

# CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

WINTER 2019

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

## HIGHLIGHTING SUCCESS IN 2018

**Cascadia Conservation District participates in diverse projects and activities throughout the year. We have several different program areas, and in the next few pages have captured some of our 2018 accomplishments and successes in each program:**

### EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Education & Outreach is critical to the success of every program we participate in. Educational programming and outreach materials demonstrate how natural environments function, how our activities impact those environments and how we can best mitigate those impacts. The following are some highlights from our 2018 education and outreach efforts.

**After School Program:** Cascadia staff brought soil, water, and gardening education to Wenatchee elementary schools during the program.

**Chelan County Clean Water Campaign:** In 2018, the campaign hosted a river cleanup, conducted a photo contest, and produced a calendar with the winning photos. *Get your copy at our office - 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee.*

**Community Events:** Cascadia participates in many community events, hosting fun educational activities to teach kids how to be better stewards of



After School Program students prepped garden beds, planted seeds, tended the garden, and then enjoyed the fresh veggies they grew themselves

natural resources and sharing information about Cascadia programs. Some of these events include: area Earth Day fairs, Pybus Firewise Day and local Farmer's Markets.

**Conservation News Minutes:** These one minute video clips highlight our projects and programs. View on our website.

**District Newsletter:** Cascadia produces a quarterly newsletter

highlighting current projects, upcoming events, and general district news. Distribution: 36,000.

**District Website, Blog, and Facebook page:** Cascadia maintains these social media sites to keep district members, partners, and other stakeholders informed about our history, current programs, and upcoming events. See links to the blog and Facebook page on our website.



Students learn how to identify a tree's age, health, and historical events like fires, using a "tree cookie" as shown here

**Kids in the Creek:** This annual hands-on outdoor environmental education program gets high school science students out of the classroom and into the outdoors to learn how streams and watersheds work. In 2018, about 250 students from eight area high schools participated. For additional information and to view our video brochure visit: [www.kidsinthecreek.com](http://www.kidsinthecreek.com).

**Kids in the Forest:** Through this program, 5th-7th grade students get out of the classroom and into the woods to learn about forest health, ecology, and fire. About 1,330 students participated in 2018 between the spring and fall field days.

**Native Planting 101 Workshop:** In 2018, about 40 people participated.

**Water on Wheels & Wheat Week:** These hands-on interactive water and soil education programs are taught to kindergarten through 6th grade students. From November to December 2018, 107 students were reached. *Contact us at (509) 436-1601 to schedule your class!*

**Wenatchee River Salmon Festival:** Cascadia and our partners share the Rolling Rivers watershed model where students learn about and build a healthy salmon-friendly watershed. An annual favorite, the event hosted 7,500 people in 2018 and attracts schools from several counties. Learn more at <http://www.salmonfest.org/>.

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Visit [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org) for more information and an order form.



## LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

Managing natural resources and meeting regulatory requirements can be a daunting task. Cascadia offers a number of programs that are designed to help landowners navigate complex land management rules, minimize their impact on fish and wildlife populations, and ensure that their land remains healthy and productive for years to come.

Cascadia's cost share program is an incentive-based program that empowers landowners to voluntarily install best management practices (BMPs). BMPs advance progress toward resource objectives and work to improve water quality, habitat, and agricultural sustainability. These practices include fire fuels reduction, agriculture irrigation upgrades, noxious weed control and other actions.

In 2018, Cascadia Conservation District completed six cost share projects that worked to reduce forest fuel and irrigation water consumption. Five of the cost share projects focused on forest thinning and brush management to improve forest health and reduce the risk of wildfire, especially within the wildland-urban interface in Chelan County. In total, 28 acres of forest were treated, including 20 acres around Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center in Peshastin. The Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center, located just a quarter mile from the popular Alpine Wilderness hiking trailhead, faced a wake-up call during the 2014 Hansel Creek fire, which dangerously threatened the retreat site and surrounding properties. Since that time, fuels reduction efforts have quickly taken on more urgency. The Retreat Center founders and adjacent property owners Alan and Anna Waltar rallied the Ingalls Creek staff, the Department of Natural Resources, and scores of volunteers to get to work. The fuels reduction project received assistance from Cascadia's Cost-Share Program, and Ingalls Creek was able to complete the necessary thinning work around all 20 acres of the property in 2018.

