

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SPRING 2024

EN ESPAÑOL:
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LANDOWNER SPOTLIGHT: WEAVING HEALTH BACK INTO EAGLE CREEK

Article and photos by Nancy Warner, Community Volunteer

For more than 40 years Vince and Patti Bosket have woven their lives around their 2+ acre home on Eagle Creek. They built a house that reflects the nature of their beautiful surroundings, created successful baking and design businesses, raised three sons, and cultivated tons of vegetables in their home garden to share with their neighbors and the Leavenworth food bank.



Patti and Vince Bosket

Now the Boskets are working with Cascadia Conservation District (CCD) and neighboring landowners to cultivate another success – using beavers as models to restore wildlife habitat, increase groundwater recharge, and mitigate the effects of wildfires in the Eagle Creek watershed.



Beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and post-assisted log structures (PALs) are low-tech, cost-effective stream restoration tools that can restore and maintain fish and wildlife habitat, improve connectivity and complexity, and support biodiversity.

“I want to be a part of this,” Patti Bosket said when she heard a neighbor up valley was working with CCD to restore the creek by installing beaver dam analogs and native plantings, “and I can encourage other neighbors to join us.”

With the enthusiastic support of the Boskets and their neighbors, the District installed 32 beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and post-assisted log structures (PALs) last fall along 600 feet of adjoining lands.

According to Patti and her neighbor Don Youkey, they are already seeing effects of the BDAs, namely more water in the stream, sediments accumulating, and more wildlife such as songbirds along with recent sightings of a great blue heron and river otter. One day they hope to see beavers back in the watershed.

“We need the beavers more than ever now,” Patti says. “Water is a huge concern since we’re all on wells up here. And beavers help restore the aquifer. They’re very important.”



Series of four BDAs installed between Bosket and Youkey properties.

Neighbors Patti Bosket and Don Youkey take action across adjoining land.

Patti notes that Eagle Creek is also regarded as a hot spot for future wildfires. “More people are thinning their trees, she said, but beavers and the ponds they create could give us more of a greenbelt,” that would function as a firebreak. Patti is hoping to get other neighbors on board in restoring health to Eagle Creek using these methods.

“It feels so good to give back,” she says adding that “the valley is growing and I feel it is our responsibility as humans to take care of our backyard. Even one person can make a difference.”

Continued on page 2...

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**PHOTO
Contest**
May 1 - Oct 1 2024
DETAILS: CASCADIACD.ORG

WEAVING HEALTH CONT.

Mark Ingman, CCD said, "I'm excited about the steady gains we are making on Eagle and Chumstick Creek not only for salmon and steelhead, but really the entire food web through restoration techniques modeled after beavers."



BEFORE

My passion for this work comes from hearing back from an excited landowner that as a result of our project they, for example, now hear frogs for the first time, see more fish in their stream, or some other first-time experience with nature in their backyard. None of it would be possible without landowners like Patti that share this vision of our work.

The list of interested landowners in these projects literally grows each day from all the calls and emails we receive. I'm impressed how much everyday people in our area truly care about the legacy they will be leaving for the next generation." Mark continued.



AFTER

For more information contact Cascadia Conservation District, 509-436-1601 or info@cascadiacd.org.
Scan the QR code or visit: rebrand.ly/BosketInterview to view Patti Bosket's interview on NCWlife




Soil Testing Program

GREEN GRASS, ABUNDANT CROPS, AND RICH GARDENS START WITH HEALTHY SOIL.

Contact Marcy Bartelheimer at (509) 436-1601 OR marcyb@cascadiacd.org for a FREE soil test

SALMON SAFE CERTIFICATION

AN ECO-LABEL FOR NCW FARMS

FREE FOR ELIGIBLE FARMS

We offer assistance with the application and will cover the fee for the first 3-year certification.

CONTACT:
Marcy Bartelheimer
marcyb@cascadiacd.org
509-436-1601



CONGRATS ELIZABETH!

Elizabeth Jackson has been promoted to *Program Director*. She will now oversee our technical staff. Congrats on your new role Liz!



WELCOME BACK MARCY!

Marcy Bartelheimer has returned to the Cascadia team as a *Resource Specialist I*. We are excited to have her back!



