

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

WINTER 2023

EN ESPAÑOL:
CASCADIACD.ORG



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

SPOTLIGHT ON: BEAVER DAM ANALOGS

What are BDAs?

BDA is short for Beaver Dam Analogs. These wooden in-stream structures mimic natural beaver dams. These structures are hand-built into our local streams. Wood posts are pounded into the ground across the stream channel. They are then interwoven with branches. The resulting dam slows and ponds the stream water, acting much like the work of a beaver. In 2022 Cascadia Conservation District installed 101 BDAs on private and public lands in Chelan County.

Why BDAs?

With current beaver populations at roughly 5% of historical numbers, it is difficult to imagine all the ways beavers maintained our natural landscapes. Commercial trapping of beaver began in the Pacific Northwest in

1811. Beavers are often thought of as “nature’s engineers.” Without beavers maintaining the riparian ecosystems, many streams are deeply eroded, incised, and disconnected from the flood plain. In order to help restore our watersheds, we are stepping in and installing BDAs. These structures immediately start to reconnect floodplains (see benefits to the right) and jumpstart the establishment and growth of living organisms, that continue improving the health of our streams’ aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

BENEFITS OF BEAVER DAMS AND BDAs

Reconnecting streams with their floodplains, side channels, off channel habitat, and ponds!

Increases water storage and base flows = enhanced water supply for people plants & wildlife

“Green Fuel Breaks” limit the spread of wildfire

More wood in streams = more fish and fish habitat

Leaf litter storage = Increased food supply for macro-invertebrates

Improved nesting areas for waterfowl and songbirds

Contact Cascadia at (509) 436-1601 or info@cascadiacd.org

Fish and BDAs!

Did you know that fish grow on trees? Its true!

Many research studies have shown fish thrive in creeks and rivers that have more woody materials—logs, root wads, and even full-sized trees! Along with BDAs, Cascadia installs Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS) that mimic natural wood accumulation in streams. Our restoration efforts also include planting native trees and shrubs along the creeks where we have installed BDAs and PALS. This increased amount of wet and woody habitat immediately benefits the fish and other wildlife!

BDAs Aren’t Beavers

Although BDAs can mimic beaver dams and help in restoration efforts, they cannot provide all the benefits that beavers provide to stream ecosystems. Beavers actually play an important role chewing down trees so that they fall in streams, creating more habitat for other wildlife. Their ponds often flood other nearby trees to provide valuable dead snags for birds. If you are interested in BDA installation on your property, or learning more, contact us!



Want to tour a BDA site to see the benefits for yourself? Sign up for our Spring Restoration Site Tours at the link: <https://rebrand.ly/BDAtour> or QR code



NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Please follow this link: rebrand.ly/CCDNews12
Or scan the QR code to complete a short survey
Or call (509) 436-1601 or email info@cascadiacd.org



POSTAL CUSTOMER LOCAL

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Wenatchee, WA
ECRWSS

Cascadia Conservation District
14 N Mission St
Wenatchee, WA 98801

2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Thinned **135** acres of strategically placed forest stands through our Fuel Break and Forest Resiliency Partnership Program.

20 acres of forest thinned through Cascadia's Cost-Share Program.

Conducted **32** wildfire home risk assessments.

Partnered with over **70** federal, state, tribal, & local agencies and organizations (across all program areas).

Taught **5,131** students through Wheat Week, Kids in the Creek, Kids in the Forest, Kids in the Snow, Salmon Festival, Summer Camp, and After School Programs.

Over **29,000** Recorded hours that students spent outdoors.

Produced a quarterly newsletter sent to over **38,000** residents.

Featured local nature photo contest winners on **300** calendars.

Maintained website & Facebook page.

59 landowners created defensible space around their homes by removing **381** yards of material with our roving chipper program.

At the Chelan transfer station **102** residents disposed of **450** cubic yards of woody debris to create or maintain defensible space around their home.

26 volunteers worked to retrofit homes and structures to make them more resistant to wildfire.

over **6.3 million** gallons of water conserved annually on **19** acres:

- **16** acres of orchard saving **4.86 million** gallons of water annually.
- **2.5** acres of pasture saving **325,000** gallons annually.
- And $\frac{1}{2}$ acre hedgerow with micro-irrigation saving **1.1 million** gallons annually.

15 farm plans developed
Recommended **63** conservation practices to improve irrigation systems, enhance soil health, and increase pollinator habitat.

Provided water quality and stream restoration assistance to **55** residents.

Performed **5** soil tests.

Educated **100** community members per week during our virtual Native Planting **101** workshop series.

Attended over **15** community events like Earth Day Fairs, Farmer's Markets, and more.

5,235 native plants planted across **8.5** acres.

Restored **3,360** linear feet of riparian vegetation/habitat.

Installed **99** instream Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA) and Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS).