*"Knowledgeable staff at Cascadia helped define the scope of the project, and spot-checked a few times to ensure the work met specifications. Everyone cheers the quality of the final product! The combination of volunteer help, along with hiring skilled professionals through cost-sharing worked out quite well, making this project both affordable and ensuring better care for the land."* -Doug Waltar, Executive Director of the Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center.

In addition, Cascadia worked on an irrigation project in Cashmere to install microsprinklers on nine acres of pear orchard, replacing the inefficient overhead impact sprinklers. Microsprinklers are installed under the tree canopy, and provide longer but lower application rates with less evaporation, runoff, and erosion. The new sprinklers conserve over 50% more water than their outdated counterparts while still maintaining healthy orchard trees. This can be especially important in years of drought when low flows can cause irrigation water restrictions, such as happened in 2015. If you are interested in these environmental and agricultural health cost share programs, please contact Sandy Letzing. We are accepting cost share applications for 2019-2020 funding until May of 2019.

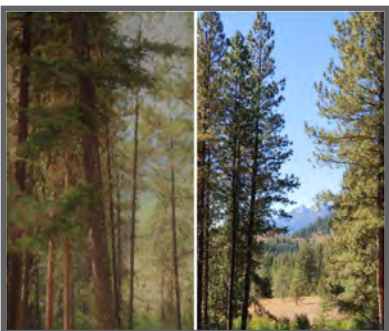


Resident enjoys Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center after fuels reduction treatment



Cascadia staff and project contractor on site inspecting project progress

## WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS



Before and after photos from a participant in our chipping program

Wildfire is a fact of life in North Central Washington. Although fire is important to natural ecosystems, the effect of wildfire on property, infrastructure, human life and the local economy can be devastating. It is important for residents of fire-prone areas to acknowledge the dangers around them and take appropriate actions to protect themselves and their community before a wildfire starts.

### Wildfire Preparedness accomplishments from 2018:

Cascadia continued to promote the Firewise Communities program. Firewise focuses on taking steps to be prepared for a wildfire by creating defensible space around homes and removing wildfire fuels from communities. Cascadia offered free wildfire risk assessments for residences and support for communities seeking national Firewise Communities/USA recognition. Cascadia continued to assist local communities with implementing Firewise practices and helped several more Chelan County communities work toward becoming recognized Firewise Communities.

Cascadia staff conducted 36 wildfire risk assessments on private homes in Chelan County. These free assessments were requested by landowners with an interest in taking a proactive approach to wildfire preparedness.

At the Chelan Transfer Station, Cascadia partnered with the Department of Ecology and the City of Chelan for free yard waste disposal days.

Cascadia partnered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to organize free chipping events for residents of Chelan County. Residents worked together to clear and stack piles of slash in preparation for the chipper crew. About 97 acres of forested land were treated on the properties of 169 landowners. This work will make these areas much less susceptible to damage from wildfire.

**Cascadia will offer a spring chipping program and will begin taking signups in early March. The chipping will take place in late May.**

**To participate please register by April 1 here:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCDchipping>. Contact Amanda Newell at [amandal@cascadiacd.org](mailto:amandal@cascadiacd.org) or (509) 436-1601 for additional information.**



These chipping programs are designed to treat the 200 foot area around your home. For larger scale projects on forest land, Cascadia offers a cost share program. For additional information cost share info please contact Sandy Letzing at [sandyl@cascadiacd.org](mailto:sandyl@cascadiacd.org) or (509) 436-1601.

In 2018, Cascadia continued to work with the US Forest Service (USFS) and the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration work on public lands. Most forest landowners in Chelan County neighbor USFS land, so we remain committed to participating in planning efforts where we can advocate for good forest stewardship on both public and private lands.

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



## VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (VSP)

Introducing the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) - a new way to enhance agriculture while protecting the environment in Chelan County.

Chelan County has formed a VSP Work Group, with Cascadia Conservation District, Chelan-Douglas Farm Bureau, and local producers and technical experts. Cascadia looks forward to working with you to provide technical assistance and financial incentives to protect and enhance critical areas and maintain agricultural viability in Chelan County.

