

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

FALL 2019

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OVER \$200,000 FOR WATERSHED EDUCATION PROGRAMS AWARDED TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Article by Sara Rolfs of the Wildfire Project

The Wildfire Project and Cascadia Conservation District are thrilled to be the recipients of two wildfire education grants.

The Wildfire Project received notification this week that they are the awardees of a \$194,000 grant through the Department of Commerce. Senator Brad Hawkins initiated a budget proviso for the operating budget this past year, "to promote education about wildfires to public school students of all ages, and to expand community outreach." This is the second budget cycle in which Senator Hawkins has initiated funding for expanding wildfire education.

"I could not be more proud of The Wildfire Project team and the many supporters who have engaged in this important community conversation. This continued funding is a positive affirmation that our state values the incredible work that was started right here following our tragic wildfires," Hawkins commented when he reached out to TWP staff to congratulate them.



Dave Spies of Columbia Breaks leads students on a forest ecology hike along the Clara Lake Trail



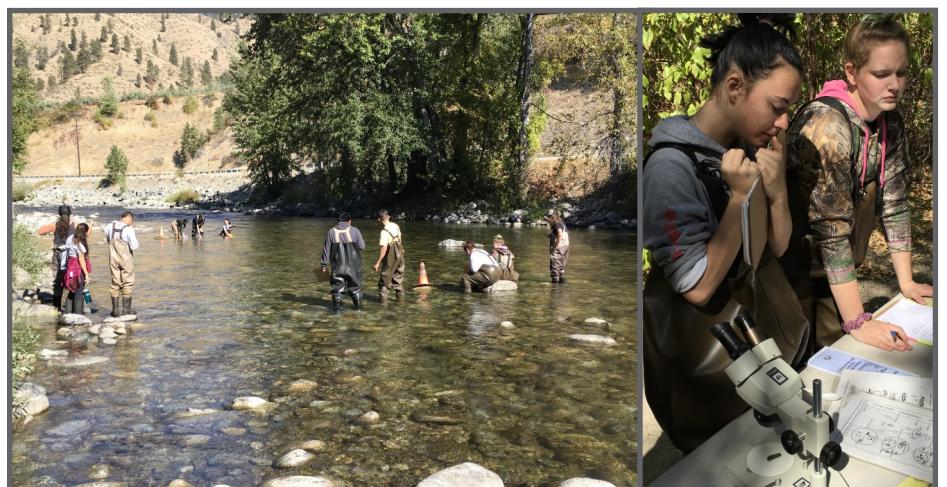
Patrick Haggerty of Cascadia CD teaches students about the Fire Triangle

"While The Wildfire Project continues to educate communities throughout our entire nation, we embrace the opportunity to affect real change by reaching more Washington communities. Educating our youth, through the Kids in the Forest field experience in particular, is how we will affect sustainable change," notes Sara Rolfs, The Wildfire Project Coordinator.

Cascadia Conservation District also received notice that they have been awarded a No Child Left Inside grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the State of Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office to support their Kids in the Creek and the Kids in the Forest partner projects.

"These funds will serve thousands of students in North Central Washington over the next two years. Hands-on outdoor education programs like this connect our students to the natural world as well as to local professionals and experts in natural resource management. Through these programs we hope to inspire the next generation to appreciate and care for their local and global environment," said Amanda Newell, Education & Outreach Specialist for Cascadia Conservation District.

Continued on page 2...



Students collect macroinvertebrates with D-rings and kick nets, then use microscopes and species keys to identify and analyze them at Kids in the Creek

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WATERSHED EDUCATION PROGRAMS CONT.

The Kids in the Forest Project is a collaborative effort that engages a number of local Community Based Organizations: Cascadia Conservation District, Chelan County Fire District #1, Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, The Wildfire Project, Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Wenatchee Art Education Consortium, North Central Regional Library, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, Forest Ridge Wildfire Coalition, Mission Ridge, Dept of Natural Resources, US Forest Service, and US Bureau of Land Management.

Wenatchee School District has adopted Kids in the Forest as the standard 6th Grade Science Field Experience. This means every 6th grader receives both classroom instruction and a field experience to deepen understanding of the concepts delivered in the classroom. Field experiences are held at Mission Ridge, at Tall Timber Ranch during 6th grade camp, and in the Wenatchee Foothills.

