

Spring
2017



CONSERVATION CONNECTION



Ferry Conservation District

Our mission is to safeguard the rural lifestyle and sustainable use of natural resources of Ferry County for present and future landowners, residents, and visitors by offering technical and financial assistance, outreach, and education through partnerships.

Mark Your Calendar

- Voluntary Stewardship Program Meeting on Wednesday, June 21 (Meetings every 3rd Wednesday at 6:00 PM . Ferry County Planning Dept. office, Republic (see box pg. 4)
- Our Board of Supervisors will meet on Wednesday , May 24 at 5:30. (Meets every 4th Wednesday.)
- Curlew Lake Workshop, Tues. June 20, 6:30-8:30 P.M. Carousel Building, Ferry County Fairgrounds, Pine Grove

Don't Get Ticked Off, Get Prepared

The weather has warmed and the snow is long-gone except on the highest peaks. It's the season to work in the yard, walk on the property, take the kids on a hike or a bike ride . Unfortunately, we humans are not the only ones becoming more active as spring progresses. The ticks are out, too, and boy, are they hungry!

The tick is a small arachnid, more closely related to a spider than an insect. This tiny animal is found all over the

world, Ferry County being no exception. For sustenance, it depends on the blood of other animals, such as birds and mammals, including humans and our household pets.

Ticks will fast for months (including through the winter) but must eventually latch onto a host for feeding. They lie in wait, attached to a leaf or blade of grass, until they sense a potential host by its smell, its body heat or by its movement. Since ticks can

The Soft Tick, Found in Rustic Cabins in Eastern Washington.



neither jump nor fly, they reach out and climb onto a passing host. Once the tick finds itself on a suitable host, it latches on, bores its barbed mouth-parts through the skin and

begins to suck blood. In a marvel of adaptation, this creature uses a cocktail of biochemicals in its saliva to make

(Ticks, continued on Page 3)

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Save the Date
Curlew Lake Workshop
Tuesday June 20th, 2017
6:30 to 8:30 pm

Location: Carousel Building, Ferry County Fairgrounds

This evening workshop, hosted by the Curlew Lake Association and the Ferry Conservation District, is an opportunity to learn about the water quality, aquatic plants, and the economic importance of Curlew Lake to Ferry County.

Guest speakers: Water Quality/Aquatic Plant Specialists, and an Economic Panel with representatives from local Resorts, Ferry County Rail Trail, Curlew Lake State Park, and the Curlew Lake Association.

Date: Tuesday June 20th, 2017 Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Raffle and Refreshments

Workshop to Offer Variety of Perspectives on Curlew Lake

Curlew Lake is a natural gem of Ferry County. Five miles or so from Republic, most people in the County have easy access to it. The fishing is great, and vacationers and travelers visit by the thousands to enjoy camping, fishing, and boating on the lake. It is the only lake in the County that is big enough for water skiing and larger powerboats.



Curlew Lake, Ferry County's natural gem

Are the number and species of aquatic plants changing? How important is Curlew Lake to businesses near and on the lake? To get answers to these questions come to the Curlew Lake Workshop at the Ferry County Fairgrounds, Carousel Building, on Tuesday June 20th from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

Guest Speakers include: Water Quality/Aquatic Plant Specialists, and an Economic Panel with representatives from local Resorts, Ferry County Rail Trail, Curlew Lake State Park, and the Curlew Lake Association. This event is free. Refreshments and a raffle will be provided. This event is hosted by the Ferry Conservation District and the Curlew Lake Association. If you have questions please call the District at (509) 775-3473 or email liz.carr@conservewa.net.

There are three resorts and a State Park to meet the needs of our guests, a Rail Trail to ski and bike on, and the town of Republic nearby offers dining, dancing, fossil digging, and seasonal festivals.

was held in large parcels. Human impact was minimal. The influx of people has changed that. The ranches are gone, and they have been replaced by people.

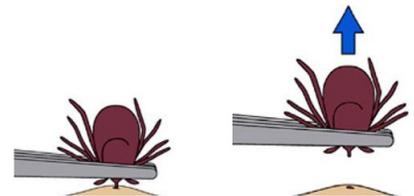
In recent years, many people have chosen to live on the shores of Curlew Lake. Thirty years ago, there were a few year-round homes on the lake; there were also some summer cabins. Much of the land around the lake still

With this influx of people come questions about the health of Curlew Lake and its economic importance to the county. Is the water quality as good as it has been in the past? What are the results of the many water quality studies that have been done?

“With this influx of people come questions about the health of Curlew Lake and its economic importance to the county.”

Avoiding and Removing Ticks.

- If possible, avoid grassy or brushy areas (remember, the little buggers don't jump or fly). The Rail Trail would be a very safe place for a tick-free outing.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants, tucking your pants under your socks (looks dorky, but beats tick bites.) Light colored clothing makes it easier to see ticks. An insect repellent with DEET may be helpful.
- Upon returning from an outing, check for ticks in hair, around ears, back of knees, in the crotch, under arms. Help your kids with this. Shower as soon as possible (within two hours, if you can) to wash off ticks before they latch on.
- Check your dogs for ticks. They can get sick, too!
- Avoid sleeping in old cabins where there might be rodents present. Keep the grass mowed in your yard.
- A tick embedded in the skin should be removed very carefully. Forget all the old folk remedies (e.g. twist the tick, cover it in oil, use a hot match). The best way to remove it is to grab it as close to the skin as you can with fine tweezers and pull steadily and evenly. Remove any remaining mouthparts with the tweezers. Disinfect the site and wash your hands. Dispose of the tick by flushing it (don't squeeze it) or save it in an empty pill bottle (capped tightly) for later ID. Make note of the day and time and watch for a rash or the occurrence of flu-like symptoms. You may ship the tick to the Washington State Department of Health for ID (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Pests/Ticks>) or take it with you to your medical appointment .



