

Methow Conservancy Press Release

**For Immediate Release
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Methow Conservancy Receives Grants to Revise Popular Good Neighbor Handbook

In the past month, the Methow Conservancy has received three foundation grants to update, expand, and reprint its popular *Good Neighbor Handbook: A Guide for Landowners in the Methow Valley*.

Originally written in 2000, the 33-page Handbook has quickly become a favorite resource for Valley newcomers. The easy-to-read Handbook provides specific information regarding choice of low impact building sites, water efficient gardening techniques, noxious weed management, and erosion and fire prevention.

The Handbook is a free resource and readily available at various sites around the Valley, including real estate offices and various lodges. In the past 4 years, almost 5,000 copies have been distributed.

“We’ve received such an overwhelmingly positive response to our first edition of the Handbook that we feel strongly about the need to keep it up-to-date and in distribution,” said Communications Director, Sarah Brooks.

“One of the best things about the Good Neighbor Handbook is that it provides tangible, helpful information about living thoughtfully with the land without resorting to technical jargon,” noted Brooks.

Work on the second edition of the handbook will begin in January. Specifically, the Methow Conservancy hopes to update information about thinning for fire protection and weed control and to create new sections on post-construction site restoration. A variety of community members, including biologists, foresters, builders, and others will be asked for their input and expertise.

The second edition is made possible through generous grant support from three charitable foundations: The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation, the Mountaineers Foundation, and the Community Foundation of North Central Washington. The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of nature, including wildlife and their required habitats in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. The Mountaineers Foundation promotes the study, protection, and enjoyment of the Pacific Northwest's natural areas. The Community Foundation of North Central Washington is a charitable community trust organized in 1986 using the \$2.1 million from the sale of the nonprofit Chelan County Medical Service Corporation to link community resources with community needs in North Central Washington.

Additional funding for the printing of the second edition will come from local business advertising on the back cover of the Handbook.

“We were thrilled to receive three separate grants for the Handbook revision. To have that kind of wide-spread support for the Handbook is so exciting,” added Brooks. “We look forward to having the second edition ready for distribution next fall.”

For more information about the Good Neighbor Handbook or to offer suggestions for revisions, please contact the Methow Conservancy at 996-2870.

The Methow Conservancy is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to care for the land by accepting voluntary conservation easements in the Methow Valley, providing conservation education opportunities for visitors and residents, and assisting with community-based conservation projects.

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