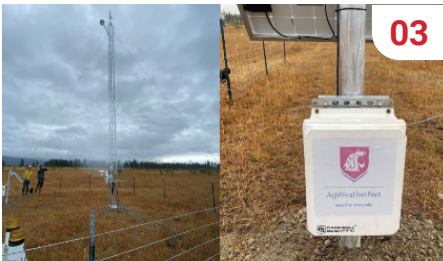




**Pend Oreille  
Conservation  
District**

# Fall Newsletter



03

## A New Weather Station?

We have a brand new weather station in our County!



05

## Annual Tree Sale happening now!!

You can purchase them now!



**Fall 2023 Newsletter**



**Exploring the Wilderness:  
Pend Oreille Conservation District's Educational Initiative**

by Stephen Allen- POCD Education and Outreach

The Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD) is embarking on an exciting journey in collaboration with the Kalispel Tribe and the Pacific Education Institute. The Wilderness Discovery Project, set to commence in the spring of 2024 and run through June 2025, promises to be a transformative initiative that will leave an indelible mark on the local educational landscape.

At its core, the POCD Wilderness Discovery Project strives to equip educators and students with the tools and knowledge needed to engage in outdoor learning relevant to their local culture and community. Through teacher's workshops offered twice a

year until the summer of 2025 combined with supported field experiences for the students at the Indian Creek Community Forest. This project has endless potential with hopes of expanding in the future. As the POCD Wilderness Discovery Project takes shape, it promises to be a beacon of outdoor education excellence in Pend Oreille County. By forging strong partnerships with local and tribal communities this initiative is set to empower the next generation of environmental stewards, leaving an enduring legacy for years to come. The beauty of the wilderness awaits, and with it, a world of knowledge and inspiration for all.

**Support our local producers!**

# Newport Farmers Market

Saturday Mornings @ 236 S Union Ave, Newport, WA 99156

**Before**

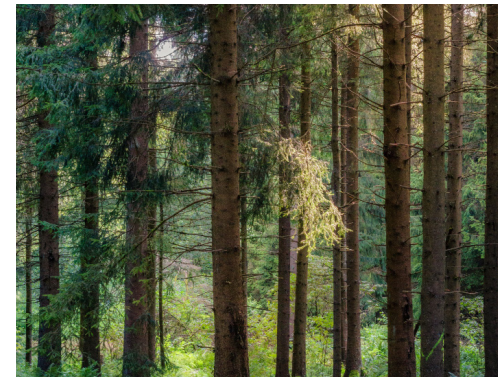
**After**



**Shore Stabilization**

Bank stabilization is a hot topic around the Pend Oreille River for good reason! People have paid hard-earned money for their land only to start gradually losing it to the river. If you know someone who is struggling this battle alone, make sure they know the POCD can help them find the resources and funds to restore their banks!

We're proud to find funds & technical resources to provide our river with a better ecosystem for all!



**Free Home Ignition Assessment**

Can your home survive a wildfire? Your home's ignition risk is determined by its immediate surroundings or its "Home Ignition Zone."

We've been trained in identifying these zones and can provide residents of the Pend Oreille County with resources on how to be a wildfire ready. Contact the district today to set up your free site visit evaluation!



# Pend Oreille Get's A Weather Station!

By Corey Brenner - POCD Resource Specialist

Pend Oreille County was selected by Washington State University to install weather monitoring stations in areas that currently are not represented in current public data pools. With the help of Pend Oreille Conservation District in cooperation with WSU and local land owners we now have access to a new source collecting regional real time meteorological data in Pend Oreille County.

Misty Mountain Ranch teamed up with regional conservation district to find the perfect location to stream weather data for WSU AgWeatherNet in the Cusick Valley. This is exciting as WSU's meteorological station has instrumentation that collects data for the following.

- Air temperature
- Humidity
- Dewpoint
- Wind speed at a height of 2 and 10 meters
- Daily Precipitation

## The POCD Weather guys!



A big thank you to our POCD team, WSU and local landowners who made this possible! We are thrilled to over this resource to our community. Our county will greatly benefit from the important findings from this station that will provide insights into future growers and producers of Pend Oreille County!

Right to left- Corey Brenner (Pend Oreille Conservation District) George Stuienga (Misty Mountain Ranch), Guss (hot dog), Adam Gebauer (Lands Council).

- Soil temperature at a depth of 2 inches and 8 inches
- Soil Water Potential: at a depth of 2 inches and 8 inches
- Soil Composition
- Elevation for the specific site

Feel free to check out the data stream at by visiting the website! <https://weather.wsu.edu>

When you arrive select the Cusick station and check out the data.

If you are hoping to find more data for the region you in luck because WSU and the POCD are hoping to find another site to place a weather monitoring system in the north end of the county. If you or anyone you know would like to get involved and would like a WSU weather monitoring system on your property, please contact your local Conservation District and inquire about the WSU Weather Monitoring Program.

# The Inland Northwest Conserving a Local Threatened Species

by Corey Brenner - POCD Resource Specialist

It is no surprise that many of us in the Pacific and Inland Northwest have appreciation for the Natural Resources, Landscapes, and Species that cohabitate with us. To locals it may be no surprise the importance that natural resources have in our daily lives and to our local ecology. Especially those of us that are especially keen to waterways, for the ecosystem services, and beauty they provide. Therefore, it is important to discuss one of our local native aquatic species the Bull Trout.



