

WASHINGTON RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



**ANNUAL REPORT
2017**



Aerial view of Yakima River and east of Selah, WA

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For the WRCD, 2017 was no doubt a busy year. Our staff team and partners worked harder than ever for positive impacts to some of the State of Washington's daunting environmental challenges. Our staff team is exceptional.

In 2017, our name change became official, we moved to a new office space in downtown Yakima, added health insurance for Regular Employees and increased our administrative capacity while keeping day-to-day business moving forward. So much of this work was handled by Heather Hadsel, our Business and Operations Coordinator who has been on staff since March 2016. She can be relied on to help each of us through light and heavy project elements.

Our Yakima Tributaries Access and Habitat Program (YTHAP) kept its steady march upstream opening creeks of the Yakima River watershed for salmon. Brian Miller effectively convenes partners around complex habitat access and recovery projects. The "YTAHP Way" remains a reliable process for collaboratively designing, funding, permitting, and implementing these valuable project.

In our Washington Fire Adapted Communities (WAFAC) and Resilient Landscape work we had an impactful year. Kirstin Taggart successfully developed a post-fire recovery workshop and facilitated the formation of the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition. She also helped us kick off a really big project- The Manastash Taneum NEPA Project. Kara Karboski coordinated the Washington Prescribed Fire Council's most notable year, yet. Impressively, she led the wrap up reporting on the "2928 Forest Resiliency Burning Pilot Project". The "2928" project involved four different Forest Health Collaboratives, multiple local, state, and federal agencies, various prescribed fire burn units and a variety of communication and outreach evaluations. If wrapping up 2928 was not enough of an accomplishment, Kara worked with our new staff member, Hilary Lundgren, to implement the first Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TRES) in the state of Washington. Hilary Lundgren is now our Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Coordinator. We received additional funding for WAFAC in 2017 from the US Bureau of Land Management, the USFS, and the Watershed Research and Training Center. Hilary's connections to the multiple FAC practitioners and networks throughout the state and country helps her apply strong strategic coordination skills to connect our WAFAC members with information and resources that help them lead communities for fire outcomes.

I am proud to be a part of the WRC&D team. Our team's professional abilities and potential to help you have an impactful project are matched by their good humor and optimism that great things can get done when great people work together.

RYAN ANDERSON

Executive Director



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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2017 FINANCIALS

