

# CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2018

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY WITH AMERICORPS

As we say goodbye to our current, amazingly awesome AmeriCorps member, Justine Bula, we wanted to share a bit of her experience with Cascadia this past year, excerpted from some of her 2017-2018 posts on our blog.

“My position of Natural Resource Education Coordinator with Cascadia means that I get to help to coordinate, organize and facilitate many of our environmental education programs within Chelan County,” Bula wrote.

“We have taught formal lessons to more than 2,479 K-12 students in Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan County. We have programs on soil health and conservation, wildfires and forest ecology, agriculture in Washington, and stream health just to name a few. These lessons were taught during the school day in the classroom and as field experiences and we also participated in After School Programs,” she said.

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in natural resource conservation, teaching, and serving their community.

“Being a part of a team involved in so many amazing programs that help educate and inspire people of all ages is what I hope to be doing every day,” Bula said. “Joining AmeriCorps and serving with Cascadia has been such an honor. Every week I encounter a new challenge and meet new people who care about their communities and the



Bula at Chelan Earth Day Fair

environment. I consider myself extremely fortunate because of this opportunity.”

Each year our AmeriCorps member is an invaluable addition to our team and helps coordinate environmental education programs like Water on Wheels, Wheat Week, Kids in the Creek, Native Plant Sale, Native Planting 101, the After School Program, Forest Classroom/Kids in the Forest,

Earth Day Fairs, Farmers Market activities, and more.

In addition to these programs, our members coordinate volunteer opportunities for community members. These opportunities include Native Plant Sale bundling and distribution, maintenance of riparian planting sites, assisting partner organizations with projects, and streamside cleanup events.

“During my service with Cascadia Conservation District, I have learned a great deal about conservation and natural resource management, teaching, and how to share my passion for stewardship with others in an effective way, but I have also learned a great deal about myself and the skills that I possess,” Bula said.

She added, “This service has given me the foundation for a career in the conservation world that I cannot wait to contribute further to.”

Are you ready to serve your community and make valuable lifelong connections that lead to future job opportunities? Join the Cascadia team as our Environmental Education Assistant from Sept 2018 to July 2019.

Through AmeriCorps you will receive a monthly living 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, please visit [washingtonservicecorps.org](http://washingtonservicecorps.org), or contact Cascadia at 436-1601 or [amandal@cascadiacd.org](mailto:amandal@cascadiacd.org).

*Bula has returned to her native Wisconsin to work as Conservation Coordinator for Sauk County Conservation, Planning, & Zoning. We thank her for her excellent service and wish her all the best in her future endeavors!*



Bula at Leavenworth Kinderfest  
Photo by: Julia Pinnix

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

Orange Flower  
Savannah Meiners

## GROWING GARDENS, GROWING MINDS



Preparing garden beds for planting at Lincoln

Cascadia Conservation District’s urban agriculture (ag) program spent a great year working with students from Lincoln, Lewis & Clark and other Wenatchee schools to provide lessons, plants and care for their school gardens.

In partnership with WSU Master Gardeners, Wenatchee Valley College and the Wenatchee School District after school program, the urban ag program provided weekly lessons in the winter on various subjects such as soils, seeds, germination, pollinators and bugs.

In the spring, Cascadia and volunteers worked to clean up, expand and plant the school gardens at Lincoln and Lewis & Clark. Field trips were taken to Wenatchee Valley College to plant seeds in the greenhouse and learn about the process of starting your own garden. We had a great time every week to planting, watering, weeding, and adding garden art.



Students enjoy snap peas from the garden at Lewis & Clark

The Columbia Valley Community Health nutrition program helped us to learn new ways to enjoy some of the vegetables the students are growing (Kale pesto! Arugula pasta salad!) The summer camp program students are now able to harvest and enjoy eating the school garden bounty almost every week.

Thank you to all the community partners that participated this year. We hope to expand the program next year, and if you are interested in volunteering or participating, please contact Sandy Letzing at [sandyl@cascadiacd.org](mailto:sandyl@cascadiacd.org).



