

# Underwood Conservation District

*Enhancing natural resources and stewardship in Skamania County and western Klickitat County*



*Welcome to UCD's Winter Workshop #2:*

## **Year in Review and a Sneak Peek of our Future!**

with

**Tova Tillinghast, Barbara Bailey and Jan Thomas  
Underwood Conservation District**

Visit [www.ucdwa.org](http://www.ucdwa.org) to:

- Register for an upcoming workshop or event.
- View or listen to a workshop you missed (including past year's!)
- Sign up for our e-newsletter and stay up on current UCD events
- Learn about our programs and services
- Purchase native plants (on-line sale started up in November)
- TreeFest is March 18 in White Salmon!

# WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES

DEC 2022 - FEB 2023

December



**Tree of Heaven - What, Why, and How to Take Action**  
Thursday, Dec 15, 2022, 6pm  
Online via Zoom

January



**UCD Year In Review - and Sneak Peek of our Future!**  
Thursday, Jan 12, 2023, 6pm  
Online via Zoom

February



**Backyard Biochar: Burnpile to Soil Booster**  
Thursday, Feb 9, 2023, 6pm  
Online via Zoom

Visit the UCD website for more information and to register. UCD's Winter Workshop events are free and open to all.

AND JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL FEBRUARY EVENT:

Pre-release screening + panel discussion for the new wildfire film "Elemental"  
Thursday, Feb 16, 2023, 6:30pm @ The Bingen Theater  
Tickets available online

[www.ucdwa.org](http://www.ucdwa.org) | 509-493-1936

Underwood Conservation District



# For Tonight's Zoom...



Please remain  
**muted**  
throughout  
the  
presentation



Please **raise**  
**your hand** to  
speak and we  
will call on  
you.



Question?  
Audio/visual  
problems? Use  
the **Chat box**.



If you are  
having trouble  
with computer  
audio, you can  
also dial in  
using your  
**telephone**.

...Thank You!

*Sit back and relax...*

## Tonight's Program

6:00 pm – Introductions and Housekeeping Details

6:05 pm – Welcome by Barbara Bailey

6:15 pm – Presentation by Tova Tillinghast and Jan Thomas:  
Year in Review and Sneak Peek of our Future

7:00 pm (flexible) – Q&A and Discussion

Quick poll...



## UCD's Foundations



Chapter 89.08 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) is the enabling statute for conservation district work in Washington and was adopted by the state legislature in 1939.

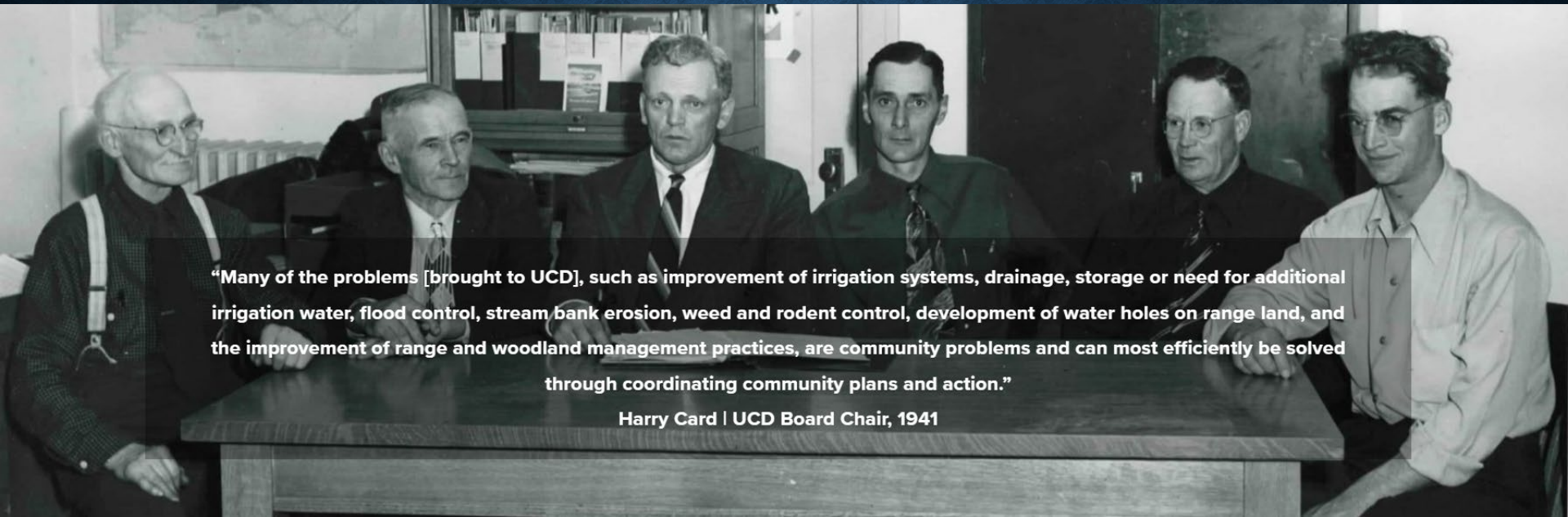
UCD was established in 1940.

*Our Mission: to engage landowners and land users throughout Skamania and west Klickitat Counties in the voluntary conservation, enhancement, stewardship, and sustainable use of natural resources.*

UCD conducted a long-range planning process in fall/winter 2022.

