

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2015

MIDDLE ENTIAT RESTORATION PROJECTS UPDATE

The 2016/2017 Middle Entiat Restoration Projects are progressing through development and design. Draft plans known as 30% designs were released and the project teams are now working through wetland delineations and a cultural resources investigation of the affected project areas. The wetland delineations are used by the WA Department of Ecology and the US Army Corps of Engineers to determine the existence and physical limits of wetlands for the purposes of meeting federal, state, and local regulations. This process has been established to ensure projects, salmon recovery and otherwise, do not negatively impact existing wetland areas. The cultural resources investigation is a process used to help identify, protect, and manage areas of cultural significance where disturbance is planned during construction and staging.

The projects, designed to help improve both the river's natural function and salmon populations, are being funded by the US Bureau of Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration. Local project sponsors, Cascadia Conservation



Pile driving technology, a proposed method for installing engineered logjams



Example of eroding streambank where structures are proposed

District, Chelan County Natural Resources Department, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, and the Yakama Nation, are working with the stakeholders involved to maximize benefits and address concerns. Stakeholders range from private landowners to recreational groups, neighbors, and beyond.

For an opportunity to learn more about the projects and to offer feedback on them, a public meeting will be held sometime in August or September. The community's support is paramount to the success of these projects and this meeting will allow people the chance to ask questions, discuss concerns, and learn more about the background and purpose of these projects.

For additional information, please contact Jason Sims at Cascadia Conservation District at (509) 436-1601 or jasons@cascadiacd.org and watch our website, www.cascadiacd.org, for the public meeting date announcement.

ENTIAT RIVER APPRECIATION

Cascadia Conservation District and Chelan-Douglas Land Trust would like to thank all who attended and a BIG thank you to all our partners and sponsors for making this fun community event a success!:

Partnering agencies include: the City of Entiat, Entiat Watershed Planning Unit, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, US Bureau of Reclamation, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, Chelan County Natural Resources Department, and Trout Unlimited WA Water Project.

Entiat community groups, businesses, and individuals include: the Entiat Tree Board, Entiat Grange, Entiat Valley Community Services Group, Entiat Food Center, Log Cabin Restaurant, Entiat Shell Station, the Tyee Ridge Runners, Cascade Quality Water, Entiat Bakery, Bob Whitehall, Keith Vradenburg, Apple Valley Pumping, and Crunch Pak in Cashmere.

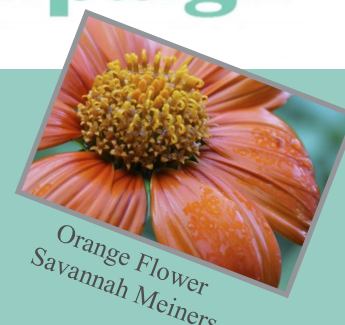
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Chelan County Clean Water Campaign

PHOTO CONTEST

Visit www.cascadiacd.org for complete contest rules & details and to submit your photo(s)!



Orange Flower
Savannah Meiners

STREAMSIDE LANDOWNER TIPS

As a streamside landowner in the Wenatchee valley, you own a piece of something special. Scenic beauty, vibrant plant and animal life, productive orchards, and a peaceful rural atmosphere make for an unmatched quality of life.

Whether you purchased your property for year-round residency or to use as a vacation getaway, you want to do what you can to protect your investment— for yourself, and for future generations.

One key to maintaining the value of your property and the surrounding environment begins with the good stewardship of riparian areas.

Riparian areas are the transition zones between the water and the land. They play many important functional roles that help to protect you and your family, preserve your property, and sustain fish and wildlife populations. The riparian area is one of your property’s greatest assets!

Riparian areas provide:

- **Erosion Control:** The roots of trees, shrubs and other plants found in the riparian area help to stabilize stream banks and keep your property from washing away.
- **Flood Moderation:** Streamside soils and vegetation absorb runoff and slow floodwaters, helping to moderate high flows, reduce the severity of flood events, and protect your property from high flow damage.
- **Water Quality Protection:** Pollutants are filtered out by streamside vegetation and soils, keeping your water clean and healthy. Riparian plants also help provide shade essential for keeping water temperatures cool, reducing algae overgrowth, and protecting aquatic life.
- **Essential Fish & Wildlife Habitat:** Many species in the watershed, including threatened and endangered fish, need healthy riparian areas for food and cover. Protecting and improving this habitat will help restore healthy fish runs and enhance the potential for you to enjoy a variety of fishing opportunities for years to come.

7 Steps to Stewardship

1. **Call before clearing or constructing:** The Chelan County Community Development Department will assist you with your land use questions and permitting needs. Avoid complications— talk to them ahead of time!

2. **Fence out Fido and Flicka:** Properly manage manure and limit livestock and pet access to streams and riparian areas to protect water quality and prevent damage to streambanks and vegetation.

