

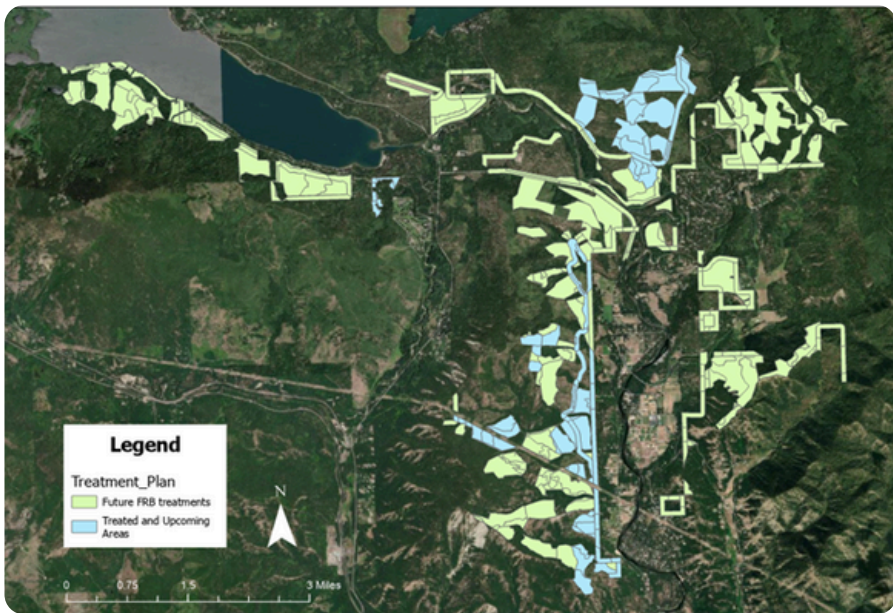


CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

WORKING TOGETHER FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCY



“We appreciate this unique partnership. An ‘all hands, all lands’ approach to managing fire risk in this landscape is essential. Chelan County has been serving as an extra set of hands for the Forest Service to help increase our capacity to implement important fire risk reduction treatments near the Lake Wenatchee and Plain Communities,” said Wenatchee River District Ranger Erica Taecker.

In 2023, Chelan County signed a Good Neighbor Authority Agreement with the Forest Service, a program which allows counties and states to conduct restoration work on Federal Land. Chelan is the first county in Washington to enter into this type of agreement to work cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to implement work. With funding from USFS, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Chelan PUD, Chelan County, and others, the Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD) is currently implementing fuel breaks and thinning treatments on the Forest Service lands bordering communities west and north of Plain, WA.

Several treatment units were accomplished in the River Road (FS 6601-110) area and along Chiwawa Loop road (FS 6121) in 2024, and up to 1,000 acres will be treated in 2025 in the same locations.

The goal of these treatments is to reduce likelihood of wildfire encroachment into communities and residential areas, protect power and critical infrastructure, increase wildfire response capability, and restore forest stands to a healthy, resilient condition that can withstand low intensity fire.

The treatments include a range of hand-thinning and piling and machine mastication. The map to the left shows the 2024-2025 focus areas in blue and future treatments on federal lands in green.

CCNRD, Cascadia Conservation District, WA DNR, Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, Sustainable Northwest, recently received a grant to implement treatments on private and non-federal lands. The goal is to connect fuel breaks and forest health treatments across ownerships in strategic locations, because wildfire does not respect property lines.



If you are interested in a fuels reduction project on your property call Cascadia or sign up for a site visit at www.cascadiacd.org or using the QR code.



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FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR FOREST HEALTH

This winter, log trucks were rolling through the Plain Valley, Leavenworth and along the Highway 2 Corridor. Most of the trucks came from a US Forest Service project aimed at restoring forests, streams, and wildlife habitat, while reducing wildfire risk to the Lake Wenatchee Community.

The Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project is full speed ahead after years of planning by the USFS, tribal partners, the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative and others.

The project includes forest restoration treatments on 28,000 acres. Typically, the work is a mix of commercial harvests, hazardous fuels reduction projects using chainsaw crews or mastication equipment and prescribed fire. The goal of these forest treatments is to restore the woods to a structure resembling conditions a few hundred years ago when regular wildfire cycles were naturally managing these fire adapted ecosystems.

