

# METHOW CONSERVANCY NEWS

*For Wildlife ♦ For Farming ♦ For Community ♦ Forever*



## *Fall & Winter 2014 Newsletter*

*October 2014*

*Inspiring people to care for  
the land of the Methow  
Valley since 1996*

### ***This Issue Features:***

*Renewal: An Ecological  
Perspective*

*From the Director*

*The Methow Out My Window*

*Thank You to our Donors!*

*Spend a Ben!*

*Reflections from Site Visits*

*New T-Shirts & Conservation  
Shorts*

*People Update*

*and much more!*

**re · new · al : (noun) the state of being  
made new, fresh, or strong again**



Since the summer's fires, we've completed more than 60 site visits with landowners who suffered losses. We have taken great inspiration in the signs of renewal we see as we remind ourselves that this Valley will always be strong.

Like the Methow's great floods of 1894 and 1948, or the deep freeze of 1968, the fires and floods of this past summer have written a new chapter in the ecological and human history of the Methow Valley.

A total of 11 private properties where the Methow Conservancy holds a conservation easement were impacted by the fires and floods this summer. From near Winthrop all the way to Pateros, they include virtually every habitat type, from riparian draws along creeks and shrub-steppe, to Ponderosa pine forests, cattle operations and orchards. And, we recognize that they are just a small cross-section of the hundreds of properties and landowners impacted this summer.

While we all work to help the human community recover from devastating losses, the natural community around us is already in the midst of it's own renewal. As your local land trust dedicated to inspiring people to care for the land, we want to share what we know so far about the ecological recovery underway.

### **A Fire-Adapted Ecosystem**

It is important to remember that the native habitats of the Methow Valley are adapted to fire and not only will they recover relatively quickly in most circumstances without intervention, but many plants actually need and depend on fire for their long-term health and survival as a species.

Scientists categorize plants into four main groups as they relate to fire: resisters, endurers, invaders and avoiders.

- **Resisters** are the fire-adapted plants that can withstand fires best, like large, mature ponderosa pines and Douglas fir with thick bark.
- **Endurers** are the plants that may burn but will relatively quickly resprout and regrow. We all watched with fascination in the weeks following the fire as bluebunch wheatgrass, and arrowleaf balsamroot shot up from burned ground. Aspens, currants, and elderberry were resprouting from healthy root

systems even though the above-ground plant was dead.

- **Invaders** are also known as colonizers because they are often the first plants to resprout, reseed or move in after a fire or soil disturbance. We tend to think of our all-too-common noxious weeds in this category, and cheatgrass will be a big concern in firelines and burned land within and near previously weedy land, but there are also some great natives in this group, like fireweed, yarrow and lupine.
- **Avoiders** are the plants that don't take well to being burned. In our area, these tend to be high elevation trees, which didn't experience fire this summer.

If we are to look for a silver lining in a summer filled with a lot of loss, we can recognize the unique opportunity before us to observe the natural process of regeneration after fire.

### **What About the Trees?**

Approximately 25% of the Carlton Complex fire was on forested lands. Some areas only partially burned, while others experienced stand-replacing fires.

Conifer trees with some green needles, even those with significant loss of foliage, may recover, so it's best to watch and wait if you are wondering if a tree is dead or alive.

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*From the Director: by Jason Paulsen*

# Our New Molecule

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Page 8: Mary Kiesau

Gum drops and pasta. Not exactly the first things that come to mind when you think about the Methow Conservancy. But hang with me, because gum drops and pasta are a more important part of the work you make possible than you ever imagined.

Our journey begins last winter when we took to the road as part of our Community Conservation Needs Assessment for a series of focus groups held in Methow, Mazama, Winthrop, Twisp, Bellevue and Seattle. Thanks to your great interest, each session was filled with heartfelt discussion re: the future of the Methow Valley, the challenges and opportunities you perceive, and the roles you want the Methow Conservancy to play.

All of this thoughtful community input, combined with surveys and technical research completed by Methow Conservancy staff, served as the foundation for a pivotal Board Retreat in mid-March. On a day of transition between seasons, our organization came together around a set of gum drops and pasta and launched our own important transformation.

We realized that through all of our data collection and all of our listening, we had extracted and identified the elements that together create a community inspired to care for the land:

**H – Healthy Landscape:** A healthy landscape comprised of a critical mass of permanently protected and well-stewarded wildlife habitat, agricultural land and open space.

**C – People connected to the Land:** Ample opportunities for people to learn about the Valley's varied landscapes and how to enjoy them responsibly.

**A – Successful Agriculture:** A rural character rooted in working farms, ranches, and orchards.

**G – Planned Growth:** A regulatory framework rooted in local community values and communities made vibrant by thoughtful development.

**E – Balanced & Resilient Economy:** Sufficient capital investment to support meaningful, diverse employment and opportunities for economic innovation.

**I – Investment in the Future:** An educated, committed and inspired next generation ready to carry the conservation community forward.

**CP – Culture of Participation & Creativity:** People have the opportunity and the belief that they can and should make a difference in something bigger than themselves.

**S – Strong Human Safety Net:** No one slips through the cracks—the

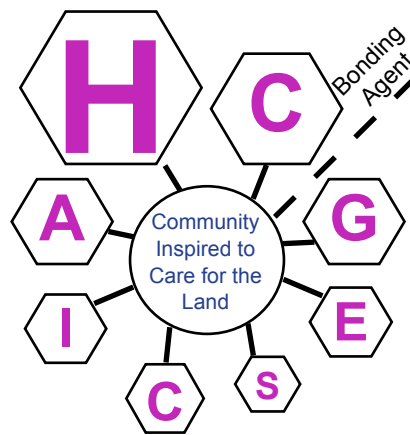
community values the Land AND the people.

This is a fundamental shift. It is a move away from thinking about “what we do” to thinking about “the impact of what we do.” That impact, we now see, is rooted in supporting these eight elements to reach our mission of successfully inspiring people to care for the land of the Methow Valley. It is a recognition that for conservation to endure, our community must remain strong and supported in other ways as well. We may not play a leading role in all eight elements (and, hence, their varying size in the graphic below), but we recognize that for our primary goal of conservation to happen, we need to be aware and supportive of all eight.

