

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2021

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RURAL COMMUNITIES AND WILDFIRE RISKS

By Barbara Carrillo, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition

Rural and Remote Communities Face Unique Challenges when it comes to Wildfire Risks

Fire kills just as swiftly in the country as in the city. However, firefighting in rural and remote areas is much different than in urban or suburban areas.

According to Kelly O'Brien, Fire Chief of Chelan County Fire District #3, rural community firefighting challenges can include a variety of issues, including access to remote locations with longer travel distances, resulting in increased response times that result in longer burn times.

Factors that increase risk:

- Driveways can play a part in making it more difficult to manage access due to steepness, narrow roadways or lack of safe turnaround space.
- The need to hand pull a fire hose to a burning structure in a remote area, as well as lack of access to water, are additional challenges.
- Fire districts may need to respond with water tenders in rural or remote areas where fire hydrants are not available. The amount of water they can deliver is limited and Incident Commanders must make allowances for tenders to refill at hydrants, sometimes miles away.
- In the summer months, keeping fires small initially is critical to reducing a fire's ultimate footprint.
- When communities are sparsely populated, rural fire departments may struggle to staff fires. Finding and retaining qualified volunteers is a challenge in rural fire districts. These and other issues in rural areas can cause unique firefighting problems.



Photo credit: www.barrietoday.com

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A WILDFIRE?

- When firefighters have longer response and travel times in rural areas, with a need to establish a positive water supply, it can result in fast-spreading fires involving relatively large buildings such as ranches, farmhouses or barns.
- For rural residents, heat sources like wood stoves, damaged electrical equipment in barns and other structures, or lack of working smoke alarms can increase the risk of catastrophic loss or death in a fire.
- Additionally, rural homes or structures heated by propane have storage tanks that can create hazardous leaking conditions during a fire.
- Other issues such as drug lab operations are now much more of a problem in rural areas, causing unique firefighting complications like the presence

Continued on page 2...

FREE Chipping Program

from Cascadia CD and WA Dept of Natural Resources

Registration for the fall program is open!

Register by Sept 30 here: <https://bit.ly/2NpALJP>

Or via the link at www.cascadiacd.org and on Facebook.

Questions? Contact Amanda Newell at amandan@cascadiacd.org.



Interested in fuels reduction work and cost share opportunities on your property or in your community?

Contact Katie Zander with the WA Department of Natural Resources at katie.zander@dnr.wa.gov to learn about available programs.



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Rural Communities and Wildfire cont.

of ammonia transport tanks that can catch on fire. Drug lab fires also require additional coordination with law enforcement.

Dave Nalle, Deputy Chief of Chelan County Fire District #3, had the following to say about rural fires and their threat to our local communities:

“The populations east of the Cascade crest are often visited by wildfires. Annually in Chelan County we have wildfires big and small that threaten our homes. Our Leavenworth City leaders recognize we live in a fire prone area and they have the best interest of safeguarding life and property of residents and visitors to Leavenworth. Leavenworth City Council has passed a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code. The intent of the WUI Code is for new construction to withstand the intrusion of wildfire exposure even in the absence of fire department intervention. The WUI Code, defensible space, adequate water supplies and good planning are all part of a system for guarding our homes from Wildfire.”

Fire rates in rural communities are high:

In 2019, the smallest communities (populations less than 2,500) had the highest fire incident rates with 10.2 fires per thousand residents in the US. On the other hand, populations with over 250,000 people had the lowest rate with 2.6 fires per thousand residents (<https://www.statista.com>).

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE YOUR RISK?

Loss of property or livestock on ranches and farms can have an extreme impact on residents in rural areas. A wildfire can significantly disrupt a family farming operation, both during and after a fire event. Being prepared for wildfire on your rural property or farm can limit the disruption to your family and prevent death to farm animals.

Before the Fire: Clearing brush or debris from your ranch, farm or landscape on an annual basis, storing equipment in safe locations, storing or isolating highly flammable and combustible materials, keeping up-to-date records, installing smoke alarms and fire extinguishers, protecting hay or forage supplies, and avoiding burning on days with higher fire danger are just some of the ways to protect your land, buildings or farm from wildfire. Livestock refuge areas should be maintained upwind to minimize the effects of smoke. Additionally, compile a list of phone numbers of contacts who have livestock handling experience that can help in an emergency.

During the Fire: Move equipment, assist with water access for firefighting crews, build fire breaks and move livestock. Identify a safe, secure refuge area in the event you need to move your livestock quickly, with clear routes to the refuge area, including having gates open in the direction livestock need to travel.

