

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2019

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

MORE SUCCESS FOR KIDS IN THE FOREST

Thanks to a partnership between Cascadia CD, Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center, and the Wildfire Project, about 1,700 5th and 6th grade students from 10 local schools enjoyed time out in the forest learning about wildfire ecology! By the end of June, we had hosted 19 student field days of Kids in the Forest. This is such an incredible program, with so much vital knowledge and experience being shared.



Dave Spies of Columbia Breaks shows students a tree core sample and explains the importance of this technique for scientists in understanding and evaluating forest health

Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers & partners from Team Naturaleza, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, US Forest Service, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, Chelan County Fire District 1, US Army Corps of Engineers, WA Dept of Natural Resources, AmeriCorps, local artists and volunteers, as well as teachers and their school districts.



Patrick Haggerty of Cascadia CD explains the Fire Triangle to students

Thank you also to Mission Ridge for hosting this program on its beautiful trails, to Starbucks for donating coffee for our volunteers, and to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for funding this incredibly successful program!

For more information, visit our website:

<http://cascadiacd.org/>

TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

This spring Cascadia implemented several successful wildfire preparation programs to help our community become more resilient to wildfires.

Cascadia offers home fire risk assessments to help landowners determine their risk areas/vulnerabilities and offer tips on how to reduce those risks.

In May, as part of Wildfire Preparedness Month, we partnered with the City of Chelan and WA Dept. of Ecology for free yard waste disposal days at the Chelan Transfer Station. In all, 210 landowners invested nearly 900 hours, and brought in more than 525 yards of material to reduce fuels around their properties. Chelan Fire and Rescue and the US Forest Service were instrumental in advertising the event and providing volunteer time.

The last two weeks of May, Cascadia coordinated a roving chipper program funded by WA Dept of Natural Resources. Over 93 acres of private property were treated with 95 landowners.

We hope to host a fall chipping event this October. If funding allows, we will begin registration in August. Check online at www.cascadiacd.org or call (509) 436-1601

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS Protect your investment!

Fire season is here! 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 trimming lower tree limbs to limit ladder fuels

Learn more at Firewise.org or by contacting your local fire department.

The best offense...



...is a good defense.

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Chelan County Clean Water Campaign

PHOTO CONTEST

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



Orange Flower
Savannah Meiners

LET THEM EAT KALE! SCHOOL GARDENS PROGRAM

Contributed by Sasha Vafaei, Cascadia's AmeriCorps Member



Smiling faces at the freshly mulched garden at Newbery Elementary

I'd like to take a moment to talk about something really incredible with you all. First, my name is Sasha Vafaei (try your best at the pronunciation), and I am currently serving a term with AmeriCorps at Cascadia Conservation District. My job, while rapidly coming to an end, is to enliven and sponsor a love and respect for the natural world to children of all ages (and some adults, too). I could go on and tell you more about what this experience has given me, but I would rather tell you about how I saw my role shape the next generation in such a powerful way.

To sum up, I have been lucky enough to bring educational lessons to children at schools and events that focus on watershed science and health, forest ecology and wildfire, and (my personal favorite) how to grow vegetables in a garden that is yours, and the wondrous magic of being able to eat something you have spent time and energy growing.

The After School Programs at Lewis & Clark, Newbery and Lincoln Elementary Schools have partnered with Cascadia and others to bring back life into sometimes long-abandoned school gardens this spring, with the help of the children, of course. Thanks to a team of dedicated individuals, we were able to reach close to 100 students this year.

Without a doubt, the program has shaped the lives of these students for the better. It won't be long until they can taste success.

Soon the full harvest will be underway, and we will be learning to make delicious recipes with our haul. Thankfully, these schools have summer programs, which means the children will be able to continue their loving garden work and reap the fruits of their labor.

If you are interested in being a part of this amazing program, we are always looking for volunteers! To help with the children's garden program, contact Cascadia Conservation District at (509) 436-1601.



