

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

FALL 2023

EN ESPAÑOL:
CASCADIACD.ORG



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THE NEXT GENERATION: OF NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDS

Article and Photos by Kirk Beckendorf, Cascadia CD

**"You do this for your job? That's awesome!"
exclaimed an Entiat 5th grade student.**



No lines separated Education, Restoration and Stewardship when students in Lauren Tewell's Entiat 5th grade class worked alongside Cascadia Conservation District's and Cascade Fisheries' staff at Stormy Creek, a small tributary of the Entiat River stewarded by Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.

As they first explored the creek, students excitedly pointed and shouted, "Look at the baby fish!!!"



The students spent the morning removing forest fuels, using it to enhance the habitat of the endangered spring chinook salmon and threatened steelhead trout that they could see in the creek. Tree limbs and branches that the students carried from the forest and placed in the creek and riparian area immediately provided shelter for those fish, from predators and the sun.

Reflecting on the student's experience at Stormy Creek Preserve, Lauren said, "What a fun way to start the school year! Students helped move trees and brush into the creek to create safe hiding places for baby fish, and also added to the newly placed Beaver Dam Analogs, to construct pools of water for the fish to live in." Lauren explained that her students "conducted some fire prevention by having adults trim low-lying branches in the area for students to haul to the creek..."



The students' stewardship activities were part of larger restoration efforts at Stormy this past year. In what some call a "Fuels to Fish" restoration project; adjacent upland forest areas are thinned to reduce wildfire risk and the forest fuels are moved into the streambed and floodplain, to create habitat and enhance stream flow for juvenile fish.

**"Look Mrs. Tewell, I moved a whole tree!"
one student shouted.**



This year CDLT and partners: Cascadia, Cascade Fisheries, Trout Unlimited and the USFS (and now, Entiat students) have converted over 60 large logs from potential wildfire fuel into fish habitat. Thirty-six small wooden structures, resembling beaver dams and called beaver dam analogs (BDA), have been built in the creek. The BDA's are designed to provide similar benefits to the creek as a natural beaver dam. The BDAs, and the wood that the Entiat students added, will capture stream sediment, raise the water table, and create a more complex stream system.

Continued on pg 2

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Please follow this link: [rebrand.ly/ News15](https://rebrand.ly/News15)
Or scan the QR code to complete a short survey
Or call (509) 436-1601 or email info@cascadiacd.org



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NEXT GENERATION CONT.

CDLT has also planted hundreds of riparian plants alongside the Entiat River. The Entiat students identified and flagged plants that had not survived.

Sitting on the bank of the river during lunch, students watched large fish swimming past. Afterwards students explored the preserve- from the rocky stream bed, scrambling through the cottonwood riparian area and meandering through the newly replanted meadow.

**"We found a snake skin!"
A student exclaimed.**

A snake disappeared into the grass and students gently captured, examined and then released a praying mantis.



As part of a class lesson and also to assist CDLT, Lauren said that her "Students also inventoried the organisms that were viewed and helped Chelan-Douglas Land Trust make observations on their study to kill off the invasive reed canary grass."

Afterwards Lauren described how Stormy Preserve fits in with plans for the school year "...the students will start raising salmon this winter, and in the spring when they are ready to be released, we will set them free in this exact same location, that we built a safe habitat for them!!"

Benefits of blurring the lines between Education, Restoration & Stewardship were evident by student comments, before boarding the bus for the short trip back to town.

One student asked "Can we come back and do this again?" and another said. "I've seen more new things outside today, than I ever have before."

Learn more about the "Fuels to Fish" project at: <https://rebrand.ly/StormyPreserve23>
Or using the QR code



12 MONTHS OF NATURAL BEAUTY

Thank you to all the wonderful photographers who made our 2023 photo contest another big success, and congratulations to those who captured the twelve winning photos!

Please visit our Facebook page (link at www.cascadiacd.org or use the QR code) to see all entries.



PLANTS:

- Balsam Root by Brenda Hostetter
- Bee on Ballhead Waterleaf by Karen Eadie



RECREATION:

- The Fire Line by Brendan Morrison
- Success at Sunrise by Macy Lowe



The 2024 Picture Chelan County stewardship calendar featuring the winning photos will be out in early December. Funding for the calendar is provided by: WA Department of Ecology, US Bureau of Reclamation, and other local sponsors as featured in the calendar.