3. **Be clear with your contractor:** Identify riparian areas with flagging tape and protect them during clearing and construction activities.

4. **Restore ravaged areas:** Bring disturbed or sparsely vegetated riparian areas back to life by planting a mix of native trees, shrubs and grasses. Ask us how!

5. **Be careful with chemicals:** Use fertilizers, pesticides and other yard care chemicals sparingly, or not at all, to avoid polluting your stream and killing beneficial insects and native plants.

6. **Maintain natural elements:** Leaf litter, fallen trees, dense vegetation and other streamside “clutter” are essential to the health of your stream. Ask us how to balance these needs with Firewise practices in our unique landscape.

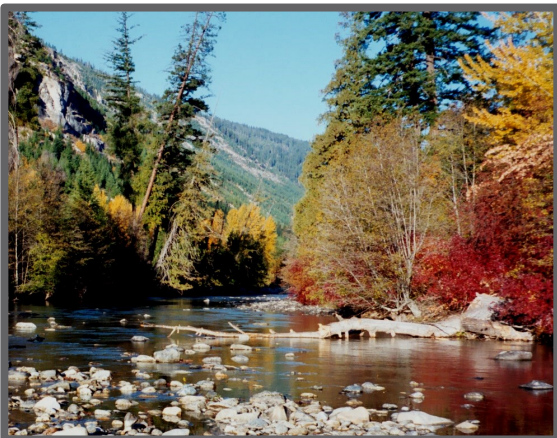
7. **Service your system:** Properly maintain your septic system to prevent failure and potential water pollution problems.

Need help managing natural resources on your property? Cascadia is here to help!

Cascadia’s Landowner Assistance Program offers technical and financial assistance and can pay up to 75% of the total cost of eligible projects. Eligible projects include: fuels reduction, irrigation system upgrades, and more.

Cascadia is currently seeking cooperators for streamside planting projects in the Wenatchee River basin.

For additional information, please contact Sandy Letzing at: (509) 436-1601 or sandyl@cascadiacd.org



FAREWELL ZACH!

AmeriCorps Member Zach Hinman is moving on. During his 10½ month term with Cascadia, Zach worked on numerous projects, including: Water on Wheels, Wheat Week, Kids in the Creek, Native Plant Sale, Native Planting 101, and much more! He brought a level of dedication and insight to his work that we truly value. Thank you Zach and we wish you well on your future adventures!



FAREWELL KRISTINE!

Resource Specialist, Kristine Desgroseillier, is taking a hiatus. During her time at Cascadia, Kristine managed our Landowner Assistance and Cost-Share programs implementing many important Best Management Practices and assisting local landowners with great dedication. Thank you Kristine and we wish you well!



DROUGHT UPDATE AND RESOURCES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 18 counties in Washington State as natural disaster areas because of the statewide drought.

On May 15, 2015 Governor Jay Inslee declared a statewide drought emergency. The declaration comes after the governor's Emergency Water Executive Committee determined that 48 of 62 watersheds in Washington have water supplies of 75 percent of normal or below and water users are experiencing hardships from water shortages or are expected to experience hardships. Washington has been in a snowpack drought since the governor's first drought declaration on March 13 for the Yakima and Walla Walla basins and the Dungeness basin on the Olympic Peninsula. Snowpack is like a frozen reservoir for river basins, in a typical year accumulating over the winter and slowly melting through the spring and summer to provide a water supply for groundwater rivers and streams. This year run-off from snowmelt for the period April through September is projected to be the lowest on record in the past 64 years.

Visit the National Drought Mitigation Center's website, <http://drought.unl.edu/ranchplan/Overview.aspx>, for detailed information on how drought may affect you and what steps you can take to mitigate these effects. Contact Cascadia at (509) 436-1601 or info@cascadiacd.org for a copy of our Drought Resources factsheet and information on our Landowner Assistance Program. Visit the following websites for updates on the drought conditions in your area as well as options for disaster relief funds for farmers, ranchers, and orchardists.



ARE YOU FIREWISE?

Cascadia would like to congratulate the Squilchuck Valley Community for their efforts in updating their Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

The process of developing a CWPP can help a community clarify and refine its priorities in anticipation of wildfire emergencies, for the protection of life, property and critical infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

This was a year-long effort that included input and collaboration from many stakeholders in the area, including: Chelan County Emergency Management, Cascadia Conservation District, Chelan County Fire District 1, WA Dept of Natural Resources, Mission Ridge Ski & Board Resort, WA State Parks, USFS Wenatchee River Ranger District, and seven property owners. The full list of participating members of the Steering Committee, as well as the completed document, can be viewed on the Cascadia CD website at: http://cascadiacd.org/squilchuck-valley-cwpp_296.html. The Committee was jointly moderated by John Lehmkuhl and Jerry Holm.