Learn more about the Kids in the Creek program, also supported by Washington’s Recreation and Conservation Office’s (RCO) No Child Left Inside funding, in the next article.



Students learn about nature journaling and plant rubbing during Kids in the Forest

KIDS IN THE CREEK: CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH NATURE AND CAREER EXPLORATION

Since 1993, the Kids in the Creek (KitC) program has annually hosted about 300 students from Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan county public, private and alternative high schools. KitC is held each fall at the Entiat National Fish Hatchery. The program connects students with aquatic and riparian ecosystems for an understanding of watersheds and the critical role of human land management activities. The program also connects students with natural resource professionals and the tools they use in their careers. It is a great opportunity to learn about a career in natural resources.

Students rotate through six education stations to learn about water quality, riparian zones, water flow and hydrology, fish habitat, macroinvertebrates, and fish health. Details for each of these stations can be found at www.kidsinthecreek.com.



Students learn about non-point source pollution and test Entiat River water for PH, dissolved oxygen and turbidity at the Water Quality station

“The health of a fish is important not just to the fish itself but also the environment around it.” said Alyssa Robitaille of Wenatchee High School. *“Fish health allows scientists to take a look at what a fish has gone through—whether the habitat it lives in or has traveled through was healthy or not...or if the fish had been in any danger.”*

KitC is a cooperative collaboration run by a Core Planning Team with representatives from Cascadia Conservation District, US Fish and Wildlife Service, City of Wenatchee, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, and Chelan County Natural Resources Department. The event is organized and implemented by Cascadia Conservation District and US Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to this Core Planning Team, partner organizations provide resource professionals to teach at the stations. Additional partners include: AmeriCorps, WA Department of Fish & Wildlife, Team Naturaliza, Trout Unlimited, Foster Creek Conservation District, US Forest Service, and US Bureau of Reclamation.

“From Habitat Sense, to invertebrates, I got to experience many interesting activities and experiments that showed me just how much humans are affecting the Columbia River and all its inhabitants,” said Lucia Musacchi of Wenatchee High School.

The 2019 field days were supported by Washington’s Recreation and Conservation Office’s (RCO) No Child Left Inside funding and South Douglas Conservation District. To learn more visit www.cascadiacd.org or contact co-coordinator Amanda Newell at amandal@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.



Students at the Fish Health station analyze different habitat conditions and make predictions for which one is easiest for a predator to catch a fish. Then they become the predator and test their theories

NASON RIDGE TO BECOME A COMMUNITY FOREST

From Chelan County Natural Resources Department

Nason Ridge provides the forested backdrop to Lake Wenatchee, and is highly valued by both the local community and visitors to the region for benefits of wildlife habitat, economic stability for local businesses, ecologic and aquatic processes, and year-round recreation. Rather than logging off all value on the property, Weyerhaeuser agreed to sell the parcels to whomever could come up with the money to purchase. The local community rallied around the fundraising effort to save Nason Ridge from industry logging, and raised over 1 million dollars toward the purchase goal. Western Rivers Conservancy stepped in and purchased the land from Weherhauser to hold in conservation until a permanent solution was found. Chelan County, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, and Western Rivers Conservancy are now in the process of pitching Nason Ridge as a Community Forest to the State Legislature for consideration for state funding to complete the purchase.



Ariel view of Nason Ridge. Photo by Tara Gregg, TaraFirma Design

With financial backing from the State Recreation and Conservation Office and guidance from a Community Forest Advisory Committee, a Community Forest Management Plan is being put together in time for the 2020 Legislative Session. Chelan County has also secured 1.25 million is Salmon Recovery Funding to go toward the purchase. A community meeting for Nason Ridge Community Forest is scheduled for Nov 16 at Lake Wenatchee Rec Club. For additional info visit: <https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/nason-ridge> or contact Erin McKay at Erin.McKay@CO.CHELAN.WA.US.



WE NEED YOU...

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

Cascadia Conservation District is self-governed by a Board of Supervisors who work to establish priorities, set policy and direct the work of Cascadia staff. Registered voters residing in Chelan County who are interested in guiding local conservation efforts are encouraged to run for office. Board members are unpaid volunteers who serve a three-year term and must be available to attend monthly meetings.

