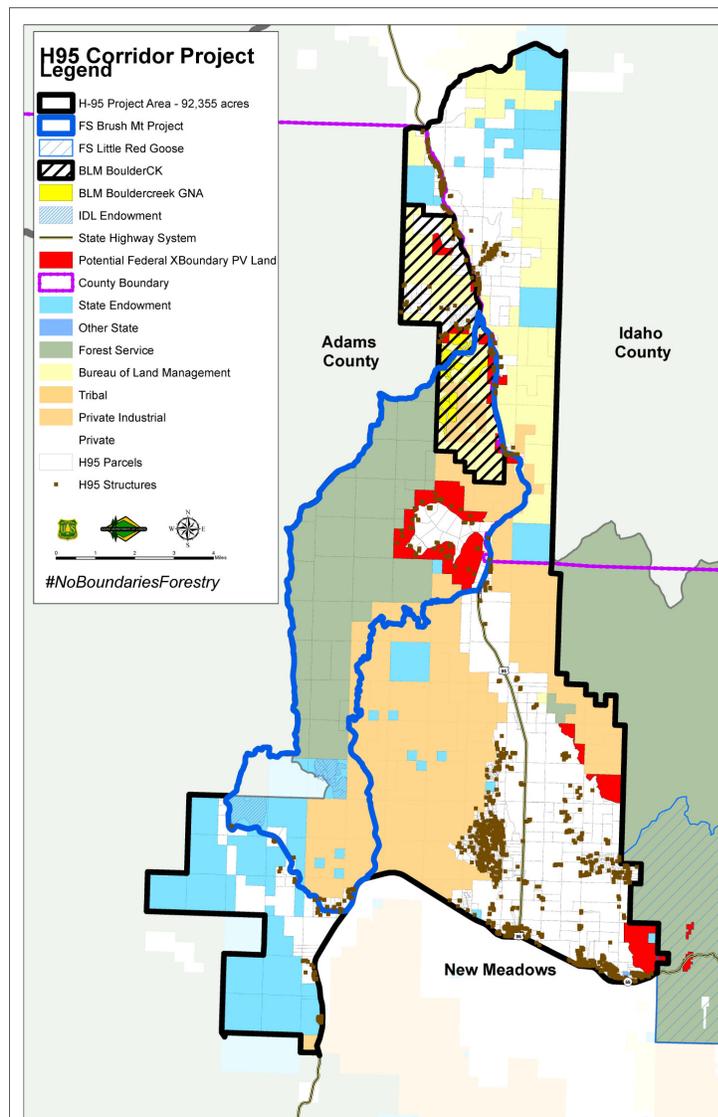
Circle C is a 2500-acre development eleven miles north of New Meadows, surrounded by mature forest on Forest Service and private industrial timberland. Located in the

center of the Highway 95 Corridor Shared Stewardship project area, it is ideally situated to serve as educational sites that can be viewed by other landowners.

“We hope that when local homeowners see examples of healthy, fire-resilient landscapes, they’ll be eager to thin fuels to protect their own property,” said Munden. There are various sources of technical and financial assistance to help them accomplish that, he added.

“By providing financial, educational and technical assistance to private landowners in the Highway 95 corridor, we can support the larger objective of maintaining resilient forests across ownership boundaries,” Munden said. “Treating hazardous fuel conditions on all lands will reduce large-scale wildfires and protect homes, timber, water quality and wildlife habitat.”

For more information, contact Lynn Oliver, South Idaho Shared Stewardship Coordinator: 208-866-5242; loliver@idl.idaho.gov.



reached out to 125 private landowners in the project area to invite voluntary participation. The next



Kris Stone Photo

Yellow Head Bumblebee (*Bombus flavifrons*) visits a “dwarf” petunia in Council.

Science takes flight for Council youth crew

As part of the Pollinator Project, ASWCD hosted a Bumblebee Watch Workshop in the Council Community Garden in June 2021. Betsy Wagner with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game helped lead the workshop. She showed participants how to net, anesthetize, and identify local native bumblebees. Four individual bees of three different species were captured in a two-hour period.

After participating in the workshop, the Council Education Resource Crew completed four native bumblebee surveys in the Council area. The CERC program, funded by grants from the U.S. Forest Service and ASWCD, gives local high school students the opportunity to gain conservation work experience while earning a summer paycheck.

The CERC conducted two surveys in the North Hornet Creek area, capturing 13 bumblebees and identifying 23 plants that were flowering at the time. Bees were found

ASWCD partners with county to replace aging culvert

North Grays Creek will flow a little cleaner and North Grays Creek Road will be a little safer and less expensive to maintain, thanks to a collaborative effort.

