

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2016

CASCADIA SEEKS RATES & CHARGES TO KEEP VALUABLE PROGRAMS IN OPERATION

Cascadia Conservation District is a non-regulatory, grant-funded organization dedicated to encouraging the wise stewardship and conservation of all natural resources in Chelan County.

CURRENTLY, Cascadia receives approximately \$20,000 per year for basic operations. The remainder of our \$1.25-2 million operating budget comes from grants—a very high return on investment for local citizens. We have identified budget shortfalls within our Forest Health/Fire Management and Water Resources priorities in our annual and 5 year work plans.

THE PROPOSAL is a system of rates and charges, a reliable way to provide revenue that is tied directly to the local communities we serve. This will allow Cascadia to more adequately:

- Provide local landowners with technical assistance for wildfire fuels reduction and forest health; water quality and conservation such as irrigation efficiencies; and community education with a greater focus on **local** resource priorities.
- Leverage more dollars into the county for the benefit of local citizens.

THE DETAILS: Cascadia has identified approximately \$132,000 in unfunded annual program needs. Since our programs indirectly benefit all residents, Cascadia proposes that all land use categories within our service area be charged \$4.63 per parcel once each year, except Resource Designated Forest Land. Per state law, these lands would be charged \$3.00 per commercial forest property owner.



A free wood chipping event as part of Cascadia's Firewise program



Example of an irrigation system upgrade

ENTIAT RIVER APPRECIATION

Cascadia Conservation District and Chelan-Douglas Land Trust would like to thank all who attended and give a BIG thank you to all our partners and sponsors for making this fun community event a success!:

Partnering agencies include: the City of Entiat, Entiat Watershed Planning Unit, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, US Bureau of Reclamation, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, AmeriCorps, and Team Naturaleza.

Entiat community groups, businesses, and individuals include: Entiat Valley Community Services Group, Entiat Food Center, Entiat Shell Station, the Tye Ridge Runners, Cascade Quality Water, Entiat Bakery, Bob Whitehall, Keith Vradenburg, Apple Valley Pumping, Stormy Lodge, Icicle Outfitters, and Crunch Pak.



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Chelan County Clean Water Campaign

PHOTO CONTEST

Visit www.cascadiacd.org for complete contest rules & details and to submit your photo(s)!



Orange Flower
Savannah Meiners

CASCADIA OFFERS FREE CHIPPING AND OTHER WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS

Cascadia Conservation District and the Washington Department of Natural Resources partnered to offer free wood chipping throughout Chelan County this spring. The program was a huge success! We treated 127 acres on 170 different private properties this spring.

This is a cost-share program where the landowners were responsible for doing the limbing and clearing on their properties and reporting their time to Cascadia, then our crews came through and chipped all the material for free.

Cascadia will offer a fall chipping program as well. The chipping will take place in mid October. To participate please sign up here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGR5MLT> by September 16.

“There is nothing more valuable and absolutely essential than having a trustworthy advocate dedicated to your cause when facing insurmountable challenges. Cascadia has become more than a resource available to us in our Firewise efforts here in Plain! We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the chipping program which has been a tremendous catalyst in not only motivating our residents to make their land more fire resilient, but the success of this joint venture is changing our independent mindset to embrace more of a community spirit”, one that is vital to our future existence in preparing for the next wildfire.”

- Debbie Newell, Bretz Firewise Community

These chipping programs are designed to treat the area 200 feet around your home. For larger scale projects on forest land, Cascadia offers a cost-share program that pays up to 75% of the cost of the project. For additional information please contact Sandy Letzing at sandyl@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.

The Washington Department of Natural Resources also offers a cost-share program. For additional information please contact Cindi Tonasket at cindi.tonasket@dnr.wa.gov or (509) 899-0298.



FIREWISE CHALLENGE!

Through funds from Washington Department of Natural Resources, Cascadia Conservation District and the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition are partnering to work with local communities on national Firewise recognition. This program is a great way for neighbors to come together to prepare for future wildfires, mitigate their risk of damage from wildfires, and make a plan of action for how their community will respond to a wildfire. Firewise Communities are nationally recognized and eligible for funding to protect their neighborhoods. For additional information please contact Amanda Levesque Newell (see contact info below).

To learn more about protecting your home from wildfire damage contact Amanda Levesque Newell with Cascadia Conservation District at amandal@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.

Cascadia offers FREE fire risk assessments, chipping programs, assistance for Firewise Communities, and cost-share assistance when funding is available.

FIRE RECOVERY FUNDING AVAILABLE

Cascadia Conservation District now has fire recovery funding for landowners impacted by the 2015 fires. Projects that address water quality, stabilize soil, and prevent crop damage may be eligible for reimbursement up to 75% of the total project cost. Examples of eligible projects include critical area fence to keep livestock away from surface water or wetlands, inclusion fencing to contain livestock and keep them from roaming, exclusion fencing to exclude deer from commercial orchards or keep livestock out of private property, replacement of damaged culverts, irrigation repairs, and plantings for soil stabilization. Contact Cascadia Conservation District at (509) 436-1601 for more information.