### What is VSP?

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is an optional, incentive-based approach to protecting critical areas while promoting agriculture. The VSP is allowed under the Growth Management Act as an alternative to traditional approaches to critical area protection, such as “no touch” buffers. Twenty-eight counties have “opted in” to the VSP by nominating one or more watersheds in their county where the program would apply. Chelan County received funding to develop a VSP work plan from the Washington State Conservation Commission, and the State Technical Panel approved the plan in April 2017.

### Benefits of Participation

- Participation is voluntary.
- Protects and enhances critical areas while maintaining and promoting agricultural viability.
- Gives landowners a chance to avoid unnecessary regulations and be recognized for conservation practices.

### What areas does the VSP protect?

The VSP protects environmentally critical areas on agricultural lands located in unincorporated Chelan County. Critical areas include: (1) fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas (2) wetlands, (3) frequently flooded areas, (4) geologically hazardous areas, and (5) critical aquifer recharge areas used for potable water. See *RCW 36.70A and WAC 365-190*

You may benefit from this voluntary program in Chelan County through an evaluation of overlapping critical area locations and agriculture. For additional information please contact: <https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/voluntary-stewardship-program>

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

Cascadia’s Urban Agriculture Program supports local residents and supplies the technical assistance, training, education and infrastructure for community members to care for our urban green spaces, on both public and private land. We believe that the act of growing food, flowers or animals in a city builds community, educates the urban public about the ecosystem and food system around them, connects people to nature, provides a source of local, healthy food choices, and encourages the stewardship of our green spaces.

Cascadia’s Urban Agriculture Program had a great 2018. Activities included: educational workshops and events on topics such as composting, container gardening, and lawn irrigation and care.



Students enjoy growing and eating their own food as part of the Urban Ag school garden program



Cascadia also created a new Urban Ag after school program, which served to introduce agricultural concepts as well as hands-on work in the school gardens and experiential nutritional education.

Cascadia developed three bi-lingual educational handouts (water wise with your lawn, compact composting and container gardening) that are available to the public. Visit [cascadiacd.org/urban-agriculture](http://cascadiacd.org/urban-agriculture) to download.

A City of Wenatchee grant supported the improvement of the Cesar Chavez Community Garden in south Wenatchee, through installation of a new shed, garden art, fresh compost, sponsorship of several community garden events, and signs identifying the new locally-chosen name for the garden.

See detailed articles for each of the 2018 programs in previous Cascadia newsletters.

In 2019, Cascadia staff plan to continue developing new community gardens and spaces, as well as assisting with upkeep of those already in existence, including obtaining compost, holding seed-starting events, and sponsoring gardening workshops. If you have questions about Urban Ag, or potential projects or programs, let us know! Contact Sandy Letzing at [sandyl@cascadiacd.org](mailto:sandyl@cascadiacd.org).



Photo by Sara Braun. Best in Show from Cascadia’s 2018 Photo Contest

## WELCOME JOHN!



John Tamngin joined the Cascadia team in November through the Veterans Conservation Corps.

He served in the Army for 20 years as a Combat Engineer, then

moved his family to Wenatchee to pursue business. John obtained his BS in International Business and MBA in Global Leadership from Colorado Technical University in 2015. He worked for the Wenatchee Housing Authority as coordinator for the Housing and Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program. Recently, John managed a 40 acre cherry and apple Veterans orchard in Pateros.

John enjoys, appreciates, and cares about conserving and protecting our natural resources and has a newfound interest in forestry and agriculture. In his free time you can find him camping in the summer or working in his backyard garden.

We are excited to have John on the Cascadia team!



Container Gardening workshop at the Wenatchee Community Center



After school program students visiting the Wenatchee Valley College greenhouse



## WATERSHED PLANNING

Watershed plans are developed by planning units composed of representatives from the public and private sectors. Planning units are required to address water quantity issues. Some, like the Entiat and Wenatchee, address water quality, instream flow, and habitat issues as well.



Cascadia is the lead agency for the WRIA 46 Entiat River watershed planning effort. Cascadia coordinates quarterly planning unit meetings, participates in subcommittee meetings, and applies for grant funding to help facilitate implementation of actions identified in the WRIA 46 Entiat Watershed Plan and the regional Salmon Recovery Plan. The Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU) is recognized for developing cooperative, proactive solutions to natural resource issues.

The EWPU has successfully planned and implemented a variety of important habitat, water quality, and water quantity restoration projects in the watershed.

