

THE CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

FALL 2007

DISTRICT IS PROUD RECIPIENT OF TWO AWARDS

At the annual meeting of the North Central Area Association of Conservation Districts the Washington Conservation Commission named Cascadia Conservation District the 2007 North Central Area Conservation District of the Year, and Program Manager Mike Rickel the 2007 North Central Area District Employee of the Year.

Eight member districts make up the North Central Area including the Adams, Foster Creek, Grant, Moses Lake, Okanogan, South Douglas, Warden, and Cascadia Conservation Districts. Representatives from each district were in attendance at the meeting, as were members of the Washington State Conservation Commission,

“A strong board and a talented staff have led the district to new heights and new promises for the future.”

Washington State Association of Conservation Districts, National Association of Conservation Districts and federal Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Conservation Commission stated that, *“The Cascadia Conservation District has had a very successful year expanding its partnerships, funding, implementation activities, and identity in the community. A strong board and talented staff have led the district to new heights and new promises for the future.”* The completion of the Entiat Watershed Plan, excellent outreach efforts and community trust-building were cited as further support for the nomination of District of the Year.

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STILL COMMITTED TO OUR CORE PURPOSE

Conservation Districts were established in response to the Dust Bowl ecological disaster of the 1930’s in an effort to help promote voluntary, locally-driven resource conservation on agricultural lands. Over time, the breadth and scope of our projects has increased with growing resource concerns and shifting priorities. Despite our evolution, we remain devoted to our original purpose and have expanded our efforts to include all private landowners within our district. Whether a landowner owns 2 or 200 acres we are committed to helping them better manage and protect natural resources on their land. Two tools we use to accomplish this mission include technical assistance and cost-share programs. The Cummings Property Pasture Improvement Project is a recent example.



View of the fence lines of two new pastures on the Cummings’ property. The new layout and design of the pastures protects their river bank from livestock damage and preserves a natural wildlife travel corridor.

Leavenworth area residents Michael and Jean Cummings wanted to manage the livestock on their small farm above the Wenatchee River so as to prevent a steep hillside from eroding and degrading water quality in the river. At a family gathering, someone suggested they contact their local Conservation District for help. They did, and with the help of Cascadia

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WE NEED YOU!
 Help guide natural resource conservation efforts in Chelan County.
 Join our Board of Supervisors or vote for your favorite candidate.
 See page 4 for election information.



Construction begins on the Jones-Shotwell Screen and Diversion project on the Wenatchee river.

IRRIGATION DITCH GETS FACELIFT

Construction is not an unfamiliar sight here in Chelan County. However, it is not every day that a person sees an excavator on the banks of the Wenatchee River. Well, that is just the case for many a bewildered motorist driving Highway 97A. Just a few hundred yards upstream from the Old Monitor Bridge, the aging Jones-Shotwell Ditch is getting a “face-lift” to benefit both fish and ditch shareholders.

Construction of the Jones-Shotwell Screen and Diversion Project began in October and is expected to wrap up by mid-November. The Cascadia Conservation District partnered with the Jones Shotwell-Ditch Company, US Bureau of Reclamation, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Priest Rapids Tributary Committee, Washington Conservation Commission, US Forest Service and Chelan County Natural Resource Department to improve the existing water diversion system on the Wenatchee River that serves approximately 600 acres of orchard land.

In short, the original ditch system was outdated. It consisted of a push-up dam built approximately 100 feet out into the river that was routinely washed out during spring runoff. The dam required annual reconstruction and maintenance efforts that were costly to the ditch company and potentially harmful to fish habitat. In addition, the fish screen on the intake did not meet current regulatory requirements and the concrete pumping structure at the head of the diversion channel required frequent excavation of sand and silt deposits.

The new diversion design replaces the existing push-up dam with a stable, permanent low maintenance rock-wing dam. The existing side channel is being reshaped and steepened to improve sediment transport, and a modern flat plate fish screen will be installed to prevent juvenile fish entrapment. Finally, habitat throughout the system will be enhanced with the addition of root wads, rocks and other large woody debris.

When the project is completed, the ditch will be less costly and time intensive to maintain, and stream conditions and habitat will be improved—benefiting both people and fish.

SALMON FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 17 YEARS

Shorter days, cooler temperatures and falling leaves aren't the only indicators that fall is underway in Chelan County. Another sure sign of autumn is the return of salmon and steelhead to our local rivers and streams. For 17 years, the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival has heralded the arrival of our anadromous allies with a four-day natural resource and cultural education event held at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery.

Five to six million years ago salmon had fangs, weighed over 500 pounds and were 10 feet long.

Source: Fun Fish Facts at www.salmonfest.org

The award winning program offers an array of hands-on activities and a healthy serving of what organizers call “edutainment”. According to the Salmon Festival website the event, “... gives visitors a unique opportunity to discover and appreciate the complexities of the natural world and the significance of salmon to people of the Northwest.” The first two days of the festival are devoted to third and fourth graders from area schools. The festival opens its doors to the public on the weekend. Admittance is free and festival goers can observe a Native American encampment, participate in a fun run, take a hatchery tour, or visit a number of exhibits.