CASCADIA PBA'S FIRST BURN A SUCCESS

Article and photos by Colin Sternagel, Ecological Services LLC

As spring begins, many residents improve their properties through limbing and thinning. Debris is managed through chipping or burning to prepare properties for fire that will inevitably come to this fire-evolved landscape. On March 14th, with a respect and understanding of the tool that fire can be, the Cascadia Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) gathered to implement a prescribed burn at the Gibbs Farm just outside of Leavenworth.



The Cascadia PBA includes members from the greater upper valley community. This burn included a collective of seasoned practitioners and new recruits (pictured above) who worked closely together to burn three acres of a forested hillside behind Grant Gibb's (pictured below) home.



Planning and preparing for the burn started two weeks prior with Mr. Gibbs, burn leader Colin Sternagel, and locally based Ecological Services LLC at the helm. This included: transforming trails into firelines and constructing new ones, pruning nearby trees and vegetation, and determining the burn prescription. The prescription includes: the right fuel, ambient moisture, temperature, and wind speed/direction to achieve landowner objectives, as well as submitting a burn plan to the WA Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) for permitting. Ecological Services LLC also supplied a 500 gallon pump trailer along with onsite water sources and backpack sprayers, which helped ensure available water all around the unit. With permit in hand and a promising weather window approaching, the word went out to the PBA for experienced and novice volunteers to assist.

Fifteen members joined in various roles. These included: weather monitoring to ensure the burn was within prescription, strategically burning to create low intensity fire based on wind and topography, and being ready on the perimeter to snuff any fire that escaped the unit.

After active ignitions were complete, everyone switched to securing the perimeter to ensure the fire didn't escape that day or night. Over the next seven days, as the fire continued to smolder, clean up patrols were also implemented until it was declared out. To celebrate a successful burn and reflect, members enjoyed a BBQ together.

This burn was the final check off before accreditation in the DNR's Certified Burner Program for Colin, who was the first local resident to go through the program!



The objectives of the burn were to reduce flammable vegetation and cycle them back into the soil, kill small saplings to reduce crowding, and manage pest proliferation.



If you would like to host or be a part of future burns please contact Cascadia PBA: www.cascadiapba.org.



Is your home ready for **Wildfire?**

Cascadia Conservation District can help!

HOME HARDENING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Residents of Chelan County are eligible for up to a \$500 incentive payment for preparing their homes or structures for wildfire

WHAT PRACTICES ARE COVERED?

- Caulking gaps in siding
- Gravel perimeter around the home & other structures
- Outside vent replacements & adding metal mesh screening to vents
- Metal flashing at the base of the home & other structures
- Screening under porches/decks
- And more!

For more information & how to apply visit CascadiaCD.org

Questions? Contact:

IsobelW@CascadiaCD.org | (509) 312-8555
JoeH@CascadiaCD.org | (509) 306-8189



Intentional management of your forest can help save your home, your trees, and wildlife habitat from wildfire

- Work can be contracted out or completed by applicant
- Cost of treatment is reimbursed after work is completed
- Treatments that have already been completed prior to application are not eligible for cost share
- Landowners who have completed a Firewise treatment around their home may still be eligible for continued cost share on the rest of their property

How to apply



Forest Health Cost Share

Can cover up to 80% of the cost of forest health and fuels reduction treatments

Treatments covered:

- Small tree thinning (less than 8" in diameter)
- Tree/shrub pruning
- Shrub & brush thinning
- Woody debris treatment
- Site preparation for planting and seedling establishment

All landowners in Chelan County are eligible to apply



Contact Joe Hill or Isobel Woolner

JoeH@cascadiacd.org - (509) 306-8189
IsobelW@cascadiacd.org - (509) 306-8555
For more information visit CascadiaCD.org

KIDS CORNER: MAKE A NATIVE BEE HOTEL

Many native plants depend on native bees for pollination.

Native bees are not the same as honey bees. They live by themselves not in big groups. Many live in small holes dug into the ground or in small holes that are burrowed into wood. You can help native bees by making bee houses for them. A lot of their habitat has been destroyed, and pesticides have killed them.



A bee house that you make can give the bees shelter and a place for them to lay their eggs.

