



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
OKANOGAN COUNTY EXTENSION

Okanogan Conservation District
WSU Okanogan County Extension

Resource Quarterly

Schools Get a Taste of Washington

-Laura Clark, OCD



The Washington State Department of Agriculture has a Farm-to-School Program to assist students in learning more about locally grown food, eating nutritiously, and how to grow their own food, while assisting local agricultural producers connect with schools to sell their products.

WSDA Farm-to-School and Washington School Nutrition Program are partnering to celebrate Washington agriculture on September 29, 2010 with **Taste Washington Day**. Schools around the state will be serving a locally-sourced meal and providing education and activities to celebrate the farms that feed us.

The WSDA Farm-to-School program includes many activities. Vegetable gardens are being installed at various schools, with students learning how to grow their own food and community educational tours of the gardens. Mission workers at free food cafeterias are receiving assistance in their kitchens and with meal-serving from students learning to produce meals from scratch. Farmers are being assisted in becoming certified as Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) farms, which shows they are meeting the food safety standards in order to sell their products in retail markets. Backyard garden development to produce your own food is being taught or shared with others.

For more information, to be listed as a participating farm, to get help linking to your local school districts, or further assistance, please contact Tricia Kovacs, WSDA Farm-to-School Program Manager, at (206) 256-6150 or tkovacs@agr.wa.gov



Students at Liberty Bell Jr/Sr High and Methow Valley Elementary share a half acre garden on campus and food raised there goes directly to the cafeteria. The Classroom in Bloom

program provides students the opportunity to learn where our food comes from by growing it themselves. Their website states that “By being involved with the garden, young people experience the satisfaction of working with the soil. Through an evolving curriculum, Classroom in Bloom is enriching teachers’ existing curriculum by providing students with hands-on, real-world experiences that give them new perspectives on their classroom lessons. In turn, students experience the joys and frustrations of the whole cycle of caring for the land and producing food - from soil building to planting to reaping the sweet harvest of their efforts, and finally returning the organic waste back to the soil.” For more information, you can visit their website, www.classroominbloom.org



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Know Before You Throw!

A Guide to Recycling in Okanogan County

- Jenni Remillard, OCD

Recycling is a simple activity that can benefit everyone. As populations continue to grow, landfills are filling up. Recycling can help protect the natural resources that products are created from as well as reduce the load on landfills. Plastics, usually made from petroleum products, can last hundreds of years and do not biodegrade. Instead, plastic breaks into smaller and smaller pieces and can eventually end up in the food chain after being ingested by fish or birds. Even though Okanogan County has no large urban centers, it is still important for its residents to recycle. But where and what can you recycle?

Upper Okanogan Valley

Where: Ellisforde Transfer Station - 65 Swanson Mill Rd, south of Oroville
Tonasket - 500 Railroad Avenue

What: Cardboard, office paper, and aluminum cans

Where: Green Okanogan - 509 486-2389

What: e-waste (computers, tvs, etc), glass, magazines

Where: Two Sister's Video, Tonasket

What: ink and toner cartridges, cell phones, laptops

Where: Tonasket Natural Foods

What: Compact fluorescent light bulbs

Where: Tonasket Senior Center

What: Aluminum cans

Where: Doggie in the Window,
Tonasket

What: shredded paper

Coulee/ Nespelem

Where: Coulee Recycling (open
Wed-Sat, 12-4)

What: glass, newspaper, tin,
iron, electric motor parts,
cardboard

Lower Okanogan Valley

Where: Brewster - North Bridge
Street

Pateros - Commercial Avenue

What: Cardboard, office
paper, and aluminum cans

Methow Valley

Where: Twisp Recycling Center

What: #1 and 2 plastic jugs, aluminum cans, tin
cans, office paper, newspaper, magazines, cardboard,
other paper such as egg cartons and cereal boxes, glass,
compact fluorescent bulbs, electronics, metal, batteries

Where: Winthrop drop off, across from N. Valley
Lumber on Horizon Flats Rd.

