

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SPRING 2013

PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS FOR FIRE REHAB

Fires in the fall of 2012 significantly impacted the landscape of areas in Chelan County and have increased the risk of flooding and mud flows to lands downstream of burned areas. Until vegetation in these areas recovers, little can be done to prevent excess water, debris, and mud from coming down and causing potential damage to areas downstream.

In order to be proactive in protecting Chelan County citizens from flood damage, a multi-agency partnership was formed between Cascadia Conservation District (CCD), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the US Forest Service (USFS), Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD), and Chelan County Public Works (CCPW).

This rehabilitation effort consisted of many parts and was funded by NRCS (at 75%) and CCD (at 25% through WA Conservation Commission). Data was collected by the USFS, while CCNRD and CCPW were responsible for project implementation. Weather emergency resources such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will be used to monitor data relating to these projects.



A re-purposed cattle guard is used to keep existing trash and debris out of culverts

Culvert replacements and improvements have taken place in areas affected by the fires and downstream of burned areas. The culvert replacement projects are in the finishing stages. Project implementers are busy cleaning out newly installed larger culverts with

pressurized hoses to ensure proper function during severe weather events with storm runoff.

Improperly maintained drains and culverts are a primary cause of flooding when they are clogged with vegetation and debris. If you have a drain or culvert on your property it is important to keep it clean and clear.



A large culvert makes it easier for debris to escape. Large rock around it will prevent erosion and help direct storm water runoff

A representative for each of the agencies involved in this work went on a tour of the project sites on April 10. Alan Schmidt from CCNRD said he was glad to be able to help with this work. During the tour, a local landowner drove by and stopped to say he was "glad they were doing this work. It helps out a lot."

The ground was reseeded after each project's completion. This will help with erosion control, prevent invasive species from establishing, and enhance aesthetic qualities.

Rain gauges that will be installed in the foothills will detect severe rain events capable of causing floods and immediately alert emergency weather services and media when rain volume exceeds the set limit. The rain gauges will transmit every hour, but can be set to transmit more frequently during severe rain events. The Geologic Survey will track the data generated by the rain gauges at this website: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov>. Four permanent and seven temporary rain gauges will be installed in the near future. The permanent gauges will be located in the Mission Creek area and Wenatchee's No. 1 and No. 2 Canyons. Temporary gauges will be placed in Mission Creek, Dry Gulch, Oklahoma Gulch, Crum Canyon, Byrd Canyon, and Slide Ridge.

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PHOTO CONTEST

See page 4 for contest details and submit your photo(s) at www.picturethewenatchee.com.



"Minotaur Lake"
by Airan Mendoza

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP PESHAstin CREEK CLEAN



About 2,120 lbs of trash and scrap metal was removed from 570 feet of streambank

A Styrofoam cup floats down the Wenatchee River. A relic from someone's lunch, it's now on a journey that could carry it hundreds of miles along the Columbia and out to the Pacific. Once it reaches the ocean it magically disappears and that's the end of it. Except that it doesn't. It joins the rest of the world's trash out in the ocean where it collects in areas like the north pacific gyre, or washes up on beaches.

By the end of the day a total of 570 feet of stream bank and 2,120 lbs. of trash and scrap metal had been removed from the waterway and nearby

Misplaced trash is not simply an eyesore; there's a long list of problems it can cause for wildlife and people; however our decisions and actions can prevent all of these problems. Simply cleaning up garbage, recycling and disposing of it properly has huge benefits for the environment. In an effort to do our part Cascadia Conservation District worked with the Leavenworth Community Fellowship Church in Peshastin this spring to cleanup a section of Peshastin Creek. About 18 members of the community church came out to get involved with the cleanup.

At first glance, the cleanup site contained a few piles of debris but other than that there didn't seem to be a whole lot to do. However, after everyone started cleaning up on the stream bank, it became apparent that there was quite a bit more debris than originally thought. One group found a huge cache of garbage and had to work together to pull



Volunteers worked hard during the entire cleanup event and it paid off

vicinity. A few of the volunteers even saw a mink playing in the water just across the creek. For some, the wildlife was a reminder of all that would benefit from a few hours of work from a dedicated group of volunteers.

"Our congregation participated in this project because we want to be good stewards to the environment so that it maintains its beauty and integrity," said Pastor Mike McGraff. "Teaming up with Cascadia was good for the church and allowed us to meet our goals."