This file photo provided by the U.S. Forest Service shows a bull trout in the Little Lost River in Idaho. (Bart Gamett / Associated Press)

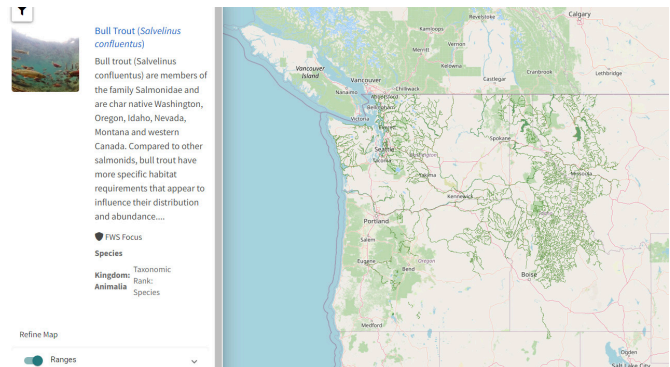
## Bull Trout Description

*Salvelinus confluentus*, or commonly known as the bull trout, is listed as threatened Species under the Endangered Species Act. This species of Trout generally grows to a length of 25 inches, and have round spots along their sides, often orange to yellow about the size of their pupils. Bull trout is among many other species of Salmonids in our area, such rainbow trout and west slope cutthroat trout. It is important to note that these species of fish thrive in clear, cold, fast-moving waters in our region. This species of trout in our area, spend its life in Lake Pend Oreille for the majority of its life and then when the time is right it begins a journey to migrate to cold water springs to reproduce.

Lake Pend Oreille in Idaho and the WRIA 62 Pend Oreille watershed is one of a few watersheds that this species can be found. Although this species has a range from West Canada to the Northwestern United States. It is considered endangered, with reason to believe anthropogenically sourced alterations to its environment have led to its decline.

These alterations come in the form of modifications to crucial waterways that the species has evolved to live in.

Modifications such as dams, which decrease the flow rates, and the reduction of Riparian Plant Species have led to sedimentation and an increase of water temperatures. Another disruption to note is the introduction of invasive species, such as Northern Pike, that feed on the juvenile fish, and overharvesting may also contribute to the disruption of this once thriving species.



Range Map, sourced from <https://fws.gov/species/bull-trout-salvelinus-confluentus/map>

In order to help preserve this species and cohabitate together alongside those who call this region their home, it is important to consider the effects we have on our local environment. That is why the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, Local Conservation District, and Kalispell Tribes have been working to do their part in restoring and maintaining our natural environment and waterways to the best of our knowledge.

The Pend Oreille Conservation District is focused on reducing sedimentation, nutrient run off, water temperature. All of this is in hopes to aid in the regions collective efforts to establish cold water refugia, all the while reinforcing bank stabilization, by promoting planting riparian plants that help shade the water from the summer heat.

In our collective efforts to first acknowledge and create awareness of environmental stressor on our local species we can then identify and work together to preserve the natural environment that we all have come to appreciate for generations to come.

So in the future If you find yourself out fishing remember the rhyme if it is "not black, put it back", this refers the coloration on the back caudal fin. This is a somewhat easy way to spot the difference between salmonid species in our area and reassure yourself you aren't harvesting a threatened species.

# ANNUAL TREE SALE HAPPENING NOW!

We heard your voices loud and clear -- the Pend Oreille Conservation District Tree Sale is back! Visit our website at [pocd.org/2023treesale](http://pocd.org/2023treesale) to download an order form and find more helpful info now!

Must place all orders by 11/22/23.

PICK UP DAY & TIME:



## Ideal Tree Planting Season

by Stephen Allen - Education & Outreach POCD

As autumn descends upon us, we want to remind folks in the community that it's the perfect opportunity for tree planting. The ideal time to plant trees is from September to November or until the ground soil is frozen. If you can get a spade in the ground, you can plant a tree!

Let's explore the benefits of planting trees during this season and share some valuable tips for a successful fall planting experience. Why plant in the fall?

Planting trees in the fall offers several advantages. Firstly, the cooler temperatures of the season create a terrific environment for young trees to establish their roots, free from the stress of summer heat. Secondly, the increased rainfall typically experienced in autumn provides ample moisture, aiding in root development and reducing the need for excessive watering. Additionally, many pests and diseases that target trees are less active during the fall months, giving newly planted trees a better chance to thrive with reduced competition.

Here are Some Pro Tips!

Firstly, make sure to select tree species that are well-suited for the dry Eastern Washington climate. Do not hesitate to seek guidance from your local conservation district or regional nurseries for expert advice.

Secondly, ensure that you plant your trees at the appropriate depth, typically with the root collar at ground level, avoiding planting too deep to prevent suffocation. To give your seedling the best chance to thrive, apply mulch around the base of the tree to retain moisture and safeguard against temperature fluctuations.

Lastly, keep a watchful eye on your trees for any signs of stress, disease, or pests to ensure their well-being.

As you embark on your fall planting journey, remember that the benefits extend beyond aesthetics. You're contributing to the health of our planet and providing future generations with a gift of nature's beauty. Happy planting and enjoy the splendid fall season!



**PEND OREILLE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Protect and enhance all natural resources. Together.

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram @pendoreillecd

121 N Washington Ave

Newport WA, 99156

509-447-1155

ADMIN@POCD.ORG

WWW.POCD.ORG