What: cardboard, aluminum cans,
newspaper, magazines & catalogs



Look familiar? There is a reason it goes "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle."

Reducing is the first and most important step. By reducing the amount of trash we need to throw away, we reduce what goes into the landfills. Think about the products you buy, does it have excess packaging? Do you really need it? Reusing what we can also reduces trash flow to the landfill. (And can save you money!)

Check out tips from the EPA <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/tips-reduce.htm>
Finally, recycling is the last step. Recycling uses energy, but is still better than throwing things away.

Mid Okanogan Valley

Where: Okanogan County
Recycle Center, Okanogan

What: Newsprint, clear, green and
milk plastic jugs, cardboard, magazines,
waste paper (cereal boxes), office paper,
aluminum cans, motor oil, batteries

**Drop off bins for cardboard, paper,
and aluminum cans located at:**

Conconully - 200 block Main Street
Okanogan - 1st & Spruce Street
Okanogan - 41 Appleway Rd. Bingo Casino
Omak - mini-mart 111 Riverside Drive
Landfill in Okanogan - 240 B&O Road

**Household hazardous waste can be
taken to the Landfill on Saturdays**

Where: Havillah Road Printing, Omak
What: Packing peanuts

Where: A&J Electronics,
Omak

What: used
electronics

Resources

**Okanogan County
Recycle Center**
240 B&O Rd,
Okanogan, WA
(509) 422-2602

**Bridgeport Bar Transfer
Station**
25 Perkins Rd,
Brewster, WA

**Ellisforde Transfer
Station**
65 Swanson Mill Rd
Oroville, WA
(509) 476-3910

Green Okanogan
(509) 486-2389

Two Sisters Video
4155 S. Whitcomb,
Tonasket WA
(509) 586-1027

Tonasket Natural Foods
4th and Western,
Tonasket WA
(509) 486-4188

Tonasket Senior Center
22 East 5th,
Tonasket WA
509 486-2483

Twisp Recycling Center
Twisp Airport Rd, by Transfer
Station, Twisp, WA
(509) 686-4242
www.methowrecycles.org

Havillah Road Printing
23 E Apple Avenue,
Omak, WA
(509) 826-5154

Doggie in the Window
315 S Whitcomb Ave
Tonasket, WA
(509) 486-0933

A&J Electronics
25 S. Main,
Omak WA
(509) 826-1128

Coulee Recycling
22145 Alcan Rd
NE Grand Coulee, WA
(509) 633-2175

KEEP IT CLEAN

OCD Marks Area Storm Drains
- Jenni Remillard, OCD

The Okanogan Conservation District will be marking storm drains in Omak and Okanogan this fall to help protect water quality in the Okanogan River. Many of the area storm drains go directly to the river; not a sewer system. Because of this, it is important to keep pollutants from entering the storm drains. By marking which drains empty into the river, the District hopes the public will be better informed about how the system works.



Through a grant with the WA Dept of Ecology, the District purchased storm drain markers and stencils and began marking drains in 2007. Tonasket, as well as parts of Omak and Okanogan, have already been done with the help of local schools and Boy Scout Troops. The District hopes to finish Omak and Okanogan this fall.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Pose a Threat to the Ecological Health of Okanogan County

- John Grandall, Methow Restoration Council



Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are non-native and/or introduced species, such as snails, mussels and plants, whose populations expand rapidly when released into the wild. These species also have the ability to inflict serious ecological and economic damage to the areas where they are spread. Aquatic nuisance species compete with native aquatic species for food and space and may present additional problems, such as predation, in some cases. They can also degrade water quality and hamper the recovery of threatened and endangered fish species.

While the impacts of ANS are likely most profound and observable in affected streams, lakes and wetlands; the effects likely ripple far beyond these habitats to include riparian and upland habitats. Additionally, the negative impacts of ANS may have substantial financial implications for the agricultural and recreational resources within the affected areas.



