

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2011

ENTIAT RIVER APPRECIATION DAY: WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD COMMUNITY

Come join the FUN! On Saturday, August 6th from 9am – noon at Entiaqua Park, Cascadia Conservation District, the City of Entiat, and the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit will host the 2nd Entiat River Appreciation event.

Last year's clean-up was a huge success as friends and family came together and collected nearly three tons of debris from the banks of the Entiat River.

Afterward volunteers were rewarded with a free BBQ,

event t-shirts, live music, and family oriented games. Let's make the 2nd Entiat River Appreciation even bigger!

Entiat streamside landowners can participate by bringing debris collected on private property to Entiaqua Park for disposal and then stay for the celebration. Last year one landowner brought an old rusted car frame that had long littered their waterfront.

On Saturday, August 6th volunteers will meet at Entiaqua Park (the kiosk where Entiat River feeds into the Columbia, on Entiat River Road) at 9am and choose a site to focus their efforts. Choices include three on-the-ground clean-up sites, one native vegetation planting location, or floating a one mile reach of the river (experienced people with their own water craft only). This activity is dependent on water level the day of the event.

The morning work will be followed by a volunteer appreciation party beginning at noon at Entiaqua Park. The celebration will include a free BBQ, music by the Tyee Ridge Runners (a.k.a. Shank Brothers), games and activities, giveaways, and a visit from special guest Smokey Bear.

The first 50 people to RSVP online or sign in at the event will receive a free event t-shirt. To RSVP for this fun-filled family event please visit www.cascadiacd.org or call (509) 664-9370.

We would like to extend a special "thank you" to the fourth and fifth grade students of Paul Rumburg (Entiat) Elementary School. Students participated in a logo contest for this year's event poster graphic. The artwork of winner Liliana Ayala Paz has been used on all outreach material.



Logo contest winner Liliana accepting her framed poster at Entiat Literacy Night on May 3, 2011. Photo by Lake Chelan Mirror

ATTENTION ENTIAT STREAMSIDE LANDOWNERS!

Take advantage of this opportunity to clean up your own waterfront.

See www.cascadiacd.org for a list of acceptable material. Landowners are encouraged to call Cascadia with any questions about this opportunity, (509) 664-9370.

WENATCHEE RIVER CLEAN-UP Sunday, August 21st

Volunteers are needed to help remove trash and debris from the banks of the Wenatchee River at Cashmere Riverside Park and Chumstick Creek at Old Barn Farm in Leavenworth. Visit the Chelan County Natural Resources Department website to learn more www.co.chelan.wa.us/nr.



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LOCAL ORCHARDISTS USE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



Junell Wentz and Gus, the baby barn owl who accompanies wildlife rescuers to educational events about using owls as rodent control.

In 2005, Junell and Jerry Wentz applied to Cascadia Conservation District's Landowner Assistance Program to receive partial funding for the installation of a newer, more efficient micro-irrigation system on their cherry farm. It was a huge success. Soil erosion nearly disappeared and managing irrigations became much easier.

In 2008, Junell and Jerry started working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to begin managing and addressing other natural resource concerns they had on their farm.

"We were barely hanging on. We had a lot of problems with rodents. They would kill our trees and fruit," said Junell. With a farm plan written by Cascadia, Jerry and Junell were in a good position to receive funding from NRCS and Cascadia. Junell and Jerry were funded for soil testing and nutrient management, an integrated pest management plan, soil moisture monitoring, and a hedgerow designed to provide habitat for beneficial insects. Additionally, structures were erected to attract predatory birds, bats, and beneficial insects.

"We got grant money for an owl box, kestrel box, bee boxes, and a perch pole, and have a family of kestrels and a family of red-tail hawks living on the property now," explained Junell.

The hedgerow was planted with drought-tolerant native plants that include Scouler's willow, sage brush, ocean spray, rabbitbrush, and buckwheats. The goal of the native planting is to provide habitat for beneficial insects such as pollinators and predators.

