

# CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SPRING 2018

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

## CLEAN DRINKING WATER STARTS WITH YOU

### Water we use indoors....

How often do you think about where the water coming out of your tap originates from? Chelan County's rural residents predominantly rely on groundwater wells as their source of drinking water. The City of Wenatchee has four reservoirs which provide a combined 15 million gallon storage capacity, while City of Chelan residents rely on water drawn from Lake Chelan for their drinking water.

For Leavenworth residents and business owners, much of their drinking water supply comes from the Icicle River, which means maintaining good water quality is a priority. Cascadia has teamed up with the City of Leavenworth,



Did you know that the city of Leavenworth's drinking water comes from the Icicle River?

your (and your animal's) waste, and stay on established trails and maintained campsites.

### ....and outdoors....

Water use in Chelan county triples in summer, and outdoor water use makes up the largest portion of additional summer water use. There are simple steps and lots of resources available for residents that can be used toward reducing

their water use and hopefully, saving a little money in the process!

- **Use a timer on your irrigation system and inspect for leaks.**  
A leak as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen (or 1/32nd of an inch) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month! (EPA, 2017).
- **Water your lawn correctly!**  
This not only saves water, but improves the quality of your grass. Bring in a sample of your turf and soil in to the Master Gardener Clinic to get specific watering recommendations. And, make sure to water in the early morning or evening to reduce evaporation.
- **Switch to more efficient watering heads** (less misting!) Local irrigation companies or Master Gardeners can help select the right head for your watering needs.
- **Mulch** your perennial beds to retain moisture in the soil (also, less weeding!), and leave grass clippings on your lawn.
- **Aerate your soil and lawn** - this will increase the infiltration of water into the ground where the roots can get it, reducing the amount of runoff.
- **When planting, consider Xeriscape.** This means using more drought tolerant, native species; not only are they low-water-use but they provide lots of blooms and are low maintenance. Check out the WSU Master Gardener Xeriscape garden for ideas. It is located on the River Walk (Apple Capital Trail), Wenatchee side, just north of the Miniature Rail Station.



Use good conservation practices when watering

For more information and resources on lowering your water use contact Cascadia (509-436-1601) or WSU Chelan-Douglas Master Gardeners (509-667-6540 - Chelan Co office).

*Thank you to Stemilt Growers for support of Cascadia's native plant sale and restoration projects through plant storage and staff time!*

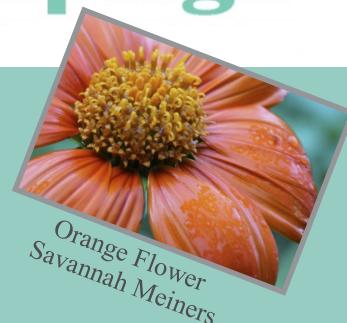
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Visit [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org)  
for complete contest rules &  
details and to submit your photo(s)!



## KIDS IN THE FOREST

Cascadia and partners are excited to introduce a new environmental education program to Chelan County—Kids in the Forest!



Kids in the Forest will expand upon the already successful Forest Classroom program started by the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center

The Kids in the Forest Project will provide teacher training, classroom workshops and forest field experiences for third to eighth graders to learn about forest and wildfire ecology. The goal is to understand what healthy and unhealthy forests look like and how wildfire and forest management play an important role in maintaining healthy watersheds.

Our kids' contact with nature keeps shrinking. Getting kids into forests and helping them learn about sustainability is good for forests and good for kids. Kids in the Forest will focus on enriching the link between people and forests. By creating baseline knowledge, students will learn to talk about forest management and wildfire in their community in a way that supports sustainable approaches to land management.

Critical to the success of the program is integrating project partners into the field experience. This will provide students an opportunity to connect with professionals in the resource management field and ask questions about their jobs and how they got to where they are.

*Early exposure to natural resource management as a fun, exciting, and realistic career path will help to keep forest management and stewardship of public lands a valued role and career path in future generations.*

Partners for this program include: Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Washington State SFI Implementation Committee, Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center, North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative, and The Wildfire Project.

**A BIG thank you to the Sustainable Forest Initiative ([www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org)) for funding the first year of this program!**



## WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS Protect your investment!

As fire season approaches, it's time to consider the defensible space around your home and take action to reduce your risk of wildfire damage.