In May, the Board adopted a new Strategic Plan that is structured around these eight elements rather than our former program areas of land protection, stewardship and education.

And that's where gum drops and pasta come to play. They provide a physical representation of the new framework through which we approach our work (see photo above).

The gum drops represent each of the eight elements and the pasta represents our organization – a sort of bonding agent highlighting the interconnectedness and interdependence of these elements. Together the gum drops and pasta make a molecule – a community full of people inspired to care for the land.



Little did we know when we created our “molecular” vision just how useful and relevant it would be. As we reflect upon the past two months, our Board and staff have noted how our “molecule” strategy has been one of the most important ingredients in our post-fire response as an organization.

We are always more than willing to share our molecule/strategic plan with you—just send me an email at [jason@methowconservancy.org](mailto:jason@methowconservancy.org).

After all, you make all of what we do possible.

Jason Paulsen, Executive Director



## The Molecule in Action

Here are just a few tangible examples of how your support has translated into “molecular” work in the days since the fires began:

### H – Healthy Landscape

We have made more than 60 site visits to properties of affected landowners to provide post-fire land care advice and resources.

### C – People connected to the Land:

We know that in times of stress, people seek information, so we pulled together some of the smartest experts we know and created a series of educational materials about landscape level needs post-fire. Visit our special website at: <http://methowconservancy.org/fire.html>

### A – Successful Agriculture

We're providing “matchmaking” services for agriculturalists who lost grazing land and serving as a conduit for understanding the rather complicated federal disaster funding programs available to agriculturalists.

### G – Planned Growth

We engaged key connectors in pursuit of FEMA and SBA disaster declarations and are playing a leadership role in the creation of the Methow Valley Long Term Recovery Organization.

### E – Balanced & Resilient Economy

We recognized the impacts to local businesses and launched our innovative “Spend A Ben” campaign in support of the local economy, including the more than 100 businesses who support our work.

### I – Investment in the Future

Our summer interns assisted with post-fire recovery efforts like property visits, and we are working directly with local teachers to develop experiential programs for this school year.

### CP – Culture of Participation

We're supporting our peer social service organizations by asking our supporters to support them in the wake of the fire and floods and have helped to engage volunteers in post-fire restoration activities including fence repair.

### S – Strong Human Safety Net

We're partnering with Room One to help connect landowners with resources they need on their impacted lands including free seeding assistance for those who need help.



## Renewal

(con't. from page 1)

Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir will be slower to regenerate than the grasses and shrubs, so some previously forested areas may initially revert back to grassland communities. Tree seeds will germinate but it obviously takes time for conifers to grow.

Burned trees that do not threaten personal safety or property serve many important roles, and at many levels, are critical to the renewal process. Burned trees are more susceptible to falling (which can happen quickly in a windstorm). But whether a tree falls naturally or you choose to cut it down, stumps and trunks left on the ground can help stabilize the soil, especially on steep slopes.

Downed wood provides decaying material for many species such as chipmunks, small birds and snakes, and small mammals that are particularly helpful in dispersing seeds. Standing dead trees (snags) are vital habitat for cavity-nesting species, like woodpeckers (11 species in the Methow!),

Much of the burn area will see bark beetles, but not necessarily every tree nor every stand will experience infestations. Bark beetles do carry a fungus that provides food for their larvae, and it's actually the fungus (such as "blue stain fungus" that many appreciate in pine boards) that is often the last straw for weakened or stressed trees.

Long-horned wood borers (not officially a bark beetle), which only feed on dead/decaying wood, will also be noticeable (they are large, loud and pretty cool-looking if you like insects!).

Of the live remaining trees (those partially burned or not at all), scientific research says it's really

hard to predict how extensively beetles will affect them. It's not a given fact that live trees will be attacked but there is also little evidence that after a beetle outbreak begins, cutting dead trees will prevent healthy trees from being attacked.

Landowners who want to salvage fire-killed pines probably have until next spring before fungus and rot start to appear. However, logging equipment can disturb already weakened soils and injure or stress tree roots and trunks, increasing the chance of a beetle attack. Logging or thinning in the winter with snow on the ground may offer less impact.

### To Seed or Not to Seed?

Large portions of the burn will recover naturally and do not need to be seeded. In some cases, seeding can actually slow natural recovery by providing additional competition. Efforts should be focused on firelines and other human-caused disturbances and areas that were previously weedy. Hydroseeding can be effective on stabilizing steep slopes and enhancing germination.



This lush regrowth in the area of the 30-Mile Fire (which burned years ago) is a good reminder that renewal is possible.

2015 will be an important year in the reestablishment of our plant communities. Aggressive weed control next year will be an important restoration step.

We have been recommending a site visit by a professional before any seeding to get advice on the species and seeding rate that best fit both situation and budget.

### What Can I Do?

The most important thing you can do is continue to love this Valley. Yes, there are areas that look and feel different than the way we used to know them, and it may take generations for them to return, but the Methow Valley--its land and its people--needs our care and attention now more than ever.

Stay tuned to our E-news and other publications in the coming weeks and months. We'll be sharing information about volunteer opportunities to help with on-the-ground restoration and also about how to make sure your property is as prepared for future wildfires as possible.

*We would like to extend a special thank you to experts Susan Prichard, PhD., Ken Bevis, Connie Mehmel, and Rob Crandall for the scientific information they have shared with us for this article and throughout the post-fire period.*



Our forests have evolved to live with fire, and although this forest burned significantly, it is likely that many of the trees will survive.

and all the species that then use their cavities: flying squirrels, bluebirds, chickadees, and numerous other songbirds, chipmunks, and in some cases ducks.

Bark beetles in the Methow are native insects and they are an integral part of the life cycle of trees as well as overall forest dynamics, including being a rich food source for woodpeckers and other birds. Our local beetles tend to feed on weakened trees.

## The Methow Out My Window

We all need a reminder of the resilience and inspiration that have long endured in this special mountain valley. Art can be that salve.