Students at Lewis & Clark help plant vegetables in raised beds



Farmer Josh Peterson shows students at Lincoln Elementary how to stake tomatoes

WATERSHED EDUCATION: WHEAT WEEK AND WATER ON WHEELS

Contributed by Sasha Vafaei, Cascadia's AmeriCorps Member

Cascadia Conservation District had another hugely successful year bringing the Water on Wheels and Wheat Week environmental education programs to local elementary schools in Chelan County. I had the pleasure of teaching these highly informative and inspiring lessons to schools throughout Chelan County. After having brought these lessons to the schools, I truly believe we had a positive influence on how the next generation will think about and care for our planet, and their own individual health.

The program I taught most often, Water on Wheels, focuses on education about sources of pollution entering our watersheds and how the water cycle moves through phases on our planet. Through these lessons, I was able to teach children about not only water science, but about how we as a species have such a great impact on our water systems. It's important to recognize that our choices have consequences and that there are ways in which we can lessen the harmful effects of our actions. I was able to use these lessons to tie-in other related environmental concerns such as climate change, erosion, and sustainable agriculture. Having all these concepts interrelate gives a full picture of how everything on our planet is connected, and how large our role is in that connection.

In addition to teaching Water on Wheels, I had the opportunity to teach Wheat Week, a program which brings 5th grade students a full week of different science lessons, each unique from the next. In this program, ideas and concepts are introduced, such as DNA and heredity, soil composition and structure, plant physiology, nutrition, and agriculture practices. In addition, students are given wheat seeds and terrariums to watch them germinate and grow while conducting a classroom science experiment to determine the optimum amount of water needed for growth. All concepts in these lessons are tied together by looking at how they relate to wheat grown in Washington, one of our largest exports.



Mini watershed models show how pollution enters rivers and streams

Combined, these programs brought valuable science lessons to schools that are sometimes limited by time and resources from offering enrichment activities. Often, science is one of the first subjects curtailed when schools need to accommodate other curriculum requirements. Water on Wheels and Wheat Week help teachers meet science and other targets while incorporating real-life conservation concepts.

A big thank you to the Community Foundation of North Central WA for the funds to purchase the materials for the 2018/19 school year!



AmeriCorps educator Sasha Vafaei explains to students how to make a mini watershed model



Students discuss where they travelled as a water droplet in the Water Cycle Game

SALMON - SAFE PROGRAM OFFERS BENEFITS TO CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS

Cascadia is now providing free assistance to farmers in Chelan County to become Salmon-Safe certified. The Salmon-Safe certification recognizes farms that use water efficiently, practice integrated pest management, and protect stream habitat.

The Salmon-Safe ecolabel was created in the late 1990s to translate consumer concerns for salmon into support for farmers who do right by their natural resources and fish. The certification benefits fish and farmers, and it helps protect surface water. Farms that meet the peer-reviewed standards have their products recognized on the market as certified Salmon-Safe. This makes their natural resource stewardship easily visible to customers, restaurants, and grocery stores eager to support such efforts. Certified products can range from eggs to apples to hard-cider.

Locally, threatened and endangered bull trout, steelhead and Chinook salmon will benefit from the suite of environmental practices that Salmon-Safe farms are using to protect their habitat. Additionally, all residents benefit from clean surface water, which is used as a drinking water source in many areas.

If you are an interested consumer looking for the Salmon-Safe label on your product (wine, food, cider etc.) visit <https://salmonsafe.org/buy-salmon-safe/> for a list of certified producers.

If you have a local farm, orchard, vineyard, or cider operation and are interested in the benefits of becoming Salmon-Safe certified, contact MarySutton Carruthers at 509-436-1601 or marysuttonc@cascadiacd.org



WELCOME BONNIE!



Cascadia welcomes Bonnie Meaux to our team as a Resource Technician.

Bonnie is an Arkansas native who has found her home and passion for natural resource work in Washington.

Her career began by serving for two years in the Washington Conservation Corps on the Kitsap Peninsula. In 2015, she relocated to Wenatchee to fight wildland fires for four seasons out of the Entiat Ranger District. While it was a great experience, she decided to focus on family and community. She is thrilled to be able to do so with Cascadia Conservation District this summer. In her spare time Bonnie enjoys traveling, live music, and a variety of outdoor activities such as hiking and trail running.