- These actions include, but are not limited to:
- Raking and removing leaves and needles from decks and roofs
  - Moving flammable materials at least 30 ft from structures
  - Ensuring that vents have metal screens
  - Keeping brush low and limbing trees to prevent ladder fuels

Learn more at [Firewise.org](http://Firewise.org) or by contacting your location fire department.

The best offense...



...is a good defense.

Don't wait...



...until it's too late!

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

## CASCADIA CELEBRATES 80 YEARS OF LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE!

The Wenatchee-Entiat Soil Conservation District formed on March 24, 1948 and the Lake Chelan Soil Conservation District formed on March 30, 1948. These two entities would later join to form the Chelan County Conservation District, which changed names to Cascadia Conservation District in 2007.

We have gone through several names, office spaces, and other changes over these 80 years, but one thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to the conservation of natural resources in Chelan County and working collaboratively with its residents!



Irrigation project on Stemilt Hill, South Wenatchee in 1971



Chelan County Commissioners and Chelan County Conservation District Board members in 1974



Conservation education program at Squilchuck State Park in 1978

## HAPPY EARTH DAY!



Cascadia shared fish migration info at the Chelan Earth Day Fair to celebrate World Fish Migration Day

Cascadia celebrated Earth Day at events in Entiat, Chelan, and Leavenworth where we spread the word about natural resources conservation and our programs, and provided fun educational activities!

World Fish Migration Day happened to fall on the same day as Chelan's Earth Day Fair. To celebrate, Cascadia shared information and giveaways related to the impressive migration routes and obstacles that different fish navigate all around the world.



Kids made "fish sticks" at the Chelan Earth Day Fair to learn about the salmon life cycle

## WORMING INTO SCHOOLS

Cascadia and the Chelan County Master Gardeners have been enjoying bringing hands-on Urban Agriculture lessons to the After School Program at Lincoln and Lewis & Clark Elementary Schools.

Students have learned about soil, worms, garden prep, and planting a garden.



**A big thanks to the Wenatchee Valley College Ag Department for helping with materials and allowing us to bring the students to work in their garden.**

## LIVING WITH FIRE: PLANTS AND PEOPLE

Contributed by Susan Ballinger of the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust

April paints brilliant colors on North Central Washington's foothills with vivid wildflowers, shrubs massed with blossoms, and an emerald green carpet of new blades of grass. Called the shrub-steppe, this habitat is characterized by scattered shrubs- mostly big sagebrush- that form a canopy above the ground covered with long-lived perennial bunchgrasses and wildflowers. Collectively, these plants are adapted to conserve water, minimize evaporative water loss, and survive in a place that experiences periodic wildfire. Hundreds of birds, mammals, and insects depend upon sagebrush-dominated lands for food, nesting, and cover.

Starting in the 1850s, settlers arrived with cattle and sheep, and inadvertently introduced non-native plants, like cheatgrass, that quickly invaded as unwelcome weeds. Today, all across the interior Western U.S., the spread of cheatgrass has reduced the quality of shrub-steppe habitats. Annual cheatgrass seeds sprout in early winter, quickly grow, set seeds, and die by early summer, resulting in a continuous layer of fine dry fuels that allow wildfires to sweep far and wide. This opens up ground for more cheatgrass and other weeds to invade, out-competing the native plants, and provides more fuel to feed the next wildfire. Many native shrubs, flowers, and grasses re-sprout after fire, but big sagebrush does not, so replacement depends upon the wind, blowing in seeds from nearby shrubs.

Lands burned by large fires rarely have big sagebrush return, negatively impacting wildlife.

Cheatgrass-fueled wildfires are increasingly threatening our homes and structures in North Central Washington's shrub-steppe lands. In the Wenatchee Valley, we are fortunate to have many organizations and agencies working together to increase our community's resiliency to future wildland fires in both the forest and the shrub-steppe. The area where houses meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland vegetation is termed the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The WUI is the zone where people can implement specific strategies to reduce the type and amount of fuels, thus reducing the rate of spread and intensity of a future wildfire.

