

THE CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SPRING 2009

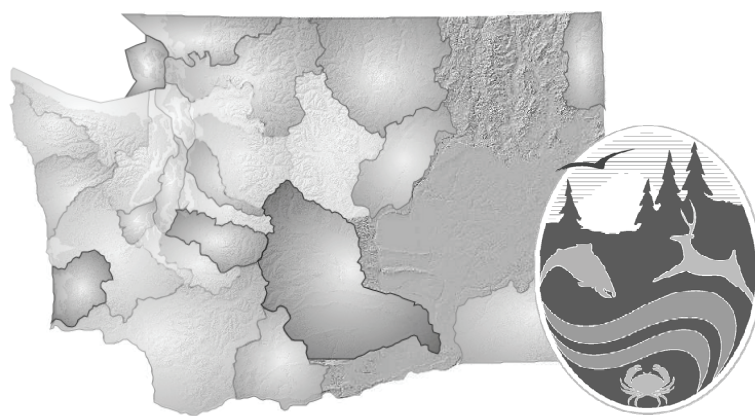
## DISTRICT LAUNCHES WATERSHED PHOTO CONTEST

From the ridge tops to the valley bottom, the Wenatchee River watershed provides residents and visitors alike with a spectacular place to live, work, and play. In celebration of everything the watershed provides, the Cascadia Conservation District is sponsoring a Wenatchee River watershed photo contest. Anyone who shares our appreciation for the watershed is invited to participate.

From May 1 through October 1, 2009, entries will be accepted from interested members of the public for five categories including plants, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and landscapes. A sixth category soliciting photos of watershed improvement projects will be open to our project partners in the 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 for inclusion in a 2010 Wenatchee River watershed stewardship calendar.

Photographs must have been taken within the Wenatchee River watershed sometime after January 1, 2008 to qualify. For complete contest rules and an entry form call (509) 664-9370 or visit [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org).



## NEW WEBSITE IMPROVES PUBLIC ACCESS TO PROJECT INFORMATION

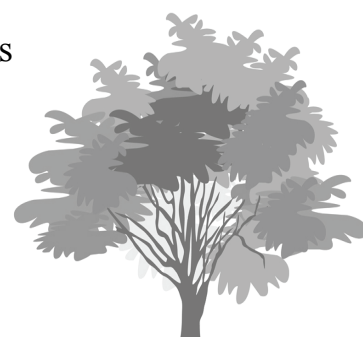
Everyone knows that salmon recovery is a big issue in Washington State, but have you ever wondered what is being done to improve salmon habitat in your watershed or in other areas? What's going on, who's doing the work, where are the projects located, and how you can get involved?

Thanks to a joint effort by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and local Lead Entity watershed groups, searching for specific or statewide restoration projects is now just as easy as clicking a mouse and Googling the WDFW *Habitat Work Schedule*, or HWS. Lead Entities and project sponsors are now communicating their on-the-ground recovery actions with anyone who has access to the internet. From the home page at <http://hws.ekosystem.us/>, viewers can search for projects by name or "zoom in" on a state map to search by location or Lead Entity. General descriptions, technical details and photographs of each project are included. Documents can also be downloaded for many projects.

(Continued on page 2)

### IN THIS ISSUE...

- Report Tracks Progress in the Entiat
- Habitat Restoration Project in the Entiat Benefits Both People and Fish
- Walk the Talk: Staff Member Plans Landscape with Water in Mind
- Volunteer Program Off to a Great Start
- Conservation Calendar



POSTAL CUSTOMER

Non-Profit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 40  
Wenatchee, WA



## REPORT TRACKS PROGRESS IN THE ENTIAT

Volume 1 of the Entiat Watershed Annual Report is now a reality. The Entiat Watershed Planning Unit was able to develop and produce the template and report with funding from the non-profit Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Components include a featured landowner (Ray Sandidge, Sr.) and project (Bridge-to-Bridge Phase II), budget review, calendar of 2009 meetings & events, overview of completed projects, description of monitoring activities and associated examples of monitoring data collected.

Longtime participant and enthusiastic supporter of the Entiat effort Rick Edwards had these comments after seeing the report:

*“The inaugural Annual Report does an excellent job of summarizing both recent project accomplishments and the long-term monitoring efforts supporting implementation of the Entiat Watershed Plan. Annual Reports will be an important communication tool for both community members and the wide range of other stakeholders involved in the Entiat Watershed. This Report clearly documents that the Vision for the Entiat that was established during those early planning meetings in 1993 and 1994 is well on its way to realization.”*

*Rick Edwards*

Rick describes his involvement with the Entiat planning effort as the “highlight of my career as a Forest Service hydrologist.” Rick and other dedicated members of the Planning Unit are to be congratulated for their part in establishing this successful organization, as well as the resulting measurable progress described in the report.

# HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT IN THE ENTIAT BENEFITS BOTH PEOPLE AND FISH

Habitat restoration efforts continue in the Entiat River watershed, but fish won’t be the only creatures benefitting from an upcoming project.

The Cascadia Conservation District is currently working with local landowners and multiple agencies to implement a habitat restoration project approximately 1.5 miles up the Entiat River, immediately downstream of the Keystone Bridge. Because of its proximity to the bridge, the project is being referred to as the Below the Bridge Habitat Restoration Project. Design, support, and funding for this work is provided through US Bureau of Reclamation, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and the Chelan County Public Utility District’s Tributary Fund.

When completed, the project will include a new irrigation diversion structure, an engineered log jam, two large woody material complexes and five boulder clusters. An existing push-up berm that currently requires annual reconstruction and maintenance will be replaced with a more permanent, low maintenance diversion structure.

## NEW WEBSITE (Continued from page 1)

As a part of the State’s salmon recovery plan, 27 local watershed-based Lead Entity organizations were designated across Washington to represent the Lead Entity program. They function to solicit, develop, prioritize and submit habitat protection and salmon restoration projects for funding through the State’s Salmon Recovery Funding Board, or SRFB. Lead Entities work with partner organizations and concerned citizens to develop locally supported protection and restoration projects based on sound science and community priorities.

Our partner, the Chelan County Natural Resource Department, is the designated Lead Entity organization representing the four watersheds within Chelan County: Chelan, Entiat, Wenatchee, and Stemilt-Squilchuck. They are charged with helping to facilitate a watershed-wide salmon recovery program, and a habitat conservation plan under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

On-the-ground salmon recovery actions are funded by the SRFB and other funding sources, and are implemented by project sponsors such as the Cascadia Conservation District, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Lake Chelan Sportsman’s Association, Icicle Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Chelan County Public Utility District, Yakama Nation, and the County itself.

Thus, the operator will be saved time and money, and the severity and frequency of disturbances to the river channel will be decreased.

The habitat features will provide threatened and endangered fish species, including bull trout, steelhead, and spring Chinook salmon, with critical holding and rearing habitat for juveniles and overall increased habitat complexity.

The Below the Bridge Restoration Project is currently in the permitting phase. Construction is anticipated sometime between July 1 and September 30, 2009.

