



CASCADIA  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

## CASCADIA RESPONDS TO HISTORIC WIND STORM DAMAGE IN LEAVENWORTH

WRITTEN BY: PATRICK HAGGERTY

In December 2025, Cascadia partnered with City of Leavenworth to help landowners remove debris from a historic wind storm that caused significant damage in the Leavenworth area.



Eight Cascadia staff and 60 volunteers chipped over 1,000 cubic yards of material that was blocking roads, alleys, driveways and snowplow operations. Thank you to all the hard work from residents, organizations, and volunteers!



“

*We are deeply grateful for your partnership and the incredible dedication of the many volunteers involved in this effort. Clearing over 1,000 cubic yards of material is no small feat. It's inspiring to see our community rally together after such a significant storm. We sincerely appreciate your hard work and collaboration more than words can say!*

*-Kara Raftery (Zupke), City of Leavenworth*

Many groups of volunteers spent the weekend helping residents remove trees from roofs, cars, and restore access on streets and driveways. Cascadia coordinated with the crews and followed behind chipping material. After several weeks of chipping, much of the storm debris was cleared, but we know there is still a lot to do in the Spring.

Please contact Patrick Haggerty at [patrickh@cascadiacd.org](mailto:patrickh@cascadiacd.org) if you need storm damage chipping assistance in Spring 2026.



## Grants & Cost-Share Available

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE PERSONAL  
CONSULTATION WITH ONE OF OUR EXPERTS!

Cascadia is committed to community empowerment. Our programs and services are tailored to produce sustainable practices, protect natural resources, and engage communities in fostering a healthier ecosystem. When you partner with us, you aren't just investing in and improving your own land, you're benefiting the lands and waters your fellow community members and wildlife call home. We provide technical and financial assistance for soil, water, forest, fish, and wildlife conservation efforts. Contact us to learn more!

[INFO@CASCADIACD.ORG](mailto:INFO@CASCADIACD.ORG) OR (509)436-1601

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
LOCAL

Non-Profit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 40  
Wenatchee, WA  
BCRWSS

Cascadia Conservation District  
1350 McKinnick St, Ste B  
Wenatchee, WA 98801





## FIRST ORCHARD BIOCHAR WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

WRITTEN BY: MARCY BARTELHEIMER

On December 10th, Cascadia hosted our first Orchard Biochar Workshop. While we've held biochar workshops in the past, this was our first with a focus on agriculture. Even though the forecast looked crummy leading up to (and following) the day, we ended up with nearly perfect weather for a great event.

Participants rolled up their sleeves at the McManus Orchard, getting hands-on experience loading, feeding, observing, and quenching two mini kilns using old apple and pear wood.



Biochar expert Korina Stark from Circular Spring led the workshop, sharing knowledge, answering questions, and keeping things running smoothly throughout the day.



*One of the participants even said, "The field demonstration for making biochar was impressive and impactful...This field day really made believers out of the people that saw it."*

This workshop was a learning opportunity for us too. Because we've historically worked with biochar in forestry settings with softwoods like pine and fir, we discovered some key differences when working with orchard hardwoods – apple and pear take a lot more patience to burn!



Thanks to strong community interest and funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission, we've already scheduled the next workshop for **March 20th** in Cashmere. We're hoping to scale up and use our larger Ring of Fire kilns, demonstrating the application for orchard removal and annual prunings. There's even a rumor of s'mores at this workshop. Want to learn more? Email [marcyb@cascadiacd.org](mailto:marcyb@cascadiacd.org) or check out the event page: <https://luma.com/h1p63g4d>.

### Did you know?

Biochar improves water quality by acting as a natural filter, adsorbing excess nutrients (like nitrogen and phosphorus) and contaminants (heavy metals, organic pollutants) from runoff and wastewater, reducing eutrophication and preventing pollution of groundwater and streams, while also enhancing soil's water retention and infiltration.

**Cascadia has funding through WA State Department of Ecology to provide landowners with technical and financial assistance for water quality related practices. Please contact us to learn more!**

## RIVERSCAPE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW

WRITTEN BY: LUCAS LACHICA

Across all of Chelan County, 3 different watersheds, and 41 distinct properties, CCD staff was able to meet restoration goals set for the 2025 field season. In the Spring, field crews from CCD, Washington Conservation Corps, and contractors with Ecological Services performed maintenance on roughly 220 previously installed beaver dam analogues (BDAs) along Chumstick Creek and its tributaries. In the summer, CCD, in partnership with Cascade Fisheries, led projects.

