

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

WINTER 2018

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS IN 2017

Cascadia Conservation District participates in diverse projects and activities 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 in 2017:

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

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 2017 education and outreach efforts.

Chelan County Clean Water Campaign: In 2017, the campaign hosted a river cleanup, conducted a photo contest, and produced a calendar with the winning photos. *Pick yours up at our office - 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee.*

Community Events: Cascadia participates in many community events, hosting fun educational activities to teach kids how to be better stewards of natural resources and sharing information about Cascadia programs. Some of these events include: area Earth Day fairs, an Earth Day Essay Contest, Chelan County Fair, Ardenvoir Swallow Fest, and local Farmer's Markets.



The US Bureau of Reclamation's Rolling Rivers watershed model teaches kids about fish habitat and watershed health

Conservation News Minutes:

These one minute video clips highlight our projects and programs. View here: www.cascadiacd.org.

District Newsletter: Each quarter Cascadia produces the *Conservation Quarterly*,

highlighting current projects, upcoming events, and general district news. Distribution: 35,500.

Check out our website's new look!

District Website - www.cascadiacd.org, Blog, and Facebook page: Cascadia maintains a website, blog and Facebook page to keep district members, partners, and other stakeholders informed about our history, current programs, and upcoming events. See links to the blog and Facebook page on our website.



Students learn about water, soils, agricultural production, and watershed health during Wheat Week

Entiat River Appreciation: In 2017, Cascadia and the Chelan Douglas Land Trust sponsored a community event with environmental education and entertainment that brought over 75 people out to participate.

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 2017, over 250 students from nine area high schools participated. For additional information and to view our video brochure visit: www.kidsinthecreek.com.

Native Planting 101 Workshop: In 2017, about 40 people participated. *This year's workshop will be held Saturday, February 24 and covers planting techniques, pollinators, weeds and more. To RSVP call (509) 436-1601.*

Water on Wheels & Wheat Week: These hands-on interactive water and soil education programs are taught to kindergarten through 6th grade students. From September to December 2017, 40 lessons were taught, reaching almost 700 students. *Contact us at (509) 436-1601 to schedule your class!*

Wenatchee River Salmon Festival: Cascadia and our partners share the Rolling Rivers watershed model where students learn about and build a healthy salmon-friendly watershed. An annual favorite, the event hosted 5,000 people in 2017 and attracts schools from several counties. Learn more at <http://www.salmonfest.org/>.

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LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

Managing natural resources and meeting regulatory requirements can be a daunting task. Cascadia offers 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 75% of the total cost of eligible projects. These may include: wildfire fuels reduction, forest health practices, irrigation system upgrades, riparian restoration, noxious weed control, and more. For the program application deadline and additional information, please contact Sandy Letzing at: sandyl@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.

In 2017, Cascadia worked with 3 landowners to reduce wildfire risk to their homes and communities and improve forest health through forest thinning and brush management. With support from Cascadia's cost share program and staff support, landowners worked to treat over 19 acres throughout the Wenatchee basin. One of those projects involved facilitating an agreement between the Boy Scouts of America, Scout-A-Vista Camp and the Forest Ridge Wildfire Coalition (FRWC). Forest Ridge Wildfire Coalition, a recognized Firewise Community, worked to apply for the cost share thinning project on behalf of the Boy Scouts and contributed matching funds to implement the project. Forest Ridge worked with the District and a professional forester to design and implement a 10 acre healthy forest buffer on the Scout-A-Vista property that will help protect both the community and the camp from future wildfire risk. Wildfire in treated areas is generally much less intense and unlikely to reach the crowns, allowing trees to survive and recover.



After a thinning project, there is space between the trees, no ladder fuels and the trees have been limbed to 14 feet off the ground

Wildfire Recovery Efforts: In 2017, Cascadia worked with a landowner near Chelan whose wildlife exclusion fencing burned in the Chelan Complex Fire.



New livestock exclusion fencing for a landowner who lost their previous fencing due to wildfire

The fire burned over 90,000 acres in fall 2015. Cascadia obtained funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission, whose goal was to help landowners recover from losses sustained from wildfires. This funding allowed Cascadia to provide cost share assistance to install 2,800 feet of livestock exclusion fencing, including 400 posts and wiring surrounding 30 acres of alfalfa and pasture.

Also in 2017, Cascadia Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) worked together to help repair damage to a Chelan landowner's access road due to flood debris flows from a previously burned area, and to mitigate future danger and potential damage to that resident's home as well as neighboring residents and their properties.

Join Cascadia and partners for a free Firewise education event on March 10 from 9am-2pm at Pybus Market in Wenatchee! Sponsored by AAA Insurance. Features many local experts and organizations.

