

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: URBAN AGRICULTURE HELPS SECURE FOOD ACCESS IN

SECURE FOOD ACCESS IN THE WENATCHEE VALLEY

We are proud to announce that Cascadia has been awarded several grants focused on sustainable urban agriculture. First, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) awarded Cascadia with an Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative to connect school garden programs to community organizations that provide food for underserved populations. Second, the Washington State Conservation Commission awarded a Food System Support grant to increase local access to sustainable food resources.

We were able to expedite on-the-ground practices in June 2022 thanks to our partnerships with Washington State University's Chelan-Douglas Extension, the Housing Authority of Chelan County, the City of Wenatchee, and Cascade High School.



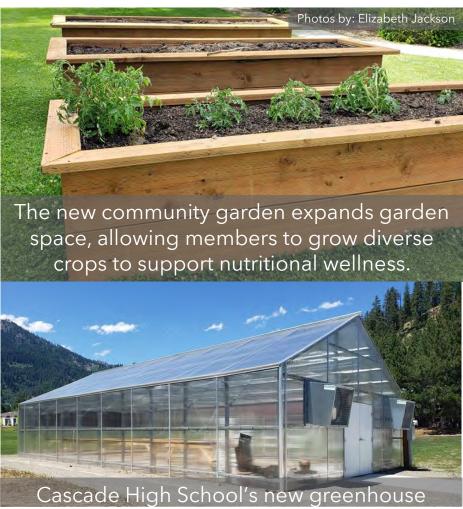
Earlier this summer a group of volunteers installed raised beds at a USDA Rural Development complex. Residents of this housing unit work in the agriculture industry but did not have a community garden. Raised beds are an excellent option to grow substantial amounts of food in small areas since they require less maintenance, allow for seasonal crop rotation, can support larger vegetables like tomatoes, and their tall stature reduces back pain.

In the upper reaches of the Wenatchee Valley, we were able to provide Cascade High School with supplies for their new greenhouse. This will be used to produce healthy vegetable starts, resulting in greater gardening success. Eventually, the starts will be donated to local community groups, the food pantry, and other school garden programs. Cascadia will continue to help with the Cascade School District's greenhouse production throughout the 2022-23 school year with support from the NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant. Stay tuned for more updates!

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Cascadia Conservation District 14 N Mission St Wenatchee, WA 98801





CLEAN WATER FOR SALMON: SALMON-SAFE FARM CERTIFICATION



Cascadia is partnering with the nonprofit organization Salmon-Safe to offer farm certification focused on water quality protection and habitat conservation. With a 20 year track record, Salmon-Safe uses third party inspectors and has certified hundreds of Washington and Oregon farms that produce a wide range of crops including grains, wine grapes, orchards, pastures and others.



Salmon-Safe certification is awarded based on practices used across an entire contiguous farm. Thanks to grant support available through 2022, there is no cost for most qualified North Central Washington growers for assessment, including a 3-year certification cycle for eligible growers. For growers certified by other leading farm certifications including GLOBAL G.A.P. and the wine industry's LIVE certification, Salmon-Safe assessment can be an efficient overlay that delivers two labels in a single inspection visit. Growers are invited to take a brief survey to help inform alignment with Salmon-Safe growing practices: https://salmonsafe.org/farmer-survey.

Certification can deliver market access benefits and increased sales as well as efficiency benefits from implementing Salmon-Safe practices such as reduced irrigation and pest management costs. For more information, please visit www.salmonsafe.org or reach out to elizabethj@cascadiacd.org or brian.muegge@salmonsafe.org.

FARM TOUR HIGHLIGHT: GROWING YOUR FARM TO MAKE CONSERVATION PROFITABLE

In May, Cascadia organized a farm tour thanks to our partnerships with Foster Creek Conservation District, Diamondback Acres, Inc. in Chelan, and Hard Row to Hoe Vineyards in Manson. Participants learned about conservation practices used on the farms, such as pollinator habitat, efficient irrigation systems, cost-share programs to supplement out-of-pocket installation costs, and how to acquire the Salmon-Safe certification for their operations. As a bonus, Derby Canyon Natives brought examples of native plants that can be purchased locally. Thank you to guests, speakers, & partners who made the tour possible!



FUELS REDUCTION COLLABORATION:

WITH INTERNATIONAL NGO TEAM RUBICON



This spring, in partnership with international nonprofit Team Rubicon, Chelan Fire District #3, and Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue, Cascadia helped landowners prepare for potential wildfires by creating defensible space and installing home hardening measures to allow their properties to better withstand and quickly bounce back from a wildfire.

Team Rubicon, founded in 2010, has historically supported post-disaster relief, but has recently expanded its focus to include pre-disaster mitigation, specifically concentrating their efforts with a lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Team Rubicon and Fire District #3 assisted in debris management and moving flammable materials away from structures. These materials can be just as dangerous in a fire as growing vegetation. Positive results from these efforts included: defensible space around residential structures, which would reduce the intensity of a wildfire if it were to pass through. The defensible space gives the home and property a better chance of surviving.

Homeowners who are looking for real-life examples and inspiration can visit the Wenatchee River Institute in Leavenworth where the group helped to create a demonstration site showcasing simple steps, like cleaning beneath and adding screening to decks, as well as laying gravel around the perimeter of structures. The demonstration site also showcases how homeowners can create a safer, more fire resilient environment while balancing aesthetics and wildlife habitat, especially in areas that are further away from structures.

With successful projects this spring and much more work to be done in the area, Team Rubicon aims to continue to assist with projects around the county.

If you, or someone you know, has a property that would benefit from their helping hand please reach out to Forest and Community Resilience Specialist Joe Hill at JoeH@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.

WATERSHED SUMMER CAMP A SUCCESS!

Twenty-five 4th and 5th grade students from Wenatchee School District's (WSD) Lincoln and Mission View Elementary Schools explored the Wenatchee River watershed during a six-day summer camp organized by CCD. The students are all participants of WSD's After School Programs at the two schools.



The campers started off with a steep hike to a ridge above Cashmere where they were able to obtain a spectacular view of much of the Wenatchee watershed. A highlight of the day was being guided in nature observation and journaling by Elisa Lopez (Team Naturaleza). The following day students journeyed up the watershed to the White River to explore the aquatic ecosystem and surrounding forest. Rock skipping lessons were interspersed throughout the day. To help create a sense of place and an understanding of the path of the water in the watershed, students used waterproof maps and built rafts from "dead, decayed or downed" natural materials. Culminating the day, students released their rafts to begin their journey down the watershed.

The following day at Lake Wenatchee students learned about campfire restrictions and safety, practiced building and starting campfires, and completed the "Drown, Stir and Feel" method of extinguishing campfires. No matches were used! Instead, students used a flint striker to start their campfires! Later, students toured a fire-managed forest, built and burned a model forest and used firefighting tools and techniques - guided by firefighters from the Leavenworth Fire Station. Student teams learned how to set up a tent and competed to set it up and take it down the fastest.



The Camp was designed for students to explore the watershed through the lenses of Family, Farms, Fish, Forest and Fun. In keeping with that theme, students visited an orchard in Cashmere where they had a relay race to water pear trees, scouted locations for raptor boxes and used a scavenger hunt to explore the orchard. The day was hot and ended with a waterslide, water fight and popsicles.

No tour of the Wenatchee Watershed would be complete without a visit to the Leavenworth Hatchery, where students learned about the role of the Hatchery in raising and releasing salmon and watched Colville tribe fishermen and women catch Chinook salmon. On the final day of camp, students explored some of the area's history with a visit to the Cashmere Museum and then traveled to the very end of the Wenatchee River and the bottom of the watershed, Confluence State Park.