ending December 31, 2017

INCOME

FEDERAL GRANTS
\$1,366,666
STATE GRANTS
\$105,564
OTHER INCOME
\$1,032
TOTAL INCOME
\$1,473,262

EXPENSES

PROGRAM
\$1,501,978
OPERATIONS
\$97,406
TOTAL EXPENSES
\$1,599,384

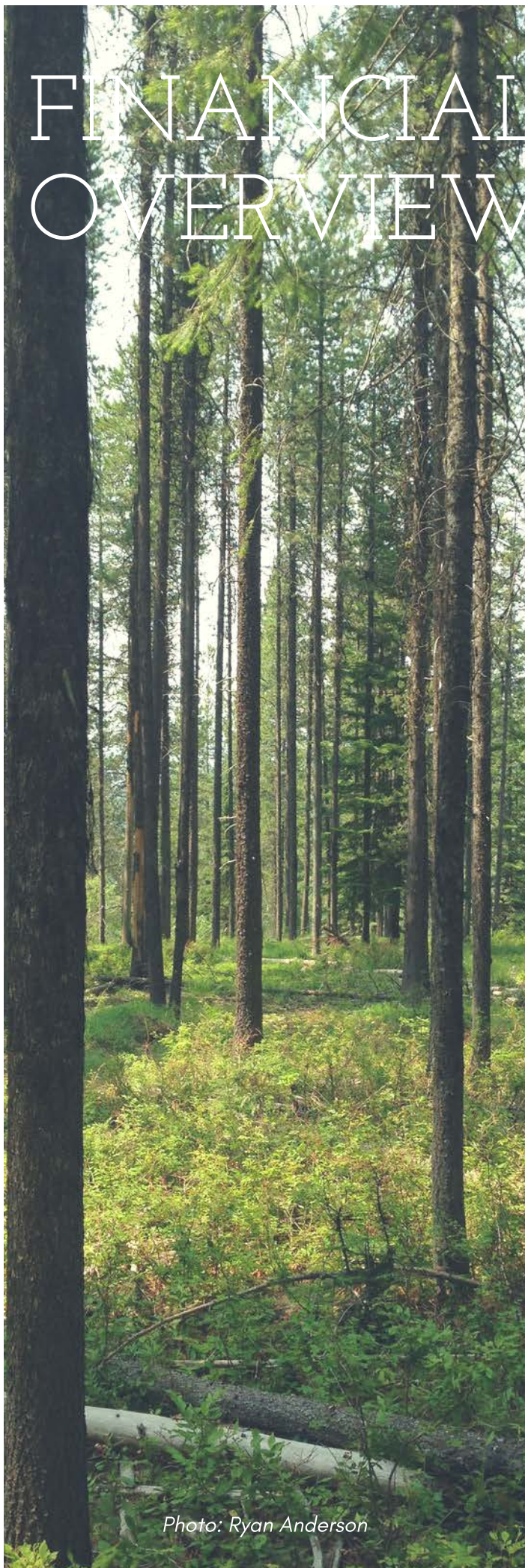


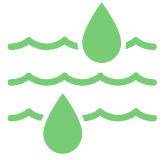
Photo: Ryan Anderson



HEATHER HADSEL

Business and Operations Coordinator

Heather has 10 years' experience assisting nonprofit organizations with financials, outreach, fundraising and web design.



WATER AND FISH

YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

The Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (YTAHP) provides assistance to landowners in restoring critical salmon habitat by implementing projects that protect, restore, and enhance riparian and floodplain habitat currently or historically used by salmon.

To learn more:

washingtonrcd.org/ytahp

IMPACT IN 2017

Implemented 26 projects, including 12 projects to provide fish passage and 4 projects to enhance salmonid habitat on Yakima River Tributaries.

Completed planning, permitting and/or engineering for 9 future projects and and maintenance on one previously installed project.

Fish passage projects completed: screening of 4,696 acre feet (24.8 cubic feet per second) of water in streams to prevent entrapment of fish, and removing barriers on streams to provide an additional 12.1 of a miles of rearing and spawning habitat.

Habitat enhancement projects: 5 riparian plantings and maintenance projects and one fencing project to protect riparian habitat.

GOALS FOR 2018

Implement 27 projects in 2018, including 9 projects to provide fish passage and 8 projects to enhance salmonid habitat on Yakima River Tributaries.

Complete planning, permitting and/or engineering for 8 future projects and maintenance on 2 previously installed projects.



BRIAN MILLER

Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP) Manager

Brian brings a truly collaborative approach to YTAHP and support partners in their individual fish restoration efforts. He is driven to facilitate an efficient process that allows the implementation of the maximum number of salmon access and habitat projects with the available funding.



Cherry Creek Tributaries – Parke Creek (Nisbet) Diversion structure before removal. This structure was a fish barrier and unscreened point of diversion for the Nisbet water right and fed the on-farm gravity irrigation system. *Photo: Brian Miller*



FORESTS AND FIRE

CASCADIA TREX

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (Trex) are training events focused toward easing barriers to implementing prescribed fire. Trex participants engage in two-weeks of prescribed burn training as a dedicated burn team, both in the field and in the classroom, and work on their firefighter qualifications and certifications while increasing local capacity to implement prescribed fire. Trex emphasizes the local context of communities and landscapes and encourages learning around fire ecology, policy, local community programs, outreach and communication, and more.