"The area where we planted the hedgerow is way too steep to farm so Junell is not losing any viable farmland, and now that previously unusable land is being used for something positive – habitat for beneficial insects," explained Amy Hendershot, NRCS. "Pesticides have their place in agriculture, but if we can use

nature instead where possible, we can save time, money, and labor."

Junell explained that they spent a lot of time working on planting the hedgerow, but between NRCS and Cascadia there has been almost no monetary cost to them.

Junell and Jerry jumped at the chance to provide nesting structures for predatory birds with hopes of reducing their rodent population. Working with Hendershot, Junell put the structures in places where the birds were likely to utilize them.

Within six months, a nesting pair of kestrels had taken up residence in the kestrel box and a pair of red-tailed

hawks had built a nest in the pine tree near the new perch pole. They also worked with a local wildlife rescuer to release six barn owls on their property.

"Without the help of NRCS and Cascadia we wouldn't be able to do this."
-Junell Wentz

"We've seen a decrease in rodent problems since introducing the birds. It is very cool to see the changes in the orchard – it has become very bird-friendly," said Junell.

Junell later told Hendershot outside of the interview that she takes great pleasure in watching the kestrels dive-bomb the robins and the starlings as well, which are species that damage cherries.



The Wentzes' hedgerow, part of the landowner assistance program available through Cascadia and NRCS.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

- Irrigation systems and mainlines
- Soil moisture monitoring and equipment
- Soil testing and nutrient management
- Integrated Pest Management Plans
- Noxious Weed Control
- Wildlife Habitat Planting and Structures
- Mulching
- Variable Frequency Drives for Pumps
- Pasture Renovation and Reseedings
- Pasture Management Plans
- Windbreaks/Shelterbelts
- *Other projects may also be eligible

Deadlines to apply:

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): August 18

Cascadia CD Landowner Assistance Program: August 31

Wentz enjoys watching the owls sit on her deck railing and has now heard them screech.

"They were scared at first, but once I let them out of their box they took off," explained Junell. "They found the mice we hid so we know they are eating and still around."

Junell wrote to her neighbors and encouraged them to stop using rodenticides such as strychnine and zinc phosphide to give the owls a chance to establish without the risk of them being poisoned.

"These programs are in place to assist landowners and leasees to offset the cost of installing conservation projects on their property," said Kate Koenig, Cascadia.

NRCS and Cascadia are non-regulatory agencies that work with private landowners. People are welcome to apply to their programs at any time; however, the deadline for this year's funding is August 18 for NRCS and August 31 for Cascadia. Please call (509) 664-9370 if you are interested.

"Lots of farmers aren't willing to take the risk, but I hope to bring awareness to fellow farmers through my success with the bird boxes and hedgerow. I welcome others to come and see what I have done and how successful it has been," offered Junell. "Because I got help through these programs it detracted worry from finances and I didn't feel like I was going at it alone. I learned a lot and got great support."

ENTIAT NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY: SUCCESSFUL LEVEE REMOVAL AND CONSTRUCTION OF KID'S FISHING POND

The Entiat National Fish Hatchery's Kid's Fishing Pond project has proved to be a great success.

Beginning in the fall of 2010 local Entiat volunteer groups and individuals contributed labor, material and equipment to pond construction, which was completed in May of this year. "The support has been overwhelming," says Craig Chisam, manager of the Entiat National Fish Hatchery.

Cascadia Conservation District and the Washington Conservation Corps with assistance from Joe Lange,

Entiat National Fish Hatchery's Kid's Fishing Pond.



Engineer for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), worked diligently to reclaim and plant the area immediately adjacent to the pond with native vegetation. The area has been irrigated with water pumped from the pond and looked fantastic by month's end.

Complementing the pond effort, although not officially related to it, Cascadia also implemented a project at the Entiat National Fish Hatchery in October 2010 to reconnect a six acre area of disconnected floodplain.

