

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Methow Conservancy Expands Stewardship and Membership Programs with New Staff

June 28, 2007 -- The Methow Conservancy added local residents, Emily Chenel and Eric Bard, to their staff Monday, June 11th in two new positions. Emily Chenel filled a Membership Coordinator position and Eric Bard filled a Stewardship Associate position.

Emily is responsible for growing and maintaining a committed membership base to support the work of the Methow Conservancy, including implementing the Conservancy's annual membership fundraising activities and events. Emily will work with the Associate Director, Sarah Brooks, and the Program Coordinator, Mary Kiesau on these and other Conservancy projects.

Eric will work on Baseline Reports for new conservation easements and assist with the annual monitoring of current easements with Steve Bondi, the Stewardship Director, and Dawn Woodruff, who does mapping and easement monitoring. Eric's help will allow the Methow Conservancy to expand the capacity of the Stewardship Program and better assist Methow landowners and Conservancy conservation easement holders achieve their stewardship goals.

Emily Chenel grew up in the Methow Valley and graduated from Liberty Bell High School in 2000 before heading east for Dartmouth College. Emily interned with the Methow Conservancy in 2001 and has since participated in conservation work in Alaska. She recently returned home to the Methow, a place she notes is "embedded in who I am."

Eric Bard lives in Mazama with his wife and two young sons, and has an extensive background in geology, conservation planning, teaching and natural history. Eric and his family have lived in the Methow for six years. He spent much of his childhood coming to visit, explore, and fish here with his grandfather, Jud Longmoor, who was the District Ranger for the Forest Service during the 1950's. "This is a great place to live and raise a family. The Methow Conservancy is working to help sustain what we love about this valley and I am truly looking forward to meeting and working with the local landowners who help steward the greater area that makes up our home."

"We feel extremely lucky to have Emily and Eric join our staff," notes Methow Conservancy Executive Director Jason Paulsen. "In their own ways, Emily and Eric each bring deep respect for this valley, tremendous depth of experience, and the kind of optimism that land conservation work requires. We all look forward to learning from them."

The Methow Conservancy is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to care for the land by accepting conservation easements in the Methow Valley from voluntary landowners, providing conservation education opportunities for visitors and residents, and assisting with community-based conservation projects. To date, the Conservancy has worked with more than 75 families to protect more than 5,100 acres of critical habitat in the Methow Valley.

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