To announce your candidacy:

1. Obtain an information form and nominating petition by calling our office: (509) 436-1601 or visiting our website: www.cascadiacd.org.
2. Collect signatures from at least 25 registered voters in the District.
3. Submit completed information form by **December 18, 2019**. Include the nominating petition to get your name printed on the ballot.

...AND TO VOTE !

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

Registered voters within Chelan County are eligible to vote. The election will likely be held during the annual WSU Fruit Days conference on **January 28, 2020** in the lobby of the Wenatchee Convention Center from 8:30 am to 2 pm.

Watch our website for official dates and announcements. Please call Nada at (509) 436-1601 with election questions.

DRONES WILL SOON BE A TOOL FOR ADVANCING SALMON CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Article by Kalie Drago of News Radio 560 KPQ

Nothing fishy about a drone lingering near certain areas of the upper valley, it's only an element of salmon conservation efforts.

Starting in September, a drone will soon be hovering over three areas of the Upper Wenatchee River watershed. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington State University are embarking on a research project to utilize drone technology as a tool for advancing summer Chinook salmon conservation efforts. The emergence of drones could provide more accurate and efficient tracking results.

"In the Wenatchee river, we have a run of summer Chinook salmon that spawns from about September into November. During that season, there's hundreds and thousands of fish on the spawning ground," said McLain Johnson, from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife fish program. "As part of a monitoring effort to see how many fish we have in the river, how well our hatcheries are doing, how well our fish are as far as conditions and how their behavior is doing – We try to count as many of those spawning fish as we can."

A drone will identify and inventory salmon spawning nests (i.e. redds) with high resolution graphics in proximity to Lake Wenatchee, Tumwater Campground and Blackbird Island. Calculating the redd abundance will provide researchers the ability to evaluate the status and trend of adult salmon populations in these areas.

"A redd count can help you derive all the metrics that we need to evaluate how healthy a population is, how many are in the population, and help us predict in the future how many fish we might have," said Johnson.

The drone activity is supposed to go through November and will be biweekly for an hour, scheduled for early morning. A majority of the surveys will be on public land. Flying over private land will be avoided when possible and images and videos will be solely of the river, not surrounding areas.

12 MONTHS OF NATURE

Thank you to all the wonderful photographers who made our 2019 photo contest another big success, and congratulations to the photographers of the twelve winning photos!

The twelve winning photos, two per each of the six categories, are listed to the right. Please visit our Facebook page (link at www.cascadiacd.org) to see them all.

The 2020 Chelan County Clean Water Campaign stewardship calendar featuring the winning photos will be out in mid to late November.

Visit Cascadia's office at 14 N Mission St in Wenatchee to get your calendar!



Agriculture:

"Backlit Bee Birdbath Reflection" by Karen Eadie
"Orchard Mason Bee Covered with Pollen" by Karen Eadie (above)

Landscape:

"Cozy Christmastime Sunrise" by Ryan Legallet
"Cashmere's Own Tuscany" by Doug Compau

Plants:

"Mushroom Slug" by Janice Coquillatd
"Deep Freeze" by Sarah Frazier

Recreation:

"Happy Place #24" by John Barnes
"Oh What a Conversation Within" by John Barnes

Water:

"Lake Wenatchee Sunset" by Mark Trefry (to the left)
"Smooth Sailing" by Eva Barron

Wildlife:

"Downward Flight" by Sarah Frazier (to the left)
"Ground Squirrel Greeting" by Karen Eadie



Photo credit: 123rf.com (and KPQ)

CASCADIA WILL NOT HOST A NATIVE PLANT SALE THIS YEAR

Landowners looking to do large scale restoration with bare root stock can order directly from the **WA Association of Conservation Districts Plant Materials Center** in Bow, WA. Visit: www.wacdpmc.org or call (360) 757-1094.

For landowners looking for smaller quantities we recommend visiting a native plant nursery that specializes in Eastern WA plants. Here's a few options to get you started: **Derby Canyon Natives:** derbycannyonnatives.com or (509) 548-9404, **Deeproots Landscaping & Nursery, Inc.:** www.deeprootslandscapes.com or (509) 782-2639, **Plants of the Wild:** www.plantsofthewild.com or (509) 284-2848, **South Douglas Conservation District:** www.southdouglascd.com or (509) 745-9160, and **Wildlands, Inc.:** www.wildlandsnursery.com or (509) 588-4328.



