

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

WINTER 2017

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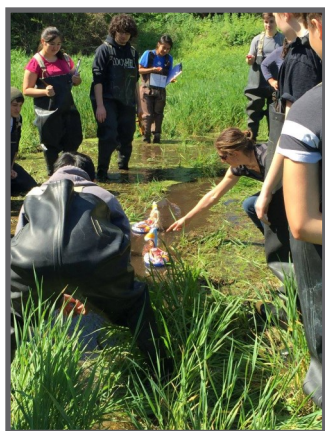
HIGHLIGHTING SUCCESS IN 2016

Cascadia Conservation District participates in diverse projects and activities throughout the year. We have several different program areas and in the next few pages have captured some of our accomplishments and successes in each program in 2016:

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Education & Outreach is critical to the success of every program we participate in. Educational programming and outreach materials demonstrate how natural environments function, how our activities impact those environments and how we can best mitigate those impacts. The following are some highlights from our 2016 education and outreach efforts.

Chelan County Clean Water Campaign: In 2016, the campaign hosted a river cleanup, conducted a photo contest, and produced a calendar with the winning photos. **Order yours by calling (509) 436-1601.**



Kids learn a variety of environmental topics during Kids in the Creek

Chelan County Fair: Cascadia hosts an information table and the Enviroscope Model to teach kids about the dangers of pollution and how to be better stewards of natural resources.

District Newsletter: Each quarter Cascadia produces this *Conservation Quarterly*, highlighting current projects, upcoming events, and general district news.

District Website - www.cascadiacd.org and Facebook page: Cascadia maintains a website and Facebook page to keep district members, partners, and other stakeholders informed about our history, current programs, and upcoming events.

Earth Day Fairs: Cascadia participates in the annual Leavenworth, Chelan, and Entiat Earth Day fairs where we host fun educational activities.

Entiat River Appreciation: In 2016, Cascadia and the Chelan Douglas Land Trust sponsored a community event with environmental education and entertainment that brought over 75 people out to participate.



Students learn about fish habitat with Rolling Rivers at Salmon Fest

Kids in the Creek: This annual hands-on outdoor environmental education program gets high school science students out of the classroom and into the outdoors to learn how streams and watersheds work. In 2016, over 250 students from nine area high schools participated. For additional information and to view our video brochure visit: www.kidsinthecreek.com.

Native Planting 101 Workshop: In 2016, about 25 people participated. *This year's workshop will be held Saturday, February 11 and covers planting techniques, pollinators, weeds and more. For additional information and to RSVP please call (509) 436-1601.*

Water on Wheels & Wheat Week: These hands-on interactive water and soil education programs are taught to kindergarten through 6th grade students. From September to December 2015, 40 lessons were taught and 1010 students reached. Contact us at (509) 436-1601 to schedule your class!

Wenatchee River Salmon Festival: Cascadia and our partners share the Rolling Rivers watershed model where students learn about and build a healthy salmon-friendly watershed. An annual favorite, the event hosted 8000 people in 2016.

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LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

Managing natural resources and meeting regulatory requirements can be a daunting task. Cascadia administers a number of programs that are designed to help landowners navigate complex land management rules, minimize their impact on fish and wildlife populations, and ensure that their land remains healthy and productive for years to come.

Cascadia's Landowner Assistance Program offers technical and financial assistance and can pay up to 75% of the total cost of eligible projects. These may include: wildfire fuels reduction, forest health practices, irrigation system upgrades, riparian restoration, noxious weed control, and more. For program application deadline and additional information, please contact Sandy Letzing at: sandyl@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.



Damage done by cattle accessing Little Chumstick Creek

In 2016, Cascadia worked with a landowner to build exclusion fencing along 250 feet of the Little Chumstick. This will prevent cattle access to the creek, which causes severe erosion and bacterial pollution. We also planted 200 shrubs and trees to stabilize the damaged bank, and to provide a buffer for nutrients and animal wastes from the nearby active pasture.



