

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

WINTER 2024

EN ESPAÑOL:
CASCADIACD.ORG



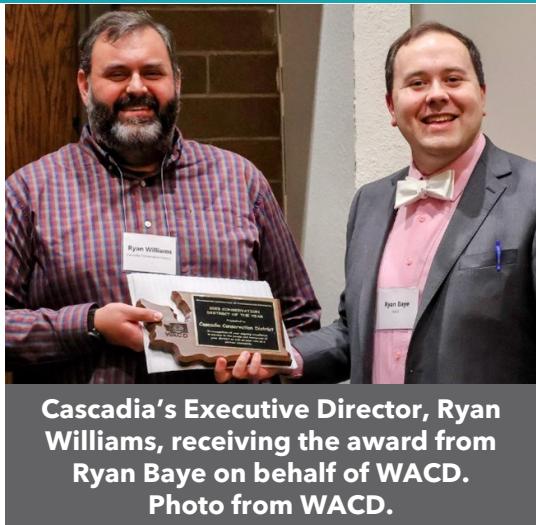
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CASCADIA NAMED: CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF THE YEAR!

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSSC) and the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) have recognized Cascadia as the Conservation District of the Year for excellence in service to the people and resources of Chelan County as well as our role as a partner statewide.

“With a knowledgeable board and talented staff, the district is always looking for opportunities to improve in effectiveness, inclusivity and accountability which makes the district stand out in the community” said Sarah Groth, Interim Executive Director of the WSSC.

“You are recognized for your leadership in addressing Community Wildfire and Forest Health, Salmon Recovery, Agricultural Assistance, Education and Outreach among others. One item to highlight is the administration of the district, including the ability to voucher for increasingly complex and detailed projects as was the case this past year with the salmon recovery funding - this deserves kudos! We also want to recognize your ongoing commitment to providing cultural resources services to districts statewide - this has been invaluable.” Groth continued.



Cascadia’s Executive Director, Ryan Williams, receiving the award from Ryan Baye on behalf of WACD. Photo from WACD.



Some members of the Cascadia staff with our award. Photo by CCD.

In addition, Cascadia’s Archeologist, Kim Lancaster, was awarded Conservation District Partner of the Year for her efforts in Cultural Resources studies.

Sarah Troutman, the North Central Team District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Washington said, “Kim, an archaeologist for the Cascadia Conservation District, has yet again performed above and beyond in assisting NRCS to meet their mission and deliver excellent customer service to our producers. While much of NRCS-WA was in dire straits for completing cultural resource compliance work, Kim, on behalf of Cascadia, was eager to assist and enter into task orders after a couple year hiatus.”

She continued, “In addition to her normal duties with Cascadia CD and multiple other conservation districts in the area, Kim also collaborated on the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects in Chelan County and still managed to find the time to enter into three consecutive task orders with NRCS. These task orders and Kim’s efforts helped NRCS catch up on a backlog of cultural resource work and knock our 2023 projects out of the park. Kim worked closely with our new Central Area Cultural Resources Specialist, Brianna Patterson, to divide the workload and provide the best and most timely service to our customers. As the end of the fiscal year approached, she worked late hours, while still communicating closely with Brianna, to ensure that reports were submitted ahead of a potential government shutdown and to prevent any adverse effects to our customers.”

“Kim is an absolute pleasure to work with, and she has an excellent rapport with our customers, which is not always the norm in her profession. Kim’s work is always exceptional, and her surveys and reports are professional and timely.” said Troutman.



Kim with her award. Photo by CCD.

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2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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

In partnership with the American Red Cross, local Fire Departments, and Team Rubicon, we conducted **35** wildfire home risk assessments

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

Provided over **6,500** students with natural resources education through Wheat Week, Kids in the Creek, Kids in the Forest, Kids in the Snow, Salmon Festival, Summer Camp, After School Program, Salmon Releases, orchard visits, hatchery visits, stream restoration projects, statewide competition & more.

Over **37,000** hours spent with students, primarily in the outdoors.

Produced a quarterly newsletter sent to over **38,700** residents.

Featured local nature photo contest winners in stewardship calendars.

Maintained website & Facebook page.