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS



Crews chip hazardous fuels piled by landowners as part of Cascadia's free chipping program. The program will be offered again in spring 2018

Wildfire is a fact of life in North Central Washington. Although fire is important to natural ecosystems, the effect of wildfire on 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.

Wildfire Preparedness accomplishments from 2017:

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 6 local communities with implementing Firewise practices and helped several more Chelan County communities work toward becoming recognized Firewise communities.

Cascadia staff conducted 32 wildfire risk assessments on private homes in Chelan County. These free assessments were requested by landowners with an interest in taking a proactive approach to wildfire preparedness.

Cascadia also partnered with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and City of Chelan for free yard waste disposal days at the Chelan Transfer Station.

Cascadia partnered with the DNR to organize free chipping events for residents of Chelan County. Residents worked together to clear and stack piles of slash in preparation for the chipper crew. About 104 acres of forested land was treated on the properties of over 200 landowners. This work will make these areas much less susceptible to damage from wildfire.

Cascadia will offer a spring chipping program and will begin taking signups in early March. The chipping will take place in late May.

To participate please register by April 1 here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCDchipping> Contact Amanda Newell at amandal@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601 for additional information.

These chipping programs are designed to treat the area 200 feet around your home. For larger scale projects on forest land, Cascadia offers a cost-share program that pays up to 75% of the cost of the project. For additional information please contact Sandy Letzing at sandyl@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.



The best offense... **Don't wait...**




...is a good defense. **...until it's too late!**

Cascadia offers free fire risk assessments. Contact Amanda Newell at amandal@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601 for additional info

RIPARIAN RESTORATION

Riparian areas are the transition zones between the water and the upland area. 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. Cascadia implements riparian restoration projects throughout the county, with an emphasis in the Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds.



It can take a few years for the new plants to really start thriving, so Cascadia spends the next 3-5 years after a planting weeding and watering to ensure that the new native plants will survive and thrive, creating a healthy and functioning riparian zone

Cascadia spent the last three years completing a Department of Ecology clean water grant that closed at the end of 2017. During those three years Cascadia worked to restore over 8,000 feet of riparian habitat with over 8,400 native trees, shrubs and grasses. Cascadia also worked with landowners to implement other clean water activities throughout the Wenatchee Basin. Riparian ecosystems are vital to the Wenatchee area, as they support people as well as wildlife.

When Cascadia works to restore riparian habitat, it often involves many steps that can include livestock exclusion fencing, invasive weed clearing, bank stabilization and planting native vegetation. We have been busy this summer with weeding and watering. The wet weather in 2016 was very beneficial to our plantings.

In 2018, Cascadia will continue to work toward building healthier streamside habitat in Chelan County, and is always interested to hear from landowners who have potential projects. Cascadia currently has funding for additional streamside restoration projects. If you would like additional information or to participate in our riparian restoration program please contact Sandy Letzing at sandyl@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.



A healthy riparian system will help protect against flooding, enhance water quality and quantity, provide habitat and food for wildlife, and provide recreational opportunities like fishing, hunting and boating

CASCADIA'S 2017 AWARDS! CONGRATULATIONS TO BOARD AND STAFF!

- **District of the Year for North Central Washington (NCW)**
- **Kim Lancaster - Employee of the Year for NCW**
- **Jim Bartelme - Board Member of the Year for NCW**

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. An important consideration in Cascadia's projects is that the work will also benefit the community and fit with the landowner's needs and goals for the property.

In 2017, several local project sponsors completed salmon habitat projects in the Entiat watershed. The Yakama Nation enhanced side channel connections and added engineered log structures along two areas of the Upper Middle Entiat. The project included a 900ft flow-through side channel, one engineered log structure, and habitat logs and boulders placed along three rip-rapped banks (see photos to the right).

The Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group removed two fish passage barriers along Stormy Creek, opening up about three miles of salmon habitat.

Finally, the Chelan Douglas Land Trust purchased 26 acres of property for protection which included approximately 4,425 feet of critical riverbank. Due to some structural failures, the Land Trust also removed a bridge in the Middle Entiat, for safety reasons, using a local contractor.

With more work planned in the future, Cascadia aims to keep consistent, reliable, and regular updates coming in the form of newsletters, public meetings, events, direct mailings, and calls. To get involved with the habitat work going on in the Entiat, please contact Jason Sims at jasons@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601, or attend an Entiat Watershed Planning Unit meeting. The next one is February 7 at the Entiat Grange Hall from 9am-12pm.



WATERSHED PLANNING

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 the regional 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.

The 2018 Entiat Annual Report will be available in late February. Contact Jason Sims to receive a copy: jasons@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.

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

URBAN AGRICULTURE

This new program provides gardening based education and outreach events and works with local partners to develop new community gardens. Cascadia also provides the community with technical assistance and resources to help with many garden needs. We want to hear from you about what types of workshops would help you succeed with your backyard garden....composting, vegetable garden tips, pest management or more efficient irrigation?



