

THE CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2007

DISTRICT GETS A NEW NAME AND A NEW FACE

It's official! We have changed our name from the Chelan County Conservation District to the Cascadia Conservation District. Our board and staff members decided to change our name to avoid further confusion with County government offices, and better meet the needs of our district members through improved community outreach efforts.

It took us some time to decide upon a name that best represented the diversity of the area, as well as, the diversity of programs and projects we are involved in. Cascadia came out on the top of the list because our district makes up the heart of the bioregion by the same name.

With the new name came a "new face". We completely revised our logo and website in coordination with the name change. The new logo includes

Despite all of the changes going on, one thing remains the same—the Conservation District is Chelan County's local natural resource partner.

a depiction of the mountains, hills and rivers characteristic of the region presented in a simple, updated style. The new website includes information on District history, board and staff, programs, publications, events and opportunities to get involved. The site was designed by Courtney Prather of Prather Design using a locally-developed interface and hosting service that is user-friendly. We will be able to independently update the new website as needed and keep our district members informed and up-to-date on all of

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The Entiat River Watershed
Draft Fishery White Paper
is available
for public review and comment.



August 1—September 30

Learn more about Entiat River watershed fish populations, recovery efforts and fishery management strategies.

Visit www.cascadiacd.org to download the document and comment form, or call us at (509) 664-0275 for a paper copy.

The Insects Versus the Aliens



Stem-boring weevils (*Mecinus janthinus*) can be used to control Dalmation Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) infestations.

Chelan County is under attack by noxious weeds. You have seen them along roadsides or railroad tracks and in empty lots or pastures. They appear innocent, but these alien super-competitors cause nothing but trouble and are difficult to control if allowed to spread.

The Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board characterizes noxious weeds as,

"...nonnative plants that have been introduced to Washington through human actions. Because of their aggressive growth and lack of natural enemies in North America, these species are highly destructive, competitive, and difficult to control." They can adversely affect the habitat they invade causing economic or environmental harm. Two noxious weed species common in Chelan County are Diffuse Knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*) and Dalmation Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*). Mechanical and chemical controls have traditionally been used to curb infestations. Now landowners have another method to add to their arsenal - biological controls.

Biological controls, or biocontrols, for noxious weeds involve the use of predatory insects or disease-causing organisms that help to restrict the spread of the invasive species. They do so by damaging the targeted

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Fuels Reduction Efforts Make Network News

Chainsaws were buzzing; the wood chipper was grinding, and saw dust was flying on May 11th in the Valley Hi community off Highway 97 near Blewett Pass. Several homeowners were working with a Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) crew and a representative from the Cascadia Conservation District to develop a neighborhood fuels reduction demonstration site. The objective of the effort was to provide an example of the type of work that can be done around homes to reduce their vulnerability to wildfires.



**KOMO
4
NEWS**

A KOMO 4 News cameraman interviews a member of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources crew as he works to develop a neighborhood fuels reduction demonstration site in Valley Hi.

The project drew the attention of KOMO 4 News in Seattle. They sent a crew to cover the event and the story was aired during news broadcasts that night and the following day. The news crew interviewed the participating homeowners and several people working at the site to get their perspective on the project. The archived story can be viewed at www.komotv.com/news/local/7469897.html.

The demonstration site was identified in the Peshastin Creek Drainage Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) as an area of concern. The CWPP was developed by local landowners with support from the Conservation District, Fire District #6, Forest Service and DNR personnel. CWPPs help communities along the wildland-urban interface address such issues as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, and structure protection. Completed plans can be used by communities to acquire grant funding for wildfire prevention and protection projects. They can also be used to help direct management actions on adjoining public lands.

CWPPs have been developed or are planned for every Fire District in Chelan County. Fire District #1 (Wenatchee) and Fire District #6 (Monitor to Peshastin) have just begun the planning process and Fire District #10 (Stehekin) is next on the list. The individual CWPPs will help provide a foundation for a county-wide wildfire protection plan scheduled for completion in December 2007.

- For more information on CWPPs, or to view completed plans visit our website at www.cascadiacd.org. For more information on how to protect your home in the event of a wildfire visit www.firewise.org.

Insects Versus Aliens

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plants and/or limiting their ability to reproduce. The Cascadia Conservation District recently implemented a new cost-share program to help district landowners control knapweed and toadflax populations on their property. The program involves the release of two types of weevils—seedhead weevils (*Larinus minutus*) to control knapweed and stem-boring weevils (*Mecinus janthinus*) to control toadflax.

As adults, both of these insect species feed on the stems and leaves of the targeted weeds. As larvae, they have a different approach. Seedhead weevil larvae feed on knapweed seedheads, destroying the seeds and the plant's ability to reproduce. Stem-boring weevil larvae bore into toadflax stems, weakening them and causing them to wilt. This generally reduces the plant's ability to survive and reproduce, especially during drought conditions. Healthy populations of seedhead weevils can virtually eliminate knapweed populations in treated areas within a few years; the effects of stem-boring weevils on toadflax tend to be somewhat less dramatic, but are an important component of a successful integrated pest management program. Both insect species have been thoroughly studied by the United States Department of Agriculture to ensure they won't cause unintended harm to other plants or crops.

