

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

WINTER 2021

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LANDOWNER SPOTLIGHT: "FUTURE PROOFING OUR FARM" A AND T ORCHARDS

Contributed by owner Tabitha Hargrove

My husband, Aaron Hargrove, lives to farm. He can run orchards on hair-string budgets, work morning until night and dream of how amazing next year's crop will be with unyielding optimism. Even with all of my husband's orchard savvy, he had to find another job this year and we had to find ways for the orchard to survive and thrive. We are not alone. Many of you are hustling, too.

We have all had to progress this year. A lot. Between a global pandemic, multiple years of production/quality loss and crazy weather 'events', it has been hard. If you are reading this I hope you know how amazing you are and that you should be proud of what you have accomplished in the face of such trials.

One way our farm had decided to battle these changes is to seek the wisdom and financial help of those who are champions of conservative practices.

We need to be conservative with our water. Doing this increases the quality of fruit and stretches our water further. Win, Win!

Through Cascadia's grants we have been given the opportunity to track moisture levels through technology, change our sprinklers from old rainbirds to micro's and to install drip for areas of high wind.

I could go into the data of why and how but what I need you to know is ALL of these things make our farm survive one more year, which after seven years I have learned is all we can ask for, haha. Call Cascadia and see what they can do to help you be more conservative. Cheers to a good life!



Drip irrigation system for new organic pear block



Newly installed water saving pressure reducer and filter for micro and drip irrigation system

This project was funded through the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. To learn more about programs Cascadia offers please contact us at (509) 436-1601 or info@cascadiacd.org.

HAVE A CONSERVATION PROJECT IN MIND FOR YOUR PROPERTY?

Cascadia Conservation District may be able to help you find funding for your project. Cascadia is currently seeking landowners with thoughtful stewardship project ideas for your farm, forest or water.

Some examples are:

- Forest Health (thinning, brush reduction)
- Irrigation Management (irrigation upgrades, irrigation timers)
- Farm Operations (noxious weed suppression, erosion control, cover crops, pasture management)

The Conservation Practice Cost Share Program is an incentive program intended to defray landowner costs for implementing conservation practices with reimbursement funding for up to 75% of project costs. See our website for more information or contact info@cascadiacd.org.

LOCAL
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Cascadia Conservation District
14 N Mission St
Wenatchee, WA 98801

SPEAKING OF CONSERVATION...

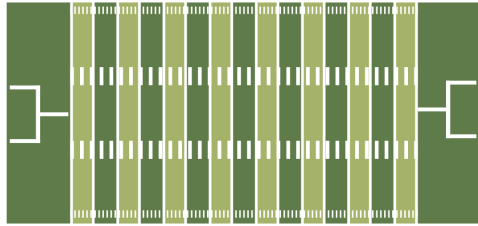
Did you know Chelan County PUD offers cash back on energy-saving upgrades to your home and business?

You can get rebates on energy-efficient heating, windows, water heaters, and more. Upgrades help you live and work more comfortably while using energy responsibly. For more info, visit chelanpud.org/save or contact the energy efficiency team at (509) 691-8008.

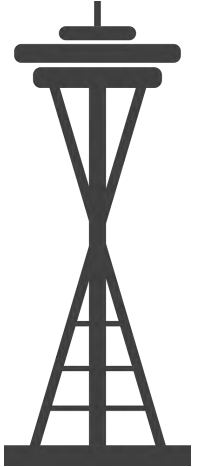
BY THE NUMBERS

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020

30 acres of thinning for forest health improvement with our cost share program = **over 23** American Football fields



Installed **700** feet of new livestock exclusion fencing = **more than the height of the Space Needle**



Installed 8 beaver dam analogs to restore almost **2,000** feet along Chumstick Creek = **that's over half the length of the Interstate Bridge between WA and OR**



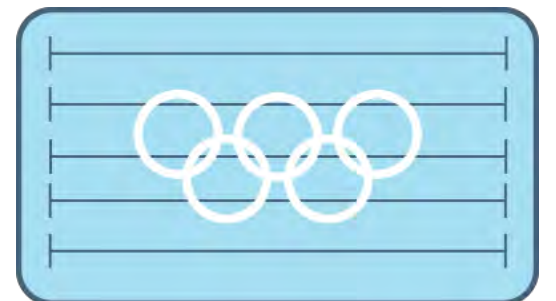
Planted **2,000** native plants and shrubs over **5.5** acres and educated **50** community members at our Native Planting 101 workshop



Four producers worked with Cascadia to become certified in the Salmon Safe program, for **over 600** acres of apples, cherries, blueberries, raspberries, vegetables, flowers and herbs = **almost the size of the entire WSU or UW main campuses**

Via the WSU pear fruit quality study, four landowners upgraded their irrigation systems (timers, moisture probes, efficient sprinkler heads) on over **60** acres of orchards and berries, improving fruit quality and **saving millions of gallons of water**.