SEVERE DROUGHT DECLARATION IN WASHINGTON'S WATERSHEDS

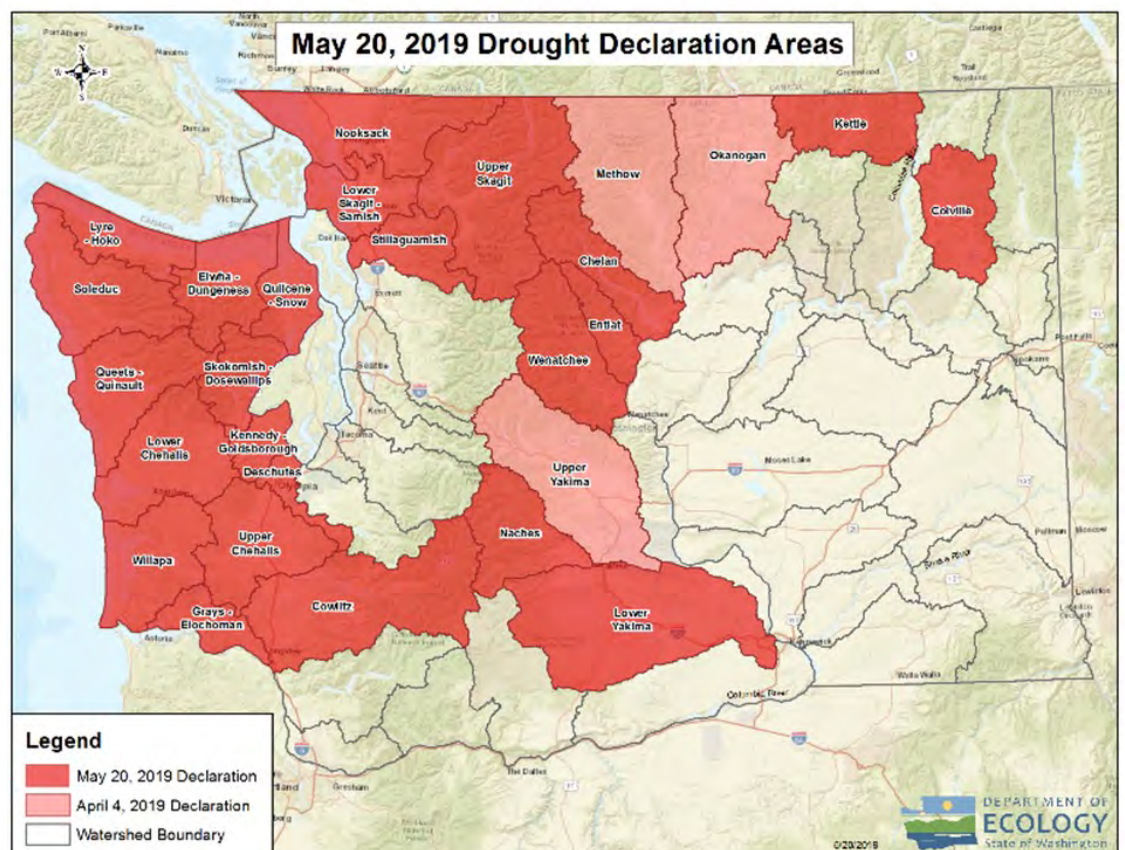
As of May, Governor Jay Inslee had declared a drought emergency for 27 of Washington State's watersheds, including our own Wenatchee, Entiat, and Chelan watersheds. In the Wenatchee watershed, this was due to low snowpack, which was 20 to 30 percent of average in May. The mountains didn't receive and maintain adequate snowpack to return usual water flow to rivers and water supplies. Statewide, snowpack is below 50 percent of the average for this time of year, according to the National Weather Service in Spokane.

Many are wondering what this means for farmers and private landowners in the county. The Department of Ecology wants to hear from you if the drought is causing any type of hardship. By filling out and submitting a drought report, you provide data that can be used to inform drought responses such as disaster relief and Internal Revenue Service tax provisions.

The severe drought declaration makes funding for drought assistance available to public agencies to ease hardships that may occur due to water restrictions. To submit a report, visit <https://droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport>.

To help conserve water: Use a leak-free high efficiency toilet, take short showers and turn off the water while shaving or brushing teeth, replace grass lawns with drought-friendly native plants, avoid over watering or develop an Irrigation Water Management Plan, and fix leaks - always and everywhere. View the Home Water Challenge video by Water Use it Wisely, <https://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/home-water-challenge/> and visit the drought information page on our website: <http://cascadiacd.org/>

If you have other questions, feel free to reach out to Cascadia Conservation District to see how we may help.