After the Fire: Contact your insurance agent for land or farm related losses, take pictures and document damage to structures, equipment, and crops, and be careful when moving damaged structures or burned hay as they could smolder for days or weeks. Additionally, you can determine eligibility for federal assistance due to fire on your rural property at www.fsa.usda.gov.

You can also get a free Wildfire Ready Plan and schedule a consultation with a local wildfire expert at wildfireready.com or call 1-877-WA-READY.

Additional resources can be found at:
Before the Fire - [CWSC \(chumstickcoalition.org\)](http://CWSC.org), wildfireready.com, firewise.org, nfa.org/farms, and cascadiacd.org.



Chelan County Clean Water Campaign

PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline to submit is Oct 1.

Submit your photo(s) at:
www.cascadiacd.org



Honeybee on Thistle
 by Karen Eadie

WELCOME BACK KURT!



Kurt Hosman has returned to the Cascadia team as a Board Supervisor.

As a central Washington native, lifelong resident, and former conservation worker, Kurt supports Cascadia’s efforts to provide environmental education, and to actively preserve and enhance our local natural resources in a non-regulatory role.

When the chance arose to apply for a one-year interim position as a supervisor, Kurt thought it would be a good opportunity to help that mission.

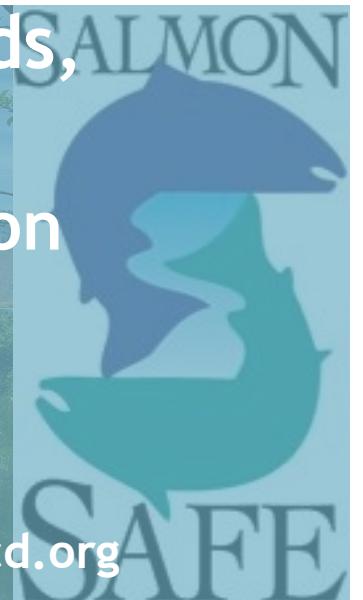
Farms, Vineyards, and Cideries:

Want to be Salmon Safe Certified?

We offer grant-funded:

- Technical Assistance
- Implementation Cost-Share
- Certification Fee Coverage

Learn more at cascadiacd.org



FAREWELL MARYSUTTON



After four years with Cascadia, MarySutton Carruthers is moving on, to Greece!

During her time on the team she facilitated the Entiat Planning Unit, secured grant funding for the Fire Resilience and Fuel Break partnership with NRCS, DNR & Chelan PUD, worked with local producers to get them Salmon Safe certified, and assisted with the Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project.

Thank you for all your hard work MarySutton and best wishes on your new adventures!

FUN IN THE SUN: ONE PLANET CLUB CAMP A SUCCESS

Written by Kirk Beckendorf, Cascadia CD

Fourth and fifth grade students from Newbery and Mission View Elementary Schools explored the Wenatchee River watershed this summer. As part of the Cascadia One Planet Club education program, students traveled up and down the watershed on 8 days, investigating the area through the lenses of **Family, Farms, Fish, Forest and Fun.**

Starting near the top of the watershed on the banks of the White River, they made a model of the watershed, searched for macro-invertebrates and investigated the surrounding forest.



**Fun on
the Farm**

The group was hosted by Snowgrass Farms on the Little Chumstick and the McManus Family Fruit orchard in Cashmere. The students planted pumpkins, mulched trees and participated in scavenger hunts. At Redtail Canyon Farm in the Chumstick Creek drainage, students used tools to dig a fire line following guidance from Leavenworth firefighters. They toured a prescribed burn and investigated wildfire behavior.

At the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, students observed beavers and saw Icicle Creek, which is where the water comes from to irrigate the pumpkins that they planted in Cashmere. Prior to lunch they had a friendly contest to see who could set up and take down a tent the fastest. At Riverside Park in Cashmere the students measured water quality, observed salmon fry, learned about the destructiveness of recreational dams and created stewardship videos.



**Water
Quality
Sampling**

Later, students went back to the upper watershed to explore the beginning of the Wenatchee River at Lake Wenatchee. At the state park they had a fun time in the water and had a contest to see who could start a campfire the fastest and then properly extinguish the fire.

On the final day, students went to the very bottom of the watershed where they had a cookout and more fun in the water at Confluence State Park.

Staff from Cascade Fisheries, Wenatchee School District's 21st CCLC After School Program and Cascadia led the program, which was funded by a grant from the North American Association of Environmental Education and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. HAL HAWLEY

Adapted from his obituary in The Wenatchee World



Photo from The Wenatchee World

Dr. Hal Hawley, a nationally distinguished principal, passed away on June 26, 2021, in the Central Washington Hospital in Wenatchee, WA. He was surrounded by his loving wife and family, and passed peacefully from the complications of diabetes and heart disease.

He attended Entiat schools, graduating in 1963, and attending Wenatchee Valley college. He married his sweetheart, Kathy Woods Hawley, in 1966, and they had three daughters, while moving cross country twice and completing advanced degrees. After graduating with a Bachelors in Education from Washington State University, Dr. Hawley completed a Master's in one year at the Ivy League Institution, Cornell University, in Ithaca, NY.

He returned to the west, settled in Montana, and successfully defended a Doctorate in Education at University of Montana in Missoula, MT. He went on to highly acclaimed work in the Office of Public Instruction in Montana, and as a Principal and Superintendent of public schools in Montana. He wrote state grants, served as a field representative for STAR school sites, and received the Distinguished Service award from the executive board of Montana, in the spring of 1996. He starred in community plays and entertained audiences with his guitar and vocal stylings.

When he retired from public education, his career turned to public speaking, where he became a highly respected lecturer for the Cantor Institute. In his retirement, he traveled the world with his wife, Kathy. He served on the Entiat Valley Landowners Steering Group, earned a 25-year pin as member of Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, and received the Wall of Excellence Award from Entiat High School, as a successful model past graduate.

Cascadia will always remember Hal fondly for serving as a Member on our Board of Supervisors from March 2006 to May of 2018 and as an Associate from March 2020 to June 2021. He was also appreciated for his calm demeanor, thoughtful contributions, and focus on the positive.

Hal will be greatly missed!

WELCOME ABOARD SOPHIE!



Cascadia is pleased to welcome Sophie Kandul to the team as our Resource Technician through October.

Sophie grew up hiking, camping, and swimming with her family in Louisville, KY. While studying Ecology and Biodiversity at Sewanee in Tennessee, she grew fond of working outdoors and knew she wanted to move out west.

Fresh off her year in AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), Sophie's primary role with Cascadia will be maintaining and monitoring our

recently completed riparian restoration projects. She is also excited for any other work she can assist with to benefit our natural world!

KIDS CORNER: SHRUB STEPPE SCAVENGER HUNT

From Washington Native Plant Society and Team Naturaleza

Grab a pencil and a family member or friend and see how many of these native plants you can find! Try a visit to one of our local, state, or federal parks, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust land, or Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center to get started!