Two timber sales are currently being implemented in the Meadow Creek watershed north of Lake Wenatchee. The sales were purchased by two different companies who employ 15-20 operators, 25 log truck drivers, and are bringing roughly 700 truckloads a month to mills in Randle, Darington, Morton, and Onalaska.



Winter logging was an intentional part of the planning process as operating machines over a thick layer of snow is a great way to reduce soil impacts.

Winter operations are beginning to wrap up, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Silviculturist, Pete Weir, had this to say, "We are out monitoring these projects all winter, and have been pleased to see the restoration goals of the project are being achieved by the contractors on the ground. These timber sales are an important component of a watershed scale project, and we will continue this spring with non-commercial fuels reduction around the communities of Plain."

As a member of the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative, Cascadia played an important role in the planning of this project and believes this is critical work for making our communities and landscapes more fire resilient.



IS YOUR HOME READY FOR WILDFIRE?

Cascadia Conservation District can help

Home Hardening Incentive Program

Chelan County homeowners & renters can receive up to a **\$600 incentive payment** for preparing their homes or structures for wildfire

What kinds of projects are eligible?

- Adding gravel around your home & structures
- Replacing or retrofitting exterior vents
- Enclosing gaps underneath decks

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis as funding allows

*Note: Cascadia cannot offer incentive payment for materials purchased before a fully signed agreement is in place

To apply visit cascadiacd.org or scan QR code

A full list of eligible projects is available here



Questions?
 Contact Isobel Woolner
 ☎ 509-312-8555
 ✉ IsobelW@cascadiacd.org



Want to know more about creating a wildfire-resilient home and property?

Sign up for a **FREE** home risk assessment



Scan QR code or visit cascadiacd.org



Staff will walk your property with you and help you determine which steps you can take to mitigate your wildfire risk

*Cascadia does not share risk assessment information with insurance companies



Do you live in Wenatchee, Leavenworth, or Plain/Lake Wenatchee? A free risk assessment is also available from your local fire department

● **Wenatchee: Contact Wenatchee Valley Fire Department**
 Hillary Heard, Community Wildfire Liaison - hheard@wvfire.org 509-662-4734

● **Leavenworth: Sign up with Chelan County Fire District 3**

Scan QR code to sign up through Wildfire Ready Neighbors:



● **Plain/Lake Wenatchee: Sign up with Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue**

Scan QR code to sign up:





ALL HANDS ALL LANDS: A CROSS-BOUNDARY APPROACH

Across the dry forest region of Washington, we have at least 2.7 million acres of unhealthy forests – forests that are more susceptible to catastrophic wildfires that threaten our communities.

That’s why more than 30 organizations and agencies came together in 2017 to adopt a 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan. This plan, grounded in science, sets a bold goal of restoring 1.25 million acres of forest to healthy conditions by removing unhealthy trees, implementing prescribed fire, and following other practices that increase wildfire resilience and better protect our communities.

To meet this ambitious restoration goal, we need to take an all lands, all hands approach. In Chelan County, we’re doing just that.

The Nature Conservancy, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Cascadia Conservation District, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Forest Service are coordinating to implement prescribed burning across private, state, and federal land ownerships in the Bear Mountain area. Working together, this cross-boundary approach supports efforts to implement forest restoration at scale.



The goals of this prescribed burn are to reduce the fuel load in the forest, decreasing the risk of future high-intensity wildfires and related smoke, making our communities safer. If conditions are favorable, the project would be implemented this spring.

If you would like to learn more about this prescribed burn and other local wildfire preparedness efforts, please join us for Ruby U: Building Community Wildfire Resilience at the Ruby Theatre in Chelan on April 3rd from 7:00-8:30 pm or contact Catherine Waterston at c.waterston@tnc.org.



Prepare for wildfire season WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

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

Support is available from your local Fire District and Cascadia Conservation District!

NO-COST SERVICES OFFERED

- ✔ Thinning brush
- ✔ Pruning tree limbs
- ✔ Clearing 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 Isobel Woolner
509-312-8555
IsobelW@cascadiacd.org



Prepare for wildfire season

WITH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Cascadia is offering free chipping to residents who work together to reduce their wildfire risk.

We’re looking for 8-10 neighbors to sign up as a group with enough material for us to spend a few hours chipping.