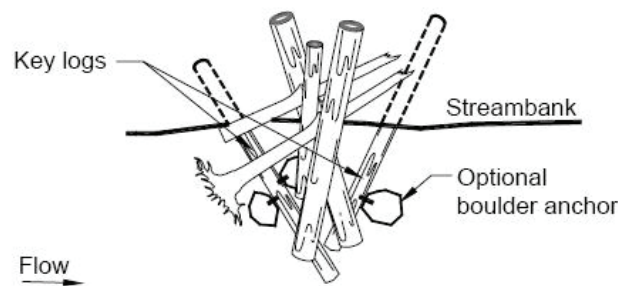
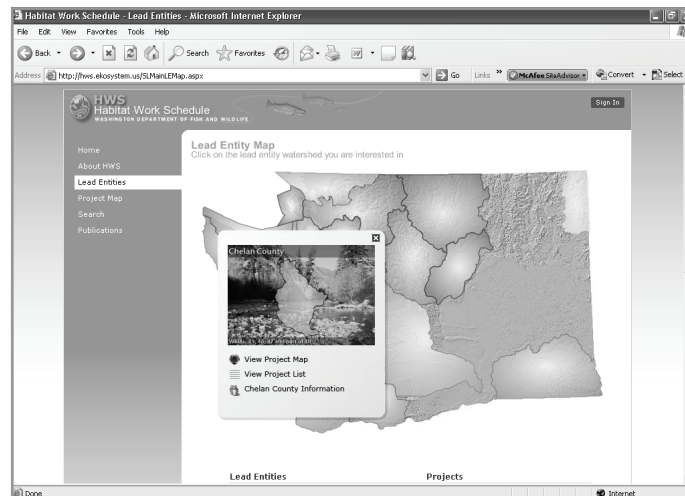


Diagram of a typical large woody material complex.

The HWS was designed by Paladin Data Systems of Poulsbo, Washington and is managed under the direction of the WDFW. Project sponsors are responsible for adding and updating project information.

Of the recovery projects completed in Chelan County thus far, 95 are currently found on the HWS portal. The Cascadia Conservation District is the sponsor for 19 of the projects presently available for viewing, and the list will continue to grow as additional projects are implemented and information is entered into the database.



Screen snapshot of the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife’s Habitat Work Schedule available at <http://hws.ekosystem.us/>. The HWS provides Lead Entities with an easily accessible way to share salmon recovery project information with the public.



# WALK THE TALK: STAFF MEMBER PLANS LANDSCAPE WITH WATER IN MIND

*Year after year, season after season we at the Cascadia Conservation District bring you this newsletter in an effort to not only provide you with updates on District projects, but also to encourage you to be a good steward. From plant selection and composting, to wildfire risk reduction and streamside restoration we ask you to do a lot in the name of conservation. With that in mind, we have decided to take a new approach by turning the mirror on ourselves and publicly gauging whether we walk the talk or just talk the walk in our own lives.*

*When we are working we promote conservation, but what happens when we go home? From balancing budgets to balancing time we face many of the same challenges as you, and make many of the same excuses. Through the addition of this new column to the newsletter we hope to come clean by evaluating our own behavior, sharing our goals and making a plan of action. We hope it will help us make positive changes in our lives and inspire you to do the same.*

*The first installment of Walk the Talk comes from staff member Phylisha Olin. She is a Resource Specialist responsible for the administration of streamside restoration projects and the coordination of various outreach and education programs.*

Through my employment with the Cascadia Conservation District I partner with various agencies, communities and individual landowners to promote the conservation of natural resources. One of the targeted resources is water. While I wholeheartedly support water conservation at work, I am curious to know how

I measure up at home. In other words, do I *walk the talk* or just *talk the walk*?

I'm sure there are several things that I could, and might already, be doing to conserve water in my home. However, the green shoots popping up all around inspire me to evaluate how well I conserve water in my yard. Spring has arrived and I am eager to tackle all of the great landscaping plans I have. There is much to do and I am excited to get started, but like many people I am very busy and time is as rare as it is precious. Between being a mother, wife, employee, homeowner and business partner, I don't have as much time to worry about my yard, let alone water conservation, as I would like.

I have a vision that is simple and grand at the same time. I want a beautiful, relaxing, weed free, low maintenance, low water consuming yard that gives my young son and pets a place to play and provides some level of benefit to visiting wildlife. Currently, what I have is a large thirsty grass lawn that takes 2-3 hours per week to mow, some flowering shrubs and trees, and lots and lots of juniper. To top it all off I also have a husband who LOVES to water. His motto is, "*We are at the end of the irrigation line. We have to water.*"

I know my husband and I are not doing as much as we could to conserve water in our yard. Luckily, he is easy to work with and we were able to compromise and develop a plan of action to reduce our overall consumption of water and help make my vision a reality.