Tiny New Zealand mudsnails can easily hitch a ride. *Photo by National Parks Service*

Aquatic nuisance species are commonly spread via human related transport from affected areas. Common transport vectors include boats and trailers, anchor rigs, nets, waders, wading boots and almost any type of gear that has been in use in affected waters. Another pathway of spread is related to discharge of water that originated in an affected area including sump/ballast water and bait wells.

Once established, ANS can be extremely difficult to control, and nearly impossible to eradicate from affected areas. Control efforts can also be extremely costly and generally do not provide certainty of eradication. Thus, the best means of control is prevention. Because human activities are often responsible for spread of ANS, it is up to us to prevent additional infestations.

Based on information from areas with active ANS infestations, measures to eliminate, or greatly minimize the spread (and therefore, damage), of ANS have been identified. When applied, these measures can be effective at preventing the spread of ANS from affected waters into unaffected waters. There does not appear to be one “silver bullet”

control treatment that will completely remove or eradicate all ANS from affected gear and water. The overall goal of control procedures should focus primarily on preventing the spread of ANS to unaffected areas, not necessarily killing the individual organisms.

Don't let this happen to your irrigation pipes!



Quagga mussel infested pipe. *Photo from Idaho Agriculture. www.agri.state.id.us*

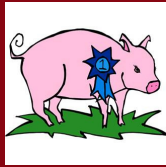
To reduce the spread of ANS to and from Okanogan County, try using these simple guidelines:

- Visually inspect all gear (paying close attention to the nooks and crannies, including boot laces and eyes, the hinges and joints of any gear, motors/props, trailers, and seine netting) and remove any noticeable material. A stiff bristled brush may help in this endeavor.
- Drain any collected bilge or other water near point of origin.
- Rinse gear in waters where activities were conducted.
- If possible, dry out gear for at least 48 hours prior to use in another location.

If an ANS is detected or suspected, immediately call the ANS hotline (1-877-STOPANS, or 1-877-786-7267). Specimens are helpful to gain a positive identification and specimens can be sealed into a plastic bag, or other container, frozen, and delivered for positive identification.

Come See us at the Fair!

The Okanogan County Fair is Sept 9th – 12th at the fairgrounds in Okanogan. The Okanogan Conservation District will have a booth in the Agriplex highlighting the county's resources and the programs we offer. Take our weed identification challenge, learn about pasture management, irrigation efficiencies, and other conservation programs with our informative staff. You might even win a plant in our FREE raffle!



The Methow Beaver Project

Restoring Upland Riparian Habitat,

One Beaver at a Time

- Steve Bondi, Methow Conservancy

The heat of summer beats down and focuses our attention to all places water, particularly the cool rivers and streams that provide sanctuary from the intense 100 degree sun. Cool rivers and streams also provide high quality habitat for our aquatic species including ESA endangered spring Chinook and summer steelhead, and threatened bull trout.



For three years now the Methow Conservancy has worked with project partners including the US Forest Service and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with private

landowners to relocate nuisance beavers from valley bottom locations to higher elevation tributaries, all in an effort to maintain and enhance stream temperatures and riparian habitats. The theory is that if beavers can build dams and store snow melt in higher elevation ponds and recharge below ground aquifers rather than letting this water quickly runoff in the spring, this cooler water is available for later season release which offsets summer warming trends in the main rivers- Methow, Twisp, and Chewuch.

Manager's Note

- Craig Nelson

The long hot days of summer have finally arrived. If you are like me you are thinking it is about time! One of the great things about Okanogan County is the opportunity to experience four seasons as opposed to the dry and wet seasons some places (think Seattle) experience.

We are blessed to live in a geologically diverse area. Many don't know that the Okanogan River is the geologic dividing line between the older Rocky Mountain Range and the younger Cascade Mountain Range. Further refining our landscape were glaciers that last exited our region 10,000 years ago. These powerful geologic processes left us with a good mix of slopes, soil types, and climate.

