



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: FIRE RESILIENCE FOR UNION VALLEY COMMUNITY

CONTENT AND PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY: GARY SMITH,
UNION VALLEY LANDOWNER/CASCADIA COOPERATOR

In August 2022, multiple fires ignited along Union Valley (UV) Road. They merged and grew quickly in strong winds, prompting immediate Level 3 ("Go Now") evacuation orders. Union Valley Road was closed to all through traffic. This posed the potential to be an out of control and devastating wildfire, but thankfully the road was the recipient of near immediate suppressive air and engine support.

This incident raised awareness in the rapidly growing UV community of the inherent vulnerability of living on a forested mountain top with limited egress. While UV has been a Fire Wise community for decades through strong and committed local leadership, the need for an alternate emergency exit route was made clear.



Gary Smith was approached by neighbors and longtime volunteer firefighter friends from Chelan Fire & Rescue UV Station #73, who offered to smooth and widen their rutted logging road to allow for safe transit of the station's brush truck and an important alternative exit pathway in emergencies. Shortly thereafter, Cascadia Conservation District (CCD) was approached by the volunteer firefighters about any support they could provide for this effort.



As the work progressed and the road enhancement began to show its promise, CCD foresters contacted Gary about a 300' shaded fuel break along the entirety of the route to reduce fire intensity and make it safer to drive vehicles along. CCD foresters made an informative visit to answer questions and allay owners' concerns regarding the thinning of timber and fuels on their properties.

The approachable, competent and helpful staff at CCD made this project possible. They were invaluable at turning a community's vision for its safety into a reality by using proven best practices. They guided that vision through the technical, scientific, and bureaucratic maze with clear communications to impacted parties all throughout the journey.

- Gary Smith

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Funded by: 



Grants & Cost-Share Available

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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 OR (509) 436-1601

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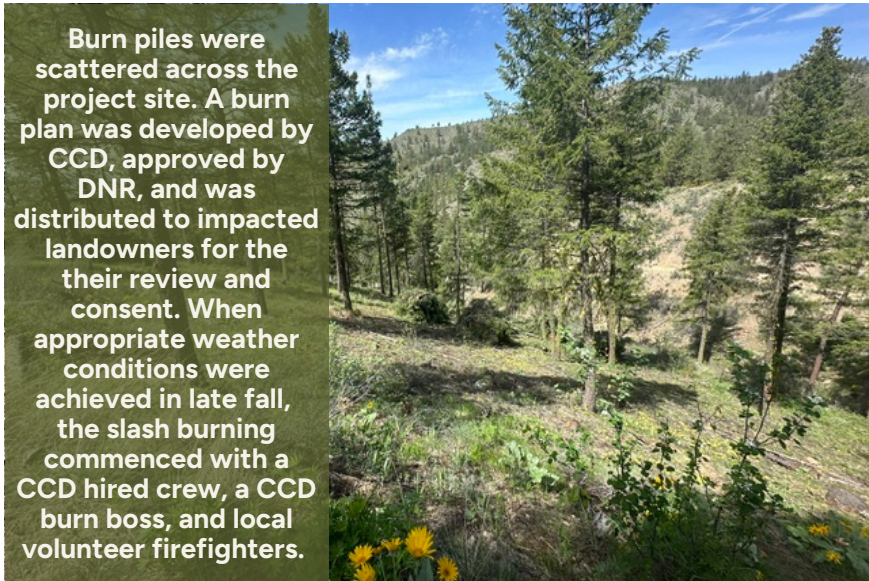
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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Once agreements were signed, CCD developed the cutting prescription, put the project out to bid, & oversaw the contractor's thinning & piling work. Bark beetle repellent was applied across the harvest area to protect the remaining trees.



Once the burn date was identified, a call for volunteer work party members went out to the community and was responded to with, among manpower, a privately owned water tender truck surveilling the burn for several days leaving a safer, more fire resilient forest.



The Union Valley community benefitted greatly from CCD staffs' knowledge, support, and guidance throughout the process. We now have a viable alternate exit pathway to safety when the next wildland fire erupts. Our firefighters now have an established fuel break to use to hold flames from advancing up the hillside and into the community. The road improvements support its use by emergency vehicles.

