

# Cascadia Conservation District

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Board Chair: Josh Koempel



State Legislative District #12  
Congressional District #8

## 2016 Feature Accomplishment

### Firewise home assessments and fuels reduction



Crews process material the landowners trim and stack as part of Cascadia's free chipping program. The chips are being spread on the ground for mulch.

#### RESOURCE CHALLENGE

Wildfire threatens every citizen in Chelan County in some way, whether they are directly in harm's way, within range of wind-driven embers, choked by the smoke, or affected by loss of work, resources, or economic vitality in areas ranging from agriculture to tourism. Forest health and the related wildfire, flood, erosion, and water quality concerns are a top priority for Cascadia Conservation District. As funding has become available, Cascadia has increased its efforts to help local landowners prepare and respond.

#### PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

To reduce wildfire risks, Cascadia conducted 150 home risk assessments last year. With a better understanding of defensible space and resilient landscapes, landowners can remove hazardous or flammable materials from around their homes, as well as trim and limb perimeter trees and clear brush. Free chipping events helped 170 landowners manage and remove fuels, representing more than 126 acres of treated land. Cascadia's cost-share program also made several larger-scale projects possible, matching grant funds with landowner contributions and sweat equity to treat about 73 acres of forest land.



Fuels reduction/forest health projects help landowners proactively manage natural resources and improve the defensible space around their homes.

**KEY PARTNERS:** Private landowners of Chelan County; Firewise Communities; Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition; Chelan County Fire Districts; Washington State Conservation Commission; Washington Department of Natural Resources; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Other Accomplishments



Multiple riparian restoration projects, followed by essential watering and weed management, are another element of Cascadia's ongoing work.



AmeriCorps intern McKenzie Selden conducts a lesson during Water on Wheels, one of Cascadia's many education and outreach programs.



Fire recovery assistance continues to be important, helping people with tasks such as home flood protection, weed control, and restoring working lands.

### More work to do!

- Landowner assistance, including technical assistance, conservation planning, cost-share, more home assessments and chipping events, developing Firewise Communities, and urban conservation.
- Watershed planning, coordination, and project development for water quality, water quantity, and both in-stream and upland habitat restoration and enhancement.
- Education and outreach programs and community events for all ages.