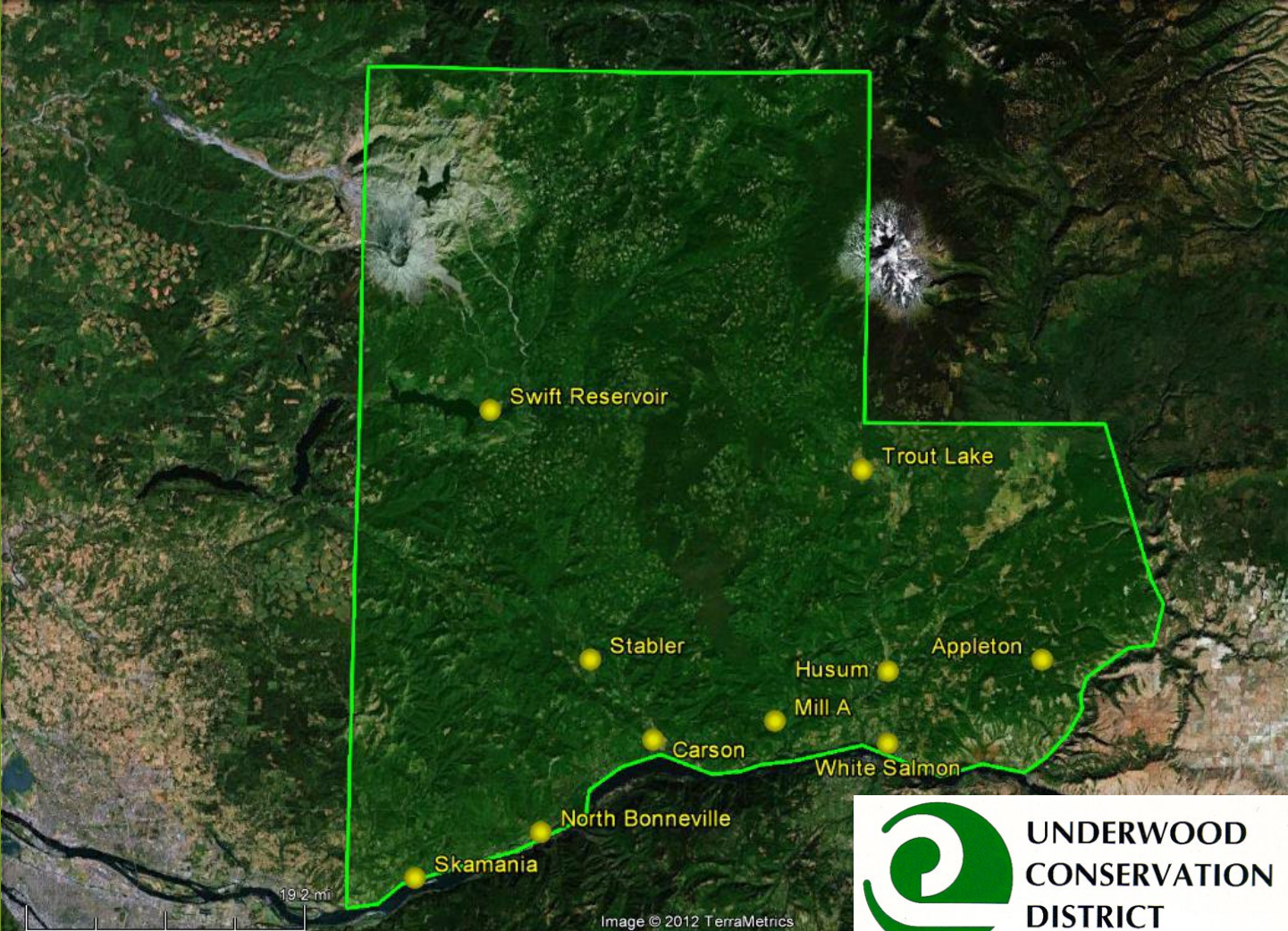
# UCD Board Election

- Guided by 5-member board of volunteer supervisors. Three are elected, two are appointed.
- Board member, Kris Schaedel's position is up for election in 2023.
- Deadline to request a ballot through [www.ucdwa.org](http://www.ucdwa.org) is Jan. 31, 1pm. Ballots will be due Feb. 21, 4pm.



“Many of the problems [brought to UCD], such as improvement of irrigation systems, drainage, storage or need for additional irrigation water, flood control, stream erosion, weed and rodent control, development of water holes on range land, and the improvement of range and woodland management practices, are community problems and can most efficiently be solved through coordinating community plans and action.”

Harry Card | UCD Board Chair, 1941



Swift Reservoir

Trout Lake

Stabler

Husum

Appleton

Mill A

Carson

White Salmon

North Bonneville

Skamania

19.2 mi

Image © 2012 TerraMetrics

45°58'56.03" N 121°45'36.71" W elev 2929 ft



**UNDERWOOD  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**





## District Programs



- Educational Workshops, Seminars and Field Trips
- On-Site Technical Assistance, Conservation Planning, and Project Development:
  - Small Farms or Livestock Owners
  - Family Forests
  - Streamside landowners
- Native Plant Sale and Annual TreeFest (March 18, 2023)
- Invasive Weed Management
- Integrated Beneficial Insect/Pollinator Habitat
- Fish Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
- Fish Passage Inventories and Correction
- Irrigation Fish Screen Installation
- Water Quality and Flow Monitoring
- Livestock Best Management Practices
- Oak Woodland and Forest Management
- Firewise and Wildfire Resilience
- Yard by Yard Habitat Conservation
- Farm Tool Library

Visit

[www.ucdwa.org](http://www.ucdwa.org) to  
view or listen to a  
past workshop and  
register for  
upcoming events

# Underwood Conservation District's WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES

December 2021 - March 2022

## Conservation in Your Own Backyard

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH  
6-8PM

## The Benefits of Beaver

co-presented with Mid-  
Columbia Fisheries  
Enhancement Group

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20  
6-8PM

## Carbon Market Access for Small Forest Landowners

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH  
6-8PM

## Farmland Succession Planning

THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH  
6-8PM

All workshops are offered virtually via Zoom and require registration. