

# CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

WINTER 2014

## SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS IN 2013

**Cascadia Conservation District is diverse in the projects and activities we participate in throughout the year. We have several different program areas and in the next few pages have captured some of our accomplishments and successes in each program from 2013:**

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 2013 education and outreach efforts.

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

**Chelan County Fair:** Cascadia hosts an information table and the Enviroscape Model to teach kids about the dangers of pollution.

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



Students build healthy salmon habitat in Rolling Rivers at Salmon Festival

**District Website - [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.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.

**Earth Day Essay Contest:** Chelan County 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders participate in this annual contest and

the winning writers from 2013 accompanied a local biologist on wood duck surveys.

**Earth Day Fairs:** Cascadia annually participates in the Leavenworth, Chelan, and Entiat Earth Day fairs where we host fun educational activities.

**Entiat River Appreciation:** In 2013, Cascadia sponsored a cleanup event where volunteers removed about 100 pounds of trash from along the river.

**Kids in the Creek:** This annual hands-on outdoor environmental education program gets high school science students out of the classroom and into the outdoors to learn how streams and watersheds work. In 2013, over 300 students from six area high schools participated. For additional information and to view our video brochure visit: [www.kidsinthecreek.com](http://www.kidsinthecreek.com).

**Native Planting 101 Workshop:** In 2013, about 40 participated. *This year's workshop will be held Saturday, February 8 and covers planting techniques, pollinators, weeds and more. For additional information and to RSVP please call (509) 664-9370.*

**Picture the Wenatchee Watershed Stewardship Campaign (PTW):** In 2013, PTW hosted a river cleanup, a photo contest, and produced a calendar with the winning photos. *Order yours by calling (509) 664-9370.* Visit [www.picturethewenatchee.com](http://www.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 watershed model where students learn about, then build and place the components of a healthy salmon-friendly watershed.



Commissioner Keith Goehner joins students learning about watershed development during Kids in the Creek

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## 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 2013, Cascadia continued to promote the Firewise communities program. Firewise focuses on taking steps to be prepared for a wildfire, by creating defensible space around homes and removing wildfire fuels from communities. Cascadia offered free wildfire risk assessments for residences and support for communities seeking national Firewise Communities/USA recognition. Cascadia assisted local communities with implementing Firewise practices and helped two Chelan County communities become recognized Firewise communities.



Bretz Rd board members, Mae and Mike Morris, Debbie Newell, and Ed Tobey with their Firewise Communities plaque and newly installed sign

**We would like to congratulate the Chelan Ridge community and the Bretz Community in Plain for all their hard work making their communities safer and for becoming recognized Firewise communities in 2013!**

Chelan Ridge is located on the south shore of Lake Chelan. Board members say they worked for over four years to achieve this award and that it was truly a community effort with all property owners participating. Their work involved limbing and thinning trees and creating defensible space around all residences and vacant properties.

The Bretz Firewise Community was formed after a catastrophic storm in winter 2012 left the forests around Plain and Lake Wenatchee piled with downed trees and slash. Bretz Community board member Debbie Newell explained that her neighbors, 18 property owners, held work parties over the summer to clear slash, pile brush, and trim trees that presented a fire risk to their community.



Chelan Ridge Community board members, Tom Kophs and Jerry Fisk, accept their Firewise Communities sign and plaque on behalf of Chelan Ridge

In September 2013, Cascadia worked with the Department of Natural Resources to organize a chipping event in the Lake Wenatchee/Plain area. Residents worked together to clear and stack piles of slash in preparation for the chipper crew. More than 55 acres of forested land was treated on the properties of over 30 landowners. This work will make these areas much less susceptible to damage from wildfire.

In November 2013, Cascadia co-hosted an all-Chelan County Firewise Communities meeting with the Department of Natural Resources. The meeting took place in Plain and was attended by members of Firewise communities in Lake Wenatchee, Plain, Leavenworth, Peshastin, Wenatchee, and Chelan. The purpose of the meeting was to promote collaboration between the established Firewise groups as well as others interested in becoming Firewise with the goal of making all of Chelan County Firewise and more resilient to wildfire.