Harvesting the fresh produce students cared for at every stage of the gardening process



Cascadia staff and Master Gardeners from the Urban Ag After School Program at Lewis & Clark

## “BEE” POLLINATOR AND WATER FRIENDLY WITH YOUR LAWN

It is that time of year where careful watering can keep your lawn lush and green for the rest of the summer. It’s important to make sure you are watering properly to keep your lawn healthy, and to save time and money.

For example, if you water too lightly and frequently, the grass roots will not grow deep enough to be able to withstand heat waves. Likewise, watering at night can set up conditions for disease to take hold of your lawn. In addition to helping your lawn look great, conserving water will help you feel great too. Using less water helps balance the many water needs in the valley, such as irrigation for agriculture and habitat for salmon and trout.



A flying bee using lawn flowers  
Photo by Susannah Lerman,  
USDA Forest Service

Please visit our website ([CascadiaCD.org](http://CascadiaCD.org)) to view our new water conservation brochure, with step by step instructions for keeping your lawn green, while conserving water!

### Want to help bees? Take a break from lawn mowing

A study published this past March found that cutting the grass every two weeks resulted in significantly higher bee abundance. Less frequent mowing gives lawn flowers like dandelions and clover – and this is where social pressure comes to bear – a little more time to grow and blossom, resulting in nourishment for bees. Across the globe, native bee species are having trouble. Populations of bees have experienced severe declines that are largely attributed to the loss of habitat. If you have a lawn, you may be able to reverse this trend: All you have to do is be a little lazy and, depending on your neighborhood, immune to social pressure. Learn more here: <https://www.fs.fed.us/blogs/want-help-bees-take-break-lawn-mowing>.

### 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 has two certified conservation planners on staff available to meet with you to discuss natural resource concerns.*

Some options for assistance include: irrigation issues, fuels and fire concerns, pollinators, noxious weeds, and more. We can help you create plans to manage your property and meet your goals. For additional information, please contact Sandy Letzing at: (509) 436-1601 or [Sandyl@cascadiacd.org](mailto:Sandyl@cascadiacd.org).

## WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS: PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT!

Wildfire season is here. Make sure you have adequate defensible space around your home to reduce your risk of wildfire damage. Actions you can take include:

- 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

Check out Cascadia’s Wildfire Preparedness page for additional information and learn more at [Firewise.org](http://Firewise.org) or by contacting your local fire department.

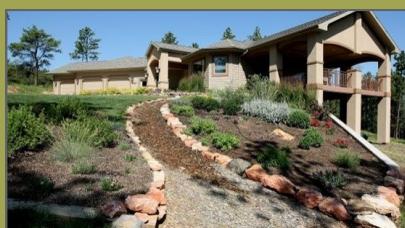
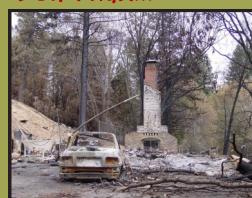
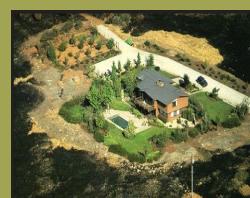


Photo from: [Idahofirewise.org](http://Idahofirewise.org)

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](mailto:amandal@cascadiacd.org) or (509) 436-1601 for additional info

## KIDS IN THE CREEK CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Our wonderful Kids in the Creek Core Planning Team makes the program stronger every year, but as we celebrate 25 years of providing quality outdoor education to Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan county students we'd like to take a look back to the beginning of Kids in the Creek.

In 1992, resource specialists from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Chelan County Conservation District (now Cascadia Conservation District), and science and Future Farmers of America (FFA) teachers from local high schools adopted the hands-on field experience idea to connect students with aquatic and riparian ecosystems for an understanding of watersheds and the critical role of human land management activities. The first all day field trip was in 1993 on Icicle Creek, near Leavenworth. Since then, hundreds of students from distant watersheds and many more resource agencies, private companies, and community volunteers have joined this high quality educational effort.



