

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2024

EN ESPAÑOL:
CASCADIACD.ORG



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LANDOWNER SPOTLIGHT: SNOWGRASS FARM

The farmer's markets are in full swing throughout the Wenatchee Valley and consumers are on the hunt for sustainable and locally grown produce. The Salmon-Safe eco-label is one of the ways consumers can easily identify these products. Jenny Bourgeois from Snowgrass Farm has prided herself on providing nutritious produce to the community through organic farming techniques allowing her to earn Salmon-Safe Certification.

This time of year, her farm is flourishing with leafy green vegetables, flavorful fruits, and colorful flowers. Snowgrass Farm provides food for the community and a productive ecosystem for wildlife, insects, fish, and soil. This balance of thriving agriculture and ecosystem is the result of conservation practices on the farm.

Jenny maximizes space on her farm by planting leafy greens and tomatoes together.



Some examples include: minimal tillage, organic farming methods, responsible weed management, and diverse perennials and hedgerows. These techniques have allowed Jenny to hold Snowgrass Farm's produce to high standards and achieve the USDA Organic, Real Organic Project, and Salmon-Safe certifications.

Jenny Bourgeois carefully hand picks kale, counting individual pieces to ensure they are the same size prior to sale.



During the Salmon-Safe audit, Jenny gave Cascadia staff and Salmon-Safe contractor a tour of her farm where she explained her farming practices.



Snowgrass Farm has been a long-standing partner of Cascadia CD. She reached out for assistance to become Salmon-Safe certified 3+ years ago after she heard about Salmon-Safe beers from Icicle Brewing Company.

Jenny stated, "It piqued my interest and exposed me to industries that realized the impact their processes had on our Washington waterways. I was fortunate that [Cascadia] had a grant to help farmers ... become certified, as that greatly lowered the cost barrier for entry. Their assistance in helping with the application ... made the process incredibly smooth and easy for me."

The Salmon-Safe certification recognizes farmers who practice ecologically sustainable agricultural practices that protects water quality, and wildlife and salmonoid habitat. This July, Jenny successfully recertified for another three years.

In addition to recertification, Salmon-Safe, Snowgrass Farms partnered with Cascadia to install an efficient irrigation system, including drip irrigation, micro-sprinklers, and irrigation timers that have conserved 350,000 gallons of water annually, about half the amount of water it takes to fill an Olympic sized swimming pool. This change has allowed Jenny and her staff to save water, time, and money.



Jenny hires several seasonal staff members to help on the farm and at farmers markets.

In the summer, you can find Jenny at the Leavenworth and Plain Farmer's Markets or at the Snowgrass Farm Stand. If you have the chance, stop by, try some nutritious produce, and learn firsthand about the important farming practices Jenny is implementing on Snowgrass Farm.

"The [agricultural] program is very dynamic and can cater to a variety of situations and operations. They want people and businesses to succeed so I highly encourage anyone, even if you are unsure of what they can offer, to reach out as they are able to see more possibilities than one may be aware of." - Jenny Bourgeois

For more information about Salmon-Safe contact: Kelly Luebbering at: kellyl@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.

*This project made possible through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

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SEASONAL TECHNICIAN CREW GETS THE JOB DONE

This summer, our seasonal crew is fully immersed in managing multiple stream restoration projects across the Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds.

Some highlights of their efforts include: Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) installation and upkeep, noxious weed control, riparian buffer planting with native plants, and the installation of large wood habitat structures.

Over the past month, our focus has centered on a significant and dynamic endeavor in collaboration with Cascade Fisheries and Trout Unlimited's Wenatchee-Entiat Beaver Project: the Potato Creek Restoration Project. Spearheaded by the CCD crew, this initiative involves the strategic addition of large pine and fir logs in key places of the stream and the installation of BDAs to reconnect floodplain habitat for fish and wildlife. These projects are labor-intensive, with structures constructed entirely by hand.

Highlighted below is one of the handmade structures. Led by Phillip Klenke from Cascade Fisheries.



The goal of these Post Assisted Log Structures (PALS) is to enhance water retention and enrich habitat complexity in a stream that has suffered degradation.

The efforts at Potato Creek are integral to CCD's broader Riparian Program, and we remain committed to restoring additional sites throughout this season. The dedication and hard work of our crew has been instrumental in achieving our program milestones. These projects would not be possible without their tireless efforts.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK!



Dandelion Curiel
Dandelion is a proclaimed steward of the land. They have always been connected to all living beings from a young age, engaging in every energy that life presents itself as. Dandelion loves to hike, paddle board, and bird watch.