“CATCH THE SALMON FEST FEVER!” (2019 WENATCHEE RIVER SALMON FESTIVAL THEME)

The Wenatchee River Salmon Festival is held each year to celebrate the return of the salmon to our northwest rivers. The rivers that are home to the salmon also provide sustenance for birds, frogs, salamanders, foxes, deer, bugs, bears, and countless trees, bushes, and flowers. We depend on these same waters to provide electricity for our homes, irrigation for our crops, livelihoods for our fishermen, and a place for our families to play, picnic, camp and hike.



The 2019 Free Family Day is Saturday, September 21 from 10 am-5 pm.

Come see Cascadia Conservation District and partners hosting the Rolling Rivers watershed model along with many other fun activities and exhibits, plus live entertainment on the stage! See more info here: <https://www.salmonfest.org/>.

SUPPORT OUTDOOR EDUCATION:
JOIN THE FRIENDS OF NORTHWEST HATCHERIES!

One of the major supporters of Salmon Fest is the Friends of Northwest Hatcheries (FNWH). FNWH is a non-profit, volunteer organization whose focus is to support natural resource stewardship and education, in cooperation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hatcheries of the Northwest.

Through outreach programs, workshops, and seminars, the Friends group works to increase awareness of the relationships between people and the environment. You can help support programs and events like Salmon Fest by becoming a Friends member today! 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: <https://www.friendsofnwhatcheries.org/become-a-member/>. For questions please contact: info@friendsofnwhatcheries.org



BEAVER RELOCATION PROGRAM

From late April-September 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 Serv.



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*
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Please Remember to Recycle



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

Aug 13* 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee 3:30 pm
Sept 17 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee 3:30 pm
Oct 15 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee 3:30 pm

*Special District Meeting

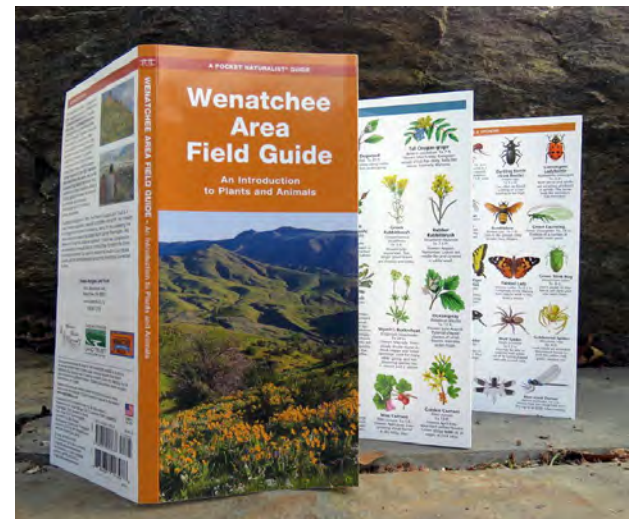
Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meeting

Nov 6 Entiat Grange Hall 10:00 am

Friends of Northwest Hatcheries – Leavenworth Unplugged

Social gatherings with new themes and activities each month! Friends of the NW Hatcheries is celebrating 25 years working with US Fish and Wildlife to EDUCATE, INSPIRE, and CONNECT people to conserve fish and wildlife for the future. Visit friendsofnwhatcheries.org

Aug 19 Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery 6:30-7:30 pm



The Wenatchee Area Field Guide

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust has a newly published brochure to guide identification of more than 100 locally common native plants and animals. This folding guide is lightweight, waterproof, and is available for purchase at the Greater Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce, Pybus Market, and at the downtown Wenatchee Arlberg Sports for \$8.95.

FAREWELL SASHA

AmeriCorps Member Sasha Vafaei is moving on. During her 10½ month term with Cascadia, Sasha worked on numerous projects, including: Water on Wheels, Wheat Week, Kids in the Creek, Native Plant Sale, Native Planting 101, Kids in the Forest, volunteer events for public land improvement, and more! Several of these programs would not have been possible without her.

Sasha plans to continue working in natural resources.

Thank you, Sasha! We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