“All in all, the changes made in the 2015 amended Squilchuck Valley Area CWPP were to encourage additional Firewise Communities to form within the CWPP boundary, raise public awareness of wildfire concerns, and in general make our region a safer place to live and to recreate,” said Jerry Holm, Forest Ridge Wildfire Coalition Board Member.

All the CWPPs for Chelan County are available on Cascadia's website: www.cascadiacd.org. Contact us at (509) 436-1601 for additional information.

For resources and tips on how to keep your home and property safe this fire season visit Firewise.org. Take the first step toward being Firewise by signing up for a free fire risk assessment! Contact Amanda Levesque at amandal@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601 to get on the list. See the assessment form to the right to give you an idea of how your property will be rated.

Drought Resources:

National Drought Mitigation Center - <http://drought.unl.edu/ranchplan/Overview.aspx>

Washington State Department of Agriculture - <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/natresources/Drought.aspx>

Washington State Department of Ecology - www.ecy.wa.gov/drought

Washington State University—<http://drought.wsu.edu/>



Wildland Fire Risk Assessment Form

(Circle the most appropriate element in each category and total the points)

Homeowner: _____ County: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Element	Assessed Points
---------	-----------------

A. Means of Access (County Rd/ Main Rd access)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Ingress and egress | |
| a. Two or more roads in/out | 0 |
| b. One road in/out | 7 |
| 2. Road width | |
| a. ≥ 24 ft. | 0 |
| b. 20 to 24 ft. | 2 |
| c. < 20 ft. | 4 |
| 3. All-season road condition | |
| a. Surfaced road, grade < 5% | 0 |
| b. Surfaced road, grade > 5% | 2 |
| c. Non-surfaced road, grade < 5% | 2 |
| d. Non-surfaced road, grade > 5% | 5 |
| e. Other than all-season | 7 |
| 4. Fire Service Access (Driveway) | |
| a. ≤ 300 ft. with turnaround | 0 |
| b. > 300 ft. with turnaround | 2 |
| c. < 300 ft. with no turnaround | 4 |
| d. ≥ 300 ft. with no turnaround | 5 |
| 5. Street signs and home address numbers | |
| a. Present: 4 in. in size and reflectorized | 0 |
| b. Not present | 5 |

B. Vegetation

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Characteristics of predominate vegetation within 300 ft. | |
| a. Light (grasses, forbs, sawgrasses and tundra) | 5 |
| b. Medium (light brush and small trees) | 10 |
| c. Heavy (dense brush, timber and hardwoods) | 20 |
| d. Slash (timber harvesting residue) | 25 |
| 2. Defensible space | |
| a. More than 100 ft. of vegetation treatment from the structure(s) | 0 |
| b. 71 – 100 ft. of vegetation treatment from the structure(s) | 3 |
| c. 30 – 70 ft. of vegetation treatment from the structure(s) | 10 |
| d. <30 ft. of vegetation treatment from the structure(s) | 25 |

C. Topography within 300 ft. of structure(s)

- | | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1. Slope < 9% | 1 |
| 2. Slope 10% to 20% | 4 |
| 3. Slope 21% to 30% | 7 |
| 4. Slope 31% to 40% | 8 |
| 5. Slope > 41% | 10 |

Hazard Rating	Total Points
---------------	--------------

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Low hazard | < 40 |
| 2. Moderate hazard | 40 - 69 |
| 3. High hazard | 70 - 112 |
| 4. Extreme hazard | > 112 |

Element	Assessed Points
---------	-----------------

D. Additional Rating Factors (rate all that apply)

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Topographical features that adversely affect wildland fire behavior | 0 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. Areas with a history of higher fire occurrence than surrounding areas due to special situations (e.g. Heavy lightning, railroads, escaped debris burning, malicious burning) | 0 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. Areas that are periodically exposed to unusually severe fire weather and strong dry winds | 0 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. Separation of adjacent structures that may contribute to fire spread | 0 1 2 3 4 5 |

E. Roofing Assembly

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Class A roof (rated in good condition) | 0 |
| 2. Class B roof (rated in fair condition) | 3 |
| 3. Class C roof (rated in poor condition) | 15 |
| 4. Nonrated (wood shake shingles) | 25 |

F. Building Construction

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Materials (predominate) | |
| a. Noncombustible/fire-resistive siding, eaves and decks | 0 |
| b. Noncombustible/fire-resistive siding, combustible deck | 5 |
| c. Combustible siding and deck | 10 |
| 2. Building setback relative to slopes > 30% | |
| a. ≥ 30 ft. to slope | 0 |
| b. < 30 ft. to slope | 5 |