At the Chelan transfer station, **102** residents disposed of **800** cubic yards of woody debris to create or maintain defensible space around their home.

56 landowners created defensible space around their homes by removing a combined total of **264** yards of material with our roving chipper program. Multiple landowners were directed to LWFR and CFD#3 chipping programs.

275,000 gallons of water conserved annually on 2 acres via cost-share - that's 18 above ground swimming pools!

Certified 3 Heritage Gardens with total annual water savings of **74,000** gallons on **15,375** sq ft.

\$1,800 in materials received to support new community gardens.

Enhanced **1,200** square feet of a native plant demonstration garden at the Saddle Rock Gateway Trailhead.

Provided water quality and stream restoration assistance to **80** residents.

Recommended **40** conservation practices to improve irrigation systems and water quality, enhance soil health, and increase pollinator habitat.

Exhibited and/or presented at **35** community events like Earth Day Fairs, Farmer's Markets, Heritage Gardens workshops, and other local workshops.

Provided **15** site visits for technical assistance.

10 Farm Plans developed.

Expanded Spanish language outreach through printed materials and translation of our quarterly newsletter.

Over **5,000** native plants planted, helping to restore **10** acres of riparian habitat.

Installed **229** Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA) and Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS).

Educated about **75** community members per week during our virtual Native Planting 101 workshop series.

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

2024 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION

APPLY TO BE A CANDIDATE BY FEB 9, 2024 AT 4:00 PM.

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

ELECTION DAY
MARCH 13, 2024
AT CASCADIA'S OFFICE
1350 MCKITTRICK ST,
STE B, WENATCHEE

Mail-in ballots available by contacting valerieh@cascadiacd.org.
Deadline to request mail-in ballot is February 9, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

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.

You Are Invited!

OPEN HOUSE

WED, MARCH 13, 2024
12:00-7:00 PM
AT CASCADIA'S OFFICE:
1350 MCKITTRICK ST, STE B, WENATCHEE

Visit with our staff, learn about our conservation programs, vote in our Board of Supervisors Election, and enjoy refreshments!



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

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



All landowners in Chelan County are eligible to apply

How 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

THE SECRET LIFE OF SALMON: WINTER EDITION

WHAT ARE SALMON DOING RIGHT NOW IN OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS?



Adult Steelhead are staging right now in our rivers, biding their time until spring highflows allow them to get into our smaller creeks and streams to spawn.

Photos by Tracy Hillman



Parr, young salmon who are actively living in freshwater, are all about conserving energy and avoiding predators.

These young fish only come out to eat at night, and during the day remain concealed in woody debris or coarse substrate. Depending on the species of salmon these young fish can be found in lakes (sockeye), creeks (coho, chinook and steelhead), or mainstream rivers and side channels (more so chinook). Beaver ponds also make great habitat for juvenile salmon!

Adult Chinook and Coho are out in the ocean. In our area, these fish do not return until Summer.

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

SPRING CHIPPING EVENT

Details at: cascadiacd.org



FUEL TO HABITAT PROJECTS

Stormy Preserve and multiple private properties in the Chumstick Watershed were added as sites for the Fuels for In-Stream Habitat project (FFISH) utilizing materials removed for forest health projects in our in-stream structures for Salmon habitat. Last field season, Cascadia worked with partners to convert over 60 logs from wildfire fuel into stream habitat for fish and wildlife. Fish thrive in woody and complex streams. **If you have green tree branches, logs, or tree stumps to donate, please reach out to us at info@cascadiacd.org!**



Crews moving Legacy Logs into Stormy Creek and Goose Creek. Photo credit Phillip Klenke, Cascade Fisheries.

BEST WISHES ERIN

RESOURCE TECHNICIAN



Cascadia bids farewell to Erin Mayer after a great field season! Erin was a huge asset all season leaving an impact on the crew and will be missed. We came to rely on her steadfast work ethic as she helped facilitate field work with a great attitude. Multi-talented and multi-faceted, she helped move the Cascadia office, preform site maintenance, plant native plants, install BDAs, and even acted as a Spanish translator when the need arose. We wish her the very best, safe travels Erin!

We are hiring! Both full time and seasonal positions. Check out our website cascadiacd.org for more information or scan the QR code.



KIDS CORNER:

SNOW IS FUN TO PLAY IN, AND...

It is the main source of water for our area.

The water stored in the snow is needed by the salmon in our rivers, used to grow the fruit in orchards and produce on farms, produces our electricity, is important to grow healthy forests and moderate wildfire risk, and is fun to swim in!

But how much water is in the snow?

Now is a great time to find out!

You will need: snow, a straight sided container (like an empty peanut butter jar), a ruler and warm air.

What to do: Find an area of undisturbed snow. Dig down toward the middle of the snow. Use the jar to scoop up some snow. Try not to pack the snow, but fill the jar as full as possible. Use your ruler to measure the depth of the snow in the jar. Write down your measurement.

Make a hypothesis: How much liquid water will there be once the snow melts? Write down your hypothesis.

Run the experiment: Take the container inside and set it on the counter. After all of the snow has melted, measure the depth of the water. Write down your measurement.

Results: How close was your hypothesis? Is snow mostly water, or mostly air?

Re-Experiment: Try snow that has just fallen. Try the experiment with snow from different layers in the snowpack. Try ice.

Final Discussion: Was there a difference between the experiments? Why is snow so important for our area?

Why does it matter? Scientists measure the amount of water that is in the snow. This can tell them how much water will fill our rivers in the summer, and how much is available for plants, fish, and people.

ADVANCED Activity: NASA uses satellites to measure the snow depth from space, but they need actual measurements to make sure the satellites are accurate. *You can measure the snow depth and help NASA by sending them your measurements using a phone app. Learn more at CommunitySnowObservations.org.*



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

Feb 23, Mar 15, Apr 19 1:30-4:00pm. 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 6, 4:00-7:00pm, Entiat Fire Station, 2200 Entiat Way. Food provided. Call/Zoom participation available. Call (509) 436-1601 for details.

Chelan-Douglas Lant Trust

Wenatchee Foothill Trails Open: April 1. Time to get outside and enjoy the wonderful trails! Visit: cdlandtrust.org or call (509) 667-9708 for questions and additional info.

Upper Valley MEND is hiring a Gleaning Coordinator

Visit <https://www.uvmend.org/employment> for more information.

WA Native Plant Society

How well are rare plant species being protected?: Feb 13, 7:00pm, Wenatchee River Institute. Details here: <https://www.wnps.org/wv-events/calendar>.

Waste Loop

- **Leavenworth Repair Café:** Feb 29, 6:00-8:00pm, Wenatchee River Institute
 - **Wenatchee Repair Café:** Mar 13, 6:00-8:00pm, Pinnacles Prep Charter School
 - **Leavenworth Earth Day Fair:** Apr 21, 11:00am-4:00pm, Enchantment Park
- For more info: contact@wasteloop.org.

Wenatchee Fly Co & Guide Service and K&E Outfitters

Fly Fishing Film Tour: Mar 7, 6:00pm, Numerica Performing Arts Center in Wenatchee. Contact: Mike Sherer, Wenatchee Fly Co: mike@wenatcheeflyco.com.

Wenatchee River Institute

- **Snowshoe Strolls** - Fridays at 10:00am and Saturdays at 10:00am and 1:00pm.
 - **Birding by the River** - Every 2nd Wednesday at WRI from 8:00-9:30am.
 - **Wednesday Wenatchee Birding** - Every 4th Wed at Walla Walla Point Park.
 - **Fly Tying Workshop Series** - Weekly on Wed from Feb 28-Mar 27 6:00-8:00pm.
 - **Intro to Wildlife Tracking** - 9:00am April 13 and April 14th at WRI.
- Contact for all: programs@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org or at 509-548-0181.

Funded by: DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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

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



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Staff Members

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Kathleen Deason, *Administrative Assistant*
Patrick Haggerty, *Forestry Program Manager*
Valerie Hampton, *Financial Coordinator*
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Elizabeth Jackson, *Resource Specialist II*
Lucas Lachica, *Resource Technician II*
Kim Lancaster, *Archaeologist*
Amanda Newell, *Education & Outreach*
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Please Remember to Recycle