We could not have provided the camp without the support of our partners and funders. A special thank you to our funders; North American Association of Environmental Education, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and WA Recreation and Conservation Office. Thank you to our partners; Cascade Fisheries, Chelan Douglas Land Trust, Hargrove Orchard, LNFH, NRCS, Red Tail Canyon Farm, Team Naturaleza and Wenatchee School District's 21st CCLC Program.

WILDFIRE EVACUTION: PREPARE NOW!

Contributed by Barbara Carrillo, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition (CWSC)



ARE YOU WILDFIRE EVACUATION READY?

This means that you and your family are prepared by creating and maintaining defensible space around your home and that it is hardened against flying fire embers. Additionally, wildfire ready families are familiar with local news or emergency outlets and are signed up for emergency, evacuation and wildfire notices where available.

WHAT ELSE MAKES YOU WILDFIRE READY?

Prepare an evacuation checklist for your family and pets and pack in advance. This will assist you in being ready when a wildfire or evacuation notice comes in. Your evacuation checklist should include a meeting place for your family and pets outside the fire or hazard area and include several escape routes from your home and community as well as a central point of contact for all relatives. Prepare an emergency supply kit for each person and keep at least one in each vehicle. Store a portable radio or scanner in your car to stay updated on the status of a fire.

Your evacuation checklist and emergency supply kits should include the "Six P Checklist" including:

1) People and pets, 2) Papers, phone numbers, and important documents, 3) Prescriptions, vitamins and eyeglasses, 4) Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia, 5) Personal computer hard drive and disks, 6) Plastic (credit cards, ATM cards and cash).

Additionally, secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows and inform family and neighbors of your evacuation plan. Always keep a half tank of gas in your vehicle, have enough cash to pay one week's expenses in case banks and ATMs are not accessible, leave early if possible, and follow recommended evacuation routes. Be alert for road hazards, such as flooding, washed-out roads and bridges and downed power lines.

Sign up for emergency alert systems such as the Chelan County Emergency Alert System at https://bit.ly/3arPgc4. This is a free service for the residents of Chelan County. For more wildfire evacuation tips go to www.Chumstickcoalition.org, Before the Fire! Also, check out Chelan County Fire District 3's webpage: chelanfd3.org/ and on Facebook.

FREE CHIPPING PROGRAMS

Look for details at cascadiacd.org & on Facebook or contact Joe Hill at joeh@cascadiacd.org.

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FISH FACTORS:

EGG-TO-SMOLT SURVIVAL



Contributed by Tracy Bowerman, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board is excited to continue with our Fish Factors Mini-Series that aims to spotlight important stories on factors impacting Upper Columbia salmon and trout.

Last quarter we explored the adaptations and challenges of the pre-spawn life stage. This quarter we explore the sensitive beginning salmon experience in their life cycle.

Female Pacific salmon and steelhead dig a depression in the gravel where they deposit their eggs and then dig a second depression upstream to cover the eggs with coarse gravel. The resulting nest, called a redd, creates a hydraulic feature that helps oxygenated water flow over the eggs as they develop in the gravel.



During the development period, egg mortality can occur because of fine sediment infiltrating the gravel, physical disturbance to the redd, and dewatering.

The salmon egg-to-hatch survival rate can benefit from watershed restoration actions that reduce erosion to limit fine sediments inputs into spawning streams. These activities range from; ensuring streams have healthy riparian buffers to decommissioning or repairing unconsolidated dirt roads.

Recently hatched juvenile salmon, called alevins, typically remain in the gravel until they have fully absorbed their yolk sacs, at which time they swim out of the gravel as fry. These tiny fish are preyed upon by many types of animals, including birds, snakes, and larger fish. As these vulnerable fry grow, they develop parr marks, or dark vertical bands on their sides, which help camouflage them from predators.

During this crucial life stage, fry and parr need complex habitats, including woody debris, overhanging banks and riparian vegetation, pools, and slow-moving side channels, where they can hide from predators and find aquatic invertebrates to eat.

Learn more about the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board at ucsrb.org.

SHARPENING SKILLS IN UNION VALLEY: CHAINSAW CLASS A SUCCESS

When you live in the woods, it is hard to create good defensible space without using a chainsaw.

Many residents of the Union Valley Firewise Community, about 10 miles north of Lake Chelan, have been running their saws for most of their life as they work to keep their properties maintained and safe from wildfire. Union Valley has been actively working with the local fire district to reduce fuels throughout the community for decades, recognizing the importance of mitigation work when living 5-10 miles down a dirt



road in an area that regularly experiences fire.

When a recent surge of residents signed-up to participate in fuel reduction cost-share programs through WA DNR, Cascadia noticed an opportunity to provide additional chainsaw safety training to a highly motivated community of do-it-yourselfers. Utilizing grant funds Cascadia received to support Firewise Communities, we hired a local contractor who specializes in offering chainsaw trainings to government employees, public utilities, and community groups.

A longtime resident and experienced sawyer said "although I had used chainsaws for several years, I learned the proper and safe way to accomplish the uses I need a chainsaw for. Pavel was truly professional and made safety the primary theme."

Kingfisher Forest Management covered the basics of safety equipment, body mechanics, felling, bucking, limbing, saw maintenance, sharpening and more. All of the participants had positive feedback on the two-day course.

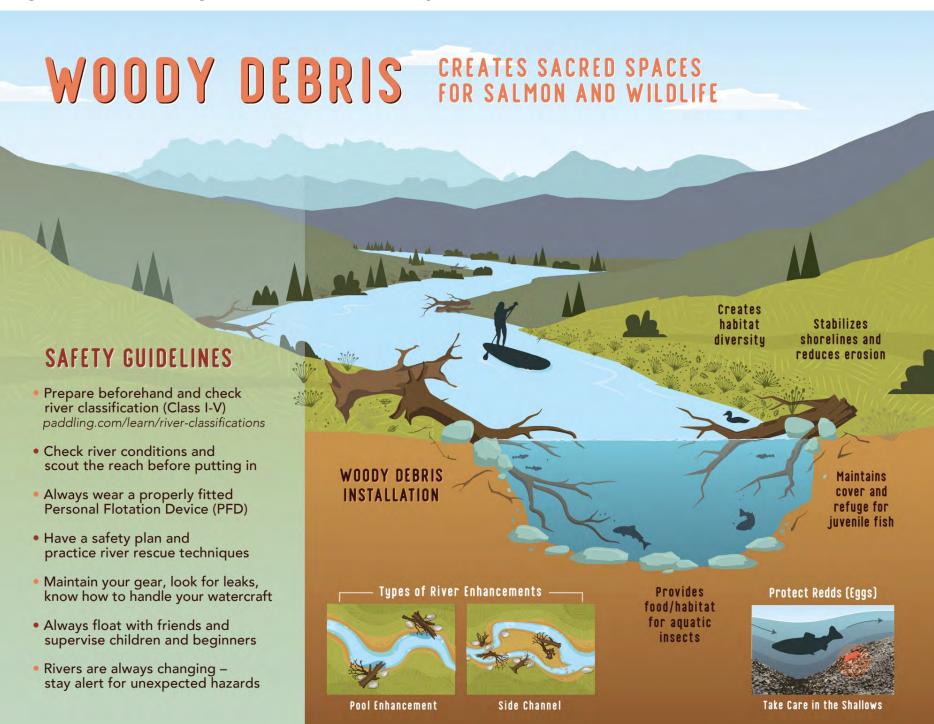


Cascadia was excited to offer this opportunity to the Union Valley Firewise Community, knowing these residents will put their new, or newly sharpened, skills to work as they strive to make their community resilient to wildfire. If you think your community would be interested in a similar training, email patrickh@cascadiacd.org.

COEXIST WITH THE FISH: SAFELY ENJOY THE RIVER AND HELP THE FISH

Contributed by Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD) on behalf of Partner Organizations working toward Salmon Recovery **Our local rivers** are home to several species of native migratory salmon and trout, some of which are threatened or endangered. To keep our rivers healthy and improve these species survival, efforts are underway to maintain and increase large woody debris in these rivers.

Boaters and river recreationalists should always be alert for large woody debris and other river hazards. While these are obstacles for humans, they are critical features for the other species that share this river.



PARTNERS IN RESTORATION



















Yakama





ECOLOGY











HEALTHY STREAMS SUPPORT HEALTHY FARMS:

LEARN ABOUT PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RECOVER SALMON!

Contributed by CCNRD on behalf of Partner Organizations working toward Salmon Recovery



Salmon-Safe Certification:

Cascadia Conservation District (CCD) 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. If you have a farm, orchard, vineyard, or cider operation and are interested in becoming Salmon-Safe certified, please contact us today! Contact Elizabeth Jackson at elizabethj@cascadiacd.org or 509.436.1601. Read more about this program on page 2.



This CCD

Beaver Restoration Program:

Our local beavers are crucial in creating the ideal salmonid habitat. Beaver ponds provide protection from predators and sustain water supplies during dry summer months. Riparian vegetation and bird habitat are also improved by the increased water storage in beaver ponds.

Beaver bothering your property? The beaver project will provide a free site assessment to help determine the best path forward for both you and the beavers of our valley. We will even relocate a beaver to a distant area if necessary. Contact Kodi Jo Jaspers at kodijo.jaspers@tu.org or 509.888.0970.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP):

Do you manage a farm with outdated irrigation infrastructure? Or do you own agricultural land alongside a stream with an eroding bank? You may be eligible for a VSP grant. These grants help with both financial and technical assistance to upgrade your irrigation systems and/or provide streambank protection. Projects up to \$5,000 are eligible for 100% funding, with little to no cost-share! Projects over \$5,000 are still eligible, but may require cost-share depending on the full project price. We want to help you upgrade your systems because: it makes agriculture more sustainable, it saves you time and money, it conserves soil and water and therefore helps the salmon's sensitive ecosystem. Contact Stephen Lesky at stephen.lesky@co.chelan.wa.us or 509.670.8094.

SALMON RECOVERY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FARMS

Spring Chinook, summer steelhead, and bull trout

were once wide-spread throughout this region; however, dramatic declines over the past century have led to these species being listed as endangered.

Not only are they important to humans' economic and cultural interests, but they are important indicators for the ecological health of our rivers. Restoring our rivers protects our water supply, and with it, farming and fish can flourish in our valley.



SOLUTIONS FOR FISH-FRIENDLY FARMING

Modern methods for promoting river health, fish habitat, and productive agriculture.

- **Develop livestock water sources** away from riparian, wetland, and other vulnerable areas.
- **Replace outdated irrigation** infrastructure with more efficient options that save water and reduce soil and nutrient inputs into our waterways.
- Avoid spraying pesticides and chemicals that could be toxic near water sources. Be aware of toxic substance runoff.
- Maintain vegetative buffers around waterways, these plants act as natural filters for our streams and help to prevent soil erosion.
- **Replace outdated culverts** and manage your roads to reduce sediment.





HEALTHY STREAMSIDE LIVING:

LEARN ABOUT FREE PROGRAMS TO HELP BOTH YOUR PROPERTY & THE FISH!

Contributed by CCNRD on behalf of Partner Organizations working toward Salmon Recovery

LANDOWNER TIPS

Here are six stream-friendly tips for streamside landowners to protect the land, water, and fish!

- 1. Cover the ground with native plants
- 2. Control non-native invasive plants
- 3. Keep animal waste away from water
- 4. Nurture healthy soils with compost
- 5. Avoid using fertilizer and chemicals
- 6. Control water use to minimize runoff

Chelan County Natural Resource Department

Since 2005, CCNRD has implemented a series of fish passage barrier removal and habitat complexity projects.