Each **660,000** liquid gallons saved equals **one Olympic sized swimming pool**



Roving Chipper programs treated **113** forested acres on **168** private properties throughout Chelan County.



20 soil tests were performed, which resulted in three Water Quality plans

Even with school closures and instruction restrictions, we reached **561** students directly through in-person or virtual Wheat Week, Kids in the Creek, Kids in the Forest, Salmon Festival, and After School Programs.

Answered **over 100** technical assistance requests



While nothing replaces the in-person, hands-on aspects of our programs, with the creation of our virtual materials we have the potential to reach an indefinite number of teachers and students across our state, country, and beyond.

Hundreds of teachers, environmental educators, and students have already accessed these virtual materials with many more to come.



2021 BOARD ELECTION 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. The time for filing to run this year has passed, but an appointed position is also open for application through March 31. Candidates must be registered voters residing in the conservation district, and may be required to own land or operate a farm.

...AND TO VOTE!

A poll-site election for a seat on the Cascadia Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be held on February 5, 2021 at the Pybus Public Market, 7 N Worthen St, Wenatchee. Polls will open at 11:00 am and close at 4:00 pm. Registered voters who reside within Chelan County are eligible to vote.

If you have questions, please contact the District office at 509-436-1601.

Cascadia also encourages community members to attend our monthly meetings, and consider becoming an associate supervisor to offer additional local expertise and perspective on community natural resource concerns. These positions are also voluntary, with no specific term and are established by appointment of the Board. Your input is welcome!

En Español: Cascadia anima a los miembros de la comunidad a asistir a nuestras reuniones mensuales y considerar convertirse en un supervisor asociado para ofrecer experiencia local adicional y perspectiva sobre las preocupaciones de los recursos naturales de la comunidad. Su posición sería voluntaria, sin plazo específico y se establecen mediante del Consejo. ¡Sus comentarios son bienvenidos! Para obtener información adicional, llame al (509) 436-1601.

FAREWELL SANDY

After six years with Cascadia, Sandy Letzing is moving on.

As a Resource Specialist II, Sandy was the lead for our cost-share program. Highlights of those programs include forest health, fuels reduction and thinning projects, as well as irrigation upgrades for farmers and orchardists. Sandy also coordinated riparian restoration and clean water programs, and provided technical assistance in other areas of natural resources conservation for interested landowners.

During her time with Cascadia, Sandy became a certified Arborist and was a lead for urban and community forestry in Central WA. She was also our resident gardening guru and coordinated school gardens at several Wenatchee elementary schools as well as joining the Chelan-Douglas Master Gardener Program.

Sandy is now living in the Willamette Valley in Oregon, where she is putting her farm savvy to good use raising chickens and sheep and growing grapes on her own small farm. We will certainly miss Sandy's outgoing personality and witty sense of humor. Best wishes in your future endeavors, Sandy!



SHOP SALMON SAFE

For the past year, Cascadia has been working with local farmers to earn a new eco-label and become Salmon Safe certified. This program certifies farmers who are implementing farming practices that protect water quality, maintain watershed health and restore habitat.

There are hundreds of certified West Coast farms, including new Chelan county based farmers. Next time you are at the store or farmer's market look for the Salmon Safe logo (example to the right), and know that you are supporting agricultural practices that protect water quality and help restore fish and wildlife habitat.

Are you a farmer or producer interested in information about the Salmon Safe certification process? We can help! A producer certification webinar is coming in early April! Contact us for details at (509) 436-1601 or info@cascadiacd.org.



NATIVE PLANTING 101 WORKSHOP SERIES COMING

Please join us Mondays in March at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to learn from our experts:

- March 1: Native Plant Selection and Care with Mel Asher
- March 8: Native Plants for a Firewise Home with Al Murphy
- March 15: Noxious Weed Control with Julia Sanderson
- March 22: Using Native Plants in Landscaping with Betsy Dudash

RSVP at www.cascadiacd.org or by calling (509) 436-1601.

FREE Chipping Program

from Cascadia CD and WA Dept of Natural Resources

Registration for the spring program is open!

Look for details at www.cascadiacd.org and on Facebook or contact Amanda Newell at amandan@cascadiacd.org for info.

See tips below to help you reduce your risk of wildfire damage:

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks.
- Remove dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house.
- Wildfire can spread to tree tops, then jump quickly from tree to tree. Prune trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Learn more about how to protect your home and property at www.firewise.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.