We have recently received delivery of our limited-edition (250 copies only) of the *Methow Out My Window* book. This is a beautiful handmade piece of art in book form, featuring the work of 17 local artists, including poetry, photographic prints, and linoleum block prints. This is a unique and one-time-only art collection – once we sell out of the 250 copies, there will be no more made.

Handmade by the book-art masters at Mighty Tieton in the Yakima Basin, the books cost \$250 each, with all of the net proceeds supporting our conservation efforts here in the Methow Valley including our recent work helping property owners recover their landscapes post fire, flood,

and mud. A book like this makes an excellent wedding present, holiday gift, or as a legacy piece for your home or cabin.

The book contains original linoleum block prints from: Tania Gonzalez-Ortega, Patty Yates, Ginger Reddington, Caryl Campbell, Mary Lou McCollum, Suzanne Rowntree, Erik Brooks, Bruce Morrison, Robin Doggett, Laura Gunnip, and Tori Karpenko. Photography by Mary Kiesau, Dennis O'Callaghan, Aristides Pappidas, Teri J. Pieper, and E. A. Weymuller is also featured. Linda M. Robertson's ethereal poetry collection titled *Letters to Julia, 1898-1899. The Methow Valley, Washington* binds all the art together.

Stored in a handmade collector's box, the book is beautiful and thought-provoking. We still have books remaining, but they won't be here



There is still time to get your copy of this limited-edition handmade art collection celebrating the beauty and resilience of the Methow Valley.

long. Call us at 509-996-2870 or email [sarah@methowconservancy.org](mailto:sarah@methowconservancy.org) to order yours today!

# We believe YOU make conservation possible! Thank you for

In our last newsletter our "centerfold" featured the first 100 conservation easement you helped us complete. This time we figured we should thank all the people, businesses, and organizations who donated money or in-kind items to the Methow Conservancy **between April**

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# For loving this Valley and protecting it for future generations.

should highlight YOU in our centerfold (bet you can't wait to tell your friends and family you are featured in a centerfold!). Below are **11, 2013 and March 31, 2014**. If you are a couple with two last names, look under both -- we did our best at alphabetizing!

Jaffe \* Carol & Keith  
foat \* Suzi & Scott  
e Johnson \* Mary &  
ross & Scott Johnston \*  
rah Jones \* Fran Kaul &  
gillus & Tom Jones \*  
es \* Dorothy & Robert  
*(in honor of Riley and*  
*Stuart Kahn \* Roger*  
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r. Hilary Kemp *(in honor*  
*of Rafael Hernandez)* \*  
Elizabeth Spencer Steffa  
Lee Moseley & Tom  
Kenney \* Penelope &  
endall & Jack Kienast \*  
Bil Kilby \* Alison  
\* Paula Brekke & Andy  
\* Wanda Myers &  
atterson & Chuck  
Dennis Kirkland \* Merle  
cob Kirkman \* Denise  
a & Paul Klemond \*  
Klopsch \* Jan & Jim  
ost Knops \* Jennifer &  
Gordon & Michael  
Kevin Kogut \* Peggy

Malloch \* Linda & Steve Malone \* Sarah &  
Andy Maloy \* Kim & Richard Manderbach \*  
Connie Niva & Judsen Marquardt \* Janet  
Frohnmayr & David Marques \* Sheila &  
Albert Marshall \* Lucille Mason \* Christie  
Masters *(in honor of Lisa Brock & Craig Mills)* \*  
Catherine Smith & Peter Maxson \* Mazama  
Country Inn \* Mazama Store \* Lucinda  
McAllister \* Brooke Page & Chad McBride \*  
Laura McCabe \* Carmi Weingrod & Ed  
McCarthy \* Mary Lou & Ron McCollum \*  
Mary Ellen McConkey \* Carol & Thomas  
McCord \* Linda & Tom McCrear \* Mary  
McCrea \* Judy & Jim McDonald \* Julia  
Thompson & Ray McFarland \* Teresa DeFreitas  
& Dan McFeeley \* Linda Heaton & Herb  
McGilton \* Jeannie & Timothy McGinnis \*  
Sarena Shapiro & Anton McGready \* Leeann  
Ferlito & Randy McGregor \* Doreen & Mike  
McHugh \* Joanne McInnis \* Mary & Don  
McIvor \* Judith Marcus & Rick McKenney \*  
Jane McLaughlin \* Lois M. McLean \* Jack  
McLeod \* Gerri & Dan McNally \* James  
McNamara \* Susan Bogert & Joe McNulty \*  
Linda & Larry McWhirter \* Colleen & William  
Meacham \* Cheyenne & Galen Fonda & Meg  
Trebson \* Suzanne Edison & John Mellana \*  
Ellen Evans & Sanford Melzer *(in honor of*  
*Martha Kongsgaard & Peter Goldman)* \* Linda &  
Wayne Mendro \* Karen Townsend Mercer \*  
Helen & Craig Merrill \* Methow Cycle &  
Sport, LLC \* Methow  
Naturalist \* Methow  
Suites \* Methow Valley  
News \* Methow Valley  
Ski School \*  
Methownet.com \*  
Jacqui Metzger \*  
Microsoft Giving  
Campaign \* Erik  
Mikkelsen \* Michael  
Milutescu \* Mary  
Morgan & Phil Millam  
\* Andy Miller \* Larry  
Miller \* Maggie &  
Lavin Miller *(in honor*  
*of Tracy and Linda*  
*Miller)* \* Roxie & Carl  
Miller \* Susan  
Samuelson & Mark  
Miller \* Theresa & Lee  
Miller \* Lisa Brock &  
Craig Mills \* Anaka  
Mines \* Stephanie &  
John Minter \* Carol &  
Mike Mitchell \* Karen  
& Michael Mixon \*  
Moccasin Lake  
Foundation \* Lisa &  
Jeff Monahan \* Beth &  
Will Mondzac \*  
Richard Monroe \*