Our staff can work with you to develop a design that fits your long-term vision, and help make that vision a reality through navigating all aspects of the project. Contact us to learn more!

Contact Allison Lutes:

allison.lutes@co.chelan.wa.us 509.679.7095



Cascadia **Conservation District**

CCD provides technical and financial assistance for soil, water, forest, fish, and wildlife conservation efforts. Contact us for:

- Stewardship Checklist
- Wildfire Preparedness
- Soil Tests & Soil Management
- Riparian Planting
- Native Planting Techniques



Contact Cascadia CD:

info@cascadiacd.org 509.436.1601



PROGRAMS & ASSISTANCE >>

Trout Unlimited

Beavers create ideal habitats for fish and provide many ecosystem benefits. Their ponds help maintain water supply.

We'll help you coexist with beavers.

We'll help protect your trees from beavers with a latex paint/sand mixture or netting. We can create pond levelers to maintain ponds. If all else fails, we'll relocate that nuisance beaver for you.

Contact Trout Unlimited:

kodijo.jaspers@tu.org 509.888.0970



Cascade Fisheries

Fish Passage Program

Have a driveway over a creek or a culvert on your property? Older culverts are bottlenecks that block fish passage and are flood hazards. Contact us and we provide total technical and financial assistance to replace it with a better alternative.

Riparian Planting

Contact us and we'll help provide the plants and the labor to restore your streamside property.

Contact Jason Lundgren:

jason@ccfeg.org 509.476.3444



Yakama Nation

Yakama Nation Fisheries employs local biologists to restore treaty fish runs in the Upper Columbia Basin.

Through its Upper Columbia Restoration Project, Yakama Nation Fisheries partners with landowners and local government agencies to conduct tribal led aquatic and floodplain habitat restoration in support of salmon recovery.

We'd like to partner with you!

Contact Hans Smith:

smih@yakamafish-nsn.gov 509.449.2750



STREAMSIDE STEWARDS

Green Banks – Clean Streams

Riparian zones are areas where the water meets the land, both below/above ground. The roots of trees and plants in this area help to stabilize the floodplain and protect stream banks. This keeps your property from washing away. Riparian plants play important roles like moderating high flows, preventing erosion, filtering pollutants, and providing shade to keep the water cool. Protect your property and the stream by bringing riparian areas back to life with native plants!

Co-Exist with Fish – Restore Streams

Erosion can cause rivers to disconnect from the floodplain, limiting natural processes that protect river systems. Reconnecting the floodplain protects against erosion during peak flows, recharges groundwater, and protects riparian plants. Instream habitat features, such as large woody debris, provide fish with places to hide and rest while working to reconnect ground water and protect cool stream temperatures.

As a streamside landowner, you enjoy the many benefits of living near the water. However, rivers are dynamic. They tend to flood/ erode during high flows, which can cause them to lose their ability to remain fresh due to shifts in sediment and runoff.

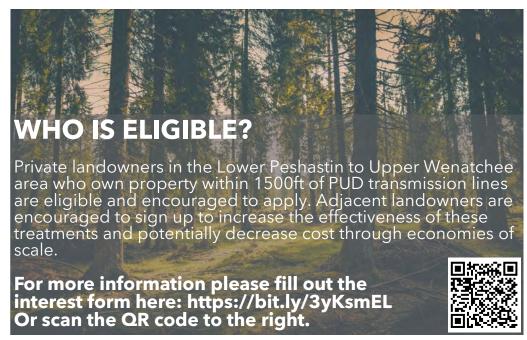
Maintaining a healthy river, helps to prevent your property against flood damage and promote natural river processes that keep the water clean. It also helps to maintain a healthy habitat for critically endangered salmon species like Spring Chinook, summer steelhead, and bull trout.

As a landowner with streamside property, you are a critical piece of this puzzle. We'd like to partner with you to protect and enhance the health and function of your stream.