The diverse soils and climate allow our producers to grow many types of crops successfully. It also creates challenges for producers to meet crop needs based upon their specific site conditions. This is where the District can help. We can provide recommendations on how to maximize your soil's water holding capacity or work with cooperators on ensuring the right amount of nutrients are applied for the crop. We may be able to help with preventing soil erosion or just helping a landowner understand what resources they have at the ready to be nurtured and wisely used for the benefit of all.

Remember, if you ate today, thank a farmer. They worked hard to give you great food to fill your belly.



This summer 2010 has been an exceptional season for our project, with over 10 landowner concerns addressed, 40 beavers relocated, and at least three new populations established in three tributary streams. Our seasonal crew plus crew leader deploy daily to meet with landowners, capture and relocate nuisance beavers, and to provide education to the valley community. Interestingly,



nuisance beavers are temporarily held at the Winthrop National Fish Hatchery in old fish raceways. This facility is open to the public everyday and we invite you to visit and view the beavers and learn more about the project.

The Washington Department of Ecology and Yakama Nation both currently fund the program because of the in stream benefits to water quality and fisheries. With continued funding, our project expects to make a profound difference in the health of the Methow watershed with the free help of nature's most fantastic engineer- the beaver.

Being Firewise

Laura Clark, OCD

The District received a grant from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to conduct Firewise activities. This included conducting a Firewise training session in a community, performing wildfire risk assessments for private homeowners, and completing a forest thinning project.

Staff conducted three Firewise sessions for the communities of Nine Mile Ranch Homeowners, Aeneas Valley, and Tunk Valley. The sessions were well attended, with experienced fire protection people and homeowners alike commenting on the fact they learned new information in the sessions.

During the Firewise training sessions, 20 homeowners requested wildfire risk assessments for their homes. An additional five homeowners also requested assessments after the sessions. With the grant ending on July 31, 2010, we conducted a total of twenty risk assessments and are still attempting to reach the remaining five absentee landowners to schedule their assessments. Although the grant has ended, the District is committed to completing the assessments requested and will use other funding to do that work.

During the two year process, staff looked for a community who would be interested in becoming a Firewise Community. Although the attempt was not fruitful, we were able to locate a community in great need of assistance in completing a forest thinning project.



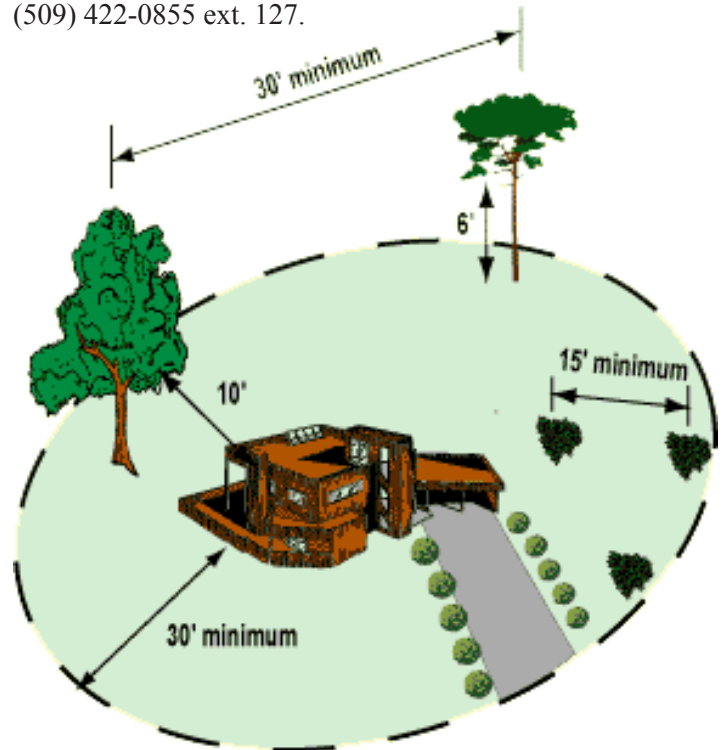
Forestry and fire protection groups met to review the various communities within a given area identified in an additional grant which also had the greatest need for forest wildfire protection. The group chose the Twin Lakes Landowners in Tunk Valley to perform this work. The District's grant required a small thinning project be conducted. We were very

pleased to see the Twin Lakes group chosen and a large project to thin approximately 500 acres is well on its way to completion.