In 2021, Adams SWCD partnered with the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission to obtain a water quality grant from the Idaho Water Resource Board. The \$17,000 grant enabled ASWCD to help Adams County Road & Bridge replace an aging and undersized culvert on North Grays Creek Road in Indian Valley.

“The North Grays Creek cul-

vert had plugged and overflowed numerous times in high-water years,” said Kraig Spelman, Adams County Road & Bridge Supervisor. “Those incidents washed out the road and contributed sediment to the stream. The new, larger culvert should alleviate those problems and save money for county taxpayers.”

Bill Lillibridge with ISWCC did the engineering, Joe Peterson with ISWCC wrote the grant for ASWCD to purchase the new arch culvert, and county road and bridge personnel completed the installation.



Bill Lillibridge Photo

on Arnica, Nettleleaf Giant Hyssop, Owl Clover, Scabland Penstemon, and Sticky Purple Geranium.

The CERC also surveyed near Shingle Flats and Bench Creek, capturing 20 bumblebees and identifying 22 plants with flowers. Bees were captured while visiting Sticky Purple

Geranium, Penstemon, Snowbrush, Tall Cinquefoil, Lupine, Ball-head waterleaf, and Spearleaf Arnica.

The CERC participants shared their data with the Pacific Northwest Bee Atlas Project (<https://www.pnwbumblebeeatlas.org/>) sponsored by bumblebeewatch.org.

Adams Soil & Water Conservation District News

Got weeds? Get help from the weed warriors!

Wendy Green
ASWCD Supervisor

Whether you need help identifying a new weed on your property, or you aren't sure the best control method to use, or you'd like to get your neighbors together for a community spray day, you can call on the Adams County weed warriors for assistance.

You may only know about the county weed department because you've seen Superintendent Dave Herold and technician Jerry Mills spraying weeds along county roadways. But they do much more than that for Adams County.

"Through cost-share grants from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, we've been able to purchase chemicals and equipment for our local war on weeds," Herold said. "We can provide those herbicides to folks for treating weeds on

their property during community spray days, where the county provides herbicide, sprayers and expertise to help homeowners identify and spray weeds on their property."

Last summer Kraig Spelman reached out to the weed department on behalf of the Hornet Ridge Estates homeowners association. Spelman and other residents of the 30-lot subdivision northwest of Council wanted to tackle the shared problem of noxious weeds, but they weren't sure where to begin.

Herold suggested a community spray day. He and Spelman agreed on a date, and while Spelman contacted the neighbors, Herold put out a call for volunteers from the Adams Cooperative Weed Management Area. A CWMA is a geographic zone where private landowners join with county, state and federal agencies to work cooperatively to control weeds. CWMA members take part in spray days on both private and public lands.

"The best part of our spray day was the cooperation from Adams County Weed Department who mixed the chemical for us, loaned us sprayers and filled the sprayers for us as well," said Spelman. "All the property owners who participated would like to continue with annual spray days in the future. I was extremely pleased with the project and other landowners were, too."

Deb Christian, weed chairperson for Circle C Ranch north of



Rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed from Eurasia now in Adams County.

Bethany Muffley Photo

New Meadows, also organized a community spray day last May. Herold and company showed up with chemicals, spray equipment, and answers to lots of questions.

"The properties in our development range from 40 to 300 acres, and we have a plethora of weeds," said Christian. "Many of the residents have never handled herbicides before, so this was an outstanding educational workshop. We definitely plan to do it again."

To find out more about community spray days or borrowing equipment, contact Herold at 208-253-4669, or visit the county weed website: <https://www.co.adams.id.us/departments/weed-control>.

Residents can pick up a copy of *Idaho's Noxious Weeds* booklet and other useful publications at the weed department, located next to the recycling building on Boise Cascade Avenue in Council.



Adams County Weed Superintendent Dave Herold teaches weed identification during a spray day.

The hunt for Aquatic Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds in SW Idaho

Bethany Muffley

SW Idaho Program Specialist, ISDA

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture hires monitoring staff each season to survey waterbodies throughout the state for the presence of aquatic invasive species (AIS). These surveys include early detection of zebra and quagga mussels (veliger/larval and adult stages) and aquatic noxious weeds in the littoral zone (wetlands extending down into shore line water areas where sunlight can still penetrate).

Monitoring is an important aspect of any noxious weed management plan as it will help identify needs and outline future activities. In water systems, treatments are most successful when the source of an AIS population is targeted to prevent continued spread of materials downstream.