Wildfire Preparedness work done in Chelan County in 2013 was made possible through the USDA Forest Service's Cooperative Forestry Assistance Program.



Crew chips slash piles stacked by landowners in Lake Wenatchee/Plain, September 2013

## 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 thrive.

In 2013, Cascadia worked with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to design and obtain permits for a suite of instream habitat restoration projects in the lower seven miles of the Entiat River. These projects are scheduled for construction in summer 2014, in accordance with the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) approach to scheduled habitat restoration and monitoring adopted by the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU). Cascadia's role is to facilitate landowner and community involvement, coordinate design efforts, and oversee construction on several sites.

**Community meetings for these projects are planned for this spring, likely in late April. Look for a detailed project design update in our spring newsletter, out in early May.**

## 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. 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.

Cascadia also participates in WRIA 45 Wenatchee River watershed planning unit and subcommittee meetings as well as implementing restoration projects in the Wenatchee Watershed.



## 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.

Cascadia's Landowner Assistance Program offers technical and financial assistance and can pay up to 50% of the total cost of eligible projects. Eligible projects include: wildfire fuels reduction, irrigation system upgrades, riparian restoration, noxious weed control, and more. For program application deadline and additional information, please contact Kristine Desgroseillier at: [Kristine.desgroseill@wa.nacdn.net](mailto:Kristine.desgroseill@wa.nacdn.net) or (509) 664-9355.

Please see examples below of riparian restoration projects completed in 2013. Riparian restoration is one of the eligible practices under Cascadia's Landowner Assistance Program.



Completed solar-powered stock watering facility at Tyee Ranch in the Entiat watershed

## 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.



Planting at Peshastin Foursquare Church. The mature trees and shrubs in background are an excellent example of a healthy riparian zone

we installed approximately 2.5 miles of livestock fencing, a 300-gallon solar powered stock watering facility, and over 10,000 native riparian plants. The planting area covers about 4.5 acres, extends for 4,500 linear feet along the Entiat River riparian corridor, and is supported by a semi-permanent irrigation system. A portion of the planting restored areas disturbed by the 2012 construction project and the rest enhanced existing vegetation. The Bonneville Power Administration funded this work. Cooperators and partners included the Tyee Ranch family trust, Washington Conservation Corps



Newly planted riparian zone with mulch rings along the Entiat River on BLM property. This area was burned in the 1994 fires

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 2013, Cascadia implemented a number of riparian restoration projects in the Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds.

### **Tyee Ranch Riparian Planting, Irrigation, Fencing and Stock Water Facility:**

As the final phase of the Entiat River 2012 Tyee Ranch Habitat Restoration Project, (WCC), and Bureau of Reclamation.

### **Entiat BLM and Douglas County PUD Plantings:**

In the vicinity of milepost 14 on the Entiat River Road, on a privately-owned parcel and one owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), we installed a total of 1,030 plants. This covered about 2.1 acres, and treated 1,050 linear feet of riparian corridor on a site adjacent to the

Entiat River. Both these sites had been burned during the 1994 fires and the purpose of the planting was to restore lost vegetation and to help control invasive weeds. BLM and Douglas County PUD provided the funding.

### **Peshastin Creek Plantings:**

Cascadia implemented two planting projects on Peshastin Creek in 2013. One was at the Foursquare Church and the other was on a private residential parcel at River Mile (RM) 6.6. The Foursquare planting included 710 plants, 0.35 acres and 570 linear feet treated, and was funded by the Yakama Nation Fisheries and Department of Ecology. It also included a streamside cleanup prior to the planting and the placement of an interpretive sign. A temporary irrigation system installed at Foursquare will help insure plant survival and aid growth. The Department of Ecology funded the RM 6.6 site, which included 225 plants along 115 feet of stream. Both plantings were intended to restore vegetation and help stabilize denuded stream banks.