PREPARE FOR POST FIRE FLOODING

With our dry weather and sunny climate most of us don't think we are at risk of flooding in Chelan County; however, flooding is a serious concern for residents in, adjacent to or downstream of an area burned by wildfire. Wildfires significantly impact the landscape of areas in Chelan County and increase the risk of flooding and mud flows to lands downstream of burned areas.

Until vegetation in these areas recovers, little can be done to prevent excess water, debris, and mud flows from coming down and causing potential damage to areas downstream. Residents with any watercourse, natural or manmade, are also at risk. However, knowing the risks to your property and taking preventative measures can help prepare you and your family for potential damage.

Preparation...

- Inspect & maintain watercourses
- Do not place debris, fences, or yard waste in a watercourse
- Do not allow livestock in watercourses
- Do not build structures on or near watercourses
- Remove vegetation and noxious weeds from watercourses
- Dispose of refuse in designated areas only
- Secure loose items around your property



Photo by Chelan Co Sheriff's Office

Flood Survival Tips...

- You may only have seconds to escape so be prepared to move quickly
- Stay on higher ground and away from watercourses and flood water
- Stay away from downed power lines
- Do not return home until it has been declared safe
- Be aware of displaced wild animals and pets

Contact Cascadia CD for information on additional resources for post-fire flooding: info@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.

BECOME A FRIEND OF NORTHWEST HATCHERIES!

Friends of Northwest Hatcheries (FNWH) is a non-profit, volunteer organization that supports natural resource stewardship and education. When you become a member or donate to FNWH, you're helping to provide valuable educational hands-on experiences for (oftentimes under-served) youth around the Northwest.

Become a Friends member here: www.friendsofnwhatcheries.org/become-a-member/. For questions please contact: info@friendsofnwhatcheries.org.

YOU'RE INVITED! To the FNWH Annual Meeting November 12 from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery. Come meet our current board and enjoy potluck, presentations, inspiration & board elections.



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Staff Members

Mark Amara, *Archaeologist*
MarySutton Carruthers, *Resource Specialist II*
Mike Cushman, *Program Director*
Peggy Entzel, *District Administrator*
Patrick Haggerty, *Forestry Program Manager*
Valerie Hampton, *Administrative Assistant*
Kim Lancaster, *Archaeologist*
Sandy Letzing, *Resource Specialist II*
Bonnie Meaux, *Resource Technician*
Ken Muir, *Project Coordinator II*
Amanda Newell, *Education & Outreach*
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Please Remember to Recycle



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

Nov 21 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee 3:30 pm
Dec 19 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee 3:30 pm
Jan 23 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee 3:30 pm

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meeting

Nov 6 Entiat Grange Hall 10:00 am

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Annual Celebration Dinner

Nov 1 Leavenworth Festhalle 6:00-9:00 pm

Enjoy good food & drink, meet others interested in conservation, and get an update on our valley. For more info call CDLT at 509-667-9708.

Wenatchee River Institute (wenatcheeriverinstitute.org)

Nov 5, 12, 19, 26 Speaker Series, Wildlife @ Milepost 111 6:00-8:00 pm

Cont. Rachel Bishop: bishop@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org

Nov 7 Adventures in Storytelling at Red Barn 7:00-8:30 pm

Contact Carolyn Griffin-Bugert: executive_director@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org

Nov 14 Outdoor Repair Café at WRI - 347 Division St 6:30-8:30 pm

Cont. Rachel Bishop: bishop@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org

Dec 4 Cascades Wolverine Project at WRI - 347 Division St 7:00-8:30 pm

Contact Rebecca Ryan: rryan@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org

Dec 13 Winter Wreath Class at WRI - 347 Division St 9:30-11:30 am & 12:30-2:30 pm

Cont. Rachel Bishop: bishop@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Jan 22-23 UC Science Conference at Wenatchee Convention Center 8:00-5:00 pm

Contact Barb Carrillo: barb.carrillo@ucsr.org

BEAVER RELOCATION PROGRAM

Trout Unlimited is trapping nuisance beaver and relocating them to National Forest lands, with a stop over at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery along the way. The project gives problem beavers a chance to improve ecosystems and offers landowners a non-lethal removal option.

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



Photo: US Fish & Wildlife Service