

CASCADIA  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

14 N Mission St  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
(509) 436-1601  
[www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org)

Non-Profit Org.

US

POSTAGE

**PAID**

PERMIT#40

Wenatchee

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
LOCAL

# FLOOD RISK REDUCTION GUIDE



Photo by Chelan County Sheriff's Office  
Nahahum Canyon mudslide 2012



CASCADIA  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# 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
- Reduces temperature fluctuation
- Water storage to reduce frequency and duration of low water flow



Example of a healthy, functioning floodplain

\*Funded by Washington State Department of Ecology

# 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
- Don't 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



Riparian restoration project on Chumstick Creek through Cascadia Conservation District's cost-share program

# CASCADIA CAN HELP!



Example of a riparian restoration

Cascadia works with streamside home-owners to improve riparian areas, which are the strips of grass, shrubs, and trees along the banks of rivers and streams.

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, contact  
Sandy Letzing at  
[sandyl@cascadiacd.org](mailto:sandyl@cascadiacd.org)  
or (509) 436-1601