Although the current grant has ended, we will continue to provide assistance to homeowners to identify ways they can

increase their property protection from wildfire. We are in the process of seeking additional funding to conduct more of this valuable work.

You can find out more about Firewise and wildfire home protection at www.firewise.org or contact Laura Clark at (509) 422-0855 ext. 127.



Keep your home firewise! Make sure to choose fire resistant building materials and plants. Keep vegetation back from buildings to reduce ignition risk.

We are online!

If you would like to receive an email-only version of our newsletter, please contact us at ocd@okanogancd.org. You can also find current and past newsletters on our website www.okanogancd.org.

What Does Conservation Mean to You?

- Kim Simpson, OCD

We recently held a photo contest asking individuals to submit photos that depicted what conservation means to them. Having worked for the district for over eleven years, I thought I knew the answer, but after viewing the photos I realized I really had not given it much thought.

According to Merriam-Webster's dictionary, conservation means: "a careful preservation and protection of something; especially: planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect."

This, of course, is just a definition. Ask twenty people what conservation personally means to them and you will probably get twenty different answers with a wide array of topics.

There are three basic categories of resources. Renewable resources like water, forests, and land can be renewed through good management. Nonrenewable resources are minerals such as coal, oil and natural gas and are gone once depleted. Perpetual resources such as solar energy and climate cannot be depleted. Increased population and higher standards of living have created a greater demand of resources; conservation is about conserving these resources to assure that there will be enough for future generations.

Here is one fairly good definition I found by an anonymous writer:

"Conservation is the wise and frugal use of natural resources that cannot be replenished, like minerals, water nutrients, animals and plants. It may also denote planned action to preserve both living resources and non living ones.



Our photo contest winner Steve Bondi had excellent examples of conservation in his photo including woody debris in the stream for habitat, a fenced riparian area, and water-saving center pivot irrigation

It therefore entails the usage of precious resources in a manner that ensures that future generations will have access to them. The conservation movement is a movement that is keen on protecting animals and plants and their respective habitats."

If you were to paint a picture of what conservation means to you, what would your picture show. Give it some serious thought and send me an email. kims@okanogancd.org We plan to publish the results in our next newsletter.

We Want to Know!

The Okanogan Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be updating the District's long range plan this winter. In an effort to capture community input and thoughts on the District's operations we will be conducting a brief survey in the coming months. We will be offering the survey on-line and through our newsletter. We ask that you fill out just one (should take less than 10 minutes) and get your responses back to us before the end of the year.

Some of the items we will be asking about is what natural resources should be our focus for the coming five years. We also want to know how we can best communicate with public. Finally, while some answers may be difficult for us to read we want to know how you feel we are doing in providing voluntary conservation services.

Look for the District survey to be a supplement to our next newsletter along with an article explaining where you can find the survey online if you wish to complete the survey electronically.



Be the Master of Your Pasture!

- Kelly Kinney, OCD



Which one would you prefer?



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

Often times we see pastures that have been heavily grazed by livestock, this is evident by weed infestations and bare compacted soil. The over stocking of livestock on small acreages is becoming an increasing occurrence. A major factor to consider before bringing critters home is: how many animals can my property sustain? Over stocking can not only cause natural resources concerns but can also affect your pocket book. If your land is not capable of providing forage for your livestock during spring, summer and fall, additional forage will need to be purchased as a substitute. The best thing to do is to plan before you purchase!

The first step is to design a grazing system that fits your available acreage and natural resources; rotational grazing is a good example. Once this has been laid out, animals can be stocked appropriately.

When designing a rotational grazing system be sure to keep these things in mind:

- Number of pastures available (it's recommended to have at least 2 pastures, but 3 or 4 is ideal).
- Size of each pasture (it is recommended to keep them as uniform in acreage as possible)
- Fencing required to divide pastures (dependent upon animal type)
- Ease of moving livestock between pastures (gate placement)
- Available water sources for livestock (trough placement)

How many animals can I graze and for how long while still maintaining appropriate plant health and cover? Carrying capacity, the stocking rate that maintains or improves your pasture plant, soil, and water resources given your grazing system, and stocking rates, or the number of grazing animals on your pasture for a given period of time, need to be considered.

Factors that determine carrying capacity and stocking rates are:

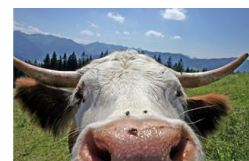
Soil: Health and fertility of your soil is very important in determining pasture productivity. Healthy soil is the foundation for productive pastures. Soils in good condition are high in organic matter (plant and animal residues) which enhances moisture and nutrient holding capacities and improves soil structure.

Water: Availability of water for irrigation and livestock is also very important. The amount of available water can limit your selection of plant varieties to drought-tolerant species. Pastures with irrigation will have higher rates of regrowth and can then be re-grazed sooner.

Plants: A properly managed pasture should have few weed problems. As pasture stands become depleted due to overgrazing or stand maturity, weeds will move in to occupy the bare ground. Pastures that have a mix of both legumes and grasses traditionally have higher yields and protein content than grass alone and are less likely to cause bloating or grass tetany problems in livestock. Consider a mixture of one or two grasses (brome, fescue, orchardgrass, ryegrass, timothy, wheatgrass, wildrye) and one or two legumes (alfalfa, cover, sanfoin, sweet clover, birdsfoot trefoil).

Animals: The type and number of livestock occupying your pasture will determine the length of time stock spends in one pasture. For example, one cow requires 5 times more forage than a goat or sheep does. A horse requires 4 times more than a llama does.

Taking all of these things into consideration can sound a bit overwhelming, but the Conservation District is here to help. Please contact us if you are interested in our technical support. We can help you create a conservation plan that is tailored to your specific needs and make you a master of your pasture.



Stick It to Your Pasture

The District currently has FREE pasture grazing sticks available. Grazing sticks are a great tool used to determine when a landowner should rotate livestock from one pasture to the next based on grass/stubble height. The grazing stick is similar to a measuring stick, and is broken down into 3 main zones:

- No grazing if grass is below 3" zone
- Optimal grazing if grass is 6" to 8" zone
- No grazing if grass is above 8" to 10" zone

The grazing stick is simply a guide and great for new pasture managers, the tool is easy to use and best of all is FREE. Stop by and pick up a stick today, if you have more questions regarding pasture management ask one of our technical staff for assistance.



Plant Sale

- Laura Clark, OCD

The 2011 Plant Sale brochure will be coming out shortly. Look for it in your mail. It will also be available at our booth at the Okanogan County Fair, September 9-12, 2010 in the Agriplex building.

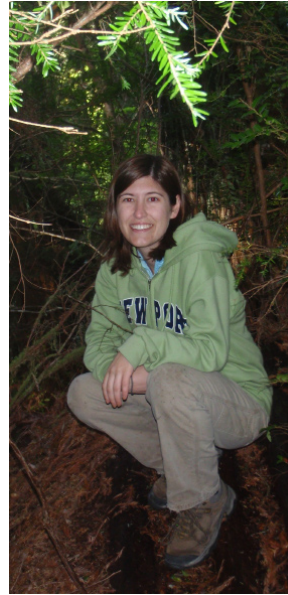
Once again we will be offering a 5% discount if we receive your order by 4 pm September 30, 2010.

This discount cannot be combined with any other discounts we offer: ponderosa pine in large quantities and project orders (orders of 100+ plants) are already discounted.

Order your native species plants by January 7, 2011 or come by the sale on March 18 & 19, 2011 to see what we have left in our surplus stock.

The Okanogan Conservation District Welcomes New Staff!

The Okanogan Conservation District would like to welcome Christy Cincotta. Christy will be working on



the Crop Fields Inventory project. Originally from Rhode Island, she graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island. She also has a Master's of Science in Biology from Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey. After completing her education, Christy worked for Audubon California doing riparian restoration work and later for the Jones Ecological Research Center in Newton, Georgia doing plant research. Christy is excited to learn

more about the conservation practices and also eager to see more of north central Washington through the Crop Fields Inventory Project.

The District would also like to welcome Laura Preston

to our team. As a Natural Resources Technician, she will be working on a cooperative program with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and local irrigators to install new fish screens on water diversions



within the Okanogan and Methow River watersheds. Laura graduated from Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor's degree in Recreation Management. She also has an Associate's degree from Spokane Community College with an emphasis in Natural Resources. She has worked in the past as a Scientific Technician with WDFW in the Fish Program and is looking forward to broadening her experience in natural resource conservation.



Bureau of Reclamation and Partners Plan Forum on Middle Methow Reach Assessment

- Michale Notaro, Methow Basin Outreach Coordinator



The US Bureau of Reclamation, Yakama Nation, and Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation are cosponsoring a landowner forum open to the general public to discuss the results of Reclamation's Middle Methow Reach Assessment, to be released later this fall. The forum presentation will provide opportunity for public questions and concerns and will be augmented by representatives from several local organizations. Partners in this effort include the U.S. Geological Survey, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wild Fish Conservancy, and Methow Conservancy. Landowners along the river between Winthrop and Twisp, and the boating and fishing public will be especially interested in the program.

The Big Picture



USGS collects fish for tagging

Actions by dam managers on the Columbia River have stabilized threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead populations for the short term. Nevertheless, long-term recovery will require additional effort by Federal, State, and Tribal agencies, as well as by local organizations and private citizens working together. Salmon and steelhead spawn and rear in fresh water habitat like the Methow. For this reason, protection and restoration of properly functioning habitat is necessary to ensure sustainability of salmon and steelhead populations.

Purpose of the Study

The primary purpose of the Middle Methow (M2) Reach Assessment is to identify potential habitat restoration options in sections of the Methow River between Winthrop and Twisp that would benefit endangered and threatened fish. A previous larger scale study of the Methow River from Lost River to Carlton indicated this sub-reach has good potential for successful habitat restoration projects. There is tremendous potential to yield great benefits for the effort and cost in the M2 reach according to Jennifer Molesworth, Reclamation's sub-basin liaison in the Methow Valley.



River surveys help engineers design habitat restoration projects

Data in the assessment was collected during 2008, 2009 and 2010 by the partnering organizations. The researchers collected a variety of data on stream flows, fish species, riparian vegetation, topography, river bed material, and large wood (downed trees). Future project concepts are based on river characteristics and the biological importance of the sites to endangered or threatened fish, potential effects on property and boater safety. The principal treatments identified are the reconnection of side channel habitat and the addition of structures made of large wood. The study report also considers the effort and cost required to restore specific areas to naturally functioning and self-sustaining habitat. This program is dependent on voluntary landowner participation. Any future habitat improvement projects will require landowner consent to move forward.

You're Invited!