KIDS CORNER

Fire Drills are Not Just for School!

Contributed by Barbara Carrillo, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition



We have all experienced fire drills at school, but what about at home? Would you know what to do?

Having a fire drill and a fire evacuation plan at home provides the peace of mind your family needs to know what to do in an actual emergency. We all want our families to be safe and to get out quickly in an emergency, and a good fire evacuation plan and drill will help you feel less worried because your family will be prepared.

We all live in different sized buildings, such as one- or two-story houses, or small or tall apartment complexes. Wherever you are living, you need to know you can get out safely.

There are several things to consider when creating your fire evacuation plan, such as:

- How many rooms are there in your home and how many exits out of each room?
- How many exits are there out of your house or apartment and where are they located?
- You will want to write down the best ways to get to stairways and other emergency exits and have alternative routes established in case those exits are blocked.
- After exiting your house or apartment you will need to have one place where everyone has decided to meet, such as the front yard or a neighbor's yard.
- Make sure someone in your family is assigned to call 911. If emergency services arrive as soon as possible, there is a better chance of saving your home and staying safe.



To get started creating your own fire evacuation plan, get a blank piece of paper and draw a map of your house using the instructions at the link below, and include the items listed.

Finally, remember to practice your fire evacuation plan AND change the batteries in your smoke detectors twice a year!

Find more information on home fire escape plans here: <https://nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Escape-planning> AND at www.chumstickcoalition.org/before-the-fire-2.



Photo credit: NFPA



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

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Kirk Beckendorf, *Environmental Educator*
MarySutton Carruthers, *Resource Specialist II*
Kathleen Deason, *Administrative Assistant*
Peggy Entzel, *District Administrator*
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The Conservation Quarterly is published on a quarterly basis by Cascadia Conservation District and reaches all 37,200 households in Chelan County.

This newsletter is funded in part by grants from the Washington State Conservation Commission and other public and private granting entities.



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings*

Feb 19	Call our office for details	1:30 - 4:00 pm
Mar	Annual Planning Meeting.	TBD
TBD	Call our office for details	
Apr 16	Call our office for details	1:30 - 4:00 pm

*Meetings will be call-in or video conference only until the Governor's order is lifted. 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
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2021 Calendars available!

These calendars feature beautiful, local nature photography and natural resources stewardship tips. They are available for pickup at Cascadia's office: 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee. Calendars are free, however, we ask that you call ahead to arrange pickup due to limited staffing as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. Please call (509) 436-1601.

Native Planting 101 Workshop

See page 3 for details.

Salmon "On-Line" - Virtual Salmon Festival

Enjoy this special collection of resources that will enhance at-home learning opportunities for all. We hope you'll be able to join us in-person at a future Wenatchee River Salmon Festival! Visit: www.salmonfest.org/index.php/salmon-fest-on-line/

Friends of Northwest Hatcheries

A non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization whose focus is to support natural resource stewardship and education. Explore their growing list of at home education resources at: www.friendsofnwhatcheries.org/

Family Winter in the Wild Day & Weekend Adventures

Basecamp Cascadia is teaming up with Winter Wildlands Alliance Snow School to provide day and weekend adventures to connect families (open to all ages) to the world of snow science and winter recreation.

Day events:	At Basecamp Cascadia,	9:30 am -
Feb 15, 16, 17,	Leavenworth, WA	2:30 pm
18		

Weekends:	At Basecamp Cascadia,	Friday at 4:00
Feb 12-14 &	Leavenworth, WA	pm - Sunday at
19-21		11:00 am

Film Series Showcases Local Watersheds

Partner organizations dedicated to advancing salmon recovery efforts within the Wenatchee watershed worked together to produce a series of virtual community outreach videos that will share the story of the collaborative efforts underway to prioritize, plan, and implement salmon habitat restoration and protection projects within the Wenatchee River and its tributaries.

This joint series of engaging presentations will share the story of current and future restoration projects, available landowner assistance, youth education programs, volunteer opportunities, and the combined benefit of these coordinated efforts for salmon recovery, ecosystem resilience, and the communities that live along the Wenatchee River and its tributaries.

Stay tuned, as this video collection will be available to the public through a series of virtual screenings, designed to give viewers a tour of their watershed from the comfort of their homes. Each screening will also include a live Q&A session and time to ask partners about the work they're doing in your backyard! Screenings will take place this winter and early spring. More info to come! For questions contact Lisa Dowling, Chelan County Natural Resources Department at Lisa.Dowling@CO.CHELAN.WA.US.