Interested in composting? We offer tips for compact composting if you only have a small space. Contact us for a how-to guide.

Please visit us on Facebook to take a survey or email sandy1@cascadia.org for additional information. We are also looking for spaces and neighborhoods for new community gardens. Please let us know if your community may be interested.

Some program highlights from 2017 include: WSU Master Gardeners along with Cascadia held a backyard gardening workshop with over 25 attendees, at the Community Education Garden last spring that covered topics such as: irrigation, keeping chickens, creating a compost pile and choosing the best plants for our local climate and small backyard spaces. Let us know what other topics you would like to see covered in upcoming workshops!

Cascadia and partners worked with the Women's Resource Center to develop a community garden for the residents at Parkside in south Wenatchee. With support from Lowe's, Bob's Apple Barrel, and Cashmere Valley Bank, Cascadia designed and built eight raised beds, and gathered gardening tools, seeds and starts to get the garden going. Cascadia has worked with Parkside to develop a garden committee to help manage garden maintenance and distribute produce among residents.

Cascadia held a composting workshop at Pybus Market that included information, steps and materials to start your own compost and information on how to make your own fertilizer from household waste.

Coming up in 2018: Cascadia obtained a City of Wenatchee block grant for ag education and to remodel and enhance the Community Center Community Garden. Cascadia will partner with WSU Master Gardener volunteers, Team Naturaleza, and the Wenatchee School District to deliver an urban ag based after school program during this spring. We are currently looking for volunteers to work with our after school gardening program that will run through the summer. Contact Sandy Letzing if interested.



Photo by Kristine Desgrosellier



Want a community garden in your neighborhood? Contact us!



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

14 N Mission St Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 436-1601 • www.cascadiacd.org

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The Conservation Quarterly is published on a quarterly basis by Cascadia Conservation District. 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

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District

~ January 18 3:30 - 5:00pm Regular Meeting
~ February 15 3:30 - 5:00pm Regular Meeting
~ March 9 or 23 TBD 12:00 - 4:00pm Special & Annual Plan Meeting
~ April 19 3:30-5:00pm Regular Meeting

Native Planting 101 Workshop

~ February 24 12:00 – 4:00pm Wenatchee Fire Station 11 on Easy St

District Native Plant Sale

~ March 10 1:00 – 5:00pm Native Plant Sale Bundling, Stemilt Warehouse 3101 Warehouse Road
~ March 24 9:00– 2:00pm Native Plant Sale Order Pick-Up, Stemilt Warehouse 3101 Warehouse Road

Coffee with Your Conservation District

~February 21: 9:30am Pybus Market in Wenatchee
~March 21: 9:30am Kristall's in Leavenworth
~April 18: 9:30am Old Mill Café in Plain

Design Team Meeting

~ February 6 9:00am– 12:00pm TBD contact Jason Sims for information - jasons@cascadiacd.org
~ March 6 9:00am– 12:00pm TBD contact Jason Sims
~ April 3 9:00am – 12:00pm TBD contact Jason Sims

Entiat River Habitat Subcommittee

~ February 15 9:00am-12pm USFS Building, Wenatchee Room
~ March 15 9:00am-12pm USFS Building, Wenatchee Room
~ April 19 9:00am-12pm USFS Building, Wenatchee Room

EWPU

~ February 7 9:00am-12:00pm Entiat Grange Hall, Entiat

Trout Unlimited

~ March 13 7:00pm *A River Film*
~ April 17 7:00pm *Leave it to Beavers* PBS Nature Documentary

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

~ February 14 Regional Technical Team Meeting, CFNCW, Wen.
~ February 22 UCSRB Meeting, at Douglas County Land @ Transportation Building, E. Wen.
~ March 6 Implementation Team Meeting, at the Chelan Fire House, Chelan
~ March 7 NCWFHC Meeting, at the Okanogan PUD
~ March 14 Regional Technical Team Meeting, CDLT, Wen.
~ April 11 Regional Technical Team Meeting, CFNCW, Wen.
~ April 25 UCSRB Meeting Conference Call, Wen.

Wenatchee River Institute

www.wenatcheeriverinstitute.org/events
The Barn @ Barn Beach Reserve, 347 Division Street, Leavenworth,
~ Thursdays through February 10am, Winter Adventure Walk
~ February 14 7:00pm, Last Stand: The Vanishing Caribou Rainforest
~ Tuesdays, February 20 – March 20 6:30 – 8:30pm, Fly Tying Evening Series
~ March 14 7:00pm, Dive: Living Off America's Waste
~ March 28 7:00pm, Coppermine River Slide Show
~ April 11 7:00pm, H2OMG! Making Sense of Water Scarcity in an Insecure World

Thank you to these funding sources for keeping important outreach projects and programs in operation!



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