The restoration working group completed construction of 177 new in-stream structures consisting of BDAs and post-assisted log structures (PALS). These structures mimic beaver complexes that retain water in our systems for longer and provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife. Implementation of these structures requires hundreds of untreated posts and are labor intensive as they are hand built.



This fall, our team was able to plant 4,275 native trees and shrubs. These plants will provide cover and forage for fish and wildlife, expanding stream buffers across the county as well as improving water quality.



*A sincere thank you to our Riverscape team for their hard work and adaptability as the program continues to grow. We also extend our gratitude to our partners and landowners for their collaboration, trust, and shared stewardship that make this work possible and truly impactful.*

We are always interested to meet landowners, partners, and serve the residents of Chelan County. Contact us at 509-436-1601 and press 2 to learn more about our program.

**Cascadia has funding through WA State Department of Ecology to provide landowners with technical and financial assistance for water quality related practices. Please contact us to learn more!**







SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Program Highlights from 2025

AGRICULTURE

- **\$45, 815** reimbursed across eight cost-share projects
- **1.9 million** gallons of water conserved annually (that's 2-3 Olympic-sized swimming pools)
- **9.1 tons** of erosion sediment reduced per acre yearly (roughly the capacity of a standard dump truck)
- Provided technical assistance to **100+** people
- **55** farm plans developed



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Provided about **5,400** 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.
- Quarterly newsletter sent to over **39,200** residents
- Exhibited at **35** community events and hosted workshops
- Educated **75** community members per week during Native Planting 101 workshop
- Nature photo contest and stewardship calendars
- Website & social media pages
- **Spanish outreach:** quarterly digital newsletter, 2026 calendar, social media posts, print media, community events



CASCADIA PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION

- **8** burns implemented
- **100** acres treated with prescribed fire (**60** acres underburn, **40** acres pile burns)
- **2** Learn & Burn events
- **3** biochar/pile burning workshops



FOREST HEALTH AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

- **190** site visits
- **20** Forest Management Plans written
- **112** acres treated for fuels reduction
- **64** Home Hardening projects
- **20** Defensible space projects
- **81** households received chipping services, **47** of those were post-December storm clean-up
- **17** wildfire preparedness events



RIVERSCAPE RESTORATION

- **4275** plants installed
- **220** in stream structures maintained
- **177** new instream structures installed
- **41** distinct partner properties
- **3** watersheds
- Partnered with over **70** federal, state, tribal, & local agencies and organizations (across all program areas)



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
2026 ELECTION

Cascadia Conservation District is self-governed by a Board of Supervisors who work to establish priorities, set policy and direct the work of District staff. Each conservation district is governed by a board of five supervisors who are all local residents.

Board Members identify local natural resource conservation needs, develop and evaluate Annual and Long-range plans, educate and inform landowners, farm operators, the general public, and local, state & federal legislators on conservation issues and programs & more!

**Our 2026 Election will take place March 14!**  
**Apply to be a candidate by Feb 13, 2026 at 4:00 pm.** Details and forms available at [cascadiacd.org](http://cascadiacd.org) or call (509) 436-1601.

Your Vote Counts!



Mail-in ballots available. Contact [valerieh@cascadiacd.org](mailto:valerieh@cascadiacd.org). Deadline to request mail-in ballot is February 13, 2026 @ 4:00 p.m.

In-person voting is on **March 14** at **Pybus Market** in **Wenatchee** from **10:00 am -3:00 p.m.** during our **Conservation Fair** (see details to the left).

JOIN US FOR OUR 2ND ANNUAL

CASCADIA  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION  
FAIR

After The Storm

LOCALTEL CENTER @ PYBUS

3 N. Worthen Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801

SATURDAY,  
MARCH 14

10:00AM  
TILL  
02:00PM

Free!

Join us for a **FREE** Conservation Fair, focused on disaster preparedness & recovery. Including interactive activities for the whole family, a free raffle, and a panel discussion with local landowners sharing their experiences working with Cascadia. Refreshments provided