Six landowners participated in this year's biocontrol program. Funding provided by the Washington Conservation Commission covered fifty percent of their costs. A typical treatment consisted of the release of two hundred insects in late spring or early summer. Release sites were recorded using GPS and will be monitored yearly as long as funding is available. The data will be used by Washington State University to map the distribution and success of noxious weed biocontrol programs.

- If funding and insects are available, the Cascadia Conservation District would like to offer the noxious weed biocontrol cost-share program in 2008. If you have a noxious weed infestation and are interested in participating contact Kurt Hosman at (509) 664-0270 or kurt.hosman@wa.nacdn.net.



Cascadia Conservation District Resource Specialist Kurt Hosman releases seedhead weevils on diffuse knapweed as part of a biocontrol program at a farm north of Chelan.

DID YOU KNOW...

Washington State Law (RCW 17.10) requires both public and private landowners to control noxious weeds on their property. Early detection is the most successful and cost effective approach to weed control. State and county weed boards were created to assist landowners with information on weed identification and control methods.

Contact them today to help prevent an infestation tomorrow.

Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board

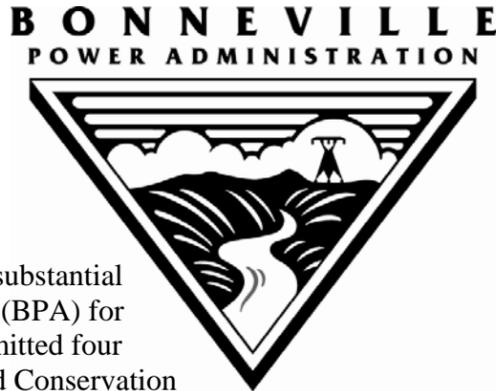
(509) 667-6550 or www.co.chelan.wa.us

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

(360) 902-2053 or www.nwcb.wa.gov



GRANT FUNDING ENABLES CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE ENTIAT



The Cascadia Conservation District was recently awarded substantial grant funding from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for three projects in the Entiat River watershed. The District submitted four grant proposals in December 2005 to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council for fish and riparian habitat restoration projects. Three of the four projects were selected by the Council and its Independent Scientific Advisory Board, which is composed of federal and state fish and wildlife agencies and area Native American tribes. Construction of these restoration projects will begin this summer and continue through 2009. Projects covered by the grant funding include:

Knapp-Wham/Hanan Detwiler Irrigation System Consolidation

The Knapp-Wham (KW)/Hanan-Detwiler (HD) Irrigation System Consolidation will result in existing HD water users being served in the future by wells or the piped KW system. Biologic project goals are to eliminate two partial low flow fish passage barriers, add instream pool habitat, reduce fish entrainment, conserve water for instream flows, and improve overall water quality. Objectives include: 1) eliminating the Hanan-Detwiler surface water diversion and associated unlined irrigation ditch to improve efficiency and instream flow conditions in the lower river, particularly during the late-summer/fall period, and 2) enhancing the Knapp-Wham system and surface water diversion to eliminate partial low flow fish passage barriers, provide additional large pool habitat complexity, and prevent fish entrainment in irrigation intakes in the project area. BPA funding will be used to develop

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THE FUTURE OF KIDS IN THE CREEK

Take a moment and think back to the best field trip you ever had in High School. After the long bus ride were you shuffled in to a stuffy building? Probably not! Your most memorable field trip probably had three basic components: the great outdoors, hands-on activities and fun!

In May 2007, high school science students from the Cascade, Manson, Entiat, Wenatchee, and Eastmont school Districts, as well as the Cascade Christian Academy had the opportunity to transcend the classroom and take their knowledge of aquatic and riparian ecosystems out into the real world. This unique experience is a component of a 'hands and minds on' educational program known as *Kids in the Creek*.

Kids in the Creek is an annual outdoor environmental education program, developed and implemented by the Cascadia Conservation District in partnership with local educators, private citizens and multiple local, state and federal agencies. Hundreds of area high school students have participated in this high quality education program since its inception in 1993.

With the guidance of qualified Resource Specialists, students participate in four different learning stations, designed to assist students in understanding the connection and importance of a watershed's aquatic and riparian ecosystems, and the critical role of human land management activities. Once students have gone through these four interactive stations they are encouraged to draw upon the day's experience to consider how water quality and water resources might play a role in community management decisions.

This year's field days were hosted by the Washington State University (WSU) Colockum Research Center and Lake Chelan State Park.

The Cascadia Conservation District owes a big 'thank you' to multiple agencies, including the US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, City of Wenatchee Water Quality Department, WSU 4-H Forestry Education Program, Barn Beach Reserve, and private volunteers for their



Students work with a resource professional to capture and identify macroinvertebrates, or stream bugs, during the 2007 Kids in the Creek program.