### **Peshastin Mill Site Plantings:**

In cooperation with the Port of Chelan County, Chelan County Natural Resources Department, and the Department of Ecology (funders), three areas of the old Peshastin Mill site along the Wenatchee River were replanted and approximately 800 feet of old road was decommissioned. Interpretive signs were installed at all three sites. Total treatment amounted to 865 plants, about 2 acres, and 1,750 linear feet of stream corridor.

Cascadia currently has funding for additional 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 or [cascadiacd@yahoo.com](mailto:cascadiacd@yahoo.com).



Planting at the Peshastin Mill Site. The disturbed area in the foreground is old roadway that has been de-compacted for restoration



Washington Conservation Corps planting crew with one of three interpretive signs at the Peshastin Mill site. Visit site to view all three



## FROM EASY STREET TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD: CASCADIA MAKES OFFICE MOVE

After five years at the U.S. Forest Service Supervisors Office at 215 Melody Lane, just off Easy Street, Cascadia Conservation District is moving to a new location.

Cascadia's new location "on top of the World," is the top story of the Wenatchee World building at 14 North Mission St in Wenatchee. Public hours at this building are 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

This central downtown location will provide Cascadia with closer proximity to many of our partner agencies and make meeting for collaboration activities more convenient and efficient. The location will serve our customers by still being centrally located in our District.

With this move some of our contact information will change as well. This new contact information will be effective beginning Friday, February 28. Until that time please continue to contact us using our current information. Please see our new contact information below:

**Cascadia Conservation District**  
14 North Mission St  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
(509) 887-7888

Please note that our general email address, [cascadiacd@yahoo.com](mailto:cascadiacd@yahoo.com), and our website, [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org), will remain the same. However, our individual email addresses for staff will change. These updates will take place on our website's Board & Staff page. Please visit that page and click on the name of the person you'd like to contact. New email addresses will be updated by February 28. Before that date please continue to contact us at our current email addresses.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### Cascadia Conservation Board Meetings

February 20, 3:30 PM, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

March 14, 20, or 21 (TBD), 3:30 PM, Location TBD

April 17, 3:30 PM, Location TBD

Please contact Cascadia's office for more information and upcoming meeting locations: (509) 664-9370 or [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org)

### Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU) meeting

April 2, 2014, Entiat Grange Building

### Entiat Habitat Subcommittee Meeting

February 20, 8:30 AM, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

March 20, 8:30 AM, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee (Subject to change)

April 17, 8:30 AM, Location TBD

Please contact Cascadia's office for more information and upcoming meeting locations: (509) 664-9370 or [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org)

### Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

UCSRB Staff Work Group—February 4, 10 AM-3 PM, Link Transit Building, Olds Station

UCSRB Meeting—February 20, 10 AM-3 PM, Chelan Co PUD Auditorium

UCSRB Implementation Team Meeting—March 4, 10 AM- 3 PM, Chelan County PUD Auditorium

Forest Health Collaborative Meeting—March 5, 9 AM- 11 AM, Chelan Fire Hall

UCSRB Staff Work Group —April 1, 10 AM-3 PM, Location TBD

UCSRB Conference Call—April 24, 9 AM- 11 AM, (Call Barbara Carrillo for call-in info, 509-662-4707)

### Wenatchee Outdoors

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wenatchee Outdoors Day—Friday, March 21—Wenatchee Outdoors invites everyone to play hooky from work and spend the day outdoors.

Sage Hills Reopening—Tuesday, April 1—Trail reopens for public use. For more information visit [www.justgetout.net/wenatchee](http://www.justgetout.net/wenatchee).

### Trout Unlimited

Film: "Watershed"—Tuesday, February 18, 7 PM-8:30 PM, Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center

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

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



**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.



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