



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Mary Kiesau, Program Coordinator, mary@methowconservancy.org

Or, Eric Bard, Stewardship Associate, eric@methowconservancy.org

Ph: (509) 996-2870

www.methowconservancy.org

Methow Conservancy Fourth Annual Conservation Course, "*The Dynamic Dance of Water: the Function, Ecology and Future of the Methow Watershed*" Starts February 4th

Winthrop, WA -- The Methow Conservancy's fourth annual "Methow Conservation Course" begins Monday February 4th. This year's course is entitled, "The Dynamic Dance of Water ~ the Function, Ecology and Future of the Methow Watershed." Registration for the course is open now.

Six local and regional experts on geology, water quality, water's movement and properties in the Methow, salmon ecology, watershed recovery, and water-use planning will teach interconnected classes and facilitate discussions. This year's instructors are Eric Bard, a geology teacher and the Methow Conservancy Stewardship Associate; Chris Konrad, a hydrologist with the USGS; Dr. Dan Peplow, an affiliate professor for the College of Forest Resources at the UW; Andreas Kammereck, a water resource engineer; Jennifer Molesworth, a fisheries biologist with the Bureau of Reclamation; and Katharine Bill, a local conservationist and the former Executive Director of the Methow Conservancy. A riparian habitat field-trip later in the spring is also included in the class with instructors Jennifer Molesworth and Susan Prichard. The full syllabus and registration form are available at the Methow Conservancy office in Winthrop, at www.methowconservancy.org or by calling the Conservancy at 996-2870.

Eric Bard, the Methow Conservancy Stewardship Associate, is coordinating the course content this year and will facilitate class discussions and connectivity. Eric has a BS in Geological Science and a Masters in Teaching. He has worked throughout the Northwest and Alaska, both in the field and in the classroom, teaching science to all ages.

The course runs for six weeks from February 4th to March 10th with one class per week on Mondays from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Twisp River Pub. The week of the President's Day holiday, class will meet on Tuesday Feb. 19th instead of Monday the 18th. Tuition is \$125 for Methow Conservancy members. The tuition for non-members is \$150 and includes a discounted membership. Scholarships are available to those who need financial assistance. Registration is limited and the course is already about half full, so the Methow Conservancy encourages folks to register soon. Previous course students and new participants alike should find something new and interesting in this course!

The Methow Conservancy will also offer three separate "mini-courses" in the spring for the second year in a row. These are field-oriented, one-day weekend courses with expert instructors. This year's topics will also involve water, so get out your boots and waders. Our first topic will be "Beavers: Nature's water engineers." Instructors, John Rohrer and Steve Bondi will teach participants about beaver ecology and show us the sites

of past, present, and potential beaver habitat and activity. The second mini-course will be on waterfowl and riparian bird species. Instructors Libby Mills and Kent Woodruff will teach students to identify species and habitats as we travel to wetlands, riparian forests, and shoreline areas. Learn about, and hopefully see and hear, unique bird species that depend on our rich functioning. The third mini-course will be an on-the-water exploration of the upper Methow River. This float trip, guided by trained, local river orienteers, will meander through wildlife habitat, floodplain development, and pristine, tranquil areas on unique and ever-changing river channels. Learn about salmon migration, riparian ecology, river dynamics (hydrology and geology) and watershed planning. These mini-courses are not scheduled yet. Interested individuals should sign up for the Methow Conservancy monthly E-News at www.methowconservancy.org to receive the latest updates about these and other classes.

The Methow Conservancy initiated the Methow Conservation Course in 2005 to take a Methow-specific look at natural history and translate that knowledge into both local and universal conservation-based themes. Now in its fourth year, the Methow Conservation Course is designed for both the novice and the experienced naturalist (and for everyone in between). The course is offered with the goal of inspiring more observation and knowledge of, interest in and connections with the natural world.

For more details, call Mary Kiesau at the Methow Conservancy, 996-2870.

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