Visit Cascadia's office at 1350 McKittrick St. in Wenatchee to get your calendar!

THE 2023 WINNING PHOTOS ARE:

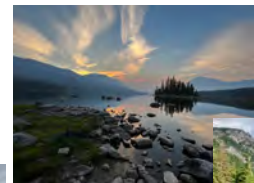
AGRICULTURE:

- Lake Chelan Vineyard by Chris Picard
- Giant Sunflower and the Neighbor Cow by James Conrad



WATER:

- Lake Wenatchee Sunset by David Wilder
- September Upper Icicle Creek by Scott Mitchell



LANDSCAPE:

- Balsam Root and Blue Lupine by Chris Picard
- Endless Views by Jaime White



WILDLIFE:

- Velvet Bull Elk by Cindy Grabeel
- California Quail in Snow by Karen Eadie



CASCADIA CD HAS MOVED

NEW LOCATION:
1350 McKittrick St
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Office hours Mon-Fri
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

509-436-1601

www.cascadiacd.org

FUTURE IN FORESTRY: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LANDOWNERS

Info and Photos by Joe Hill and Isobel Woolner, Cascadia CD

Cascadia has been awarded over \$4 million in forest health and wildfire preparedness funding from several sources. See a snapshot of upcoming programs below.



The Washington State Conservation Commission awarded CCD \$1.7 million for Forest Health & Community Wildfire Resilience. Tasks will include:

- Certification of new Firewise communities & re-certify existing communities. (Info on the certification process & Firewise program is available at Firewise.org. Contact CCD or your local fire district to start a Firewise community.)
- Coordinating with Team Rubicon to assist vulnerable populations by providing free defensible space work and home hardening where opportunities arise.
- **New project:** hiring a seasonal crew to provide free fuels reduction/ Home Ignition Zone vegetation management for vulnerable community members.
- Continuing to provide residents with free home risk assessments, forestry technical assistance, and assistance finding the right cost share programs.
- Continuing to offer spring and fall roving chipping programs and free brush disposal days at local transfer stations.
- Piloting a biochar kiln loaner program for residents to turn cut vegetation into biochar, a carbon sequestering soil amendment.
- Chainsaw training workshops for landowners.
- Equipment, supplies, & coordination to assist in landowner prescribed burns through a local Prescribed Burn Association. (Contact us if interested in learning about Rx fire on your land.)
- \$300,000 in forestry cost share opportunities available county wide as well as a home hardening rebate program.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service awarded CCD \$650,000 for Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance.



\$2 million in cost share opportunities for landowners to reduce hazardous fuels in the Fuel Break and Forest Resilience Partnership project area (Upper Valley). See info at the link or QR code below.

FUEL BREAK AND FOREST RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



Please scan the QR code, go to the link below to fill out our interest form: tinyurl.com/Forest-Resilience or call Joe at Cascadia: (509) 463-1601 or JoeH@CascadiaCD.org



For more information or to apply for these programs, contact Joe Hill at joeh@cascadiacd.org or (509) 306-8189.

LOCAL FARMS AWARDED NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENTS

Written by Elizabeth Jackson, Cascadia CD

A total of \$59,000 in Natural Resource Investments (NRI) funds from Cascadia and the Washington Conservation Commission were divided between six landowners.

This cost-share for selected projects assists landowners who implement voluntary conservation practices to increase crop production and native plant diversity, improve soil health, and conserve irrigation water on agricultural lands.



Photos by Darin B Case



Many funded projects include efficient irrigation systems to reduce water use; keeping more water in our streams and promoting food production.

Each state biennium (two-year period), Chelan County residents are awarded NRI funding to address local natural resources concerns to improve the health of our water, air, land, and habitat.

Three orchards, one vineyard, one vegetable/flower farm, and one pastureland/community garden have been awarded this biennium.

If you own or operate a farm and want to apply. Contact Elizabeth Jackson at: elizabethj@cascadiacd.org or (509) 679-7861.

FAREWELL ANALISE



RESOURCE TECHNICIAN/
SUMMER INTERN

Thank you Analise
and best wishes!