It is estimated that there were 15 to 20 million salmon in the Columbia River when Lewis and Clark reached the area in 1804.

Source: Fun Fish Facts at www.salmonfest.org

The Cascadia Conservation District has been fortunate enough to participate in this fun, family-friendly event since the very beginning. This year the Conservation District joined forces with the Chelan County Natural Resource Department and the US Bureau of Reclamation to host the *Rolling Rivers* activity station and produce a display highlighting some of our recent projects. Station participants answered the question, “*What makes a stream salmon-friendly?*” by helping to transform a barren stream model into prime salmon habitat. Topics such as water quality, fish passage barriers, riparian restoration, and habitat enhancement were discussed as kids put rocks, wood pieces, plastic farm animals and trees in their proper places.

Salmon returning to the Wenatchee River from the Pacific Ocean have to travel 500 miles and make it past 7 dams to get to the place of their birth.

Source: Fun Fish Facts at www.salmonfest.org

Since 1991, the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival has brought, “... people, natural resources, education, entertainment and science together in a non-commercial, non-political package...” that benefits both area residents and visitors alike. The Cascadia Conservation District is pleased to be a part of such a worthwhile program and congratulates festival organizers on another year of a job well done.



Students help turn a barren stream model into prime salmon habitat as part of the *Rolling Rivers* activity hosted by the Cascadia Conservation District and Chelan County Natural Resource Department at the 2007 Wenatchee River Salmon Festival.

(Photo courtesy of Corky Broaddus, USFWS)

- Plan to attend the 18th Annual Wenatchee River Salmon Festival on September 20-21, 2008. Visit the festival website at www.salmonfest.org for more information.



ONE STEP CLOSER TO CLEANER WATER

Under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, Washington State is required to regularly compile a list of all impaired surface waters within the jurisdiction of the state. Waterbodies that do not meet state surface water quality standards as set forth in Chapter 173-201A of the Washington Administrative Code and are not expected to improve within the next two years are included in the list. Total maximum daily load (TMDL) studies, or water clean-up plans, are required for each waterbody included on the 303 (d) list. These specialized studies describe the type, amount and sources of water pollution in a particular watershed and analyze how much of the pollution loads need to be reduced or eliminated in order to meet water quality standards.

The Wenatchee River and a number of associated tributaries were included in the 1998 Washington State 303(d) list for temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform bacteria, and DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) water quality violations. Efforts to develop TMDLs for the listed waterways began in 2002 and have recently resulted in the completion of three “water clean-up plans” accepted by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Cascadia Conservation District has been an active partner in the process.

The completed TMDLs include water clean-up plans for fecal coliform bacteria and temperature in the Wenatchee River watershed, and DDT in

Stream Name	Parameter Listed on the 1998 303(d) List Due to Documented Water Quality Violations
Brender Creek	Fecal Coliform Dissolved Oxygen
Chiwaukum Creek	Temperature
Chumstick Creek	Dissolved Oxygen Fecal Coliform pH
Icicle Creek	Dissolved Oxygen Temperature
Little Wenatchee River	Temperature
Mission Creek	Fecal Coliform 4,4' -DDT (Product of the breakdown of DDT insecticide) 4,4' -DDE (Product of the breakdown of DDT insecticide) Guthion (Insecticide)
Nason Creek	Temperature
Peshastin Creek	Temperature
Wenatchee River	Dissolved Oxygen pH Temperature

Wenatchee River watershed 1998 303(d) listings being addressed by the Water Quality Technical Subcommittee through the TMDL process.

Mission Creek. Work continues on a Dissolved Oxygen and pH TMDL for the Wenatchee River Watershed. As the actions identified in the plans are fully implemented, area streams will begin to meet state water quality standards. These plans were developed with support from a local Water Quality Technical Subcommittee (WQTS) that is made up of representatives from federal, state and local entities and other interested parties.

The WQTS is developing a single implementation plan compiling and prioritizing actions identified in the individual water clean-up plans. Prioritization considerations include 1) how well an action is expected to address

The cooperation and active participation of both public and private landowners within the watershed will be necessary to implement the identified actions and help make the clean-up plans successful.

- To learn more about the water clean-up plans and what to expect next in the TMDL process, contact us at (509) 664-0275 or visit our website at www.cascadiacd.org. To learn more about water quality standards and TMDLs visit the Washington State Department of Ecology website at www.ecy.wa.gov.



CORE PURPOSE

(Continued from page 1)

Conservation District Program Manager and certified farm planner Mike Rickel, they were able to greatly improve their pasture system. The design and layout of the new pastures protects 1500 feet of the Wenatchee River from livestock damage and waste runoff. It also preserves a natural travel corridor for deer, bears, coyotes and other wildlife to access the river.