Johanna Cogen
Johanna has worked various jobs focused on the intersection of conservation education, community outreach and event planning. Johanna enjoys rock climbing or meandering up a trail in search of new wildflowers!



Jack Owen
Jack is studying at WSU for a Bachelor of Science in environmental studies. He has a passion for conservation and ecosystem restoration. In his free time, Jack enjoys cycling and backpacking.

WELCOME KELLY LUEBBERING!



Kelly grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio where she found a passion for the outdoors through horseback riding, camping, and hiking.

She earned a B.S. in Environmental Science and Ecosystem Restoration from The Ohio State University.

After graduation, Kelly worked various seasonal positions allowing her to gain experience in aquatic habitat management,

RESOURCE SPECIALIST 1

environmental education, winter backcountry wilderness management, and urban entomology and agriculture research.

She is excited to have the opportunity to join the Cascadia Conservation District team where she can combine her various backgrounds and learn more about Central Washington and the Pacific Northwest. Outside of work, Kelly enjoys backcountry skiing, mountain biking, hiking, and crocheting.

WELCOME LAURA RIVERA!

Laura's family legacy of farming and environmental stewardship instilled in her a deep respect for the land. Growing up exploring the outdoors by biking, hiking, swimming, and stargazing by the river; fostered a deep appreciation and connection with nature.



For the past five years, Laura has empowered Latine communities in North Central Washington. Her work focused on cultivating education and respect for the region's unique fire-adapted landscapes, while fostering leadership and preparedness in communities.

BILINGUAL EDUCATION & OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Laura brings her passion for nature and restoration to her position. She's excited to be a part of Cascadia's team, working together to create healthy and resilient landscapes for both the environment and the communities it sustains.



WATCHING WILDLIFE

Students attending Mission View Elementary School's, After School Program (the Lion's Den) have captured over a dozen species of wildlife using trail cameras and 1000s of videos of wildlife behavior.

Last fall, the students learned and practiced using and setting up the cameras. A few days later the students explored a local restoration site, they planted native plants, and looked for animal tracks and sign. Based on the location of the wildlife sign, each small group of 2-3 students decided where to deploy their camera. They picked a spot and deployed their camera, setting it up themselves. Currently the students' cameras are deployed in both the Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds.



Since they were first deployed in the fall of 2023, student cameras have captured coyotes scent marking, buck mule deer sparring, deer bedding down & sleeping, beavers chewing branches, mink and otters bounding along the bank of the Wenatchee River, racoons standing up on hind legs, a great blue heron eating a juvenile fish, bats chasing insects, wood ducks and mallards swimming in a restored stream, northern flickers and much more.

The cameras and program are the result of a Watching Wildlife Grant from Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and grants from Confluence Health, the Community Foundation, the Natural Resources Conservation Services and WA Recreation and Conservation Office. The grants allowed Cascadia to purchase trail cameras, SD cards and other accessories. The grants provided funds for transportation and staff time to manage the program and guide the students on trips to look for wildlife and to check on the cameras. Our collaborative partners, Cascade Fisheries, Mission View Elementary School and Chelan Douglas Land Trust, helped plan and lead activities.

HOME HARDENING INCENTIVE PROGRAM
Residents of Chelan County are eligible for up to a \$600 incentive payment for preparing their homes or structures for wildfire

Please contact us for a free home risk assessment to help you choose which home hardening practice(s) would be the best fit for your home and property:
IsobelW@cascadiacd.org or (509) 312-8555
JoeH@cascadiacd.org or (509) 306-8189



We can't wait to see what next year's students capture with the cameras!

You can watch some of the trail cam videos on Cascadia CD's YouTube Channel.



(Or the QR code)



HELP YOUR COMMUNITY
Prepare for wildfire season

Are you financially, physically, or otherwise unable to reduce wildfire fuels around your home?

If you live in Leavenworth, Cashmere, or the Lake Wenatchee area, support is available from your local Fire District and Cascadia Conservation District!

NO COST SERVICES OFFERED

- Thinning brush
- Pruning tree limbs
- Removing debris like leaves and pine needles

Your efforts within 100' of your home can help protect your home and community in the event of a wildfire.

SIGN UP OR HELP A NEIGHBOR SIGN UP:

Contact Person: Isobel Woolner
(509) 312-8555 - IsobelW@cascadiacd.org



Cascadia is partnering with a local crew, Leavenworth Fire District 3 and Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue to make fuels reduction more accessible to community members in the Cashmere, Leavenworth and Lake Wenatchee areas.

