



# NCW RC&D Council Winter Newsletter

JUNE 21, 2012

NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

## Mission

*The NCW RC&D, a grassroots organization, facilitating and fostering cooperation, local leadership, and concern for the environment in such a way that the overall economic health and quality of life in the tri-county region will be served.*

## Vision

*To provide service to the individuals, communities and organizations of Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan Counties by facilitating and building linkages and support. These services are intended to extend local resources without duplicating those that already exist in the entities it serves, or those of its sponsoring members.*

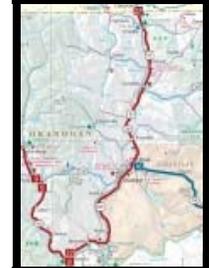
## NCW RC&D - See What We Are Up To:



In the community



On the ground



Across NCW

## Welcome the New RC&D Coordinator

In August, Samantha (Sam) Bartling started work as the new RC&D Coordinator. She is an employee of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), but her primary role is to help the NCW RC&D Council advance its regional natural resource conservation and community development priorities. Sam's background includes a master's degree in Environmental Management, policy work with New York State, and the role of Public Use Manager for the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. But it was her work as a Peace Corps volunteer, a positive can-do attitude, and a passion for living and working in rural communities that made her the perfect fit for the job. The Council is excited to have Sam onboard and looks forward to building the RC&D Program. Stop into the RC&D office, located in the Okanogan USDA Service Center, and say hello!

## Always Welcoming New Members

The NCW RC&D is only as strong and active as its membership. Do you have projects and interests that you think could advance the mission and goals of the RC&D? What do healthy and productive North Central Washington communities, economies and resources look like? The RC&D is actively recruiting! We want to expand our membership to include even more talented individuals and skill sets. Come to a meeting or contact us to get involved!

## Officer Elections

2010 officer elections were held at the Annual Meeting on December 9th in Chelan. Congratulations to the 2010 members of the RC&D Executive Committee:

Chair - Chris Branch, City of Oroville  
Vice Chair - Andrew Lampe, Okanogan County Commissioner  
Secretary - Mary Hunt, Douglas County Commissioner  
Treasurer - Carol Cowling, South Douglas Conservation District  
Past President - Wendell Black, City of Entiat

## NCW RC&D Committee and Project News:

### The Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition (CWSC)



The Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition is dedicated to reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health in the Chumstick Watershed. The coalition is over 40 people strong and has been very, very busy:

- The first annual community Field Day, held on October 10<sup>th</sup>, was a huge success! Over 130 attendees, vendors and volunteers made on-site demonstrations, products and information sharing possible.
- The Coalition has been successful in obtaining funds from the Community Foundation, the National Forest Foundation, the Icicle Fund, Mountaineers Foundation, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Grant dollars support outreach events, treated acres in the watershed, Field Days, educational materials, Coalition coordination and new forest monitoring baselines.
- Visit their website: <http://www.chumstickcoalition.org/> and join the crew! The Coalition meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month in Leavenworth.

## Mark Your Calendar!

### 2010 NCW RC&D

#### Meeting Dates:

January 13  
February 10  
March 10  
April 14  
May 12  
June 9  
July 14  
August 11  
September 8  
October 13  
November 10  
December 8

Chelan Firehall, 10:25  
am – 12:00 pm

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Washington Resource  
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Development Council

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We're on the Web!  
[www.ncwrcd.org](http://www.ncwrcd.org)

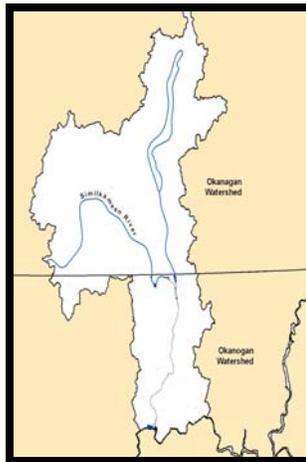
## Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship (IRIS)

IRIS is an active and vibrant group working towards sustainable rural communities and healthy natural resource-based economies. For up-to-date information on what the group is working on, visit their website at [www.irisncw.org/](http://www.irisncw.org/):



- View the NCW Regional Food System Assessment and join the discussion
- Read about the inaugural NCW Community Success Summit held in Pateros on 11/18/2009
- Order your copy of the new Gathering Our Voice DVD: [www.gatheringourvoice.org](http://www.gatheringourvoice.org)
- Can you see change happening on the land? See how to share your observations by visiting the new Witnessing Change website: [www.witnessingchange.org](http://www.witnessingchange.org)

## New Initiative: NASA Project



North Central Washington was chosen as one of four RC&D programs, nation-wide, to be awarded support in developing our own decision-support network using NASA technology. We have been given a *huge* opportunity.

Throughout the Fall, stakeholders, technical experts and resource managers from North Central Washington and British Columbia met to define opportunities to use NASA satellite imagery to address resource issues. One of the primary goals of this project is to get science to local decision makers. The binational project is taking shape: six possible data sets have been identified, project components and outcomes outlined, and workgroups initiated. The proposal is being drafted for submittal to funding sources in the Spring.

## Okanogan Trails Scenic Byway

If you live here, chances are you drive along a nationally-designated Scenic Byway everyday. The OTSB committee is working to promote the Byway – which runs along highway 97 from Pateros to the Canadian border - for tourism and community development opportunities. The team has developed a logo, informational brochures and travel maps. A website, way finding markers and two gateway signs are in development. Stay tuned and safe travels!



## Via 97: Trade, Tourism, Transportation



Via 97 is a partnership with Canada, formed around 3 T's: trade, tourism and transportation. These focus areas are of interest for local, provincial and state governments in particular, so partners from both sides of the border convene to work on joint projects. The group plans to kick-off the year with a meeting in Canada this February.

## About the NCW RC&D

The North Central Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council (NCW RC&D) is a 501(c)3 non-profit designed to assist Douglas, Chelan and Okanogan Counties with the responsible use of their resources, working towards the development of a strong area economy that supports the natural resources it depends on. The Council is composed of Commissioners, Mayors, Tribal Leaders, PUDs, Port Districts, Environmental Groups, Business Leaders and representatives from four Conservation Districts. *Making Things Happen* since 1992.

## Donations and Charitable Gifts

Give back to the region by donating to the NCW RC&D! Funds support the work of our committees and go towards on-the-ground projects and regional initiatives. Donations to the RC&D are tax-deductible and go a *long* way to helping the Council advance their work. Please contact us if you would like to find out more.

## Contact

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Denise Kincaid, NCW RC&D Program Manager [rcd@communitynet.org](mailto:rcd@communitynet.org)

## Web links

NCW Resource Conservation & Development Council: [www.ncwrcd.org](http://www.ncwrcd.org)

Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition: [www.chumstickcoalition.org](http://www.chumstickcoalition.org)

Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship: [www.irisncw.org](http://www.irisncw.org)

Okanogan Trails Scenic Byway: website coming soon!

Via 97: Trade, Tourism, Transportation: [www.via97.org](http://www.via97.org)

NCW Economic Development District: [www.ncwedd.com](http://www.ncwedd.com)