According to Mr. Cummings, “*Conservation education is the most important thing [Conservation Districts] can provide landowners.*” The Cummings’ are now more aware of the possibilities and are considering irrigation water management, weed control and wetland habitat improvement projects. The cost-share funding we were able to match them with helped to put their resource goals within reach. Half of the project costs were paid for with funding provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

- We understand that managing natural resources on your property and/or meeting regulatory requirements can be a daunting task. If you are a Chelan County landowner interested in learning how to better manage natural resources on your property give us a call at (509) 664-0275. We have the expertise and experience to help you identify and meet your conservation objectives – we may even be able to offer you financial assistance as well.

DID YOU KNOW...

Creating products from recycled materials produces less water pollution than making those products from virgin materials. For example, when a glass bottle is recycled, 50% less water pollution is produced than when a new glass bottle is made from new raw materials. In 2000, the recyclables collected in Washington State eliminated over 8,000 tons of water pollutants.

Sources: Washington State Department of Ecology, 2002 and “*How on Earth do we recycle glass?*” Randolph, Rott & Groves, 1992

November 15 is America Recycles Day

Recycling is one of the easiest ways to make a difference and it results in a surprising array of economic and environmental benefits. Renew your commitment to a cleaner tomorrow—recycle today.

For more information on recycling opportunities in Chelan County visit the Chelan County Public Works Solid Waste & Recycling webpage at www.co.chelan.wa.us or call them at (509) 667-6415.



Cascadia Conservation District Program Manager and 2007 North Central Area District Employee of the Year, Mike Rickel (center) holds the plaque naming the Cascadia Conservation District the 2007 North Central Area District of the Year. District Administrator, Peggy Entzel (2nd from right) and board members Hal Hawley (far left), Jack Davis (2nd from left), and Larry Cordes (far right) are pictured with him.

DISTRICT AWARDS

(Continued from page 1)

Mike Rickel has been with the Conservation District since 1998. In that time he has taken on a variety of projects including the county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Planning process and leadership of the Wenatchee River watershed Water Quality Technical Subcommittee. Last Spring, he was promoted to his current position as Program Manager. His dependability, positive attitude, and natural leadership skills made for a seamless transition and have provided the Conservation District with the additional managerial support it needed to successfully direct a growing program and increased workload.

Cascadia Conservation District Administrative Assistant, Valerie Hampton, was at the meeting and accepted the awards on behalf of District board and staff members. *"It's nice to know others are beginning to notice the great work that is being done here", she said, "The recognition affirms my sense of belonging to a positive group of people who really care about doing good things for our natural resources in ways that benefit individual landowners and the greater community."*

- If you are interested in learning more about us and the work we do, visit our website at www.cascadiacd.org.



CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Kurt Hosman, *Resource Specialist*
Sarah Rudback, *Resource Specialist*
Phylisha Olin, *Resource Specialist*

This newsletter is funded in part by grants from the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Washington State Conservation Commission.

WE NEED YOU... ★

...TO JOIN OUR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS...

Registered voters residing within the Cascadia Conservation District boundary* who are interested in guiding conservation efforts in Chelan County are encouraged to run for a position on our Board of Supervisors. Members are unpaid volunteers who serve a three-year term and must be willing to attend monthly meetings.

To announce your candidacy...

1. obtain a petition form from our office or website
2. collect signatures from 25 registered voters from the District
3. submit completed petition by January 7, 2008

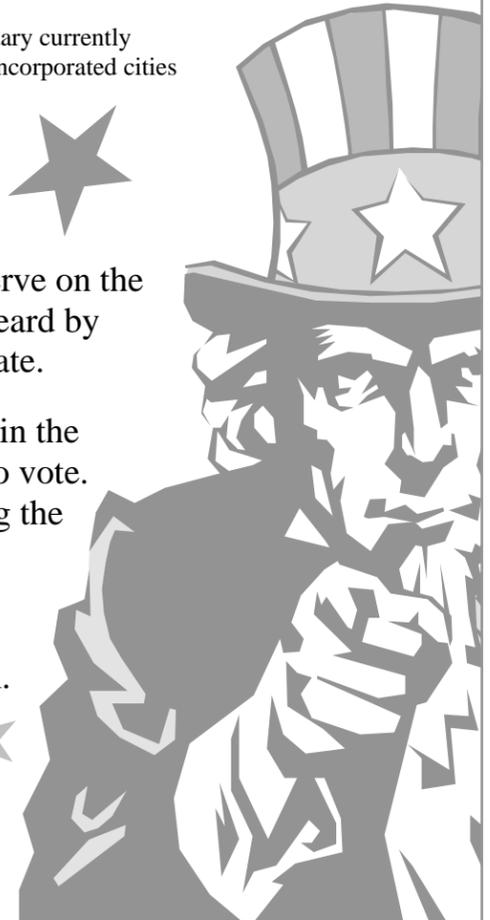
*The Cascadia Conservation District boundary currently includes all of Chelan County except the incorporated cities of Chelan and Wenatchee.

...AND TO VOTE!

If you don't have the time to serve on the Board, then make your voice heard by voting for your favorite candidate.

Registered voters residing within the District boundary are eligible to vote. The election will be held during the annual Pear Day conference on January 23, 2008 in the Wenatchee Convention Center lobby from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

If you have any questions regarding the election give us a call at (509)664-0275.



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