The floodplain reconnection was accomplished by removing 700 feet of levee, planting the levee footprint with riparian species, and rehabilitating an area of approximately 1.5 acres of upper floodplain habitat with seed and native plants.

This 1.5 acres of floodplain is the area adjacent to the hatchery's new Kid's Fishing Pond and is one step in an attempt to restore all hatchery floodplain areas back to native plant and wildlife communities.

On June 11, 2011, the first annual event at the newly



The hatchery's annual Kid's Fishing Day will now be held at the new pond.

constructed Kid's Fishing Pond was held.

"Approximately 1,860 triploid rainbow trout were planted in the pond in preparation for the Kid's Fishing Day event," explained Chisam. Some 300 children and adults attended the event and about 300 fish were caught that day.

FAREWELL AMANDA!



Amanda with the AppleSox baseball team mascot enjoying a farewell get together with Cascadia friends.

AmeriCorps Member, Amanda Ellis is moving on. During her 10 ½ month term with Cascadia, Amanda worked alongside staff on numerous projects. She brought a level of dedication, insight, and enthusiasm to both new initiatives and long running programs that we truly appreciate. Good luck and safe journey!

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS ARE AN ASSET TO FIREWISE PROGRAM

The Firewise program encourages local solutions to wildfire safety concerns through education, outreach, technical assistance and implementation of fuels reduction.

Cascadia Conservation District has been working with local partners on fuels reduction in the Squilchuck basin. Chelan County Fire District No.1 received funding through the Bureau of Land Management to conduct this work and formed an agreement with Cascadia to implement the work on their behalf.

Cascadia has had great success working with the Squilchuck community. In 2008, fuels reduction thinning treatment was applied to approximately eight acres on the Scout-a-Vista camp.

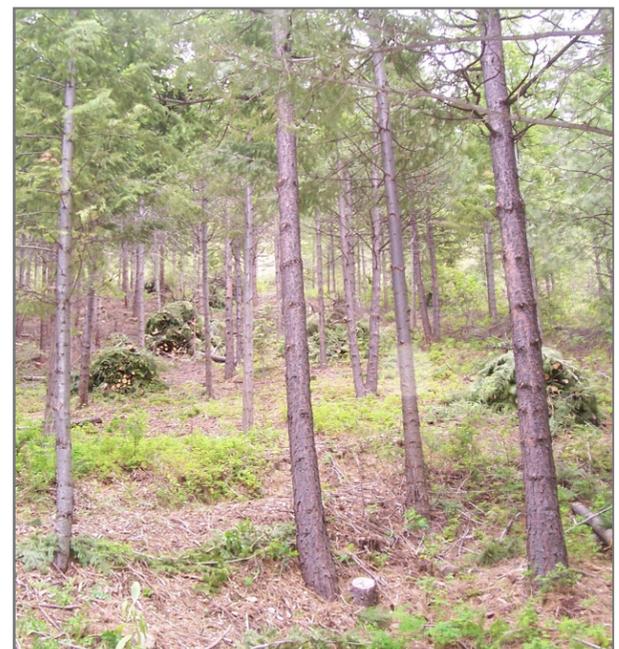
By 2010, the fuels reduction treatment covered approximately 50 acres, including six residential properties along Squilchuck Road, areas of Squilchuck State Park, Scout-a-Vista camp, and private forest along

Squilchuck Road.

In 2011, Cascadia treated another eight acres within Squilchuck State Park and 12 acres of private forest.

"The natural relationship between forest/tree health and wildfire risk opened the door for district staff to educate their communities about the importance of forest stewardship and healthy forests in relation to wildfire safety. With the mission of protecting natural resources and providing technical expertise and financial assistance to landowners, the districts were a perfect fit for bringing this program to communities," explained Jennifer Hinderman, Skagit County Conservation District.