Photo by Helen H. Richardson

IRRIGATION EFFICIENCIES FUNDING AVAILABLE

Cascadia Conservation District is participating in the Irrigation Efficiency Grant Program. This program provides up to 85% cost-share funding and technical assistance to land-owners for installing irrigation best management practices. Eligible practices include installing pivot sprinkler systems, drip irrigation systems, and piped conveyance systems.

Contact Cascadia Conservation District at (509) 436-1601 for more information.



Canal lining or piping improves irrigation efficiencies

PRESCRIBED FIRE PILOT COMING TO CHELAN COUNTY



Following the last several fire seasons and the 2015 Wildfire & US Summit, land managers and citizens recognize Prescribed Fire as a critical management tool for reducing hazardous fuels and restoring the natural function of our forests. Cascadia's participation in the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative has provided an opportunity to partner with WA Department of Resources, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, Washington Prescribed Fire Council, and US Forest Service to increase outreach & education during the 2016 Fall burning season. Look for opportunities to learn more and engage in this pilot project on the Washington Prescribed Fire Council's website at <http://waprescribedfire.org/>

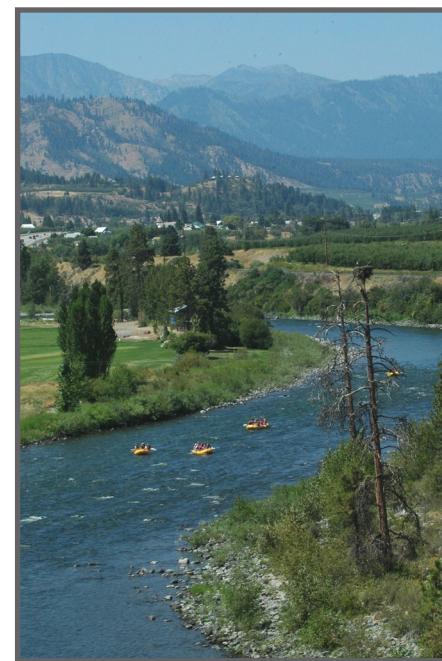
CASCADIA OFFERS FLOOD RISK REDUCTION TIPS

FLOODPLAIN BENEFITS—FLOODPLAINS CAN MINIMIZE FLOOD DAMAGE

Low lying areas around rivers and waterways, or floodplains, play an important role in maintaining a healthy functioning river system, and also play an important role in flood prevention. Flooding occurs when runoff from rain doesn't soak into the ground and collects or flows into low lying areas. The chances of flooding increases as human uses of floodplains modify how rainfall is stored on and runs off of the land and into streams. In healthy floodplains with lots of vegetation, rainfall is stored in the soil, in the vegetation and can moderate runoff flows.

There are many steps individuals can take to reduce flood risk to their property and themselves. One of them is maintaining or restoring their natural floodplain. Healthy floodplains have the added benefits of:

- Increasing habitat for fish and wildlife
- Filtering runoff to help ensure a clean, reliable water supply to downstream communities and farmers
- Natural erosion control
- Reducing stream temperature fluctuation
- Water storage to reduce frequency and duration of low water flow



Example of a healthy floodplain

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

Know Your Risk:

- Be aware of the surrounding land and where potential flood waters would flow
- Survey your land for potential issues, such as clogged culverts and storm drains, and inspect the areas regularly
- Stay aware of changing weather conditions through local TV, radio, and internet

Reduce Your Risk:

- Do not place debris, fences, or yard waste in a watercourse
- Do not allow livestock in watercourses
- Do not build fences or other structures on, near, or across watercourses
- Remove excess vegetation and control noxious weeds in watercourses
- Restore riparian areas



Example of a riparian restoration project

Need help managing natural resources on your property? Cascadia is here to help!

Cascadia's Landowner Assistance Program offers technical and financial assistance and can pay up to 75% of the total cost of eligible projects. Eligible projects include: fuels reduction, irrigation system upgrades, and more.

Cascadia is currently seeking cooperators for streamside planting projects in the Wenatchee River basin.

If you live in a floodplain, Cascadia can pay to restore and replant riparian areas to make them more flood resistant and improve the function of the natural ecosystem. We can also answer any questions you may have about reestablishing your floodplain!

For additional information, please contact Sandy Letzing at: (509) 436-1601 or SandyL@cascadiacd.org

KIDS IN THE CREEK HAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

Despite very high flows, which forced coordinators to move the "wet" stations to a different location on the Entiat National Fish Hatchery property, Kids in the Creek was better than ever this year! We continue to reach about 300 students from about eight area high school each May with this program.