Cascadia also participates in WRIA 45 Wenatchee River watershed planning unit and subcommittee meetings, as well as implementing restoration projects in the Wenatchee Watershed and throughout the county. Cascadia also participates in watershed planning activities in the Lake Chelan and Stemilt-Squilchuck watersheds.

## STREAM HABITAT RESTORATION

Many streams and rivers in Chelan County are home to threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead and bull trout populations that require specific aquatic habitat conditions to support them during different life stages. Historic and current water and land management practices have disturbed some habitat, resulting in high stream temperatures, elevated levels of fine sediments, fish passage barriers, channelization, and loss of habitat. Cascadia strives to restore instream habitat in the Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds to provide salmon, steelhead, and bull trout with the necessary conditions to live and thrive. An important consideration in Cascadia's projects is that the work will also benefit the community and fit with the landowner's needs and goals for the property.

With more work planned in the future, Cascadia aims to keep consistent, reliable, and regular updates coming in the form of newsletters, public meetings, events, direct mailings, and calls. To get involved with the habitat work going on in the Entiat, please contact Mike Cushman at [mikec@cascadiacd.org](mailto:mikec@cascadiacd.org) or (509) 436-1601, or attend an Entiat Watershed Planning Unit meeting. The next one is February 6 at the Entiat Grange Hall from 10am-12pm. Cascadia plans to host a public meeting this summer with updates on future habitat projects in Entiat. Stay tuned for details.

## 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](mailto:cody.gillin@tu.org).



Photo: US Fish & Wildlife Serv.



**CASCADIA**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

### Staff Members

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Peggy Entzel, *District Administrator*  
Patrick Haggerty, *Project Coordinator II*  
Valerie Hampton, *Administrative Assistant*  
Kim Lancaster, *Archaeologist*  
Sandy Letzing, *Resource Specialist II*  
Ken Muir, *Project Coordinator II*  
Amanda Newell, *Education & Outreach*  
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Sasha Vafaei, *AmeriCorps Member*  
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Please Remember to Recycle



## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

Feb 19 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee 3:30 pm  
Mar TBD 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee Time TBD  
(Annual Planning Meeting)  
Apr 16 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee 3:30 pm

### Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meeting

Feb 6 Entiat Grange Hall 10:00 am

### Trout Unlimited

Screening of the documentary "A Plastic Ocean". The film provides information about the large quantity of plastic refuse that ends up in our oceans and the impacts it has on marine ecosystems. The event is free with donations welcomed to support the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center's Environmental Film Series.

Apr 16 Wenatchee Valley Museum 7:00 pm

### Wenatchee River Institute - Scientist Speaker Series: WATER!

Listen to experts speak on topics such as the history of salmon and their decline in the Columbia, the Wenatchee Valley Beaver Project, water use in the Wenatchee Valley, and more. Details and registration at: <https://wenatcheeriverinsitute.org>

Feb 12, 19, 26, 5 Milepost 111 in Cashmere 6:00-8:00 pm

### Wenatchee River Institute - Winter Break Snow Camp!

Join Wenatchee River Institute for an adventurous week of living on the wild side. Spend four fun days playing outside: go snowshoeing, learn to use a bow and arrow, track wildlife and use scientific tools in this exciting winter camp. Grades K-5. Details and registration at: <https://wenatcheeriverinsitute.org>

Feb 19-22 Red Barn at WRI 9:00 am- 3:00 pm

### Wenatchee River Institute - Fly Tying Class!

Enjoy small group instruction provided by the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers. Learn to tie flies specifically for catching fish in local waters. All fly tying equipment included. \$60 regular price, \$48 supporter price. Details and registration at: <https://wenatcheeriverinsitute.org>

Mar 12, 19, 26, Apr 2, 9 Red Barn at WRI 6:00 - 8:30 pm

## CONGRATS JOYCE BLOCK: CONSERVATION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR!

Joyce was awarded the WA Association of Conservation Districts Conservation (WACD) Educator of the Year Award for her outstanding work with science students in connecting them to the natural world. She is extremely passionate about natural resources and education, and helped Cascadia and partners start the award-winning Kids in the Creek program over 25 years ago!

Thanks you so much for all you do, Joyce, and congratulations on this well-deserved honor!



Joyce received the award and was honored at the WACD annual awards luncheon on November 27 in Kennick (Pictured here with Cascadia's Mike Cushman)