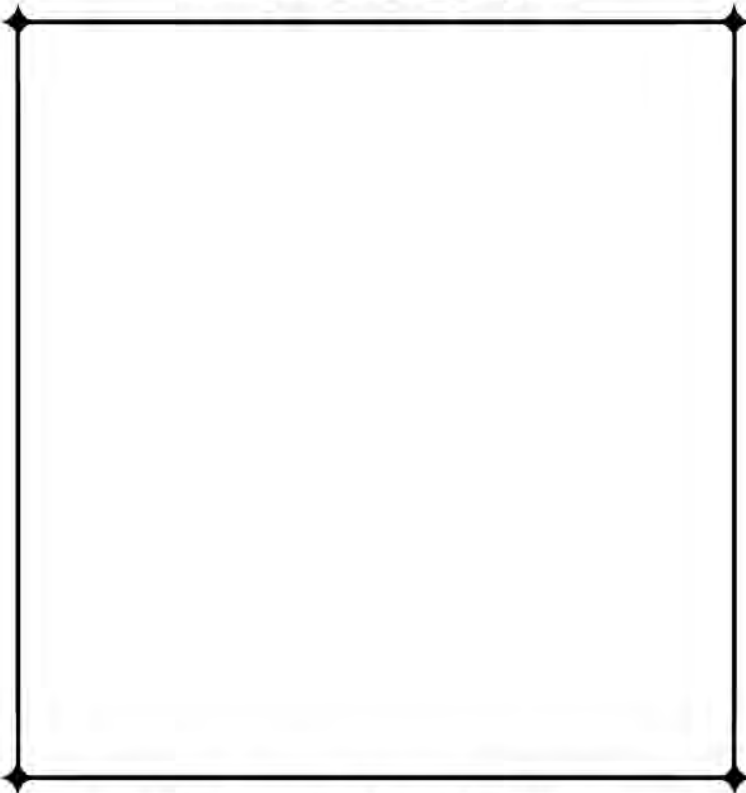
Analise grew up in Fall City, Washington, hiking and skiing in the mountains around western Washington. She is currently attending California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo for a B.S. in Environmental Engineering and a minor in Water Science with an emphasis in watershed management. Analise is on track for a B.S. in spring 2024, and then plans to get a master's in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cal Poly in 2025. Over the summer, she assisted Cascadia staff in riparian restoration projects throughout Chelan County. In her free time, she enjoys playing soccer, reading, playing trumpet, hiking, kayaking, and spending time with her family and dogs.

KIDS CORNER: SPOTLIGHT ON BEAVERS

Funded
by:  DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

BEAVER ADAPTATIONS

Start by drawing an outline of yourself in the frame, then add beaver adaptations from below to see what you would look like as a beaver.



- Webbed back feet: **Draw your feet with webbed toes.**
- Bad eyesight: **Draw whiskers on your face.**
- Clear eyelids: **Draw swim goggles on your person.**
- Front teeth: **Draw a smile with two big sharp orange front teeth.**
- Paddle-shaped tail: **Draw a big flat tail.**
- Waterproof fur: **Draw a warm raincoat on your person.**

Want to learn more about beavers? Check out our kids' Beaver Activity Book available to print from cascadiacd.org or by calling (509) 436-1601.



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The Conservation Quarterly is published on a quarterly basis by Cascadia Conservation District and reaches over 38,700 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.



Please Remember to Recycle

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

Nov 17, Dec 15, Jan 19 1:30-4:00. Watch our website or call (509) 436-1601 for updates. Call-in/Zoom options are available.

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

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meeting

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

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust

Restoring Grasses at Horse Lake, Nov 1. Contact: susan@cdlandtrust.org
Annual Celebration Dinner, Nov 3. Contact: kathy@cdlandtrust.org

Sustainable NCW: Waste Wizard

What goes where? How to recycle in NCW! To view the Waste Wizard, visit: sustainablencw.org/wastewizard

ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT



To join the list scan the QR code
or call (509) 436-1601



Photo credit: Oly Mingo & Entiat Chamber of Commerce

A HUGE thank you to our partners & volunteers who help provide students with career-connected, place-based, learning through our Kids in the Creek, Kids in the Snow, and Kids in the Forest programs!

Together we are fostering the next generation of natural resources stewards!



These education programs are part of Cascadia CD's 75 Years of Conservation!

Also, a HUGE thank you to the funders of these programs: WA Recreation & Conservation Office's No Child Left Inside Grant, WA Department of Ecology's Watershed Restoration Grant, and Icicle Fund.

Education programs contact: amandan@cascadiacd.org.

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