

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

WINTER 2013

HIGHLIGHTING SUCCESS IN 2012

The following are some of our accomplishments and successes from 2012:

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 2012 education and outreach efforts.

Cascadia's Conservation Conversation Blog: Updated weekly, follow it at <http://ccdconservationconversation.blogspot.com/>

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

District Website - 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.



Entiat River Appreciation volunteers, August 2012

Earth Day Essay Contest: Chelan County 6th-8th graders participated in this contest and the winning writers accompanied a local biologist on White-headed Woodpecker surveys.

Entiat River Appreciation: In

2012, Cascadia sponsored a logo contest for Entiat 4th/5th graders and the winning logo appeared on outreach materials for the cleanup event. Volunteers removed 125 pounds of trash and planted 50 native forbs and shrubs at the Entiat National Fish Hatchery.

Kids in the Creek: This annual hands-on learning program gets high school science students out of the classroom and into the outdoors to learn how streams and watersheds work. In 2012, over 300 students from nine area high schools participated. Kids in the Creek now has its own website! Visit www.kidsinthecreek.com to find out more.



Kids in the Creek hands-on education program, May 2012

Native Planting 101 Workshop: Back by popular demand! In 2012, about 50 participated. This year's workshop will be held Saturday, February 9 and covers planting techniques, pollinators, weeds and more. For additional information and to RSVP please call (509) 664-9370. Space is limited!

Picture the Wenatchee Watershed Stewardship Campaign (PTW): In 2012, PTW volunteers removed 250 pounds of trash from several sites along the Wenatchee River near Plain. Also in 2012, PTW hosted a photo contest and produced a calendar with the winning photos. Order yours by calling (509) 664-9370. Visit picturethewenatchee.com for additional information and to receive a FREE Watershed Care Package. PTW is also on Facebook.

Wenatchee River Salmon Festival: Cascadia and partners annually host the Rolling Rivers activity station where students learn about, then build and place the components of a healthy salmon-friendly watershed.

2013 NATIVE PLANT SALE



Accepting orders through February 15

Visit www.cascadiacd.org or call (509) 664-9370 to order

POSTAL CUSTOMER

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 prosper.

Freund Creek Barrier Removal: Two fish passage barriers in the Chumstick watershed were removed in 2012. Through a funding program known as the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP), two perched culverts on Freund Creek were replaced with new, fish-friendly structures.



New steel bridge on Freund Creek that replaced an old culvert that had become a fish passage barrier

The FFFPP is intended to encourage small forest landowners to fix fish passage barriers that have been targeted for enforcement.

Without help from FFFPP, these landowners would ultimately be legally required to do the work, at their own expense. The FFFPP provides engineering,

permitting and construction funding. A small percentage of the project cost is contributed by the landowner as cash or in-kind contributions to the project.

The two Freund Creek culverts were replaced with a newer, appropriately sized and placed culvert, and a steel bridge. The work was completed in October 2012.

Tyee Ranch: On June 10, 1972, Entiat Valley residents awoke to a natural disaster. Mud and debris avalanches had blown out five major creek drainages up and down the valley. Work began immediately to clean up and repair the extensive damage and by October and November, the US Army Corps of Engineers had turned their attention to the river itself. At the place where Preston Creek enters the river, the Corps used a bulldozer to clear rock and dirt out of 1500 feet of the channel by driving straight down the river and pushing material out of the way. This heap of material ended up creating push-up dikes along both sides of the river. Due to the debris pile up, a historic side channel was cut off, in addition to other issues.

On September 18, 2012, almost exactly 40 years later, Cascadia Conservation District in partnership with the US Bureau of Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration, hired Thayer Excavating to dig through that old material to once again allow water to flow through the channel so fish will have another place to find refuge.



Levee breached at Tyee 3B

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.

In 2012, six projects were completed through Cascadia's Landowner



Upgraded Irrigation System and Fabric Mulch

Assistance Program. The program can pay up to 50% of the total cost of eligible projects. Project components included upgraded irrigation systems, irrigation water management, bat habitat structures, pasture renovations, seasonal high tunnels, pollinator habitat planting and fabric mulch. There were 39.5 acres improved through these cost-share projects.

Watch for the next application period in late summer 2013.

Also in 2012, Cascadia continued working with landowners in the Entiat River valley to complete surface water to well conversions for their irrigation water. The intent of these projects is to reduce the demand on Entiat surface water

for irrigation, especially during high-demand, low-flow late summer conditions. This retains instream flow at a critical time, avoids entrainment and mortality of fish, and improves water quality by helping to moderate temperature. The last two remaining water users on Gaines Ditch were either converted from the surface diversion to a well, or their existing exempt well and pumping system were improved to provide adequate irrigation water. This work resulted in keeping two acre-feet of surface water in the river. Funding was provided by a grant from the Department of Ecology. Remaining funds will be used to expedite the processing of the pending water right change applications associated with several Entiat surface water-to-well conversion projects.