The SW Idaho Survey crew had a busy 2021, investigating 55 waterbodies for the presence of AIS. In Adams County, yearly monitoring takes place on Hells Canyon and Oxbow Reservoirs, along with biannual visits to Goose Lake, Ben Ross Reservoir, Fish Lake, Brundage Reservoir, Little Salmon River and Lost Valley Reservoir. So far, AIS observed by staff were located in and around the Snake River and included populations of Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed and yellow flag iris.

There have been no detections of invasive mussels in the entire state, so we can thank the efforts of Watercraft Inspectors who are working diligently to prevent the introduction of this menacing villain at our state borders.

Once an AIS establishes itself in a waterbody, it becomes difficult if not impossible to eradicate. Eurasian Watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed and yellow flag iris are very widespread throughout southern Idaho and the Mid-Snake River, and management decisions are being made to focus in these upstream areas first. Sadly, this means that there isn't much that can be accomplished in the Hells Canyon area other than prevent further spread downstream or into adjacent waterbodies. If you are recreating in waterbodies with known AIS problems, make sure to Clean, Drain, and Dry your vessel and all water-related equipment before entering any new water systems.

When it comes to new invaders, early detection is our best chance so

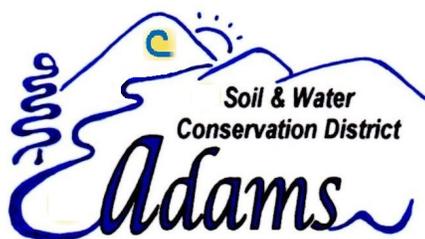
[Continued on page 6](#)



If you are a boater, make sure to **CLEAN & DRAIN** when leaving a waterbody and then **DRY** the vessel out completely before entering another. If you are recreating on land, make sure to **KNOCK IT OFF** and don't let weed seeds or vegetative materials hitch

a ride with you on vehicles or clothing. If you are a grower or garden enthusiast, make sure you **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW** and never plant, or allow growth of species on the noxious weed list. Lastly, if you are a pet owner, make sure you

DON'T LET IT LOOSE. Many invasive plants and animals were introduced by the dumping of aquarium contents into surface waters. Be a responsible pet owner and make sure you are committed to the entire lifetime's worth of care your pet will need before deciding to adopt.



Visit our website at
adamsconservationdistrict.org
or follow us on Facebook.



Visit us at 203 South Galena St., Council
By appointment
P.O. Box 26
Council, ID 83612
208-253-4668

Adams County students can get help with college tuition with ASWCD scholarship

Do you have a student who will graduate from high school this year or one who is already enrolled in post-secondary school? We may be able to help with those college expenses.

Adams SWCD will award up to two scholarships of \$1000 each to Adams County students who are planning to earn a degree or certificate in an agriculture or natural resource related field. Those who are graduating from high school this year and those who are already enrolled in an accredited college are eligible for consideration.

To apply for a scholarship for the 2022-23 school year, interested students should write a letter to the ASWCD Board by April 1st. Tell us a little bit about yourself and why you believe we should invest in your future. Here are some pertinent details to include:

- Your GPA and other evidence of academic achievement
- Where you plan to “go on” for education beyond high school
- What you plan to study and your career goals
- Why you’re interested in agriculture or natural resources
- Any work or volunteer experi-

ence you’ve had in agriculture or resource conservation

The board will review the applications and select finalists based on qualifications and need. Before distributing the scholarships, we will ask the recipients to show that they have been accepted or enrolled in an accredited institution.

Send your letter to ASWCD Scholarship, P.O. Box 26, Council, Idaho, 83612, or email to aswd@ctcweb.net. Applications must be received by April 1, 2022.

If you have questions, please email or call the ASWCD office at 208-253-4668.

ISDA hunts for weeds

Continued from p. 5

we need your help to identify new and expanding AIS populations. If you have a waterbody or water feature on your property, make sure there are no listed noxious weeds or invasive species (State or Federal)

growing in or around it. If you need help identifying a species of concern, please reach out and we will be happy to make a site visit. To learn how to identify on your own, please visit the **Invasive Species of Idaho website:** invasivespecies.idaho.gov and navigate to the Plants and Pests

pages. For questions on control strategies and products, reach out to your County Weed Superintendent or local University Extension Office for professional guidance

The best way to stop an invasive is by preventing its introduction and spread, and we can all take part in that effort.

The Adams SWCD is made up of a five-member board of local landowners who are unpaid elected officials who volunteer their time to help conserve the area’s natural resources: soil, water, air, plants and animals. The District does this through educational outreach, technical assistance and financial incentive programs. ASWCD is an equal opportunity, non-regulatory entity. Your participation in conservation programs is one hundred percent voluntary. Please let us know what we can do for you.