Hanne Thiede & Steven Oien \* Cathy & Gregg  
Oliver \* Joy & Keith Olmsted \* Deborah &  
John Olson \* Jean & Craig Olson \* Jennifer  
Ortt \* Holly & Steve Overman \* Sam & John  
Owen \* Angela Owens \* Mary & Don Owens \*  
Pacifica Law Group \* David Painter \* William  
Palmer *(in honor of Debbie Campbell & Isabel*  
*Childs)* \* Robert Pankl \* Jane & Aristides  
Pappidas \* Catherine & Ted Paprocki \*  
Catherine Parker \* Sarah Parrington \* Jane  
McNeely Parrish & Jamo Parrish \* Diana Lynn  
Parsons *(in honor of Lisa Brock & Craig Mills)* \*  
Jackie Hovis & Tim Paschke \* Ruth Patterson \*  
Sarah & David Patton *(in honor of Debbie*  
*Campbell & Isabel Childs)* \* Judy & Roger  
Paulsen \* Valerie Potts & Jason Paulsen \* Amy  
& Tom Payne \* Anne & Stephen Peck \* Janice  
Pecoraro \* Tonya van Bueren & Bryn Pederson \*  
Sally Browning & Rich Pelman \* Beth & Wade  
Perrow \* Deborah & Brian Peterman \* Patty  
Yates & Theodore Peterson \* Susan Peterson \*  
Ellen & David Petre \* Jessica, John, Ethan &  
Ellie Phillips \* Ann Watson & Michael Pickett \*  
Annie Kennedy, Mathea & Jon Pielemeier \*  
Janet Pietrzak *(in honor of Lisa Brock & Craig*  
*Mills)* \* Pinto Design, LLC \* Patricia & John  
Plimpton \* Kathy & John Podmayer \* Shannon  
& Peter Polson \* Mary Louise Harris & Chris  
Pope \* Teresa Castner & Bill Pope \* Sally &  
Don Portman \* Emily & Lincoln Post \* Mary &  
David Powell \* Deb & Arnie Prentice \* Norma  
& David Priebe \* Karen Fisher & Mike Pruett \*  
Mary Anne Quigley \* DeeAnn Kirkpatrick &  
Steve Ralph \* Carol Ranck \* Sally & Wayne  
Ranzau \* Cheryl Bellin & James Rauh \* Doyle  
Ravnaas \* Dennis Rea \* Lynn & Mike Read \*  
Pamela Read *(in honor of Susan Read & Mugs*  
*Davock)* \* Danica Ready \* Dee & Mike Real \*  
Heather & Ric Redman \* Joseph Reid \* Linda  
& William Renn \* Adrian Chavey & Gordon  
Reynaud \* Carol & Mark Rhinehart \* Juliet  
Rhodes \* Jacquie Luke & Ken Rice \* Nancy &  
Brad Richard \* Lisa Gordanier & James  
Richards \* Christine Caldwell & Mike  
Richardson \* Valerie Trueblood Rapport & Rick  
Rapport \* Lucy Anne Winthrop Rickerson \*  
Roberta & Neil Riebe \* Riverside Printing \*  
Celeste & Kip Roberts \* Sue & Dick Roberts \*  
Jacqueline Abel & Chris Robertson *(in honor of*  
*Debbie Campbell & Isabel Childs)* \* Linda &  
Mark Robertson \* Sylvia & Ray Robertson \*  
Joan Wellman & Tom Robinson \* Heather &  
Paul Rock \* Carlyn & Michael Roedell \* James  
Roepke \* Pamela Kulin & James Rogers \*  
Fernne & Roger Rosenblatt \* Liz Boyd & Andy  
Roth \* Lyn & John Roth \* Karen Mulcahy &  
Rick Rottman \* Ellen Butzel & Mark Ruebel \*  
Fred Runkel \* Alison Chubb & Steve Ruoss \*  
Cheryl Ryder \* Marilyn & Dave Sabold \*  
Harriett Cody & Harvey Sadis \* Jennifer  
Molesworth & Paul Salladay \* Danielle Reynaud  
& Ray Sanders \* Steve Saunders \* Heide  
Andersen & Brad Sawtell \* Sawtooth Dental  
Care \* Gail & Wally Schaefer \* Melody Mayer  
& William Scheidt \* B.J. Carol & Brian  
Scheuch \* Julie & Gary Schillhammer \* Carolyn  
& Glenn Schmekel \* Hermann Schmidt, Jr. *(in*  
*honor of Brian Duchin & Kelsey Sheldon)* \* Boo  
& George Schneider \* Gary Ford & Chris  
Schneider \* Robin & Dick Schneider \* Kristen  
Webb & David Schooler \* Jayne & Larry  
Schrock \* Christina & Mark Schuetz \* Christel  
& Klaus Schulz \* Linda Hughes & Sy Schwartz  
\* Mary Ann & Ted Schwarz \* Susan & Scott  
Schwinge \* Tina & Eliot Scull \* Lynn B. & J.  
Randolph Sealey \* The Seattle Foundation \*  
Julianne Seeman \* Nancy Farr & Dale Sekijima  
\* Robert Seltzer \* Nancy & John Serratore \*  
Jane Cover & Joseph Shaeffer \* Melissa Snider  
& David Shaw \* Christina & David Shelton \*  
Frauke Rynd & Mac Shelton \* Diana Prince &  
Mike Shirley \* Sondra & Robert Shulman \*  
Jackie Fradkin & Oori Silberstein \* Silicon  
Valley Community Foundation \* Irene Simms \*  
Elizabeth Sims \* Patricia Espedal & John Sims \*  
Wendy Sims \* Lara & Jonathan Sirois \* Shelley  
Skinner \* Stephanie Subak & Lowell Skoog \*  
The Slag Works \* Hana Baker & Tyler Slostad \*  
Donald Smith \* Jacque & Paul Smith \* Kay &  
Richard Smith \* May Ellen Smith \* Sarah  
Schrock & Hans Smith \* Cherry & George  
Snelling \* Susan & Kurt Snover \* Charles Snow