Grab tick with tweezers near skin and lift steadily and evenly

Don't Get Ticked Off—Get Prepared (cont. from pg. 1)

this process more efficient. One substance works like cement, helping to hold the feeding tube in the skin. More chemicals cause a numbing effect, preventing the host from feeling the discomfort and itching of the bite. The tick secretes another substance into its host to prevent clotting so that the blood flows freely.

Most ticks will stay attached to the host for 5-7 days and then fall off. A lucky host will never be aware of the tick's presence and will suffer no ill effects. However, many ticks will transfer one of a multitude of pathogens into the bloodstream of its host.

Lyme Disease is the bacteria-caused malady most commonly associated with ticks. This potentially debilitating condition can cause flu-like symptoms, joint pain, severe fatigue, and other problems. Unfortunately, Lyme Disease often goes undiagnosed or is misdiagnosed. One celebrated case is that of singer-songwriter Kris Kristoferson, who for years was thought to have Alzheimer's Disease. He was eventually tested for Lyme, found to be positive, and treated for it. His accelerating dementia, which had made him unable to write or perform, has now reversed itself, resulting in a nearly complete recovery.

Lyme disease is a very serious concern in Northeastern and North Central US. However, according to the Washington State Department of Health, very few cases are reported in the state annually and almost all of them resulted from tick bites out-of-state (one reported in Ferry County, according to the CDC.)

While the threat of exposure to Lyme disease in Ferry County is minimal at present, four other tick-borne conditions have been reported in Eastern Washington and could be a concern locally.

Tularemia is a disease carried by some dog ticks and lone star ticks. (It may also be contracted from deer fly bites or from contact with infected animal carcasses.) This bacterium may cause flu-like symptoms (there will almost always be a high fever) or an ulcer near the bite site.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever may initially cause mild to severe flu-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. Though reported instances are relatively rare in Washington, the American dog tick and the Rocky Mountain wood tick, both of which carry the spotted fever bacteria, are found throughout the state.

Tick paralysis presents initially with muscle weakness and numbness, may progress to an inability to stand, and could lead to respiratory difficulty and eventual death. Because this condition is caused by a neurotoxin in a (black-legged or American dog) tick's saliva, symptoms start to abate as soon as the tick is removed. (In 1995, a 2 year-old girl in Asotin County was nearing complete paralysis, when a nurse discovered a tick on her hairline and removed it. Within 24 hours the girl completely recovered.) Livestock and pets (llamas and alpacas are at the top of the list) are also at risk of infection from this neurotoxin.

An average of six cases of tick-borne relapsing fever (TBRF) are reported each year in Washington. Symptoms include a fever which lasts several days, goes away and recurs several days later. Unlike other tick-borne diseases, TBRF results from a bacterium carried by a "soft" tick found in rodents' nests rather than in grassy or brushy areas where most other ticks lurk. People sleeping in rustic cabins (with resident rodents) are most likely to be infected. Because the tick attaches for only 20-30 minutes, the bite could occur during sleep, unbeknownst to the victim.

Don't let concerns about ticks keep you from getting out and enjoying the warm spring and summer weather. Though the consequences of a tick-borne disease could be severe, the chances of infection are actually fairly low. If you follow the precautions described in the box on page two, your odds will be further reduced. And if symptoms do occur from a tick bite, make sure to get checked out by a doctor.

The Washington State Department of Health (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Pests/Ticks>) and the Centers for Disease Control (<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>) offer much more info on their websites.

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Ferry Conservation District

Conserving Natural Resources Since 1947

84 East Delaware Ave.
PO Box 1045
Republic, WA 99166
(509)775-3473 Ext. 5

2017 Plant Sale— Another Resounding Success!

**75 Conservation District
landowners purchased
and planted:**

- over 2500 conifers,
- 130 native shrubs,
- 80 fruit trees,
- 180 berry plants, and
- 225 asparagus plants.

We're on the Web. Visit us at :

<http://www.ferrycd.org>

Agriculture, Water, & Local Control

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED AND NEEDED!

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is the final step for Ferry County to opt out of the Growth Management Act (GMA). It is about making rules locally to fit local needs.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 21

6:00pm (every 3rd Wednesday)
County Planning Dept. office - Republic

For more information
Call (509) 775-3473 ext 5



Volunteering to participate means :

- We maintain local control, instead of following State mandated regulations.
- Our priority is to maintain the economic viability of Ferry County agriculture.
- Participation in the program is voluntary.
- The program recognizes the good stewardship of Ferry County's farmers, ranchers and land owners.
- There will be incentives provided to participants upon completion of the program report.



FERRY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Board of Supervisors

Eric Bracken, *Chair*
Charlotte Coombes, *Auditor*
Dave Konz, *Member*
Dave Hedrick, *Member*
Vacant Position
Bowe Brown, *Associate*
John Hamilton, *Associate*
Carol Fugit, *Associate*

Staff Members

Lloyd Odell, *Manager*
Liz Carr, *Water Quality Specialist*
Candy Lammon, *Financial Administrator*
Bill Chamberlin, *Resource Assistant*
Patrice Beckwith, *NRCS Resource Conservationist*



Serviceberry is blooming!

Ferry Conservation District is a non-regulatory agency. Our services are available to all without discrimination.