How many
can YOU
find?
**NATIVE
PLANTS**
of the Shrub-Steppe



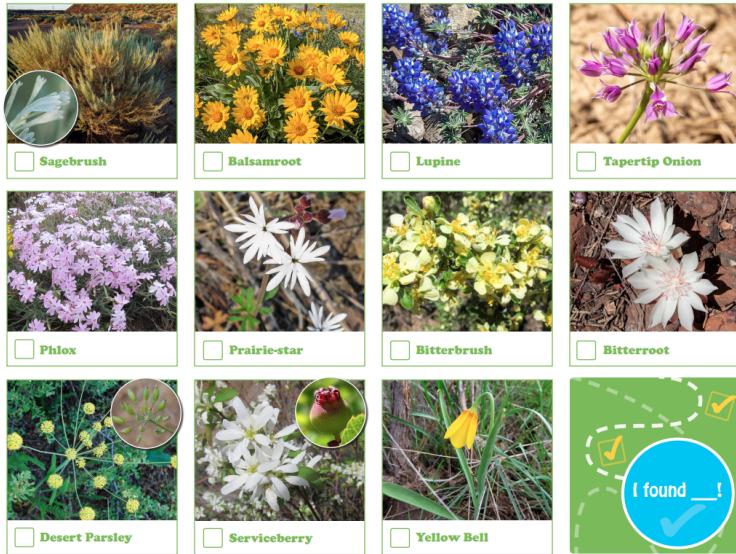
Washington Native Plant Society

En Español

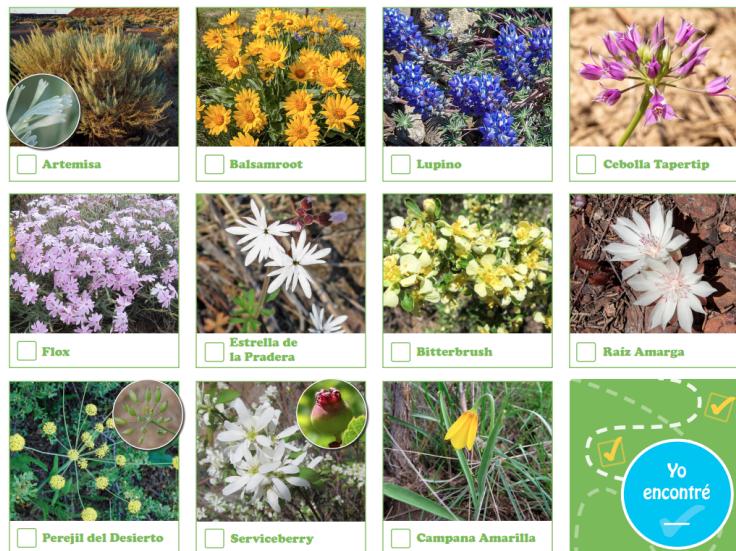
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**PLANTAS
NATIVAS**
en la Estepa Arbustiva



Washington Native Plant Society Team Naturaleza



Photography credits: Lavastem by Susan Ballinger; Sagebrush by Alaskan Botany/Chatterbox Landscapes and Jill Richardson/Chatterbox Media; All others by Mary Inghs



Creditos fotograficos: Perejil del desierto de Susan Ballinger; Artemisa de Alaskan Botany/Chatterbox Landscapes y Jill Richardson / Chatterbox Media; Todo lo demás por Mary Inghs

Ready to learn more? Check out our virtual education materials at kidsinthecreek.com and cascadiacd.org/kids-in-the-forest_368.html

Thank you to the WA Recreation & Conservation Office for the \$75,000 grant through No Child Left Inside to fund the next two years of Kids in the Creek and Kids in the Forest!



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Kirk Beckendorf, *Environmental Educator*
Kathleen Deason, *Administrative Assistant*
Patrick Haggerty, *Forestry Program Manager*
Valerie Hampton, *Financial Coordinator*
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This newsletter is funded in part by grants from the Washington State Conservation Commission and other public and private granting entities.

Please Remember to Recycle



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings*

Aug 20 Call our office for details 1:30 - 4:00 pm
Sept 17 Call our office for details 1:30 - 4:00 pm
Oct 16 Call our office for details 1:30 - 4:00 pm

*Space is limited. Call-in or video conference options are available. Watch our website or call 509-436-1601 for updates.

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meeting

TBD Call our office for details 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Basecamp Cascadia

Run into the Wild: Three Day Trail Running Retreat for Women

Sept 24-26 To learn more and sign-up visit: <https://www.basecampcascadia.org/runintothewild>

Featuring Professional La Sportiva Trail Runner Maria Dalzot, Just Breathe Yoga, and Snowgrass Farms.

Chelan PUD

The Power Hour with Chelan PUD - Livestream & Podcast

Wednesdays Live on Facebook and YouTube At 12:00 pm

Energy-saving experts and community guests answer your questions on improving comfort at home while saving money, waterwise gardening, renewable energy, prepping your home for smoke season, electric vehicles, a sneak peek of the Rocky Reach Discovery Center, and more! Visit ChelanPUD.org/PowerHour

Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition

Eagle Creek and Little Chumstick Town Hall Meetings

Aug TBD For more info visit: chumstickcoalition.org/

Learn about work beginning on 100 acres with 20 participating landowners. Questions? Contact Info@ChumstickCoalition.org.

Friends of Northwest Hatcheries

A non-profit organization whose focus is to support natural resource stewardship and education. Explore their growing list of at home education resources at: www.friendsofnwhatcheries.org/

Salmon "On-Line" - Virtual Salmon Festival

Enjoy this special collection of virtual resources for this year: www.salmonfest.org/index.php/salmon-fest-on-line/ We look forward to a special 30th anniversary celebration in-person at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery in 2022!

Team Naturaleza

Hike for Health at Stormy Creek

Aug 14 Stormy Creek in Entiat 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Guided hike (English/Spanish) will be available, all participants will enter a raffle! Contact: teamnaturaleza.wa@gmail.com.

Hike for Health at Saddle Rock

Aug 28 Saddle Rock in Wenatchee 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Self-guided hike with markers and our raffle drawing. Contact: teamnaturaleza.wa@gmail.com.

Has your property been affected by recent wildfires?

Cascadia has staff trained in post-fire recovery who can do a free assessment of your property and provide recommendations regarding erosion control, seeding, flooding, noxious weeds and more. Our staff can also help you connect with financial assistance programs that may be available to farmers and landowners post-fire.

Contact us at (509) 436-1601 or patrickh@cascadiacd.org.