A BIG thank you to: the Alcoa Foundation, South Douglas Conservation District, Cascade Quality Water, the Entiat National Fish Hatchery staff, Entiat Valley Community Services Group, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Department of Ecology, Chelan County Natural Resources Department, AmeriCorps, City of Wenatchee, US Forest Service, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wenatchee Schools, Team Naturaleza, Chelan PUD, Trout Unlimited, and other volunteers.

FAREWELL MCKENZIE

AmeriCorps Member McKenzie Selden is moving on. During her 10½ month term with Cascadia, McKenzie worked on numerous projects, including: Water on Wheels, Wheat Week, Kids in the Creek, Native Plant Sale, Native Planting 101, and much more! She brought a level of dedication and insight to her work that we truly value.

McKenzie is off to Montana to continue pursuing opportunities in environmental education.

Thank you McKenzie and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!



HONEY BEES AND PLANTS

POLLINATOR ARTICLE SERIES - ARTICLE 2 OF 5

Contributed by Nate Andreini, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District

Since 2006, as much as 70% of some bee populations have died as a result of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Seventy farm grown crops, about one-third of our natural food supply, rely on honey bees for pollination. Imagine peanut butter without jelly. If the honey bees disappear, so will the grapes and the strawberries, along with many of the other foods that have become not only favorites, but staples of the modern diet. You can help restore the honey bee population with a bee friendly garden and landscape. It isn't difficult to make your yard, garden or even patio space a haven beneficial for bees. You'll be helping these important insects, as well as bringing more nature to your backyard.

The greater the plant diversity, the more bees you will attract and support. Always try to choose as many native plants as possible, and consult with experts to find vegetation that will thrive in your specific conditions. The WSU Master Gardner Extension has many articles regarding bee keeping, beneficial plants, and resources on the topic. Plant long blooming flowers or a variety of plants that will bloom at different times throughout the spring and fall. Honey bees need to eat until they retreat to their hives for the winter. Try to group at least ten bee plants in a bunch or grouping. This includes annuals like: Asters, Clover, Sunflowers, Zinnias and perennials like: Buttercups, Clematis, Cosmos, Roses, and Honeysuckle to name a few.

Honey Bee friendly garden plants attract and nourish honey bees with nectar producing plants. Wild flowers, including asters, goldenrod, sunflowers, even dandelions will provide food for the hives, and the native bee population as well. Plant flowering vegetables and fruits will not only provide a great source of food for your family and they will provide nectar for the bees. Some beneficial garden fruit and vegetables include: Blackberries, Cantaloupe, Cucumbers, Gourds, Peppers, Pumpkins, Raspberries, Squash, Strawberries, Watermelons, Herbs, Lavender, Mints, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme.

Not only are plants critical to honey bees thriving, trees provide additional nectar and protection for honey bees. Trees provide shade that helps reduce evaporation of water and shelter for nesting and foraging. Honey bee beneficial trees include: Alder, Fruit Trees (especially Crab Apples), Magnolias, Maples, Poplar, and Willows.

Honey bees need water in addition to nectar to have a strong colony and survive. Provide a pond, a fountain, or some other fresh water source. Watering your garden at optimal hours to avoid evaporation will provide a suitable source of water as well.

We can all take simple steps around our homes, farms, and forests to provide an environment that is healthy for bees. So next time you are at the nursery take a moment to pick a plant that will not only benefit you, but benefit the honey bees as well.



CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Please Remember to Recycle

Cascadia Conservation District has a blog:
Please check it out at:

<http://ccdconservationconversation.blogspot.com/>

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

CCD Regular Board Meetings

-August 18, 2016, 3:30-5pm at 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee
-September 15, 2016, 3:30-5pm at 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee
-October 20, 2016, 3:30-5pm at 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee

Entiat Habitat Sub Committee Meetings

- August 18, 2016, 9am-12pm at the USFS Building
-September 15, 2016, 9am-12pm at the USFS Building
-October 20, 2016, 9am-12pm at the USFS building

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meetings

-October 5, 2016, 9am- 12pm at the Entiat Grange Hall

Wenatchee River Institute

- The Sustainable Living Tour September 10-11, 2016
- Pine Needle Basket Weaving September 24, 2016
- Visit www.wenatcheeriverinstitute.org for more information!

Add Your Story to the 2016 Success Story Exchange

The Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS) plans to showcase a rich mix of success stories when it teams up with partners to convene the 7th annual NCW Community Success Summit in Quincy on Tuesday, November 15, 2016. "Seeding Success, Growing ONE Community" is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Quincy Junior High School in Quincy, WA.

A non-profit organization based in Wenatchee, IRIS is currently inviting people from the greater North Central Washington region including Okanogan, Douglas, Chelan and Grant counties to submit stories about environmental, community, and economic successes. For more information and to submit your own success story or someone else's that has inspired you please visit www.irisncw.org or contact the IRIS office: 509-888-7374, irisncw@gmail.com.

More fun photos from Entiat River Appreciation 2016



Thank you to these funding sources for keeping important outreach projects and programs in operation!



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