



Press Release

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Community Members Receive Conservation Awards

Methow Conservancy Honors Rob Crandall, Jan Sodt, and Steve Taylor for their Inspiring Efforts on Behalf of Conservation in the Methow Valley

Winthrop, WA – The Methow Conservancy proudly announces the recipients of its 2014 Methow Conservation Awards.

Rob Crandall of Methow Natives is the winner of this year's Ken White Award -- honoring people who carry on Ken White's love for the Methow Valley. The Methow Conservancy recognizes Rob's offering of a gentle hand to the land, carefully collecting its seeds, replanting them, and growing the community's sense of pride in and awareness of the native plants that have long called this Valley home. For years Rob has offered native plant education to the schools and the public and this fall he helped orchestrate the Methow Conservancy's popular Seed Mob and consulted with numerous landowners about recovery on burned landscapes. Rob's affection for native plants and the Methow's shrub-steppe habitat is infectious.

Jan Sodt is the recipient of the Susie Stephens Award, acknowledging outstanding volunteer service to the Methow Conservancy's efforts and to honor those who carry on Susie's endless energy for helping others. Jan has a persistent willingness to help out in any way she can behind-the-scenes in support of the Methow Conservancy's work. From posting posters about upcoming events to typing up hours of focus group responses to helping with mailings, Jan is always there.

The Ken White and Susie Stephens awards have been given every year since 2005. This year, the Methow Conservancy recognized the need for an additional award. The Board of Directors wished to honor the special efforts this summer and fall of Steve Taylor, who orchestrated an impressive and complex project to clean debris in the Methow River after the floods. The organization was so taken with Steve's initiative to jump in and make a difference that they created the You Inspire Us Award for him. The award title is a play on the Methow Conservancy's mission statement to inspire people to care for the land. Steve's award notes that he is being recognized for reminding the organization about what it means to inspire others to care for the land.

The recipients were surprised with their awards at the Methow Conservancy's Annual Holiday Social and Program at the Winthrop Barn. For more information on the organization's awards and to see past recipients go to <http://methowconservancy.org/awards.html>.

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