We began by dividing the yard into wet and dry zones. To conserve water in the wet zone we are going to focus on ways to improve the efficiency of our water use. We plan on upgrading our sprinkler system with more efficient sprinkler heads, using micro-sprinklers where possible, and changing

our watering regime to reduce water loss to evaporation and transpiration. We are also going to replace areas of the lawn that are struggling with more appropriate plants for those sites. By making these few adjustments, and using mulch from our compost pile, we will not only reduce our water use, but also the need for maintenance and fertilizer. This results in a direct savings of time and money.

The dry or *waterwise* zone is reserved for less water intensive landscaping. It is a sizeable zone with many unique challenges, so I broke it up into four phases to keep the projects manageable.

Phase 1 has been my test site. When I began I knew absolutely nothing about gardening. My experience was with upland wilderness plants. So, I did what every former apartment dweller does and bought a pre-planned garden complete with care instructions and a planting diagram. I planned on doing the same thing in the remaining three phases until my work at the conservation district introduced me to the benefits of native plants in the home garden.

Native plants are well adapted to the local climate and often require less water than non-native plants once they are established. Previously, I hadn't even considered using native plants. Now, I can't imagine gardening without them. I plan on using them throughout the dry area and integrating them in other areas of the landscape to help reduce overall water consumption.

Phases 2-4 of the dry area are currently on hold. A retaining wall is needed and many questions remain. *How do I identify and safely control noxious weeds? What insects are beneficial? Which plants will attract birds and butterflies to my yard?*

I have books to read, workshops to attend (see the "Greening Your Backyard" series described to the left) and many more calluses to form before my walk will be in step with my talk.

What I do know is that walking the talk is harder than talking the walk. For every vision there are many challenges and lessons to learn. Recognizing these challenges and making a plan of action has enabled me to begin to make a change for the better. Time? I leave that one up to you. At this point, I have traded sleeping in on Saturday mornings for a little work in my yard and one more step in the right direction.

*To follow Phylisha's progress, check out her suggested resources, and share your own ideas and tips visit [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org).*



**My helper is having loads of fun and forming a bond with the outdoors that will enrich his life...but that's another article...**

## “GREENING YOUR BACKYARD” WORKSHOP SERIES

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust is sponsoring a series of **FREE** workshops to help landowners take a “greener” approach to managing their own backyard. For more information on the upcoming workshops or to register call (509) 667-9708 or visit [www.cdlandtrust.org](http://www.cdlandtrust.org). RSVP is appreciated.

### **Gardening with Nature in Mind: Sustainable Landscaping**

*April 15 from 7 pm to 9 pm*

*Chelan County PUD Auditorium in Wenatchee*

### **In Celebration of Insects**

*June 3 from 7 pm to 8 pm*

*Tree Fruit Research Center in Wenatchee*

# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OFF TO A GREAT START

With help from a grant from the Washington Conservation Commission, the Cascadia Conservation District has launched a volunteer program to provide interested members of the public the opportunity to play an active role in conservation efforts in Chelan County.

Volunteer activities offered by the District thus far have included the annual District board member election and native plant sale. Ten volunteers have participated in the program contributing a combined total of 57 volunteer hours.

On what turned out to be a rare sunny day in March, Rachel Scown helped with preparation for the native plant sale. She shared that she “loved working with the young people and meeting new folks.” Rachel also appreciated that the orders and work were so organized, and commented that it was “pleasant work.”

Some exciting opportunities are currently being planned for the summer. Call (509) 664-9370 or visit [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org) to add your name to our list of

## Next Volunteer Opportunity:

Yaksum Creek Streamside Restoration  
Project Maintenance

April 25 from 10 am to Noon

For more information or to RSVP  
contact Sarah Rudback (509)664-9313  
or visit [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org)

An album of photos from the plant sale has been posted on Picasa. You can view it on the internet by visiting [picasaweb.google.com](http://picasaweb.google.com) and searching “Cascadia Plant.” Or, contact the District for an email link to the site.