Fencing will keep the cattle 35 feet from the creek. Native plantings will stabilize the creek bank and add diversity and shade to the riparian area

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS



Crews chip hazardous fuels piled by landowners as part of Cascadia's free chipping program. The program will be offered again in spring 2017.

Wildfire is a fact of life in North Central Washington. Although fire is important to natural eco-systems, the effect of wildfire on property, infrastructure, human life and the local economy can be devastating. It is important for residents of fire-prone areas to acknowledge the dangers around them and take appropriate actions to protect themselves and their community before a wildfire starts.

In 2016, Cascadia continued to promote the Firewise communities program. Firewise focuses on taking steps to be prepared for a wildfire by creating defensible space around homes and removing wildfire fuels from communities. Cascadia offered free wildfire risk assessments for residences and support for communities seeking national Firewise Communities/USA recognition. Cascadia assisted 10 local communities with implementing Firewise practices and helped 15 Chelan County communities work toward becoming recognized Firewise communities.

Washington state was top in the nation for the number of newly formed Firewise Communities in 2016! Cascadia Conservation District submitted 8 of the 22 applications as part of our Firewise Challenge. The new communities are in the Plain and Lake Wenatchee areas and we'd like to thank those local citizens for all their hard work!

In 2016, Cascadia staff conducted about 150 wildfire risk assessments on private homes in Chelan County. These free assessments were requested by landowners and the number of them clearly illustrates interest from landowners to take a proactive approach to wildfire preparedness.

In June and October 2016, Cascadia partnered with the Department of Natural Resources to organize chipping events that provided free chipping for residents of Chelan County. Residents worked together to clear and stack piles of slash in preparation for the chipper crew. About 445 acres of forested land was treated on the properties of over 275 landowners. This work will make these areas much less susceptible to damage from wildfire.

Cascadia will offer a spring chipping program and will begin taking signups in late February. The chipping will take place in mid to late May. To participate please sign up here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGR5MLT> by April 1. Contact Amanda Newell at amandal@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601 for additional information. 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.

Forest Resiliency Burning Pilot Project: Cascadia worked with the North Central WA Forest Health Collaborative and US Forest Service on increasing education and outreach for the 2016 prescribed fire season. Successful prescribed burning took place in several areas in Chelan County during fall 2016 as part of a statewide effort under House Bill 2928. See additional information about the Pilot on the following sites: <http://www.putfiretowork.org/> and <http://arcg.is/2aoX0MT>


Wildfire Recovery Efforts: Funding is available for landowners impacted by the 2015 fires. Contact Craig Gyselinck at craigg@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601 for additional information.

FIREWISE CHALLENGE!

In partnership with the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition and the WA Department of Natural Resources, Cascadia set a goal of working with 10 new communities in Chelan County to become recognized Firewise Communities. If your community is interested in adapting to life with wildfire, engaging in community planning, reducing future wildfire risks, and being eligible for funds for Firewise projects, contact Amanda Levesque Newell at amandal@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601 to see how we can help.




The best offense...



...is a good defense.

Don't wait...



...until it's too late!

Cascadia offers free fire risk assessments.
Contact Amanda Levesque Newell at
amandal@cascadiacd.org or
(509) 436-1601 for additional info

RIPARIAN RESTORATION

Riparian areas are the transition zones between the water and the land. They have many important functional roles that help protect people and property as well as sustain fish and wildlife



Prior to planting the site was overrun by weeds and Reed Canary Grass

populations. A well-vegetated riparian area provides erosion control, flood moderation, water quality protection, and essential fish and wildlife habitat.

Historic and present-day land use practices have resulted in disturbed riparian areas along many streams and rivers in Chelan County and contributed to eroded stream banks, intensified flooding, decreased water quality, and habitat loss. Cascadia implements riparian restoration projects throughout the county, with an emphasis in the Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds.