If you or someone you know would like support with fuels reduction around the home, assistance is available. Contact Isobel Woolner (info above) at Cascadia for more information and how to apply.



CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Forest Health
Cost Share

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

FOR MORE INFO OR TO APPLY CONTACT:

IsobelW@cascadiacd.org or (509) 312-8555

JoeH@cascadiacd.org or (509) 306-8189

All landowners in Chelan County are eligible to apply



KIDS CORNER: TRY A SIT SPOT

Enjoying, exploring, and observing wildlife is possible wherever you are. All you need to do is slow down and observe what is all around us in our everyday lives and places. All you need is a Sit Spot!

A Sit Spot is just a favorite place outside where you can sit safely and quietly to observe all of the nature around you. It does not have to be a wild place. A backyard, a side yard, a park all can work as a Sit Spot where you can observe the local birds, insects, small plants, trees and animals!

To pick your Sit Spot use these three steps:

- 1) Find a place where you can sit safely and comfortably.
- 2) A spot outside which has some nature around it.
- 3) Find a place that you can visit easily and often.

Using your Sit Spot to observe nature can be very simple. Go to Your Spot, sit down and get comfortable. Sit quietly and as still as possible. You may want to start with just 5 minutes, but then you could stay for longer periods of time. The longer you sit quietly the more you begin to observe and the less any wildlife will pay attention to you.



Photo from Word's Creative Commons

While sitting, use your senses to observe the nature around you. Here are some ways you can start using your senses at your Sit Spot to observe wildlife and the nature that is around you.

- What do you notice about the plants around you? What colors are they?
- What insects do you observe in the air, on the ground, on plants? What are they doing?
- How many kinds of birds do you hear? Where are they? What are they doing?
- What other wildlife do you notice? What are they doing?
- What smells do you observe? Where are they coming from?
- What do you hear? Close your eyes and let your hearing be your main sense of observation.
- What do you feel? How does the air feel? What does the ground feel like under you?



You may want to keep a journal to draw and write what you observe, experience, and wonder about each time you visit Your Sit Spot.

To Learn more about picking a Spot and using a journal, checkout this video. <https://johnmuirlaws.com/njc-episode-22-sitspot-observing-a-special-place-over-time/>



(Or use the QR code)



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

Aug 16, Sept 20, Oct 18, 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 Watershed Planning Unit Meeting

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

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust

- First Friday Art Walk: Aug 2, 18 N. Wenatchee Ave, 5:00-7:00 pm
- Hike For Health: Aug 3, Stormy Preserve, 8:00-10:00 am
- Ice Cream Social: Aug 9, Saddle Rock Natural Area, 6:00-8:00 pm
- Hike For Health: Sept 4, Cashmere Canyon Preserve, 9:00-11:00 am
- Hike For Health: Oct 12, Saddle Rock Natural Area, 9:00 am -12:00 pm
- Trick or Treat with CDLT: Oct 31, 18 N Wenatchee Ave, time TBD

Contact info for all above events: info@cdlandtrust.org or <https://www.cdlandtrust.org/outings-events/events>

Sustainable NCW

Facts vs. Fiction about Recycling and Composting - a Panel Discussion
Oct 29, 7:00-8:30 pm at Pybus Public Market Event Room, 3 N Worthen St, Wenatchee. FREE event, offered in English and Spanish. Contact: marlene@sustainablencw.org.

Upper Valley MEND Gleaning Program

Harvest excess produce from farms, orchards, and backyard gardens for hunger relief organizations. If you are interested in volunteering or have excess produce to donate, contact gleaning@uvmend.org, 509-699-7395.

Wenatchee Naturalist Course

Sept. 19- Dec. 11th - 12 Wednesday evenings, 6:00-8:30pm and 4 Saturday field trips. Register now for the 50-hour course through WVC Continuing Education. Learn more at <https://www.wenatcheenaturalist.com/>
Contact: Susan Ballinger skylinebal@gmail.com

Wenatchee Valley Museum: The West Is Burning Film

Sept 12 7:00-9:00 pm. 127 S. Mission, Wenatchee. The West is Burning raises awareness about the conditions of forests in the western U.S. Told through a full-feature documentary, we examine the history of forest management and litigation that led to the current conditions which are causing catastrophic fire nearly year-round. **Learn more at wenatcheevalleymuseum.org.**



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Marcy Bartelheimer, *Resource Specialist I*
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Please Recycle