83 habitat logs installed.

2023 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTIONS

APPLY TO BE A CANDIDATE BY FEBRUARY 16, 2023 AT 5:00 PM.

DETAILS AND FORMS AT CASCADIACD.ORG OR BY CALLING (509) 436-1601.

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. Candidates must be registered voters residing in the conservation district, and may be required to own land or operate a farm.

Remember to Vote!

ELECTION DAY
MARCH 22, 2023
AT PYBUS PUBLIC MARKET IN WENATCHEE

Mail-in ballots are available by contacting valerieh@cascadiacd.org.
Deadline to request mail-in ballot is February 16, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.

CASCADIA CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF CONSERVATION!

Where It Began

The Washington State Legislature passed RCW 89.08 in 1939, enabling the establishment of conservation districts in the state.

Two Become One

In 1948, the Wenatchee-Entiat Soil Conservation District and the Lake Chelan Soil Conservation District were created. The two Districts merged in October 1973 to form the Chelan County Conservation District.

Becoming Cascadia

In July 2007, we changed our name to the Cascadia Conservation District to prevent confusion with county government and to better meet the needs of our district members and stakeholders.

A Year of Celebration!

Watch for articles on our website, Facebook, future newsletters & local media remembering Cascadia's collaborative approach to conservation for 75 years and where we will go from here!

FUEL BREAK AND FOREST RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

Technical assistance along with financial assistance programs, which can cover 50-80% of the cost of work, to improve forest health and help protect critical infrastructure from wildfire damage.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Private landowners in the Lower Peshastin to Upper Wenatchee area are eligible and encouraged to apply.



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



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This project is made possible through a partnership agreement with USDA-NRCS Washington through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which is funded through the Farm Bill. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

WELCOME LUCAS!



Originally from Virginia, Lucas has slowly been making his way west before settling in Central Washington.

After graduating from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BA in Environmental Studies in 2017, Lucas has pursued a career in conservation for the last 5 years. First moving to Austin, TX to work with the Texas Conservation Corps and then landing in Reno, NV working as a natural resource technician with tribal fish and wildlife biologists.

When not at work, you'll find him spending time with his growing family and enjoying the outdoors fishing, hiking, and camping. Lucas is excited to explore the beauty of Central WA and join the community to learn about local conservation issues as the District's Habitat Restoration Technician.



**WEDNESDAYS
IN
MARCH**

NATIVE PLANTING WORKSHOP SERIES

7:00 PM WEEKLY - VIA ZOOM

Join us to learn from local experts!
Details at www.cascadiacd.org

REGISTER HERE



Link: rebrand.ly/NP1012023 or QR code:

FREE CHIPPING PROGRAM

Reduce your risk of wildfire damage:

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks.
- Remove vegetation and other items from within 10 feet of the house.
- Prune trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Learn more at www.firewise.org.

**REGISTER HERE: [REBRAND.LY/SPRING23CHIPPING](https://rebrand.ly/spring23chipping)
OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT**



Questions? Contact JoeH@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601

BACKYARD FRUIT TREE WORKSHOP



**FEBRUARY 25TH,
9:00 AM - NOON**

Hosted by Cascadia Conservation District at
WSU Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center
1100 N Western Ave, Wenatchee, WA

Workshop will cover management & scouting techniques to keep your backyard fruit trees healthy.

Participants will practice pruning techniques on a variety of fruit trees during the workshop. Equipment will be provided.

**Q&A TO FOLLOW. RSVP APPRECIATED:
(509) 436-1601 or info@cascadiacd.org**



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

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*
Lucas Lachica, *Resource Technician II*
Kim Lancaster, *Archaeologist*
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Nada Wentz, *Office Assistant*
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Please Remember to Recycle



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 14, 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

Mar 1, 4-6 pm, Entiat Fire Station, 2200 Entiat Way
Call/Zoom participation available. Call (509) 436-1601 for details.

Greater Wenatchee Arbor Day Celebration

Apr 22, 9:00-1:00. East Wenatchee City Hall, Pybus Market, Martin's Marketplace (Cashmere), Entiat City Hall.
Contact: ajmplawns@nwi.net.

Sustainable NCW: Waste Wizard

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

Wenatchee River Institute

- **Western Monarchs: Migration, Adaptation and Resilience.** Feb 22, 7:00 pm at WRI Red Barn.
 - Other upcoming WRI events include: snowshoe strolls, fire & forest talks, bird walks, youth camps, wildlife tracking, and more!
- For dates/times, registration, and information on all of the above, contact: programs@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org or 509-548-0181.

Join Us!

ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT

Photo credit: Oly Mingo & Entiat Chamber of Commerce

Bringing people together to improve communication, reduce conflicts, address problems, reach consensus and implement actions to improve natural resource management on associated private and public lands in the Entiat watershed.

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