Contractor drilling new irrigation well in the lower Entiat valley for a Gaines Ditch water user

If you are interested in participating in our Landowner Assistance Program or would like additional information (including our Landowner Assistance Program brochure) please contact us at (509) 664-9370.

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 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. In 2012, Cascadia implemented a number of riparian restoration projects in the Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds.

Entiat Riparian Planting Maintenance: In October, Cascadia Conservation District organized a volunteer event with several 9th grade Wenatchee High School students. Students helped in the removal and storage of browse guards and bamboo stakes from a riparian planting project that was implemented along the Entiat

River in the fall 2011. Throughout the day we were able to discuss the importance of native plants, identify invasive species, and discuss simple environmentally friendly practices that students (and anyone else) can follow at home, at work, or with their vehicles. We would like to thank all of the students, teachers, chaperones, and volunteer group leaders from Wenatchee High School, as well as U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Intermountain AmeriCorps for helping to make this project a huge success.

Old Barn Farm: In fall 2012, several sites within the riparian area were treated on this private property along Chumstick Creek in Leavenworth. Noxious weeds like reed canary grass and knapweed were removed from the site and the riparian area was replanted with native species like dogwood, mock orange, willow, vine maple and more. A total of 17,000 square feet was restored at Old Barn Farm.

Cascadia currently has funding for 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 our office at (509) 664-9370.



Riparian planting done fall 2012 at Old Barn Farm in Leavenworth



Wenatchee High School students help maintain riparian planting site

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Wildfire is a fact of life in North Central Washington. Although fire is important to natural eco-systems, the threat that wildfire poses to 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 2012, Cascadia worked to promote the Firewise program throughout the district. Firewise focuses on taking steps to be prepared for a wildfire, both around residences and within neighborhoods or communities. Cascadia offered free wildfire risk assessments for residences and support for communities seeking national Firewise Communities/USA recognition.



Display at the Upper Wenatchee River Watershed Fair in Plain, WA

Cascadia was involved on a prevention team during the Wenatchee Complex fires in September. The team was multi-agency and attended events, held workshops, conducted hundreds of risk assessment on homes near burned areas, and promoted Firewise principles throughout Chelan County.

Fire Recovery work done in Chelan County in 2012 was made possible through grants from the Cascadia Conservation District and Washington State Conservation Commission that matched the Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP).

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 and the local co-chair of the WRIA 45 Wenatchee River watershed Water Quality Technical Subcommittee.

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 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. Find out more about our efforts in the Entiat Watershed by reading our 2013 Entiat Annual Report, out in late February. Call (509) 664-9370 for 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.

HELP SHARE SUCCESS STORIES FROM OUR REGION

Gathering Our Voice is a program of the Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS) that aims to inform and inspire our future by sharing success stories from individuals, families and organizations that can help us grow as a region.

Volunteer transcribers play a critical role in the *Gathering Our Voice* program by converting audio and video recorded interviews to written text. This text is then used to support story sharing through media that range from newspaper columns in *The Wenatchee World* to audio to video clips delivered through cell phones, smart phones, and websites. See www.gatheringourvoice.org for examples of different media. The transcribed interviews are also archived with IRIS as part of the *Gathering Our Voice* archive and in local museums.



AmeriCorps volunteer Erin Lunde interviewing Ralph Reid for Gathering Our Voice in 2010

Depending upon typing skills and experience, it takes about eight hours to transcribe a one-hour interview. Copies of the interviews to be completed will be provided to volunteers; free software is also available. Please contact Nancy Warner, IRIS Coordinator, at nwarner@applecapital.net or (509) 881-1812 for additional information and to volunteer.

FAREWELL PHYLISHA!

During her 5 1/2 years at Cascadia, Phylisha had great success in expanding several programs, including riparian restoration, Kids in the Creek, and other outreach efforts including mentoring AmeriCorps interns. Phylisha was instrumental in bringing the Kids in the Creek education program to a new level and developing a standalone website for the program.

Thank you for everything Phylisha and best wishes in your future endeavors!



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

215 Melody Lane Wenatchee, WA 98801
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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

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

February 21 3:30 pm at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

March 15 3:30 pm at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

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

Annual Planning Meetings TBD

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

Wenatchee Habitat Subcommittee Meetings

February 20 9:00 am, Leavenworth

March 20 9:00 am, Leavenworth

April 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

February 21 8:30 am at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

March 21 8:30 am at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

April 18 8:30 am at 215 melody Lane, Wenatchee

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meetings

April 3, 2013 9:00 am at Grange Hall, Entiat

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Meetings

April 25 10:00 am at the Chelan County Commissioners Hearing Room, Wenatchee

UCSRB Implementation Team Meetings

March 5 10:00 am at the Chelan County PUD Auditorium, Wenatchee

Native Planting 101

We have had to change the date! Our FREE workshop will be held on:

February 9 12:00 pm-4:30 pm at the Confluence Technology Center, Wenatchee

Seating is limited so call us today to RSVP or for more information: (509) 664-9370.

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

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



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