See Jennifer's article on Firewise communities and conservation districts



Fuels reduction treatment in Squilchuck State Park.

titled Educated Guests at: <http://wildfiremag.com/pub-ed/firewise-partners-201103/>

Learn more about the Firewise program at: www.firewise.org.

A LOOK AT RECREATION ETIQUETTE & SAFETY

Central Washington offers great recreation opportunities all year round. In the summer, rafting and tubing are very popular activities. However, every year issues arise on the river.



Layne Dretke enjoying an inflatable kayak trip on the Icicle River.

Private landowners experience problems with rafters and tubers trespassing and disrespecting private property along the river.

Excessive alcohol consumption is a primary concern as this often leads to dangerous situations or accidents. Littering is also a concern on the river.

Some tubers and rafters like to bring their dogs along for the ride. However, when dogs are allowed to run along the shore instead of being kept

in the tube or raft they are a potential danger to themselves and other animals along the way. Loose dogs can exhibit other nuisance behavior such as stealing food and leaving waste on private property as well.

SOME BASIC RIVER ETIQUETTE INCLUDES:

- Respect other people's space
- Be courteous to everyone on the river
- Respect private property
- Use established public put-in and take-out sites
- Keep pets with you at all times while floating
- Do not litter or leave anything behind
- Avoid excessive alcohol consumption

Treat private property along the river how you would like others to treat your own backyard. If everyone can be respectful of others on the river as well as landowners along the way the river will be a fun and safe place for all!

Chelan County Public Works recently put signs along the Icicle River explaining recreation etiquette. Be sure to check them out.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

August 18 at 3:30pm at 215 Melody Lane in Wenatchee
September 15 at 3:30pm at 215 Melody Lane in Wenatchee

Entiat Habitat Subcommittee Meetings

August 18 from 9am-12pm at 215 Melody Lane in Wenatchee
September 15 from 9am-12pm at Chelan Co Fire District on Easy Street in Wenatchee

Entiat River Appreciation Day

August 6 9am-12pm at Entiaqua Park—See front page article for details

Natural Resource Conservation Service EQIP Funding Deadline: August 18

Wenatchee River Clean-Up

August 21 at Riverside Park in Cashmere & Old Barn Farm in Leavenworth
Volunteers are needed to help pick up metal debris and garbage from the banks of the Wenatchee River and Chumstick Creek. To participate volunteers can walk the bank or if you are an experienced rafter or kayaker, float a stretch of the Wenatchee River. If you can't make it on the 21st you can get a group together to clean up a site or stretch of river on another date. Chelan County Natural Resource Department will provide garbage bags and haul your metal and garbage away. Please register for the event on the 21st or another date by contacting Matt Shales at (509) 667-6436 or matt.shales@co.chelan.wa.us. You can also visit Chelan County Natural Resources Department website to learn more www.co.chelan.wa.us/nr.

Cascadia Landowner Assistance Program Funding Deadline: August 31

Salmon Festival

October 1 and 2 at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery
The Wenatchee River Salmon Festival is a four-day natural resource education event held each fall to celebrate the return of the salmon to the Wenatchee River. An exciting menu of hands-on activities and "edutainment" gives visitors a unique opportunity to discover and appreciate the complexities of the natural world and the significance of salmon to people of the northwest. Students from schools throughout north central Washington visit the Festival during the two special school days. On Saturday and Sunday the event attracts thousands of visitors from the northwest. For additional information please visit: www.salmonfest.org

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Handicap Fishing Event

October 12 and 13 at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery
A handicap viewing platform transforms into a fishing ramp to make landing that big rainbow trout especially enjoyable. Please contact Lynann DeJarnett (lynann_dejarnett@fws.gov 509-548-2921) with your request to participate in this event as space is limited.

For more information on any of the meetings and events listed above, call our office at (509) 664-9370 or visit our website at www.cascadiacd.org.



CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

215 Melody Lane Wenatchee, WA 98801
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