In 2016, Cascadia completed seven riparian planting projects along 4,000 feet of streams and rivers in the Wenatchee Valley, including Peshastin, Chumstick, Mission and the Wenatchee. Once the weeds, trash and debris were removed, over 5,000 native plants and shrubs were planted in 35-75 foot buffers along the banks of these streams. As these plantings mature they will provide buffers to pollutants entering the stream from runoff, help to control erosion, and provide habitat and food sources to the stream.

In 2017, Cascadia will continue to work toward building healthier streamside habitat in the Wenatchee Valley, and is always interested to hear from landowners who have potential projects. Cascadia currently has funding for additional streamside restoration projects. Benefits of riparian plantings include: bank stabilization, weed control, shading, and flood attenuation, as well as providing habitat for fish and wildlife. If you would like additional information please contact Sandy Letzing at sandyl@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.



Same site after weed & grass removal and planting



Reed Canary Grass was removed from this site and a diverse variety of native plants and shrubs was planted. The native vegetation will eventually outcompete the Reed Canary Grass and add diversity & shade to the site

STREAM HABITAT RESTORATION

Many streams and rivers in Chelan County are home to threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead and bull trout populations that require specific aquatic habitat conditions to support them during different life stages. Historic and current water and land management practices have disturbed some habitat, resulting in high stream temperatures, elevated levels of fine sediments, fish passage barriers, channelization, and loss of habitat.

Cascadia strives to restore instream habitat in the Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds to provide salmon, steelhead, and bull trout with the necessary conditions to live and thrive. An important consideration in Cascadia's projects is that the work will also benefit the community and fit with the landowner's needs and goals for the property.

In 2016, planning continued for the 2018/2019 Middle Entiat habitat projects. The projects were originally scheduled for implementation in the summers of 2016 and 2017, but have been delayed for at least another year.



Cascadia organized a group of 20 neighbors and community volunteers to remove over 300 illegally dumped tires from Little Chumstick Creek

Natural Resources Conservation Service Funding Available

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is a voluntary, technical and financial assistance program designed to help farmers, ranchers, private forestland owners, tribes and other private landowners/managers improve irrigation efficiency; manage nutrient run-off and/or animal waste; improve the health of native plant communities; and reduce soil loss. In most instances, program participants pay half of the costs of the conservation practices. For more information, please contact Chris Wright at the Wenatchee office at 509-664-1141.

WATERSHED PLANNING & COORDINATION

Watershed plans are developed by planning units composed of representatives from the public and private sectors. Planning units are required to address water quantity issues. Some, like the Entiat and Wenatchee, address water quality, instream flow, and habitat issues as well.

Cascadia is the lead agency for the WRIA 46 Entiat River watershed planning effort. Cascadia coordinates quarterly planning unit meetings, participates in subcommittee meetings, and applies for grant funding to help facilitate implementation of actions identified in the WRIA 46 Entiat Watershed Plan and the regional Salmon Recovery Plan. The Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU) is recognized for developing cooperative, proactive solutions to natural resource issues.

The EWPU has successfully planned and implemented a variety of important habitat, water quality, and water quantity restoration projects in the watershed.

The 2017 Entiat Annual Report will be available in late February. Contact Jason Sims at jasons@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601 to receive a copy.

Cascadia also participates in WRIA 45 Wenatchee River watershed planning unit and subcommittee meetings, as well as implementing restoration projects in the Wenatchee Watershed and throughout the county.



WELCOME TO CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT CITIES OF CHELAN AND WENATCHEE

We would like to welcome the City of Chelan and City of Wenatchee to the Cascadia Conservation District.

Each year we receive requests for technical and financial assistance from landowners who live in these cities, but we have been able to help because the cities were previously outside our district boundaries.

This year we worked with Mayors Mike Cooney of Chelan and Frank Kuntz of Wenatchee to bring both cities into our District boundaries, giving landowners access to all of our programs and resources.

Cascadia CD is a non-regulatory, primarily grant funded organization that encourages stewardship and conservation of natural resources. We partner with federal, state, and local organizations to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners.