This May, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) is hosting a series of free outdoor talks in collaboration with Chelan County Fire District 1, the City of Wenatchee, Cascadia Conservation District, and Chelan County Master Gardeners. Susan Ballinger, CDLT Conservation Fellow, will begin each session with an introduction to shrub-steppe plant communities followed by a talk by the featured local partner. The public is invited to attend any or all to learn more about shrub-steppe ecosystems and recommended steps that will reduce the risk of future damage by wildfire in our local WUI.



Shrub-steppe habitat at Saddle Rock Park.  
Photo provided by CDLT

### UPCOMING SPEAKER SERIES AT SADDLE ROCK TRAILHEAD

May 9, 6-7pm: Wildland fire planning, zoning and codes with Steve King, City of Wenatchee

May 16, 6-7pm: Fire Adapted Communities with Jon Riley, Fire District 1

May 23, 6-7pm: Wise stewardship of natural resources with Patrick Haggerty, Cascadia Conservation District

May 30, 6-7pm at Jacobsen Preserve: Shrub Steppe landscaping with Al Murphy, Master Gardener, and CDLT staff

## KEEPING UP WITH THE ENTIAT COMMUNITY



Cascadia's AmeriCorps intern, Justine Bula, teaching Entiat students about fish anatomy during Entiat's Earth Day event for K-5th grade

Entiat's annual Kite Fest was held on March 24 this year at the Kiwanis Park on the north end of town. Over 100 people attended the event, which was hosted by the Entiat Valley Chamber of Commerce. Cascadia helped sponsor the event and had an information table where Cascadia staff shared information about projects and programs.

The Entiat Earth Day took place at the school on April 20 and Cascadia was excited to participate. The entire elementary school, about 165 kids, participated in this fun event organized by the Entiat Valley Community Services Group. Several different organizations had booths set up with entertaining and educational activities. Cascadia brought our table length fish anatomy puzzle. This beautifully crafted wood puzzle depicts the internal and external organs of a fish. We played a game of Fish Anatomy Jeopardy with the students, where we would describe a fish organ and they would guess the part, then place it in the puzzle. The students also enjoyed doing fish origami as another component of Cascadia's station.

As many of the private landowners are aware, the Entiat is a very busy and highly monitored river. With several habitat projects already constructed, Cascadia has been actively engaging multiple landowners in preparation for the next round of implementation. In the years 2019 - 2020, Cascadia, Chelan County Natural Resource Department, Yakama Nation Fisheries, and Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will be working to complete several new habitat projects in the Middle Entiat. These entities have been working with about seven private landowners and two organizations within the project areas, the US Forest Service and the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. They have been coordinating together to plan and collect data. The projects are currently heading into the final design phase and a public meeting will be coming up soon to review the final plans and the draft Environmental Assessment. For additional information, contact Mike Cushman at [mikec@cascadiacd.org](mailto:mikec@cascadiacd.org) or (509) 436-1601.

On May 9-11, Cascadia and partners will be at the Entiat National Fish Hatchery hosting Kids in the Creek, a hands-on environmental education program for high school 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Students explore actual field methods for assessing aquatic and riparian habitat, water quantity, water quality and indicator insects, as well as an introduction to land use planning considerations. Kids in the Creek annually reaches over 300 students from 8-10 area high schools. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Amanda Levesque Newell at [amandal@cascadiacd.org](mailto:amandal@cascadiacd.org) or (509) 436-1601. For additional information on this great program please visit the Kids in the Creek website, [www.kidsinthecreek.com](http://www.kidsinthecreek.com).

### FAREWELL JASON!

Jason Sims is moving on. During his four years with Cascadia, Jason was the primary watershed coordinator for our work in the Entiat valley.

His work included public outreach, hosting community meetings and events, and working with landowners on natural resource projects.

Jason is pursuing further education and plans to continue to contribute to the community through his talents as a professional magician. We wish him all the best!



## HEALTHY FOODS, HEALTHY FAMILIES

Spring has sprung! Cascadia had a great turnout to our Healthy Foods, Healthy Families event on April 5 at the Community Center in south Wenatchee. Participants went home with more than 70 container gardens full of kale, lettuce, basil, dill, chard and tomatillos to grow and enjoy at home.