Look at the picture above for an example of a bee house made with simple materials. In this example, the container is just a recycled metal food can and some paper or plastic straws. Bees can crawl inside of the straws to lay their eggs and then they will seal the end of the straw to protect the eggs. Hang your bee house outside in a sheltered place protected from the rain.

CAVITY-NESTING NATIVE BEES

Small Carpenter Bees, *Ceratina* spp. Mason Bees, *Osmia* spp.

Leafcutter Bees, *Megachile* spp. Yellow-Faced Bees, *Hylaeus* spp.

© 2015 Heather Holm Pollinators of Native Plants www.PollinatorsNativePlants.com

Native bees can be about the size of a fly and others can be about as big as your thumb. So creating a bee house with different sizes of tubes will allow more options for the bees that use your bee house. Natural materials such as sticks, hollow stems and reeds can be used instead of the straws.

There are many ways to build a bee house and protect native bees. You can learn more at these websites:

Native Bees of Washington State:



Native Bees of WA field guide:



Nest For Native Bees:



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

May 17, Jun 21, Jul 19 1:30-4:00 pm. 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 Bird and Habitat Restoration Tour

May 14, meet in Wenatchee at 7:00 am, return no later than 1:00 pm. Meet at the Olds Station Park-and-Ride on Penny Road to form carpools. Join Co-leader NCWAS' Susan Ballinger to explore Entiat watershed bird habitats including recently restored riverside forests and shrubby creeks. Co-leader, Cascadia Conservation District's Mark Ingman, will showcase recently installed beaver-like structures (BDAs, PALs) at Stormy Creek and Potato Creek. Wear sturdy shoes for walking on uneven ground, layers of clothing, sun protection, snacks, lunch, and water. Call (509) 436-1601 for more information and to register for this FREE tour.

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meeting

June 5, 4:00-7:00 pm, Entiat Fire Station, 2200 Entiat Way. Food provided. Call/Zoom participation available. Call (509) 436-1601 for details.

Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition

2018 Paradise, CA Fire "Lessons Learned" - May 2nd at Snowy Owl Theater 5:30-8:00 pm. Contact: info@chumstickcoalition.org, more info: chumstickcoalition.org

Cashmere Community Salmon Release and Youth Activity Fair

June 29th—Cashmere Riverside Park. Youth activities from 10 am until 1:30 pm (Salmon Release at 11:20). Contact Jen@ccfeg.org for more information or follow Cascade Fisheries on Instagram and Facebook (@ccfeg) for events announcements.

Upper Valley MEND Gleaning Program

Harvest excess produce from farms, orchards, and backyard gardens for hunger relief organizations. To volunteer, contact gleaning@uvmend.org or 509-699-7395.

Waste Loop

- **Repair Cafes - the first Wednesday of each month.** 6:00-8:00 pm at Eastside Rebuild, 101 E Railroad Ave, Cashmere. wasteloop.org/community-repair-cafes
- **Gardening Tool Restoration and Maintenance Workshop.** May 9 4:00-7:00 pm at Eastside Rebuild, 101 E Railroad Ave, Cashmere. contact@wasteloop.org

Wenatchee Chapter of the Native Plant Society

- **Nahahum Canyon Radio Tower Road Hike:** May 16 9:00 am-12:00 pm
 - **Pollinator Garden at the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery:** June 8 9:00-11:00 am
 - **Tronsen Ridge Hike:** June 15 7:00 am-3:00 pm
 - **Stevens Pass- Pacific Crest Trail North Hike:** July 6 9:00 am-12:00 pm
 - **Ultraviolet Night Hike:** July 27 9:00 -11:30 pm
- More info on all the above events here: wnps.org/wv-events/

WORKSHOP INSTALLING IRRIGATION IN RAISED BEDS

SAT, JUNE 8, 2024 8:00 AM – NOON
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1408 WASHINGTON ST., WENATCHEE, WA
Pre-Registration Required. Details at cascadiacd.org

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



1350 McKittrick St, Ste B
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 436-1601
www.cascadiacd.org

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Marcy Bartelheimer, *Resource Specialist I*
Kirk Beckendorf, *Environmental Educator*
Kathleen Deason, *Administrative Assistant*
Patrick Haggerty, *Forestry Program Manager*
Valerie Hampton, *Financial Coordinator*
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Please Remember to Recycle