COST INCENTIVES FOR CONSERVATION

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers cost incentive programs to promote voluntary conservation efforts on private working lands. They are currently accepting applications for their Environmental Quality Incentives, or EQIP, program.

EQIP is a competitive program that ranks applicants based on the potential positive impacts conservation efforts will have on prioritized resource concerns. Funding pools are broken into categories based on land use including forest land, grazing land, irrigated orchard and vineyard, irrigated cropland, and dry cropland.

Up to 75% of the costs of certain conservation practices may be funded through EQIP. Qualifying practices include such things as irrigation efficiency upgrades, forest stand improvements, culvert replacement, and wildfire fuels reduction & breaks.

For more information or to apply contact the Wenatchee NRCS office at (509) 664-0275.

**The application deadline is
November 16, 2007.**

program participation and support. A round of applause also goes to Cascadia Conservation District Associate Member Jim Bartelme, who is also a member of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees. With his help, the Friends of Northwest Hatcheries was able to secure a matching grant from the National Forest Foundation to purchase 24 pairs of new chest waders for the program. This is a great example of partners working together to meet a need that had been identified long ago.

The Cascadia Conservation District, along with its partners and several dedicated educators, has overcome many challenges in past years to ensure students are able to continue participating in this worthwhile educational program. This year school and student participation was slightly down from previous years. The question was raised: Is the *Kids in the Creek* program losing steam? The answer was a resounding 'No'. The enthusiasm of students, educators and resource

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NEW NAME

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the great programs and projects we are involved in.

Despite all of the changes going on, one thing remains the same - the Conservation District is Chelan County's local natural resource partner. Trusted since 1948, we are a grant-funded subdivision of state government that provides non-regulatory technical and financial assistance with natural resource projects. We work with area landowners, agencies, non-profits and other stakeholders to develop and implement voluntary conservation projects in Chelan County that are beneficial to both people and the environment.

- Check out our new website at www.cascadiacd.org.

KIDS IN THE CREEK

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specialists alike demonstrated that this program is still effective, relevant and beneficial.

While talking with educators throughout the day, two major obstacles for school and student participation were identified: WASL requirements and school scheduling conflicts. WASL, or Washington Assessment of Student Learning, is an annual preparation and testing regimen that spans several weeks and limits student availability for other regular classroom and special events. Sports schedules and transportation availability further challenge participation.

One interesting and promising solution discussed was to help science educators incorporate the *Kids in the Creek* program into their course syllabus. This approach enables educators to plan ahead, have a set date and incorporate the program curriculum into, or around the WASL and school scheduling issues with administration support. The Manson School District has successfully incorporated the *Kids in the Creek* program into their course syllabus year after year and the Entiat District plans to do so during the 2007-2008 school year. While one size does not fit all, we are very interested in helping you find the best fit for area schools and students.

We would like to help you and your community benefit from this high quality educational opportunity. If you are a Chelan County educator, home-schooling parent or a concerned parent that believes the students in your community would benefit from this program, please contact Phylisha Olin at (509) 664-0211 or phylisha.olin@wa.nacdn.net, or contact your school administrators. If you are interested in reviewing the *Kids in the Creek* curriculum visit our website at www.cascadiacd.org.





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GRANT FUNDING

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approximately ten irrigation wells to serve many of the existing HD system water users and enable anticipated HD system decommissioning in 2009.

Entiat Subbasin Riparian Enhancement Program

The Riparian Enhancement Program grant proposal was written to target livestock management issues in the Mad River watershed. The project involves constructing approximately 0.7 miles of fence approximately 35 feet from Tillicum Creek to exclude sheep from grazing in the riparian area and impacting the stream channel along the Mad River, Tillicum Creek and Indian Creek. Sheep grazing opportunities will still be provided to authorized permittees. As part of the project, off-channel watering facilities and/or hardened access will be built to provide livestock watering and a 35 foot buffer zone will be replanted with riparian vegetation along a 500 foot stretch of Tillicum Creek to restore riparian condition and function. Restricting sheep access to the creek and restoring the riparian area will help improve critical fish habitat necessary for steelhead, spring Chinook, bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout spawning, rearing and migration in the Mad River watershed.

Lower Entiat River Off-Channel Restoration Project

The Lower Entiat River Off-Channel Restoration project will involve work with one private landowner to enhance juvenile salmonid habitat conditions in the lower Entiat River. The lower Entiat watershed lacks off-channel areas for small fish to escape the high flows of the mainstem Entiat River and use as rearing habitat. This project will help provide more of this critical habitat type by moderating flow into an existing off-channel area and creating a rearing pond. It will also involve putting spawning gravels in part of the off-channel area to help provide suitable adult spawning habitat.

Since 1993, the Cascadia Conservation District has worked cooperatively with Entiat area landowners, government entities, area tribes, environmental groups and other stakeholders to develop local solutions to natural resource issues specific to the basin. We are proud to be the Lead Agency for Entiat watershed planning and restoration efforts.

- For more information on our projects in the Entiat River watershed give us a call at (509) 664-0275 or visit our website at www.cascadiacd.org.



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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