G. Available Fire Protection

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Water source availability | |
| a. Pressurized water source availability | |
| (1) 500 gpm hydrants ≤ 1000 ft. apart | 0 |
| (2) 250 gpm hydrants ≤ 1000 ft. apart | 1 |
| b. Non-pressurized water source availability (off site) | |
| (1) ≥ 250 gpm continuous for 2 hours | 3 |
| (2) < 250 gpm continuous for 2 hours | 5 |
| c. Water unavailable | 10 |
| 2. Organized response resources | |
| a. Station ≤ 5 mi. from structure | 0 |
| b. Station > 5 Mi. from structure | 3 |
| 3. Fixed fire protection | |
| a. NFPA 13, 13R, 13D sprinkler system | 0 |
| b. None | 5 |

H. Placement of Gas and Electric Utilities

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Both utilities underground | 0 |
| 2. One underground and one aboveground | 3 |
| 3. Both aboveground | 5 |

Totals for Home or Subdivision
(Total of circled points) _____

Hazard Rating: _____

Raters: _____

Fire Department: _____

Date: _____

Source: NFPA 1144 Standard for the Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire, 2002 edition, NFPA, Quincy, MA

REACHING HISPANIC PRODUCERS

CONTRIBUTED BY ELAYNE HOVDE OF NRCS

As an agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) needs to continually seek and create innovative and new ways of doing business. Our outreach strategy states “With an aging population, advances in agricultural technology, long-standing customs, and traditions we need to balance ‘old school’ with ‘new wave’ when working with our customer.” Doing business as usual should be archived and put to rest. It’s time to think outside the box and be proactive in the face of the changing farming/ranching populations.

Juan Martinez, a member of the Alliance of Hispanics in American Agriculture states: “There has been a gradual shift in the face of the American farmer. What we’ve noticed is the migration of those individuals who were working and harvesting the food now purchasing some of those farms.” According to the 2012 Agriculture Census, 407 Hispanic, Spanish or Latino farmers operate farms in Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties, farming approximately 57,495 acres.

In May, NRCS worked with the Center for Latino Farmers to present an informational module during their “Sustainability and Farm Succession Planning Workshop.” Topics covered during the 5 days (20 hours) were water rights, irrigation districts, renewable energy, energy efficiency, specialty crops, and long-term farm succession planning.

Isaac Bickford, NRCS Soil Conservationist, from Okanogan, gave a lively, humorous and well received presentation. He started with a “get to know the participants.” He asked size, type, operation, and years’ experience. All but one participant were either orchard owners, workers, or saving to purchase an orchard. Most had greater than 10 years’ experience in Agriculture. Isaac gave a history of our agency roots, formed in the Dust Bowl era. He discussed technical and financial assistance for forestry, wildlife, irrigation, soils, and high tunnels. He highlighted the four principles of soil health and asked participants if they currently implemented the principles, with discussions on how to apply the techniques.

Participants were engaged, interested and motivated to improve conservation. Over 50 Burpee pollinator seed mix packets were distributed. Informational, Spanish translated, brochures and business cards were included. It was a great workshop and I hope to participate again next year.



Participants at the Center for Latino Farmers Workshop

For additional information contact Elayne Hovde, Resource Conservationist for the NRCS at Elayne.hovde@wa.usda.gov or (509) 662-1141 x123.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

CCD Regular Board Meetings

-August 20, 2015 3:30-5:00 pm at 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee
-September 17, 2015 3:30-5:00 pm at 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee
-October 15, 2015 3:30-5:00 pm at 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee

Entiat Habitat Sub Committee Meetings

-August 20, 2015 9am-12 pm at the Entiat Fire Station
-September 17, 2015 9am-12pm at the Entiat Fire Station
-July 16, 2015 9am-12pm at the USFS building

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meetings

-October 7, 2015 9am at the Entiat Grange Hall

Chelan County Clean Water Campaign Photo Contest

-Ends October 1 - submit entries at www.cascadiacd.org

Cascadia would like to thank all the wonderful natural resource professionals, volunteers, community groups and sponsors who helped make Kids in the Creek 2015 a great success!

A BIG thank you to:
the Alcoa Foundation,
South Douglas
Conservation District,
Cascade Quality Water,
Entiat Valley
Community Services
Group, US Fish and
Wildlife Service,
Cascade Columbia
Fisheries Enhancement
Group, Department of
Ecology, Chelan County
Natural Resources
Department,
AmeriCorps, City of
Wenatchee, US Forest
Service, WA Department
of Fish and Wildlife,
Wenatchee Schools,
Team Naturaleza, Chelan
PUD, Trout Unlimited,
and other volunteers.



Thank you to our three new funding sources for keeping important outreach projects and programs in operation!



Newsletter sponsored in part by:

Native Plants of Central Washington
for
Restoration and Landscaping

- Over 120 species, including trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses
- Nursery is open March–November

Derby Canyon Natives



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

14 N Mission St 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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Cascadia Conservation District has a blog:
Please check it out at:
<http://ccdconservationconversation.blogspot.com/>