Cascadia, Columbia Valley Community Health, Wenatchee Valley Farmers Market and WSU Master Gardeners were there to hand out seeds for home gardens and provide information on gardening as well as healthy eating and living events happening in the Wenatchee Valley.



Thank you to our sponsors: The City of Wenatchee, through a neighborhood improvement grant, as well as Smart Pots, High Mowing Organic Seeds, and Crunch Pak.



## A COMMUNITY EFFORT FOR FIRE EDUCATION

On April 13 more than 500 5th and 6th graders viewed the Era of Megafires presentation by Dr. Paul Hessburg and North 40 Productions then hiked the Balsamroot Trail near Horselake to see first hand how fire has effected our community.

Cascadia, Chelan County Fire District 1, City of Wenatchee, the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Wenatchee Art Education Consortium, and the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center provided field experiences for these students. Funding for the event was provided by the North Central Education Foundation and the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.



## AMERICORPS POSITION AVAILABLE

Join the Cascadia team as our Environmental Education Assistant from September 2018-July 2019!

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in natural resources conservation, teaching, and serving their community. Through AmeriCorps you will receive a monthly stipend and an education award upon the completion of your service. Plus, you will make meaningful connections and new friends in the community that will lead to future jobs and opportunities!

For additional information on AmeriCorps and this position please visit: <https://washingtonservicecorps.org/become-a-member/how-to-apply/wsc-positions/> or call (509) 436-1601.



**CASCADIA**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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(509) 436-1601 • [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org)

### Staff Members

Mark Amara, *Archaeologist*  
Justine Bula, *AmeriCorps Member*  
MarySutton Carruthers, *Resource Specialist II*  
Mike Cushman, *Program Director*  
Peggy Entzel, *District Administrator*  
Patrick Haggerty, *Project Coordinator II*  
Valerie Hampton, *Administrative Assistant*  
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Nada Wentz, *Office Assistant*

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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 Board Meetings

~ May 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, 14 N Mission St in Wenatchee  
~ June 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, 14 N Mission St in Wenatchee  
~ July 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm, 14 N Mission St in Wenatchee

### Entiat River Habitat Subcommittee Meetings

~ May 17<sup>th</sup> USFS, Wenatchee Room, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
~ June 21<sup>st</sup> USFS, Wenatchee Room, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
~ July 19<sup>th</sup> USFS, Wenatchee Room, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meeting

~ May 2<sup>nd</sup> Entiat Fire Station, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

### IRIS Success Story Drive

The Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS) will showcase success stories at the 9th annual NCW Community Success Summit in Pateros on Nov 15, 2018. To submit your 400-word success story by June 15 contact IRIS Legacy Project Director Nancy Warner at [irisncw@gmail.com](mailto:irisncw@gmail.com) or 509-881-1812.

### Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

~ May 8<sup>th</sup>, The Columbia River Rolls on: History and Discussion of the Columbia 6:30 PM, Wenatchee Valley Museum

### Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

~ May 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Team Meeting, CFNCW, Wen.  
~ June 5<sup>th</sup> Implementation Team Meeting, Sunnyslope Fire House, 10:00 am -3:00 pm  
~ June 6<sup>th</sup> NCWFHC Meeting, Leavenworth Fire House, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
~ June 13<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Team Meeting, CFNCW, Wen, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
~ June 28<sup>th</sup> UCSRB Meeting, Chelan Fire House, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
~ July 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Team Meeting, CFNCW, Wen, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### Wenatchee River Institute

~ Mondays May 7<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup> *The Buzz About Bees*, 6pm – 7:30pm, The Barn @ Barn Beach Reserve, 347 Division Street, Leavenworth, WA  
~ May 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm – 9pm *The Columbia Rolls On*, The Barn @ Barn Beach Reserve  
~ May 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> *Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest*, Events take place all over central Washington. For details visit: [www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.org](http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.org)  
~ June 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm – 9pm *Sasquatch: Man-Ape or Myth?*, The Barn @ Barn Beach Reserve  
~ June 9<sup>th</sup> – August 13<sup>th</sup> Monday – Friday *Summer Camp! Fostering curiosity, wonder and a connection to the natural world through playful exploration in nature.* 10am – 3p, The Barn @ Barn Beach Reserve  
\*For details on the above programs visit: <http://www.wenatcheeriverinstitute.org/>

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



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