Restoring the habitats around our water resources protects your valuable property AND the species that depend on it.

INTRODUCING THE REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP)

Cascadia CD, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Chelan Public Utility District (PUD), and WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR), have partnered to offer cost share programs to improve forest health and help protect critical infrastructure. These treatments increase wildfire and drought resiliency, improve forest health, and reduce the risk to home, aquatic systems, and critical wildlife habitat in the area.



WELCOME ABOARD PETE



Cascadia is excited to have Pete Teigen join our Board of Supervisors!

Pete was born in Idaho with family roots in agriculture. His maternal grandparents were wheat farmers and his paternal grandparents were ranchers in Montana. He has lived in Leavenworth with his wife and kids since 2014.

Pete has a master's degree in public administration from University of Washington and brings several years of natural resource work experience to the Board. His work experience includes facilitating a forest health collaborative and running a salmon restoration grant program. He has long appreciated voluntary conservation programs aimed at supporting local landowners and agricultural producers. He is interested in supporting forest treatments with private landowners and communities.

FAREWELL & BEST WISHES JIM



Jim Bartelme is hitting the trail! Jim has actively served the District in various capacities since November 2005.

As an Associate Member he attended planning meetings and gathered information for the Board on current issues, particularly in the areas of forestry and land use. He served as a Board Member multiple times in the years since, occasionally stepping back to Associate to encourage other community members to join the Board.

In every capacity, Jim brought calm, thoughtful leadership and input to the District's operations and programs.

Thank you, Jim! We wish you many years of hiking and enjoying the outdoors with your family and friends.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

Aug 19, Sept 16, Oct 21. Watch our website or call (509) 436-1601 for updates. Call-in or video conference options are available.

*Strategic planning in progress. Watch our website for updates & opportunities to participate.

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meeting

Sept 7, 4-6 pm, Entiat Fire Station, 2200 Entiat Way Call/Zoom participation available. Call (509) 436-1601 for details.

Chelan PUD: The Power Hour

Season Two: Monthly at noon

Live Q&A with energy efficiency experts to answer your questions about surviving winter, energy efficiency, rebates, lowering your energy bills, and more! Livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube: youtube.com/chelanpud/live

Sustainable Living and Farming Tour

Sept 15th - 18th - Workshops and farm tours at various locations in the Wenatchee Valley. Learn more about living a simpler and more sustainable life by visiting examples and partaking in hands-on applications in the greater Leavenworth area.

For more information and to register visit www.wasteloop.org/pages/sustainable-living-and-farming-tour or email contact@wasteloop.org

Upper Valley MEND Gleaning Program

Looking for a fun volunteer opportunity? Join the Upper Valley MEND glean team to harvest excess produce from farms, orchards, and backyard gardens for food banks throughout Chelan and Douglas counties! Have too much produce on your land? Let us know and we will come to you to glean! Contact for more info: gleaning@uvmend.org, 509-699-7395, www.uvmend.org/volunteer.

Wenatchee Naturalist Course

Wed evenings, Sept. 21-Dec. 14th and 4 Sat field trips Register now for the 50-hour course through Wenatchee Valley College Continuing Education. www.wenatcheenaturalist.com/ Contact: Susan Ballinger (skylinebal@gmail.com).



Staff Members

Mark Amara, Archaeologist
Kirk Beckendorf, Environmental Educator
Kathleen Deason, Administrative Assistant
Patrick Haggerty, Forestry Program Manager
Valerie Hampton, Financial Coordinator
Alex Harwell, Resource Specialist II
Joe Hill, Forest & Community Resilience
Mark Ingman, Resource Specialist II
Elizabeth Jackson, Resource Specialist II
Kim Lancaster, Archaeologist
Amanda Newell, Education & Outreach
Nada Wentz, Office Assistant
Ryan Williams, Executive Director

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Please Remember to Recycle

The Conservation Quarterly is published on a quarterly basis by Cascadia Conservation District and reaches over 38,000 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.