The Middle Methow Reach Assessment forum will take place on September 20 at 6:30 PM at the Twisp Grange, 344 W. 2nd Ave. Twisp. For more information contact Michael Notaro, Methow Basin Outreach Coordinator, michael@mnotaro.com, (509) 429-2939. Visit the following websites for more information on protection actions and long-term recovery strategies:

<http://www.salmonrecovery.gov/>
<http://www.ucsr.com/>
<http://www.methowsalmon.org/>



Calendar of Events

Early Sept	Plant Sale brochures available
Sept 2nd, 6pm	OCD Board meeting
Sept 9th -12th	Okanogan County Fair
Sept 20th, 6:30pm	Forum on Methow Reach Assessment at Twisp Grange
Sept 30th, 4 pm	Last day to receive 5% discount for early plant sale orders
Oct 7th, 6pm	OCD Board meeting
Oct 18th	"Your Backyard - Winter Preparation" class in Oroville. Contact OCD for more information

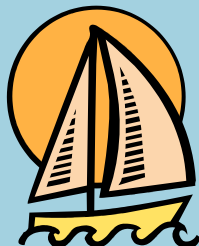
Upcoming Methow Conservancy Events

September 7th: First Tuesday Program: "Predicting Earthquakes and Volcanic Eruptions," with speaker Steve Malone, 7:00 – 8:30pm at the Merc Playhouse.

September 25th: 7th Annual Cider Squeeze & Social, 2:00 - 4:00pm at Dave & Marilyn Sabold's property in Winthrop.

October 5th: First Tuesday Program: "The Western Gray Squirrel Project," 7:00-8:30pm, with speakers Katy Stuart and Asako Yamamuro; location TBA.

November 2nd: First Tuesday Program: "How Rivers Work," with the Bureau of Reclamation, 7:00 – 8:30pm at the Twisp River Pub. Come early for dinner.



Crop Fields Inventory in Full Swing

- Bob Clark, OCD



This summer, Christy Cincotta of the Okanogan Conservation District is traveling the roads of Okanogan County updating the crop field inventory originally generated by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA).

WSDA has developed an agricultural land use geodatabase to assess the effects of agricultural production on Washington's natural resources. The geodatabase can store, query, and manipulate geographic information and spatial data used to identify agriculture land use in the County.

Christy will be employing specifically-targeted fieldwork combined with a knowledge of agricultural practices and crop identification skills. Using a GPS-equipped vehicle and a laptop computer, she



is gathering data to inventory acreage in crop production. Over the course of the summer and into fall, she will verify if the field is already in the geodatabase, correctly mapped as to size, shape, and crop, as well as add new fields if necessary. Fields that have been taken out of agricultural production are also noted.

WSDA crop data is classified by several categories: 1) general crop group (berry, cereal grain, orchard, vegetable, etc.); 2) crop types (blueberry, wheat, apple, potato, etc.), and 3) irrigation method (center pivot, drip, rill, none, etc.). Traditional agricultural land use data provides only broad use definitions limited to distinctions made between row crops and pasture.

An important component of the inventory in Okanogan County is recording the type of irrigation system used on each field. It is hoped that information about irrigation systems will help the Okanogan Conservation District target cost share programs to assist farmers and ranchers with installing new, more efficient irrigation systems.

Anyone curious about this inventory process is encouraged to contact Christy Cincotta at the Okanogan Conservation District, 509-422-0855, ext. 126.



Okanogan Conservation District
1251 S. 2nd Ave, Rm 101
Okanogan, WA 98840

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID PERMIT # 1
WENATCHEE, WA

Visit us online!

Okanogan Conservation District
www.okanogand.org

WSU Okanogan County Extension
www.okanogan.wsu.edu

Okanogan Conservation District

Providing local leadership through educational, technical, and financial assistance to landowners to help them voluntarily conserve and enhance natural resources for over 70 years

OCD Board of Supervisors

- Ivan Oberg, Chair
- Jerry Asmussen, Vice Chair
- Albert Robers, District Auditor
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- Wes Hover, Member

WSU Okanogan County Extension

Washington State University Extension engages people, organizations and communities to advance knowledge, economic well-being and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

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