A riparian planting project sponsored by Cascadia will be implemented on this site later in the spring. Cascadia would like to thank Cascade Quality Water in Wenatchee for their donation of water jugs for this event.



Members of Leavenworth Community Fellowship's congregation worked together to keep their church property clean and beautiful

PONDEROSA COMMUNITY CLUB GAINS NATIONAL FIREWISE COMMUNITIES RECOGNITION

Cascadia helps prepare local communities for the Firewise certification process. **Congratulations to the Ponderosa Community Club in Plain for becoming Chelan County's most recent Firewise Community.** Cascadia is currently working with other at-risk communities as well.

"We worked hard for over a year to become a recognized 'Firewise Community' and we did it! Our members are now aware of the risks of wildfire and they're talking about it. Educational outreach about Firewise is paying off," said Doug Pendleton, Ponderosa Community Club Watershed Committee Chair.



Doug Pendleton, Chair of the Ponderosa Community Club's Watershed Committee, with the Club's Firewise Community recognition plaque

The Firewise program helps private landowners and communities improve the health of their forests and reduce the risk of damage from wildfire. Communities who take the steps to reduce their vulnerability to fire damage have a much better chance of surviving a serious wildfire.

"One of our community goals, enshrined in our mission statement, is public safety and a commitment to live in harmony with our environment.

Thanks to Cascadia Conservation District and the Firewise program, members of the Ponderosa are now becoming responsible stewards of our land and, in doing so, we are living up to our commitment," said Pendleton.

Being Firewise means creating defensible space that prevents fire from advancing close enough to homes to cause damage. It is very important to eliminate wildfire fuels, like leaves, pine needles and trees, from within 30 feet of your house. This spring take the time to reduce your risk of fire damage by clearing fuels from around your house. Learn more about how you and your community can become Firewise by visiting: www.firewise.org/usa or by contacting Cascadia Conservation District at (509) 664-9370.

In addition to Firewise, forest landowners can find excellent resources from the Washington State University Extension at <http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry> and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources at <http://dnr.wa.gov.sflo>.



Firewise landscape example.
Photograph used with permission from the NFPA Firewise Communities Program

LANDOWNER SPOTLIGHT: ED SCHAPLOW



Upgraded irrigation system saves landowner time, water, and money

2003, Ed has worked hard to turn the previously financially failing orchard around. By modernizing some of the orchard's equipment and farming techniques he has been able to cut costs while producing higher quality tree fruit. Ed has taken advantage of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to upgrade his irrigation system and install soil moisture monitoring devices. Ed is now saving water and money.

Ed's savings on irrigation have allowed him to complete a variety of wildlife enhancement projects around the property boundaries, most of which were also supported by EQIP. Big horn sheep, bats, bees, and birds are just a few of the animals that Ed has witnessed taking refuge on his property since his wildlife projects began. Mason Bee nesting structures are

Ed Schaplow is a 2nd generation tree fruit grower with an orchard along the Columbia River. About halfway between Entiat and Chelan you'll find Staymen Flats, where Ed's orchard not only grows some of the best cherries, pears, and apples in the state, but also has become a safe haven for local wildlife.

Since his purchase in



Mason Bee nesting structures

found installed along the boundary of his property and native trees and shrubs that were recently planted provide important wildlife habitat.

When asked why he thinks adding wildlife habitat is important to the success of his orchard, he said,

"There are a lot of benefits to helping wildlife. The pollinators take advantage of the nesting structures we've

installed, and I get a better

crop. I want this to be a demonstration site for other orchardists to see the benefits of having wildlife habitat areas on their property."

Ed also explained that about 40% of the total costs for the projects was covered by the EQIP program.

"I never would have thought about doing something like this without EQIP.

Now we're really glad we did."

-Ed Schaplow, landowner



Bee pollinating Ed's orchard

CASCADIA'S PRESENCE IN THE ENTIAT COMMUNITY



Entiat Kite Festival flies high on Easter weekend

Entiat Kite Festival organizer.

On April 13, Cascadia brought the Bureau of Reclamation's Rolling Rivers interactive watershed model to the Ardenvoir Swallowfest to teach kids and adults alike about the importance of a healthy watershed. Rolling Rivers has always been a big hit with the young and young-at-heart and our experience at Swallowfest this year was no different. About 150 people attended the event.