Students collect macroinvertebrates for identification and classification

*"I believe that restoration of lands and clean water for people and our wildlife cannot occur without education. This program not only opens the kids' minds up to the world of thinking about landscapes and watersheds but poses questions and allows them to formulate their ideas. I have encountered people, years after they experienced the program who now have environmental careers, or just remember how 'awesome' the program was for them at that point in their life."* – Judy Neibauer, Biologist with the US Fish & Wildlife Service

Kids in the Creek is organized and implemented by Cascadia Conservation District and US Fish and Wildlife Service with invaluable support from local organizations and businesses including: Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Chelan County Natural Resources Department, City of Wenatchee, AmeriCorps, US Bureau of Reclamation, South Douglas Conservation District, the Entiat National Fish Hatchery staff, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Team Naturaleza, Wenatchee River Institute, Foster Creek Conservation District, Chelan County Public Works, Cascade Quality Water, Starbuck's and other community volunteers. Visit the Kids in the Creek website, [www.kidsinthecreek.com](http://www.kidsinthecreek.com), to view videos of each of the stations and find all the materials we use for the program.

*"I have been fortunate to have participated in the Kids in the Creek program for 25 years. During this time I have seen the great inspirational benefit students gain from meeting local natural resource scientists. This is the best field biology experience ever!"* – Joyce Block, Wenatchee High School science teacher.

For more info contact Amanda Newell with Cascadia Conservation District, at (509) 436-1601 or [amandal@cascadiacd.org](mailto:amandal@cascadiacd.org).

### FAREWELL HAL

Cascadia's Board of Supervisors Vice Chair, Hal

Hawley, has stepped down. Hal served from 2006 to 2018. His Master's Degree in Earth Science from Cornell served him well in overseeing many natural resource restoration projects, especially on the Entiat River. Hal is now enjoying his life-long interest as an avid reader. Thank you so much for your 12 years of service Hal, and we wish you all the best!



### WELCOME RITA

Rita and her family moved to Wenatchee from Alaska in 2016 to be closer to extended family and to enjoy the four seasons and outdoor activities of this

area. She is Corporate Counsel for Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, where she focuses on commercial transactions and regulatory compliance. As an attorney, Rita has advised agricultural industry clients, a fortune 50 oil and gas company, and the State of Alaska's natural resource agencies. She spent two years on Sakhalin Island in the Russian Far East providing legal support for oil and gas development projects. Rita has a strong interest in responsible development and resource conservation. She believes in reducing consumption and in recycling and reusing existing resources, including the difference each of us can make by composting organic waste. Since moving to Wenatchee, she has developed an interest in sustainable farming practices and water use.



## OUR INVALUABLE VOLUNTEERS

Cascadia Conservation District relies on our volunteers for the continued success of a number of our programs. Efforts such as Native Planting 101, the Native Plant Sale, and Kids in the Creek are only successful with the time and effort contributed by all our amazing volunteers and partners. We would like to recognize all of the people who have helped to make a difference by volunteering with Cascadia Conservation District this year.

We would like to make a special acknowledgment for our first Volunteer of the Year, Ash Kunz. Ash has assisted with a number of different programs this year, including our after school extended learning as well as our Kids in the Creek field days at the Entiat National Fish Hatchery. Ash has been invaluable to these programs, helping wherever she can and bringing a positive attitude and a wealth of knowledge to each and every event. Her background in environmental education shines through whether she is helping students identify macro invertebrates at Kids in the Creek or exploring the all the wonders of soils with elementary students in our after school program. Thank you Ash, for all that you do and your extraordinary volunteerism with Cascadia Conservation District!



Volunteer of the Year, Ash Kunz, at Kids in the Creek and later showing off her Cascadia mug

Our most recent volunteer event was on July 11 when our AmeriCorps member, Justine Bula, coordinated a service project at the Entiat National Fish Hatchery where 16 of our incredible volunteers helped with trail maintenance on over 4.5 acres.

"I was so impressed by the positive attitudes and work ethic that every single one of our volunteers had. We were able to get so much more done than I could have hoped for," said Bula

### Volunteer with Cascadia!

If you share our interest in good stewardship of natural resources, please consider becoming a Cascadia Conservation District volunteer. Your unique experience and talents can be put to good use through volunteer opportunities, while providing you with the opportunity to give back to your local community and do your part for the environment. We have a broad range of volunteer options throughout the year from environmental education programs to planting projects, restoration site maintenance, stream cleanups, and more! Visit [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org) to join our volunteer list and be automatically notified as opportunities arise.



