



Pend Oreille  
Conservation  
District

# Spring Newsletter



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## Happy Earth Day!

A few thoughts from our very own District Manager Alex Case-Cohen!



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## Snow Investigations Video

A new program coming to POC in 2023?



Spring 2022 Newsletter



## Happy Earth Day!

by Mary Malone - POCD Education and Outreach

Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22 as a way to bring awareness and appreciation to our environment. There are many ways to celebrate, from larger events to just getting outside and enjoying nature, maybe picking up a few pieces of trash.

Earth Day started as a vision in 1969 by Senator Gaylord Nelson, who was considered one of the leaders of the modern environmental movement at the time, according to history.com. The first Earth Day was subsequently held on April 22, 1970, with rallies in Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles and many other American cities to raise awareness about environmental issues. According to the Environmen-

tal Protection Agency, "Public opinion polls indicate that a permanent change in national priorities followed Earth Day 1970. When polled in May 1971, 25 percent of the U.S. public declared protecting the environment to be an important goal, a 2,500 percent increase over 1969."

By 1990, Earth Day had gone global and, today, the official Earth Day Network collaborates with more than 17,000 partners and organizations in 174 countries. According to EDN, more than 1 billion people are involved in Earth Day activities, making it "the largest secular civic event in the world."

Support our local producers!

# Newport Farmers Market

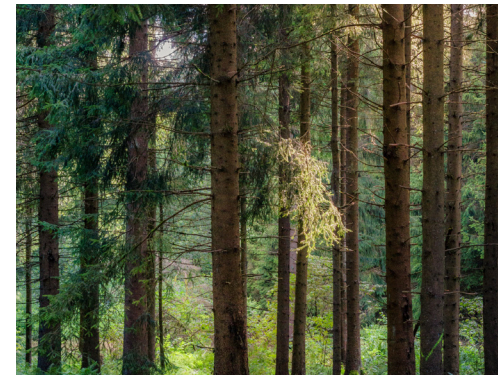
Opening Day is Saturday, May 7th at 236 S Union Ave, Newport, WA



### Tour A Pend Oreille Farm!

Have you thought about starting your own farm or know someone who is? Perhaps you've just always wanted to stop by and see how it all works? Did you know you and your family can visit a Pend Oreille farm?

Visit our Pend Oreille Valley Farm Tour webpage and choose a farm to visit at [www.pocd.org/povfarmtour](http://www.pocd.org/povfarmtour)



### 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!



# Earth Day Thoughts From The POCD

By Alex Case-Cohen - POCD District Manager

At this moment, I'm in the beautiful Sonoran Desert enjoying a much-needed vacation to the Southwest. Visiting this dry climate, with its harsh vegetation and seemingly barren soils, fills me with gratitude for the place I call home, replete with water, teeming with life and abundance. Huckleberries grow in higher elevations, where bears forage in the summertime, while deer, elk and cattle graze the fields in the valleys. Farmers can produce plentiful hay to provide feed for drier and colder months. Under normal conditions, water flows unreservedly in the mid-to-late spring, thanks to adequate snow fall in the mountains and a typically moist April, May, and June. Last summer, though, was the worst in current memory. Farmers reported less than 20% average yields, forcing them to make tough decisions with their current herds and management practices. Summers like these, filled with wildfires, smoke, and little water, are not an anomaly but the new norm. We must learn to adapt as our climatic pendulum attempts to find its center.

I encourage, therefore, a call to action. From every grower, rancher, forest landowner. Whether you have a small plot in Newport or hundreds of acres in the Cusick Valley. To protect our livelihoods, our domestic and wild animals, our macro and micro-organisms that keep our soils and water functioning and healthy, we must adapt to this new way of life. Learn what a healthy forest looks like so that you and your neighbors, human or not, are not threatened by wildfire. Learn how to maximize your grazers, so they

## Snow Investigations Video Now On YouTube



We recently joined the Lands Council and students from North Central High School in their snow investigations! This is an awesome program that helps today's youth get a hands on in the environmental impact studies of climate change.

You can enjoy a fun video of students snowshoeing and learning about this important science on our YouTube channel by visiting our website at [www.pocd.org](http://www.pocd.org) and clicking our YouTube Channel on the menu bar!

We're hopeful to bring this program to our Pend Oreille students and to 49 Degrees North in 2023!

are working to improve your soil and not destroy it. Plant native trees and shrubs along your waterways to protect water, our source of life; to prevent erosion; and to provide adequate food and habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. Learn how to manage your soils so that the organisms that support all earth-bound plants are healthy and thriving, so we all can be healthy and thriving, too. This Earth Day, I encourage you to consider a gratitude practice, for what bounty we do have. Even though there will be summers where our skies relinquish no water, and our forests swell with fire and smoke. Be grateful for what we have and remember that we are all stewards of this land and the species that inhabit it. Every religion, from Christianity, Islam, and Judaism; to Buddhism and Daoism, to the First Peoples of this bountiful land, recognize that it is our responsibility to not only protect our way of life in these rich valleys and mountainsides, but protect the life that has called this home well before our time, and will hopefully continue to inhabit this earth long after we are gone. Whether it hunts or forages, swims or flies, grows tall like the trees or small like alpine strawberries, we must learn to live with and live for these beings.

It is my honor and privilege to serve this abundant land, working with stewards like yourselves to ensure that we conserve and protect our ample natural resources for the benefit of our children, our children's children, and the wildlife that also calls this place home.