On March 21 volunteers helped bundle, bag and tag plants in preparation for the annual native plant sale.


volunteers and receive our quarterly volunteer opportunity calendar.

Students, scouts and service groups looking for a conservation related project are encouraged to contact us to discuss potential partnership opportunities.

## CONSERVATION CALENDAR

### Celebrate Earth Day!

Activities are planned throughout Chelan County.

A  indicates the Cascadia Conservation District will be participating.

### 3rd Annual Waste Not, Want Not Recycled Art Show

April 17 to May 26 at Sleeping Lady Mountain Retreat in Leavenworth

- For more information call (800) 574-2123 or visit [www.sleepinglady.com](http://www.sleepinglady.com).

### Chelan Earth Day Fair

April 18 from 9 am to 5 pm at the Chelan Riverwalk Park

- For more information visit the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce Events page at [www.cometothelake.com](http://www.cometothelake.com)

### Thinking Green

April 18 from 10 am to 7 pm at the Wenatchee Valley Mall

- For more information visit [www.wenatcheevalleymall.com](http://www.wenatcheevalleymall.com)

### Entiat Valley Community Earth Day Celebration

April 21 from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Entiat Valley Grange

- For more information contact May Segle or Kathy Montgomery at [maye@nwi.net](mailto:maye@nwi.net)

### LIFE2 Earth Day Community Fair

April 26 from noon to 4 pm at Lion's Park in Leavenworth

- For more information contact the Barn Beach Reserve at (509) 548-0181 or [www.barnbeachreserve.org](http://www.barnbeachreserve.org)

### Wenatchee Valley Environmental Film Series presents “The 11th Hour”

April 21 from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center

- For more information visit [www.wenatcheeva.gov](http://www.wenatcheeva.gov); \$5 suggested donation

### Living with Forests in Wildfire Country

April 30 from 7 pm to 9 pm in the Barn at Barn Beach Reserve in Leavenworth

- For more information contact the Barn Beach Reserve at (509) 548-0181 or [www.barnbeachreserve.org](http://www.barnbeachreserve.org)

### Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest

May 15-18 in Leavenworth

- For more information visit [www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com](http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com)

### “Cast for Kids” Fishing Event

June 6 at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery

Attendance by Reservation

Contact Hooked On Toys, (509) 663-0740

### Entiat National Fish Hatchery

#### Kids Fishing Day

June 13 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Entiat National Fish Hatchery

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted to NRCS by 5 pm on July 15

Agricultural and forest landowners interested in receiving financial assistance to implement conservation practices on their land are encouraged to apply.

- Contact the NRCS Wenatchee Field Office at (509) 664-9370 for more information and application materials.



**CASCADIA**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

215 Melody Lane Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Phone (509) 664-9370  
[www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org)

#### Board of Supervisors

Josh Koempel, *Chair*  
Bob Boyd, *Vice Chair*  
Hal Hawley, *Auditor*  
Frank Andrews, *Member*  
Larry Cordes, *Member*  
Jim Bartelme, *Associate*  
Conard Petersen, *Associate*

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

#### Staff Members

Peggy Entzel, *District Administrator*  
Valerie Hampton, *Administrative Assistant*  
Nada Wentz, *Office Assistant*  
Michael Rickel, *Program Manager*  
Richard Malinowski, *Project Coordinator*  
Mark Amara, *Archaeologist*  
Rob Koch, *Pest Management Specialist*  
Kurt Hosman, *Resource Specialist*  
Sarah Rudback, *Resource Specialist*  
Phylisha Olin, *Resource Specialist*  
Tom Gibbons, *Resource Specialist*  
Kate Koenig, *Resource Specialist*



**Native Plants of Central Washington**  
for  
**Restoration and Landscaping**

- Over 125 species to choose from!
- Nursery is open March–November

**Derby Canyon Natives**

Peshastin, WA Tel: (509)548-9404 [www.derbycannonatives.com](http://www.derbycannonatives.com)