Entiat Hatchery volunteer crew

## MORE KIDS IN THE FOREST

Cascadia was selected as a recipient of the Next Generation Science Standards and Climate Science Education Community Based Organization Grant for 2018-2019 to implement our Kids in the Forest program. The Kids in the Forest program (*also called Forest Classroom*) effort began about three years ago with the Wildfires & Us project.

“We all diligently developed Wildfires & Us in its various forms: exhibit, student field experience and Regional Summit. Many great things have come about from these efforts and now Wenatchee School District is adopting the Forest Classroom experience as its standard 6th grade field experience. This means that every 6th grader in the Wenatchee School District will get to participate in the Forest Classroom (*Kids in the Forest*) experience. Over the last few years, a core crew of folks have been keeping this opportunity alive. This is huge news as far as sustainability for the program and validation of the impact. Huge thanks to Columbia Breaks, Cascadia Conservation District, Chelan Co. Fire District #1, City of Wenatchee, and Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce for always being willing to come play in the forest, shrub steppe, & Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) with kids! Keep your eyes & ears open for more great things to come! For example, we've been asked to present at the North Central Educational Service District's (NCESD) Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Summit in August.” said Wildfires & Us Coordinator Sara Rolfs.



Members of the Forest Classroom with students at Sage Hills  
Photo by: Sara Rolfs

Thanks to funds received from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Cascadia and partners will bring Kids in the Forest to Wenatchee and East Wenatchee middle student students in 2018/19. And now with the addition of the funding from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) we can expand the program to other areas of Chelan County and neighboring counties as well. Thank you funders for making this effort possible!

### BEAVER RELOCATION PROGRAM

*Contributed by Julia Pinnix, US Fish & Wildlife Service*

Trout Unlimited is trapping nuisance beaver and relocating them to national forest lands in the Wenatchee River drainage, with a stop at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery in the middle. Beavers bioengineer the landscape to capture snowmelt water that sustains streams throughout the summer, benefiting fish, wildlife, and downstream human communities. The project gives problem beavers a chance to help restore healthy ecosystems, and offers landowners a non-lethal trapping solution. This kind of project has been successful in other locations, including Yakima and Winthrop. Stop by the hatchery this summer to learn more and perhaps see a beaver.

For information or nuisance beaver assistance contact Cody Gillin, Trout Unlimited Project Manager, at (509) 888-0970 or [cody.gillin@tu.org](mailto:cody.gillin@tu.org).



Photos provided by  
US Fish & Wildlife Service



**CASCADIA**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

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Cascadia Conservation District has a blog:  
Please check it out at:

<http://ccdconservationconversation.blogspot.com/>



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## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

Aug 21<sup>st</sup> 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### Entiat River Habitat Subcommittee Meetings

Aug 16<sup>th</sup> USFS - Wenatchee Room 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Sept 20<sup>th</sup> USFS - Wenatchee Room 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Oct 18<sup>th</sup> USFS - Wenatchee Room 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meeting

Aug 1<sup>st</sup> Entiat Grange Hall 10:00am

### 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. The summit is scheduled from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Pateros School Gym. Stories from Pateros and others from Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas and Grant counties that contribute to the health of the greater region will be shared at the summit. To submit your 400-word success story contact IRIS Legacy Project Director Nancy Warner at [irisnew@gmail.com](mailto:irisnew@gmail.com) or 509-881-1812.

### Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Aug 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Team 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
CFNCW  
Sept 11<sup>th</sup> Implementation Team 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Sunnyslope Fire House  
Sept 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Team 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
CFNCW  
Sept 27<sup>th</sup> UCSRB Meeting - DCLTB 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Oct 10<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Team 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
CFNCW

### Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery

Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> Wenatchee River 10:00am – 5:00pm  
Salmon Fest  
Free Family Day

Details can be found at [www.salmonfest.org](http://www.salmonfest.org). Salmon Fest is one of the oldest natural resource festivals in the country. This award-winning event is and always has been free. Everyone is welcome! The event is held at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery. Parking is accessed from East Leavenworth Road.

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



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