\* Louise McNerney & Jan Sobieralski \* Gisele  
Sodell \* Michele Deron & Richard Sood \*  
Suzanne & Terry Sorom \* Gerald Sparling \*  
Sherry Malotte & John Spaude \* Marian  
Osborne & Peter Speer *(in memory of Teddie*  
*Mae Speer)* \* Laurel & Tim Spelman \* Patricia &  
Stuart Spencer \* Nancy St. Clair \* Barbara Kaley  
& Joe Staebler \* Star Words Professional  
Productions \* Starbucks Matching Gifts  
Program \* Carolanne & Egon Steinebach \* Kim  
Leatham & Robert Steiner \* Deb & Keith  
Stennes \* Louise & John Stevens \* Eric  
Hartmann & Jeremy Stewart \* Stephanie &  
Jamie Stewart \* Stewart Dietz Catering \* Beth &  
David Stipe \* Torre & Ed Stockard \* Carrie &  
Vic Stokes \* Cheryl & Jim Stonier \* Martin  
Straub \* Christine & Eric Strobel \* Lucie Huang  
& Dan Stroh \* Nancy & Gene Studer \* Helen  
Stusser \* Val Sukovaty \* Miriam & Teddy  
Sumner \* Sun House \* Nell & Ray Sundberg \*  
Libby Hillis & John Sunderland \* Lorah & Don  
Super \* Ann & Ron Suter \* Julie Sutter \* Ilona  
Hruska & Mark Swanson \* Katie & Rick  
Swanson \* Leae Swayze \* Joanne & Stephen  
Syre \* Kate Wisniewski & Peter Tabor \* Polly  
Feehan, Jamie & Katie Tackman \* Dana Persson  
Taft & David Taft \* Tall Timber \* Curtis Tanner  
*(in honor of Elizabeth Rodrick)* \* Hazel & Paul  
Taylor \* Susan & Michael Taylor \* Sally &  
Robert Telzrow \* Hyde & Cabby Tennis \* Karen  
& Helmut Theimer \* Colleen Downey & Dean  
Thetford \* Pam Thomas \* Kathleen & Ron  
Thordarson \* Kathy Carney & Randy  
Thordarson \* Jeanne White & Travis Thornton \*  
Ashley Thrasher \* Carol Tilley \* Colleen & Nim  
Titcomb \* Patty & Rick Todd \* Deborah &  
Wilton Tom \* Cass O'Callaghan & Jim  
Tomlinson \* Chuck Tonn \* Susan & John  
Touchstone \* Oren Townsend *(in honor of Lisa*  
*Brock & Craig Mills)* \* Marie Tracy \* Treeline  
Foundation \* Anne & Gene Trobaugh \* Hope  
Hundley & Eric Trupin \* Lindsey Salerno  
Tucker & Sam Tucker \* Tucker Printing \* Boo,  
Brent & Evan Turner \* Mary Jean Wiegert &  
Bruce Underwood \* Cathy & Bennet Uppier \*  
Patricia Vadasy \* Alyson Littman & Cor Van  
Niel \* Shelly & Vern Vande Garde \* Laurelle  
Walsh & Frank Vander Wall \* Ms.  
Vanschravendijk \* Rebecca VanSteenkiste \* Janet  
Verkuyl \* Gwen Vernon \* Ann Williams &  
Douglas Volkmer \* Susan & Mark Vossler \*  
Bradaigh & Thor Wagner \* Iris & Ted Wagner \*  
Maryann Barron Wagner & Todd Wagner \*  
Scott Waichler \* Marlane Wakefield \* Kathryn  
Elliott & Kent Wallner \* Elizabeth May & Bill  
Walters \* Teresa Skye & David Ward \* Barbara  
Waters \* Eveline & Bernard Wathen \* Marie  
Tracy & Alan Watson \* Glen Waugh \* Rasa  
Tautvydas & David Weidig \* Karin &  
Christopher Weight \* Daniel Weinstein \*  
Kristina & Thomas Weir *(in honor of Maggie*  
*Coon)* \* Ed Welch \* Linda Pastor & Philip  
Welch \* Monica Romano & Bob Weller \*  
Barbara & Jay Wells \* Mary Hughes & Robert  
Wells \* Constance Wentzel \* Martha Rothe &  
Stan Wentzel \* Kate & Al Werner \* Fred Wert \*  
Kenneth Westman \* Heidi & Dennis Weston \*  
Rachelle & E.A. Weymuller \* Alexa & Jake  
Whipple \* Gigi White \* Janice Wieser \* Wildlife  
Forever Fund \* Linda Mason Wilgis & Herb  
Wilgis III \* Jean Settler-Will & Marshall Will \*  
John Willett \* Kathy Williams \* Tim Williams \*  
Dotti & Bob Wilson \* Lori & Geoff Wilwerding  
\* Windermere/Methow Valley \* Windy Valley  
Landscaping \* Winthrop Mountain Sports \*  
Winthrop Physical Therapy & Fitness \*  
Winthrop Wood Works \* Cameron Green &  
Eric Wittenbach \* Mary Ellen Countryman &  
Ben Wohlauer \* Maggie Coon & Mark Wolf-  
Armstrong \* Martha & Morton Wood \* Dawn,  
Kent, & Taylor Woodruff \* Leah & Mark  
Worstman \* Amy & Mark Worthington \* Ann  
& Evan Wride \* Judith & David Wright \*  
Juliana & Robert Wright \* Jan Young & Jim  
Wurzer \* Christine Mahoney & Alison Wysong  
*(in honor of Coco Poole & Pat Karman)* \* Yoga  
Teacher Central \* Ginny Price & Ted Young \*  
Loy & Ken Young \* Margo Young \* Diane &  
Jack Zebley \* Patricia Zeisler \* Paul Andrew  
Zellers \* Bonnie & George Zinn \* LaVerne  
Woods & John Zobel \* Beverly & Jeffrey Zwar \*



Carol Koller \* Gail &  
ard-Goldman  
ank Konrad \* Stephanie  
izanich \* Sherrie &  
Mae & Arnold Kruse \*  
ntze \* Yvonne  
an Kuske \* Christina &  
iak \* Lakeview Financial  
ight & Glenn Lamb \*  
u \* Susan Hahn &  
n Larson \* Nanette &  
Kevin LaTorra \* Cynthia  
\* Missy & Rick Le Duc  
odie Bain & Todd Lee \*  
man \* Mary Drobka &  
evine \* Lucinda Tear &  
ewarne \* Karen Atkins  
y & David Lill \*  
\* Pam & Ron Lind \*  
er \* Georgie Lindquist \*  
rom \* Lee & Greg  
anson \* Susan Scanlan  
Lobdell \* Janet &  
& Peter Loft \* Lost River  
ce Bergen & Larry  
z \* Deirdre & Blake  
Nancy MacKerrow \*  
\* Lisa & John MacLean  
\* Mary Ellen Stone &  
al Major \* Alisa & Ken

Raleigh Bowden & Peter Morgan \* Britt Ericson  
& Jonathan Morley \* Morning Glory Balloon  
Tours \* Debra Westwood & Art Morrill \* Anita  
Rue & Laurel Morrison \* Debra Morrison \*  
Karen Jacobsen & Bruce Morrison \* Kelly &  
Alan Carter Mortimer \* Anne Phalen & Peter  
Moser \* Marshal Moser \* Mountain Kind  
Photography \* Nicole Howard & David Moyal \*  
Vicki & Gary Mueller \* Lisa Tabbut & Stanley  
Munger \* Jocelyn & Richard Murray \* Devon  
Musgrave \* Drew Myers \* Anne & Bob Naney \*  
John Narver \* Kay & Joe Neal \* Heather &  
Dean Neff \* Charlotte & Robert Nelson \* Don  
Nelson \* Julie & Steve Nelson \* Lani-Kai  
Swanhart & Rod Nelson \* Marian Nelson \*  
Steve Nelson \* Jeannine Nelson-Takaki \*  
Jennifer Jacobi & Erik Neumann \* Jim Neupert  
\* Barbara & John Newman \* Timothy Newton \*  
Laura Evans & Ehren Ngo \* Karen & Henry  
Nichols \* Katherine Niemetz \* Clint Nohavec \*  
Linda Martin & Steve Noland \* Rick & Pat  
Nordby \* Linda Harvey & Bernard Nordmann \*  
North Cascades Basecamp \* North Cascades Fly  
Fishing \* North Glover Healing Center \* Gay  
Northrup \* Sandy & Gordi Northrup \* Kathryn  
Goldberg & Michael Notaro \* Patricia & David  
Notter \* Jane Gilbertsen & Steve Nourse \*  
Adrienne Nova \* Gail & Dick Nova \* Marilyn  
& Denny O'Callaghan \* Deborah Dahrling &  
Rose O'Donnell \* Therese & Peter Ohlson \*

# Spend a Ben in the Methow

Help the local economy recover and have some fun along the way!



Help us get Ben to go viral (no ice bucket required!) by using #spendabeninthemethow on Twitter or Facebook or simply tell all your friends about it!

than \$140,000 (or 1,400 Bens) have been “pledged” to be spent at local Methow Valley businesses since the campaign started in September.

2. You can choose where you Spend your Ben-- from outdoor gear to art to food to lodging to books, tires, bikes, etc. The special Spend a Ben

We trust that by now you've seen this handsome Methow-style rendition of Ben Franklin around town or on our website and social media. He's the “official” mascot of our effort to inspire people to care for the local economy. Below are five important facts you should know about our Spend a Ben campaign:

1. A “Ben” is short for a “Benjamin,” as in Benjamin Franklin, who graces the \$100 bill. So far, more

than \$140,000 (or 1,400 Bens) have been “pledged” to be spent at local Methow Valley businesses since the campaign started in September.

website: <http://methowconservancy.org/spendaben.html> has links to Methow Conservancy Business Partners and Chamber of Commerce Links for Winthrop, Twisp, and Pateros, but you can also choose to support any local businesses you know.

3. By “pledging” via the Spend a Ben website you are simply declaring your intent to help the local economy recover by buying something in the Methow between now and the end of the year. Your pledge is **not** a donation and the Methow Conservancy doesn't earn anything from the campaign. As Executive Director Jason Paulsen notes, “The local business community here has always been so generous in their support of our conservation work that we just felt it was the least we could do to try to encourage people to remember the recovery of the local Methow economy as they make spending decisions this fall. The simple truth is people can't care for the land if they can't care for their families. A strong local economy is an essential foundation for conservation success.”

4. In exchange, pledgers get a Spend a Ben in the Methow bumper sticker and their name listed on the “Ben Spenders” honor roll (you can choose to be anonymous, too). Former Methow Valley resident Baylie Peplow, now of Red Umbrella Designs in Seattle created the whimsical logo of Ben Franklin, Methow-style.

5. Turns out that Benjamin Franklin actually has some historical connections to the ideals of recovery. As we've learned, Franklin helped to organize the first true insurance company in the colonies – The Philadelphia Contributorship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire. Franklin was attracted to the idea of a mutual insurance plan, “whereby every man might help another, without any disservice to himself.” Sounds pretty fitting right about now in the Methow Valley. Source: <https://www.franklinbusybody.com/facts.asp>

## Conservation Shorts

Not our new line of clothing, but a quick look at conservation issues in the Methow

### Flagg Mountain Copper Mine Exploration

Due to wildfire activity in the valley this summer, local United States Forest Service personnel were unable to complete an analysis of potential groundwater impacts required as part of the environmental review of the Blue River Resources proposal submitted last spring. It is expected that District Ranger Michel Liu will make his decision regarding the need for additional environmental review sometime this winter after USFS staff are able to complete their analysis. The earliest drilling could be allowed on Flagg Mountain would be August of 2015 due to Spotted Owl habitat concerns already identified in the area. You can link to the comment letter submitted by the Methow Conservancy Board of Directors here: [http://methowconservancy.org/Ltr\\_Liu\\_Flagg\\_Mtn\\_5\\_8\\_2014.pdf](http://methowconservancy.org/Ltr_Liu_Flagg_Mtn_5_8_2014.pdf)

### Boom, Bust, Boom...Time for a Discussion Group!

While this past summer was short on time for reading, Executive Director Jason Paulsen did manage to complete a book titled *Boom, Bust, Boom: A Story About Copper, the Metal that Runs the World*. Jason really enjoyed it and we hope you will to! We're ordering 15 copies to share and ultimately donate to the library system and hope that you will join-in and take part in an evening discussion group with us this winter. Watch for more details in our January E-News!



We just couldn't resist putting an image from our NEW t-shirts in the Conservation Shorts section! The shirts come in this clay color or a light brown. See our website!

### Flagg Mountain Ridgeline Protection Covenants

Okanogan County Superior Court Judge Christopher Culp heard the case involving the controversial Flagg Mountain “hut” last



A view of the controversial “Hut” as it was being built on Flagg Mountain, also the mountain at the heart of the potential copper mine exploration.

month and has indicated that he will issue his ruling sometime during the month of October. Watch the Methow Valley News for updates over the coming weeks.

### County Comprehensive Plan

Okanogan County issued a Determination of Non-Significance associated with the new draft of the County Comprehensive Plan in August. It is expected that the Planning Commission and/or County Commissioners will hold at least one additional hearing prior to any action by the County Commissioners. The Methow Conservancy continues to advocate for a Comprehensive Plan which keeps the existing Methow Sub-Areas intact, respecting decades of community-based land use planning within the area known as the Methow Review District, while also allowing for future neighborhood-scale plans to be developed in the future. Watch our E-News or the County Planning Department website for updates at: <http://www.okanogancounty.org/planning/index.html>.

# Personal Reflections on Post-Fire Property Visits

by Dawn Woodruff, Monitoring Coordinator



I have monitored our Conservation Easement properties for years with our local landowners. These walks are a chance to look over the property each year, interact with the owners and answer any questions they might have. In some cases I have visited with these

same people on the same properties for 14 years. We have become friends.

Once the Carlton Complex and Rising Eagle fires burned, we offered free site visits to any landowner who had questions about their property and how it would or would not recover from the burn, dozer lines, hand lines or retardant drops.

**What I found on the visits:** It was so nice to get to meet and spend time walking around with people I was meeting for the first time. All of the folks I talked with felt VERY fortunate that they still had a house – even if big parts of their properties, sometimes all of their rest of their property burned. All were very grateful to the firefighters for their efforts. All expressed sorrow for those who lost their homes. I think people appreciated a chance to tell their fire story to someone while walking on their property. They really care about the land and want to do the right thing.

I saw some instances where the fire burned all the way up to a dozer line or retardant line. I saw places where the fire burnt all the way up to a road (that acted as a fire line) or a yard with short green grass. Active air attack, firefighters on the ground, and dozer operators combined with years of house/yard maintenance really made a difference.

**Things that were surprising:** Some riparian areas burned very hot – regardless of the high moisture levels in those plants. The shrub-steppe habitat burned so fast. Some of these burned areas were 100% burned, other times there was some anomaly, like a dry, yellow bunchgrass clump surrounded by black. How did it avoid catching fire?

**Things I learned:** First, we learned that the fire's impact was different



Organizationally, we feel honored to be invited to walk beloved properties with the landowners who suffered damage this summer and provide a listening ear and some conservation advice. It cuts to the heart of why we are here!

in different areas. What follows is specific to the properties I saw: the bunchgrass and the forbs (and unfortunately the weeds) came back right away. Aspen, serviceberry, lupine, roses, snowberry and currants sprouted again fairly quickly from the roots. Sagebrush, rabbit brush and bitterbrush were mostly killed. Timing of the burn – in hot, dry July really hurt the root crowns. These plants are the most unlikely to recover. In all of the walking around I did I only saw a few sprouts at the base of these bushes. Hopefully more of them will re-sprout with spring moisture, but the reality is that these shrub-steppe lands are likely to be more like grasslands for many years.

**My Personal Take-Away:** Methow Valley residents are pretty good at “Community.” We know each other, we care, we help out, we give, we volunteer, we listen, and we pitch in. I think that the crazy summer here has given us all a chance to get even better at what we are pretty good at already.

## People Updates

### Welcome Back Mary McCrea!



This September we gladly welcomed Mary McCrea back to our Board of Directors. After a year-and-a-half away from the Methow Valley in Mt. Vernon, Mary has decided to move back to her beloved Methow and we immediately snatched her up as a Board Member again. Mary has an extensive and impressive background as a legal expert in all things related to Washington water law, plus she asks great questions, thinks strategically, and knows and loves the Methow landscape.

### Where's Mary Kiesau?

If you stop by our front office in the next few months, you might wonder what has become of Mary Kiesau? Turns out, she's a student again, recently enrolling in the Masters of Education in Environmental Education degree program at Huxley College at Western Washington University. She's still working with us, albeit remotely for two quarters, and we all look forward to learning alongside with her (without having to do all the reading ourselves!).



### Summer Interns had Quite a Summer!

This past summer we continued our internship program, hosting three college student interns and one high school student intern. We love having the extra brains and the fresh perspective and we like to think we're helping spark a lifelong interest in conservation.

Liberty Bell High School student, Claire Waichler, joined us throughout the summer, in between her training for Nordic skiing. Claire did a little bit of everything, helping Mary Kiesau with educational events and conservation easement monitoring and even joining a post-fire property visit. Claire notes, “It seemed like everyone I met when I was doing my internship with the Conservancy was open and driven. Listening to their stories and opinions was the highlight of my experience. And spotting river otters wasn't bad either!”

Colorado College student Thomas Euyang was our “Storyteller” intern this summer working especially hard on putting together a video about our work and its place in this community. It's a great film and you can see it here: <http://vimeo.com/102966553>.



College of William and Mary student Olivia Hajek ventured to the Methow Valley this summer after only visiting a few times before. She worked with Stewardship Director Heide Andersen on a variety of land restoration research projects and field visits. Olivia wrote us, “Ultimately, my summer at the Methow Conservancy was a tremendous learning experience and one that I will never forget.”

Williams College student Piper Sallquist took on several projects related to youth education all while managing a part-time job at the Mazama Store. All of our interns experienced an unusual Methow summer to say the least, but we are grateful for their patience and we learned a ton from them!

*If you are interested in our summer intern program or know someone who might be, send an email to [sarah@methowconservancy.org](mailto:sarah@methowconservancy.org).*

# May We Never Forget

We wanted to include something in this publication to remind us all of this summer and to remember that there are many of our friends and neighbors still struggling to find a "new normal." Julie Tate Libby wrote this poem this summer, and although her own Libby Creek home did not burn, she and her family evacuated several times and hence the reflection and emotion of this poem. We thank her for sharing her work with us and helping us all get a little closer to making some sense of what happened here this summer.

## The House by Julie Tate Libby

It wasn't the house.  
You didn't give a damn about the house.  
It was the garden  
the willow tree  
the apples you planted ten years ago,  
just now, finally, giving fruit.

It was the way light fell in the forest,  
stillness before a storm  
smell of ponderosa on a summer afternoon  
and the Bard owl's hoot in spring  
while you sat around a campfire  
with the dog, the children  
your partner's fingers laced through yours.

It was about that night you had dinner on the back porch  
first beets from the garden,  
peas, steak, red wine  
everyone laughing, telling stories and  
you went to bed knowing that you  
finally had it--that life--the one you'd dreamed of  
worked for,  
you had a place in the world  
where you could  
share your brief, wondrous time  
with people you love.

That's what no one could understand.  
And you couldn't explain to your friends from Seattle, Portland, Eugene.  
They said you can buy a new house, rebuild!  
But you couldn't.  
You couldn't replace Smith Creek  
or the frogs,  
the kingfisher  
who made his home there,

You couldn't replace that moment  
when you looked around  
realized you had left  
your home and  
would never find your way back.



## Events Calendar

for the latest up-to-date info, see our website at [www.methowconservancy.org/events.html](http://www.methowconservancy.org/events.html)  
To register, call us at 509-996-2870.

**October 27th: A Renewal Rally** in Seattle at the Mountaineers (7700 Sand Point Way NE), 7pm. Enjoy Methow desserts, good company, and a panel of experts to share insights on the ecological, economic, and human renewal in the Methow Valley after this summer. Free.

**November 4th: A Methow Conservancy First Tuesday Presentation, The North Cascades: Wildness, Renewal, and Communities on the Edge** 7pm at the Twisp River Pub. Stehekin author Ana Maria Spagna will read excerpts from the new book *The North Cascades: Finding Beauty and Renewal in the Wild* as well as from her own books to explore questions about living in and near wildness. Free.

**December 9th: The Methow Conservancy December Program & Holiday Social at the Winthrop Barn.** Social starts at 6pm with drinks, appetizers and awards. The program, "**Bears of the Last Frontier,**" is from **7pm-8:30pm.** Chris Morgan, an ecologist, conservationist, adventurer, author, TV host, and resident of Bellingham WA, has spent over 25 years immersing himself among the wildlife of five continents. Chris will share stunning photographs and epic footage from an exciting array of locations. Free.

**January 6th: A Methow Conservancy First Tuesday Presentation, A Squirrels World: Squirrels of the Pacific Northwest** 7pm at the Twisp River Pub. The Pacific Northwest is home to one of the most diverse collections of squirrel species anywhere in the world! The specific adaptations and behavior of our tree squirrels, ground squirrels, flying squirrels, marmots, and chipmunks provide a window into one of the most successful families of rodents in the world. Join David Moskowitz, author and photographer of *Wildlife of the Pacific Northwest* for an evening of engaging photography, fun field stories, and more information than you ever imaged about these furry and noisy neighbors. Free.

**January 10th: Introduction to Winter Wildlife Tracking,** 8:30am - 12:30pm, \$45. Explore the winter landscape of the Methow Valley with professional wildlife tracker and educator, Dave Moskowitz. Learn how to identify and interpret wildlife tracks and signs so that you can connect with the hidden lives of the creatures that share this land with us! Registration is necessary and space is limited to 13 people. Call or email us at 996-2870 or [mary@methowconservancy.org](mailto:mary@methowconservancy.org) to reserve your spot.

**February 3rd: A Methow Conservancy First Tuesday Presentation, Ghost Bears: Studying Grizzly Bears in the North Cascades** 7pm at the Twisp River Pub. Wildlife ecologist Bill Gaines will discuss his three-year search for grizzly bears in the North Cascades. Dr. Gaines will also describe the unique methods used to study these charismatic bruins along with tales of climbing, hiking, wading, and rappelling through this iconic landscape in the quest to document the presence of grizzlies in the North Cascades. Free.

If you missed a previous First Tuesday Presentation, we have posted several videos of past presentations on our website at: [www.methowconservancy.org/videos.html](http://www.methowconservancy.org/videos.html)

### Want to stay up-to-date on the Methow Conservancy?

Make sure you receive our monthly E-News!

We only print a newsletter twice a year - but each month we send out the latest and greatest on conservation in the Methow via E-News. To sign up, e-mail us at [info@methowconservancy.org](mailto:info@methowconservancy.org)

### Curious about our Financials?

We're glad to send you a copy of our 990 tax return or answer any questions you have!

Just e-mail us at [info@methowconservancy.org](mailto:info@methowconservancy.org) or give us a call at 509-996-2870 and we'll be glad to talk numbers!

## Share Your Love for the Methow Valley!

Your tax-deductible donation permanently protects the Methow Valley you love.

Use these levels or decide on an amount that works for you:

Individual	\$35 - \$49
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You may also donate with a credit card. Use our secure on-line donation system.

Go to [www.methowconservancy.org](http://www.methowconservancy.org) and click the "Make a Donation" button.

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(you will receive our once-a-month E-News, our primary source of news and events and periodic updates)

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**Thank You!**

Mail with your check made payable to *Methow Conservancy* to: PO Box 71 • Winthrop, WA 98862