FOR MORE INFORMATION

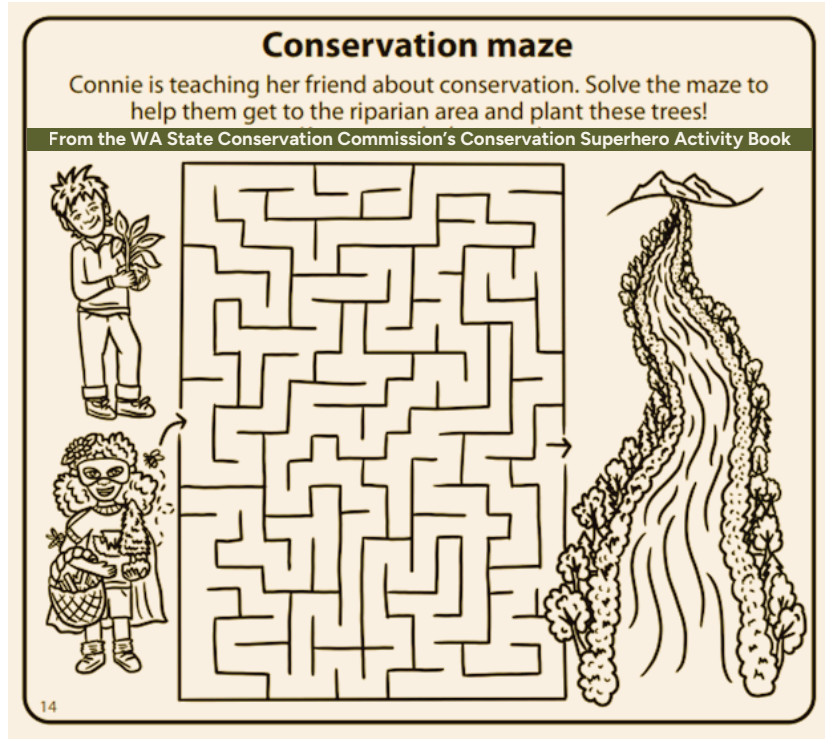
CALL 509-436-1601

WWW.CASCADIA.ORG





## KIDS CORNER:



## NATIVE PLANTING 101 WORKSHOP



**Wednesdays in March**  
**7:00-8:00 pm via Zoom.**  
 Details at [cascadiacd.org](https://cascadiacd.org).  
 Use QR or link to register:



**AGRICULTURE  
 BIOCHAR WORKSHOP**  
 March 20 10-4 in Cashmere  
 Use QR for details and registration



## Board & Staff

### Staff Members

#### Administration:

Kathleen Deason, Finance Specialist II  
 Cindy Goodell, Program Director  
 Valerie Hampton, Finance Specialist II

#### Agriculture:

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

#### Archaeology:

Mark Amara, Archaeologist  
 Kim Lancaster, Archaeologist

#### Education & Outreach:

Kirk Beckendorf, Education & Outreach II  
 Amanda Newell, Education & Outreach II  
 Laura Rivera, Bilingual Education & Outreach II  
 Verónica Arroyo-Pérez, Education & Outreach I

#### Forestry:

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

#### Management:

Ryan Williams, Executive Director  
 Elizabeth Jackson, Program Director

#### Stream Restoration:

Alex Harwell, Resource Specialist II  
 Mark Ingman, Water Resource Specialist II  
 Lucas Lachica, Resource Specialist I  
 Chace Witmer, Technician

### Board of Supervisors

Junell Wentz, Chair  
 Dillon Miller, Vice Chair  
 Amy Bridges, Auditor  
 Russ Truman, Member  
 Pete Teigen, Member  
 Lance Brender, Associate

The Conservation Quarterly is published on a quarterly basis by Cascadia Conservation District and reaches over 39,220 households in Chelan County.

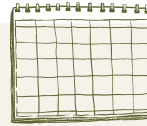
This newsletter is funded in part by grants from the Washington State Conservation Commission and other public and private granting entities.

**Please Recycle**



**Monthly ENEWS  
 has launched!**

Sign up to  
 receive our  
 most current  
 updates  
 direct to  
 your inbox!



## Meetings & Events

### CASCADIA CD BOARD MEETINGS

Feb 13, Mar 13, Apr 10 from 1:30-4:00 pm at Cascadia's office - 1350 McKittrick St, Wenatchee. Call-in/Zoom options are available.

### ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT MEETING

Feb 11, 4:00-6:45 pm, Entiat Fire Station, 2200 Entiat Way. Food & soft drinks provided. Call/Zoom available. For more info: (509) 436-1601.

SEE MORE EVENTS AT [CASCADIACD.ORG](https://cascadiacd.org)



During her time at Cascadia, Kelly made significant contributions including piloting the Farm Tool Library with Eastside Rebuild, building our resources for and connections with horse owners, and helping to secure funding through several high-value grants. We are incredibly grateful and wish her the best in her next chapter!



**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](mailto:info@cascadiacd.org)