The project built new bonds between the affected landowners, the local volunteer firefighters, and with the foresters of CCD. Less tangible but no less important, collectively we have a renewed sense of community purpose and preparedness for the inevitable threat of wildfire.
-Gary Smith

CASCADIA NAMED "EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR" BY WA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

"Cascadia's wide range of educational programs connect students to wildlife and habitat restoration through highly engaging and hands on learning experiences. Students learn through skill building when they set up and analyze photos using wildlife cameras or they learn through fun when they take on the role of beavers improving stream habitat in creative games. Conservation Dists are important partners in building a

generation of curious youth and adults who care about fish, wildlife and habitat in WA."
-Lindsay Walker, WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife



A STRONG START TO RESTORATION SEASON By Alex Harwell

This season has been off to a great start as we continue conserving and restoring important riparian habitat across Chelan County. Our Riverscapes field crew has been hard at work in multiple watersheds maintaining existing restoration sites to ensure the long-term success of past projects.

Regular maintenance - including irrigation, weed control, and monitoring - is essential for helping native vegetation become established and thrive.



We were also fortunate to partner with the Washington Conservation Corps and Ecological Services LLC, whose hard work helped prepare restoration sites for the hot, dry summer months.

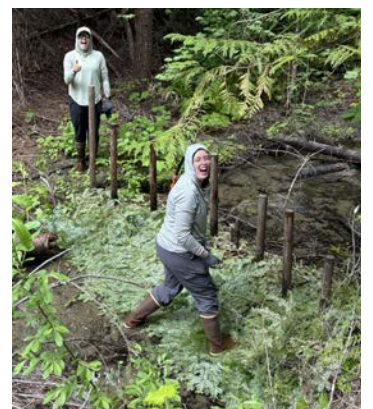
Together, our crews mulched native plantings to retain soil moisture, collected natural materials for upcoming in-stream habitat enhancement projects, controlled invasive weeds, and installed and maintained irrigation systems at newly planted sites.



These efforts improve riparian vegetation, stabilize streambanks, provide shade that keeps water cooler for fish, and create healthier habitat for wildlife. While much of this work happens behind the scenes, it is critical to the long-term success of restoration projects.

Do you live on or own property along a stream, river, or other waterway? We'd love to talk with you about opportunities to improve riparian habitat on your property. Contact Cascadia Conservation District to learn whether restoration projects may be a good fit for your land.

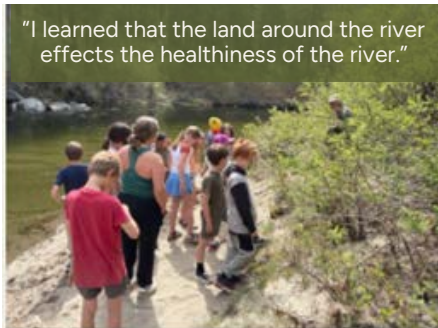
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SPRING SALMON RELEASES GO SWIMMINGLY!

By Amanda Newell

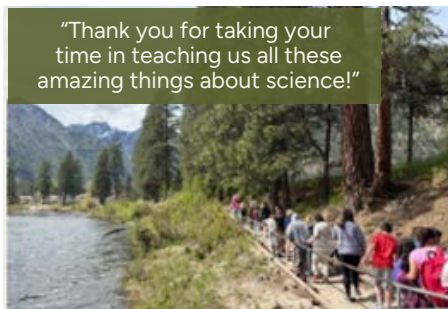


"I learned that the land around the river effects the healthiness of the river."



"When we looked at all the insects and bugs I noticed that the Icicle river is pretty healthy."

Cascadia staff have joined our partners; Cascade Fisheries and the Leavenworth Hatchery, with salmon release events around the county this spring! From Alpine Lakes 4th grade and Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery's community salmon release party, to Cashmere's salmon release parade and all of the Wenatchee 3rd grade classes. At their schools, the students were raising and caring for the salmon fry. At the "Release Parties" students learned about stream ecology and salmon habitat and then released the baby salmon into our local rivers and on their way to the Pacific, in hopes they return after their time in the ocean!



"Thank you for taking your time in teaching us all these amazing things about science!"



"I learned a lot and had lots of fun!"

Thank you to WA Department of Ecology for funding Cascadia's staff time to participate in these events and teach kids the importance of good water quality for the fish that live in our local lakes, rivers, and streams!