The 10th annual Entiat Earth Day took place at the school on April 16 and Cascadia was excited to participate. The entire elementary school, about

More than 100 people came to Kiwanis Park in Entiat on Saturday, March 30 for the third Annual Entiat Kite Festival, which was presented by the Entiat Valley Chamber of Commerce. Cascadia Conservation District helped sponsor the event. Free kites were given away for children to decorate on-site and fly. Both children and adults also brought their own kites to the family event from as far away as Yakima and Tacoma. Food and kite vendors were on hand as well.

"It was a perfect sunny spring day and everyone had a great time celebrating the 'rites of string'," said Alan Moen,

150 kids, participated in this fun event organized by the Entiat Valley Community Services Group. Several different organizations had booths set up with fun educational activities. Cascadia brought our table length fish anatomy puzzle. This beautifully crafted wood puzzle depicts the organs of a fish. We played a game of Fish Anatomy Jeopardy with the students where we would describe a fish organ and they would guess the part, then place it in the puzzle. The children would then color in the organ on their fish anatomy worksheet to take home with them.

On April 17, the Adults in the Creek event was held at the Entiat National Fish Hatchery. This is a training event for teachers and resource professionals who will participate in the Kids in the Creek program in May. Kids in the Creek is a hands-on educational program for high school 10th graders to explore actual field methods for assessing aquatic and riparian habitat, water quantity, water quality and indicator insects, as well as an introduction to land use planning considerations. For additional information please visit the Kids in the Creek website, www.kidsinthecreek.com and make sure to tell your teachers and school board about this exciting educational opportunity.



Teaching fish anatomy at the Entiat Earth Day Fair



Children enjoy Rolling Rivers at Swallowfest

PICTURE THE WENATCHEE 2013 PHOTO CONTEST LAUNCHES

Cascadia Conservation District and the Picture the Wenatchee watershed stewardship campaign are sponsoring a Wenatchee River watershed photo contest. Anyone age 13 and up who shares our appreciation for the watershed is invited to participate.



"Saddle Rock Stars" by Anam Paiseanta

Our photo contest combines appreciation for the environment and the Wenatchee River valley with the artistic talent of local photographers. Help capture the beauty of the watershed and participate by sharing your photos.

From now until October 1, 2013 photo entries are being accepted from interested members of the public for six categories including **plants, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, landscapes, and water.**

Help Capture the Beauty of the Wenatchee River Watershed

All entries will be exhibited at participating local businesses in the watershed during the fall. A panel of local judges selected for their commitment to the watershed will choose two winners from each category.

Unfortunately, due to funding constraints we may not be able to produce a calendar with the winning photos this year. We are currently seeking sponsors to remedy this. We will still choose two winning photos from each category



"Fawn" by Pete Freund

and those photos will be featured on the Picture the Wenatchee website and potentially in other local media as well. Prizes will be given to the first, second and third place "Best in Show" photos.

For complete contest rules and an online submission form visit: www.picturethewenatchee.com.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

May 16 3:30 pm at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

June 20 3:30 pm at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

July 18 3:30 pm at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

For more information contact Cascadia's office: (509) 664-9370.

Wenatchee Habitat Subcommittee Meetings

May 15 9:00 am, Leavenworth

June 19 9:00 am, Leavenworth

July 17 9:00 am, Leavenworth

For more information contact Mary Jo Sanborn: (509) 667-6532, maryjo.sanborn@co.chelan.wa.us

Entiat Habitat Subcommittee Meetings

May 16 8:30 am at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

June 20 8:30 am at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

July 18 8:30 am at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meetings

July 10 9:00 am at Grange Hall, Entiat

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Meetings

June 27 10:00 am at the Leavenworth Fire House, Leavenworth

UCSRB Implementation Team Meetings

June 4 10:00 am at the Chelan Fire House, Chelan

Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship

2013 NCW Community Success Summit

November 20 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Okanogan Middle School, Okanogan

For more information visit: <http://irisncw.org/>

Wenatchee River Institute

Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest – A celebration of bird song and the natural world!

May 16-19 5:00 am - 5:00 pm at Barn Beach Reserve in Leavenworth

"Weedsday" – Spring cleanup volunteer work party. Lunch with pizza for all volunteers. May 8 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Barn Beach Reserve, 347 Division Street, Leavenworth

Volunteer for Wenatchee River Institute's Youth Education Spring Field Days May -June. For more information visit: <http://www.wenatcheeriverinstitute.org> or call (509) 548-0181

Cascadia Conservation District has launched a blog: Cascadia's Conservation Conversation!

Please check it out at: <http://ccdconservationconversation.blogspot.com/>



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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