Cascadia CD staff work with private landowners by providing technical assistance and cost-share programs. In 2016, we reduced hazardous fuels and improved forest health on more than 180 acres; helped eight communities become recognized Firewise communities and are working with six others on this process; planted more than 5,000 trees and shrubs to improve habitat for fish and wildlife and water quality; worked with water users to improve water supplies; provided wildfire recovery assistance; taught over 2,400 students in our schools about environmental stewardship through Water on Wheels, Wheat Week, Kids in the Creek, and more; and participated in numerous community events like Wenatchee Salmon Festival, river appreciation events, and Earth Day fairs. These are just a few of our successes.

I encourage you to explore our website, www.cascadiacd.org, or contact us at (509) 436-1601 to learn more about our programs and activities. And, please don't hesitate to provide us with feedback and ideas; we are always seeking ways to better serve you.

Sincerely,

Craig Gyselinck, Program Manager



Wenatchee students participate in a forestry education field trip



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

14 N Mission St Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 436-1601 • www.cascadiacd.org

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Patrick Haggerty, *Project Coordinator II*
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Sandy Letzing, *Resource Specialist*
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The Conservation Quarterly is published on a quarterly basis by Cascadia Conservation District. This newsletter is funded in part by grants from the Washington State Conservation Commission, the Washington State Department of Ecology and other public and private granting entities.



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

- February 16, 2017 3:30-5:00 pm at 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee
- March 17, 2017 12:00-4:00 pm Annual Planning Meeting at 14 N Mission St, Columbia room
- April 20, 2017 3:30-5:00 pm at 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee

Entiat Habitat Sub Committee Meetings

- February 18, 2017 9:00-12:00 pm USFS Building, Wenatchee Rm
- March 16, 2017 9:00-12:00 pm USFS Building, Wenatchee Rm
- April 20, 2017 9:00-12:00 pm USFS Building, Wenatchee Rm

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meetings

- April 5, 2017 9:00-12:00 pm at Entiat Grange Hall

Era of Megafires

- March 24, 2017 6:00-9:00 pm at Mountain Springs Lodge in Plain

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

- Regional Technical Team Meetings
February 8, 2017 9:00-12:00 at Community Foundation
March 8, 2017 9:00-12:00 at Community Foundation
April 12, 2017 9:00-12:00 at Community Foundation
- Board of Director Meetings
February 23, 2017 10:00-3:00, Douglas County Land and Transportation Building
April 27, 2017 9:00-11:00, conference call
- Implementation Team Meeting
March 7, 2017 10:00-3:00 at Chelan County PUD Auditorium
- North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative Quarterly Meetings
March 1, 2017 10:00-4:00 at Chelan County PUD Auditorium

Washington Native Plant Society- "Shrub-Steppe Ecosystems: Ecology, Conservation and Restoration"

- April 20- May 4, 2017 Five session course
- For more information, or to apply, contact Jim Evans:
jimevans@centurytel.net, 206-678-8914

Wenatchee River Institute

- "My Old Man and the Mountain" with Leif Whittaker
Friday, February 3, 2017 7:00 pm at Barn Beach Reserve in Leavenworth
Admission by donation
- Fire in the Mountains with John Marshall
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:00-9:00 pm at Barn Beach Reserve in Leavenworth
Admission by donation
- Stargazing the February Night Sky with Dirk Horton
Saturday, February 18, 2017 10:30, 11:30, 12:30 showings at Barn Beach Reserve in Leavenworth
- eBird 101: Become a Citizen Science Birder
Two free trainings
March 22 6:00-8:00 pm at Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
March 23 9:00-11:00 am at Barn Beach Reserve
- Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail: Washington with Tami Asars
Friday, March 31, 2017 7:00 pm at Barn Beach Reserve in Leavenworth
Admission by donation
- The Geology of the Inland Pacific Northwest with Nick Zentner
Friday, April 14, 2017 7:00-9:00 pm at Barn Beach Reserve in Leavenworth
- Spring Wildflowers and Landscape in Watercolor with Molly Hashimoto
Saturday, April 22, 2017 9:30 am to Sunday, April 23, 2017 4:30 pm

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



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