ESHB 2928 FOREST RESILIENCY BURNING PILOT

The 2928 Pilot Project was initiated in 2016 by the Washington State Legislature to assess the benefits and impacts of prescribed burning. The Washington RC&D and Washington Prescribed Fire Council took a key role in coordinating the project with the Washington Department of Natural Resources and several forest collaboratives and partners. During a fall and spring season burns were monitored for smoke impacts on communities, the effectiveness of burning to reduce fuels, and partners collaborated on community outreach about prescribed fire across Washington.

waprescribedfire.org
putfiretowork.org

IMPACT IN 2017

- Implemented Washington's first prescribed fire training exchange (Trex) based out of Plain, WA with 18 participants from 8 different agencies from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho for two-weeks. Completed prescribed burns on 419 acres on US Forest Service, National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, and private individual landowners property.
- Completed coordination of the 2928 Forest Resiliency Burning Pilot Project with spring burning and outreach, developed collaborative recommendations for moving forest resiliency burning forward through facilitated meetings, and submitted final project report to the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

KARA KARBOSKI



*Fire, Landscapes, and
Communities Coordinator*

*Programs: Washington State Fire
Adapted Communities Learning
Network*

*Fiscal Sponsor Organization:
Washington Prescribed Fire
Council*

Kara coordinates and supports programs and projects that intersect around communities, landscapes, and fire, supporting the goals of communities living with fire and returning fire to our landscapes by building bridges to partners and opportunities.

GOALS FOR 2018

- Develop and implement another Trex in the fall of 2018 with diverse partners and participants.
- Disperse prescribed fire and smoke outreach lessons learned, examples, and resources from 2928 Pilot Project and Trex with local, regional, and national partners.



FORESTS AND FIRE

WASHINGTON FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES LEARNING NETWORK



Vegetation removal and chipping program.
WAFAC Member: Hidden Valley/Swuak, Kittitas
County

The Washington Fire Adapted Communities (WAFAC) Learning Network facilitates learning and provides a means to invest resources in communities that are working to better live with wildfire. The Network supports member communities to develop innovative solutions, work with local partners, engage with other member communities, and increase their local capacity. Working together helps us all do more for our communities, and do it better, so that we can best approach the complex fire issues we face.

To learn more:
fireadaptedwashington.org

IMPACT IN 2017*

- Number of WAFAC Learning Network Communities: 10
- Number of fire education events: 46
- Number of mass media initiatives: 11
- Number of treated non-federal acres: 22
- Number of homes protected: 50
- Number of communities/neighborhoods assisted: 58
- Number of wildfire risk assessments completed: 725
- Number of in-person peer-to-peer learning exchanges between Network members: 2
- Number of WAFAC members able to attend wildland urban interface/fire adapted communities course: 8

*Impact was generated by WAFAC Learning Network members supported by this program.



Education and outreach program.
WAFAC Member: Chelan County Fire District 1

GOALS FOR 2018

- Increase diversity of membership within the Network.
- Ensure that Network members have the skills, materials, and connections needed to achieve their fire adaptation goals.
- Increase Network connections by developing new partnerships and elevating under-represented fire adaptation efforts within the State.



HILARY LUNDGREN

Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Coordinator

Hilary facilitates connections between WAFAC members and external partners across disciplines to share knowledge and practices that might lead to new fire adaptation approaches and sound on-the-ground practices. She works with communities to put the desired impact at the center of their work and supports co-working and co-learning between members to better address issues that challenge our ability to live safely with wildfire.



FORESTS AND FIRE

KIRSTIN TAGGART



Fire Project Coordinator

Kirstin seeks to initiate and support collaborative partnerships between land management agencies and the communities they serve. She provides facilitation for formal social networks in central Washington including the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition and the Yakima Valley Fire Adapted Communities Coalition. She also works with communities to develop outreach events and landscape restoration projects which promote a shared responsibility for wildfire preparedness, response and recovery.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS

CHUMSTICK WILDFIRE STEWARDSHIP COALITION

In 2013, we became the fiscal sponsor for the Coalition who's mission is the build a community, culture, and landscape adapted to wildfire. The Coalition efforts are focused on serving as a local collaborative of the USFS Wenatchee River Ranger District to support fuels reduction and forest restoration and providing preparedness resources to all of those who live, work, and visit the Leavenworth area. The Coalition receives private, local, state, and federal support to lead community driven integrated wildfire resilience.

To learn more:

chumstickcoalition.org

TAPASH SUSTAINABLE FOREST COLLABORATIVE

Assistance is being provided in funding administration for the completion of projects that meet their mission to improve the ecosystem health and natural functions of the landscape through active restoration projects backed by best science, community input and adaptive management.

To learn more:

tapash.org

WASHINGTON PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

We became fiscal sponsors in 2013 for this state collaborative group that works to protect, conserve, and expand the safe use of prescribed fire on the Washington landscape. The Washington Prescribed Fire Council led collaborative efforts to implement the Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2928 Forest Resiliency Burning Pilot Project in 2016 and 2017.

To learn more:

waprescribedfire.org



CONTRIBUTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

WATER AND FISH

CONTRIBUTORS

Bonneville Power Administration
WA Salmon Recovery Funding Board
WA Department of Ecology
Community Salmon Funds
and other local, state and federal programs.

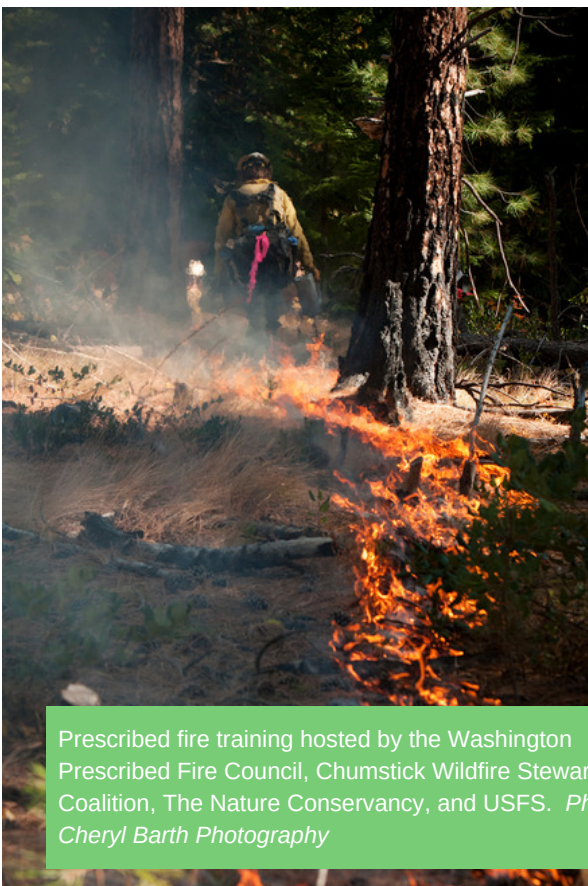
PARTNERS

Kittitas County Conservation District
North Yakima Conservation District
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kittitas Conservation Trust
Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
Yakama Nation
Benton Conservation District

FORESTS AND FIRE

CONTRIBUTORS

Bureau of Land Management
United States Forest Service
The Nature Conservancy
The Watershed Training and Research Center



Prescribed fire training hosted by the Washington Prescribed Fire Council, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, and USFS. *Photo: Cheryl Barth Photography*

PARTNERS

FEMA
Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network
Fire Learning Network
North Central Washington Economic Development District
NFPA - Firewise Communities USA
NOAA - National Weather Service
Okanogan Long-Term Recovery Organization
The Nature Conservancy
Washington Conservation Commission and associated Washington Conservation Districts
Washington Department of Commerce
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Washington State Military Department
Local organizations and entities such as:
Businesses
Chambers of Commerce
Local and county emergency management
Human and community service organizations
Local Fire Districts
Our WAFAC member community partners
Red Cross
All of the homeowners, landowners, and anyone who is generous enough to share their experiences, successes, and challenges with each other!