# Cost-Share Program Provides Community With Cost-Effective Weed Management Options

by Mary Malone

The Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board held its annual Neighborhood Cost-Share Workshop on Saturday, March 12, where more than 100 people turned out virtually and in person at the Camas Center for Community Wellness. Formerly known as “Weeds, Neighbors and Cinnamon Rolls,” it was aptly named as we were once again joined by landowners and neighbors who came to enjoy the cinnamon rolls and hear the experts talk about weed identification, weed control, equipment calibration, soil health and more.

“The Neighborhood Cost-Share program provides our landowners with an opportunity to manage their weeds more cost-effectively, assisting them in developing and carrying-out a weed management program to meet the goals they hold for their property,” said Loretta Nichols, the NCS program coordinator for the Weed Board.

The program provides cost-share with landowners who form weed management groups at 50% of the management costs, with a cap of \$500 per group. Eligible costs include applying weed prevention principles such as fertilizing, planting competitive vegetation, applying herbicides, hiring contractors and more. Applications are accepted annually in March through April, and the workshop served as the kickoff for the application season. Cost share funds are limited, so it is first come, first served.

While applications were due by April 21, Nichols said she is ordering extra herbicide for purchase, though landowners/residents will be limited to purchasing what she has in stock.



The Weed Board can provide this service to the community thanks to the Colville National Forest which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Forest Service. The grant is through Title II – the Secure Rural Schools program – which

provides funding to counties across the country for schools, roads and other municipal services, such as noxious weed control. The Weed Board received \$100,000 for the Neighborhood Cost Share Program grant and \$100,000 for the Early Detection Rapid Response agreement to be used toward our mandatory control weeds. Funds from USFS for both the grant and agreement are available for use this year and 2023.

The workshop itself is also provided free of charge thanks to several local sponsors. This year’s sponsors included the Kalispel Tribe Department of Natural Resources as the room sponsor, and our previous year’s herbicide supplier Wilbur-Ellis as the lunch sponsor. Door prizes were provided by Mellany’s Bakery (who also catered lunch), The Newport Roxy Theater, Selkirk Ace Hardware, Seeber’s Pharmacy, Super 1 Foods, Nomad Coffee Company, Northwest Coffee, Highway 31 Grind, and Owen’s Grocery.

Weed Board staff would also like to thank this year’s speakers: Jennifer Andreas, WSU Extension, who gave an overview of biocontrol, with a focus on weeds of concern in Northeastern Washington state; Joel Fields of Wilbur-Ellis provided talks on Forestry and Equipment Calibration; his daughter, Lydia Fields, also with Wilbur-Ellis, gave a presentation on the status of glyphosate and alternative products; and Alex Case-Cohen from the Pend Oreille Conservation District spoke about soil health and the role it plays in weed management. Nichols spoke as well, covering weed Identification and control. She was then surprised during lunch when she was presented with a 30-year plaque from Weed Board Coordinator Sharon Sorby.

“Loretta has been my steady and stalwart support, my rock, going on 30 years. Therefore, she is my rock star. She has built the NCS program into today’s success story all while maintaining her regular Weed Board duties, excelling at them too,” Sorby said.

For more information, visit the Weed Board website at [pendoreilleco.org/weedboard](http://pendoreilleco.org/weedboard) or go directly to our NCS program page at [tinyurl.com/NCSPProgram](http://tinyurl.com/NCSPProgram).



## Friends don't let friends lose their land to the river!

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!



## Exploring Our World Through the Power of Science

By Sharon Sorby Pend Oreille Weed Board Coordinator

Are you curious about what mysteries can be solved through scientific discovery? Do you want to learn about how these discoveries are being used in the Pacific Northwest?

Selkirk Alliance for Science, Kalispel Tribe Natural Resources Department and their partners have organized a Power of Science series of presentations on a variety of topics. They have explored human memory, forest silviculture, water quality and its effects, soils, insect pollinators, geology, cryptic organisms, wildlife, astronomy, ecosystem services, climate change, and citizen or community science.

These presentations are designed to provide relevant information to benefit our communities in both learning opportunities and making quality of life decisions.

Our next presentation is Growing Degree Days: Using Math for Crop Planting Success on April 27th at the Create Place, 6:30-7:30 presented by Phoenix Luby, based on her own research and decades experience growing successful gardens in Pend Oreille County.

On July 29th, the Pacific NW Invasive Plant Council, in partnership with the County Weed Board will be offering a day-long workshop on their community science project that develops volunteers to collect invasive plant species locations within the area, focusing on noxious weed species of concern. The first half of the day will be a classroom presentation on plant identification characteristics, and the phone app for collecting locations. The second half will be field testing the plant identification and the map app use skills. Participants will receive identification booklets to supplement their newly learned identification skills. We are hoping to hold this workshop at the Kalispel Community Forest Campus. Details for the time and location will be announced later, but registration is open at: <https://www.pnw-ipc.org/trainings>.

We have a number of Power of Science presentations and field trips we are lining up, including a two-day workshop on cryptic organisms – fungi (with a focus on local truffles), lichens and mosses; a field trip with renowned local historian and naturalist, Jack Nisbet; an IdaH2O Masters opportunity and a geology field trip. Keep an eye on our website, <https://www.selkirkscience.org/>, for time and date schedules. We look forward to seeing you there and learning about our area together.



### PEND OREILLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Protect and enhance all natural resources. Together.

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