Funded by:  DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

HAPPY RETIREMENT VALERIE HAMPTON!



"There have been so many changes over the past 30 years, but one thing that was consistent was the knowledge and dedication of our staff. I learned so much from all of you. It has been my honor to support our mission alongside so many wonderful board members and colleagues. I'll miss you all!" - Valerie Hampton

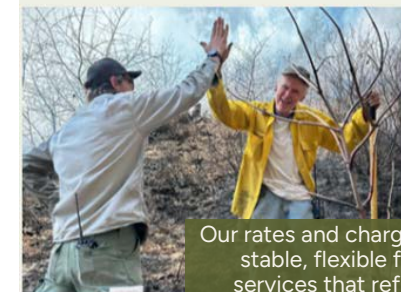
After 30 years of dedicated service to Cascadia, Valerie Hampton has retired. Valerie's dedication, experience, wit and humor have been a wonderful influence on Cascadia these many years and will be greatly missed! As she begins her next adventure, Valerie is looking forward to more time with family and rekindling some hobbies like photo albums and jigsaw puzzles.

LOCAL FUNDING SUPPORTS: AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, FORESTS, WATER, AND MORE

Cascadia CD is proposing additional funding from local county rates and charges. This helps the conservation district deliver non-regulatory public services that turn county commitments into action, supporting wildfire preparedness, outdoor education to students, agricultural viability, and natural resource enhancement.



Our proposed renewal includes a modest rate increase to help keep pace with significant increased demand for conservation services.



Our rates and charges proposal provides stable, flexible funding for public services that reflect local priorities



Now is the time to invest in the future of our community!

Our system of rates and charges is a source of sustainable funding for Cascadia CD to deliver conservation services at a county wide scale. We need your support to see that continue!

Our rates and charges proposal provides stable, flexible funding for public services that reflect local priorities like water resources, wildfire preparedness, farms, habitat, K-12 education, and more!

For more information and to find out how you can get involved please visit Cascadiacd.org or contact us at (509) 436-1601 or info@cascadiacd.org.

CONGRATULATIONS ALEX HARWELL!



Alex Harwell has taken on the Riverscape Program Manager position. Alex is excited to take on this new role at Cascadia Conservation District to help support the amazing riverscape team, help plan for the programs continued growth, and ensure that our restoration efforts deliver durable ecological and community benefits across Chelan County.



KIDS CORNER: PROTECTING HOMES FROM WILDFIRES

Funded by:  Washington State Conservation Commission

Created by WSU Master Gardeners of Chelan-Douglas Counties

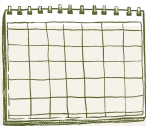
Match the word to its correct definition.

1. Wildfire_____	A. The place where organisms live
2. Ecosystem_____	B. The process of making a piece of land more suitable to one's needs and desires
3. Fire Regime_____	C. The surroundings or conditions in which people, animals and plants live
4. Frequency_____	D. Parts combined in an orderly, conforming arrangement
5. Intensity_____	E. Living things, biological organisms
6. Climate_____	F. Organisms in interaction with their environment
7. Harmonious_____	G. The measurable amount of heat (energy) produced by a fire
8. Environment_____	H. Non-living, physical thing i.e. rock, air, water, etc.
9. Landscaping_____	I. The pattern, frequency and intensity of wildfires in an area
10. Habitat_____	J. The rate at which something occurs over a period of time
11. Biotic_____	K. An unplanned, uncontrolled fire in vegetation
12. Abiotic_____	L. The long-term weather pattern of a region
13. Defensible Space_____	M. Combustible materials that allow a fire to climb from the surface into taller vegetation
14. Ladder Fuel_____	N. Able to catch on fire
15. Combustible_____	O. The area around a building where vegetation and combustibles are managed to reduce fire hazard



Printable PDF of full activity book at cascadiacd.org/programs/kids-in-the-forest/ or contact us for a printed copy: (509) 436-1601 or info@cascadiacd.org





Meetings & Events

CASCADIA CD BOARD MEETINGS

Aug 14, Sept 11, Oct 9 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

Nov 18, 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

Funded by:





PICTURE CHELAN COUNTY Photo Contest

Mar 1 - Aug 1
Details at cascadiacd.org



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

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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.

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Monthly ENEWS

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