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

WHAT WE’LL CHIP

- ✔ Thinned brush
- ✔ Pruned tree limbs
- ✔ Tree stems less than 8" diameter

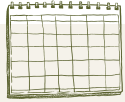


Ready to Sign up?
Contact Joe Hill
509-306-8189
JoeH@cascadiacd.org



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT





Meetings & Events

CASCADIA CD BOARD MEETINGS

- Apr 18, May 16, June 20 - 1:30-4:00 pm. Watch our website or call (509) 436-1601 for updates.
- Call-in/Zoom options are available.

ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT MEETING

- May 14, 4:00-6:30 pm, Entiat Fire Station, 2200 Entiat Way. Food provided. Call/Zoom available. Call (509) 436-1601 for details.

GREATER WENATCHEE ARBOR DAY PLANT SALE

- Apr 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Four locations: Wenatchee Senior Activity Center, East Wenatchee City Hall, Entiat City Hall, & Martin's Market in Cashmere.

WASHINGTON BUMBLE BEE HABITAT KIT

- Project proposals: Open now – Apr 10, 2025. Kit pickup: Oct 2025. Details here: <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/habitat-kits/washington>

MORE EVENTS ON OUR EVENTS CALENDAR AT CASCADIACD.ORG

FIRE FEST

A series of fire focused events in the Wenatchee Valley designed to educate, train, and enjoy "Good Fire."

Spring
2025

4/05
Camp Camrec
Little Chumstick
Leavenworth, WA

Learn and Burn

A one-day family friendly event for people of all skill and experience levels to learn and share about prescribed fire. Participants gain practical experience in planning, preparation, firing techniques, holding and map-up procedures.

4/19
Stonewater Ranch
Plain, WA

Pile /Biochar Burn Workshop

Learn efficient burn pile construction techniques and safe burning practices to help mitigate smoke impacts and reduce the risk of escapes. We'll also cover how to operate a flame cap kiln for turning woody material into biochar.

Prescribed Fire Site Tours and Live Burns

Sign up with the Cascadia PBA to learn about upcoming site tour options and live burn opportunities.



FUNDING WATCH

Grants & Cost-Share Available

FREE SOIL TESTING!

- Complimentary soil tests for residents who manage cropland, vineyard, pastureland, or large gardens (raised beds are not eligible). Soil tests will be collected between March - June 18. Contact marcyb@cascadiacd.org or kellyl@cascadiacd.org to sign up.

LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE

- 50-60% financial assistance is available to install livestock management practices, such as pasture seeding, irrigation efficiencies, and water troughs. Contact our Agriculture team to request a site visit.

HAPPY RETIREMENT!

After 17 years of dedicated service to Cascadia, Nada Wentz has retired. Nada's passion, expertise, kindness, and joy touched so many lives, and she will be greatly missed.



Board & Staff

Staff Members

Administration:

Kathleen Deason, Finance Specialist II
Cindy Goodell, Finance & Operations Director
Valerie Hampton, Financial Coordinator

Agriculture:

Marcy Bartelheimer, Resource Specialist I
Kelly Luebbering, Resource Specialist I
Elly McManus, NRCS Resource Specialist

Archaeology:

Mark Amara, Archaeologist
Kim Lancaster, Archaeologist

Education & Outreach:

Kirk Beckendorf, Environmental Educator
Amanda Newell, Education & Outreach II
Laura Rivera, Bilingual Education & Outreach II
Verónica Arroyo-Perez, Edu & Outreach Tech

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Patrick Haggerty, Forestry Program Manager
Joe Hill, Forest & Community Resilience
Isobel Woolner, Forest & Community Resilience

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The Conservation Quarterly is published on a quarterly basis by Cascadia Conservation District and reaches over 39,220 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 Recycle

**Monthly ENEWS
Coming Soon!**

Sign
up
here:



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

A local hub of natural resource funding and expertise for all people in Chelan County.



We're non-regulatory. We work with landowners and community members as partners to conserve natural resources.



We provide funding and expertise that empowers people to practice conservation where they are, whether on a farm or in their own backyard.



We offer educational programming and resources for teachers, K-12 students and adults that strengthen connections to our natural world.

1350 McKittrick Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801

509-436-1601

info@cascadiacd.org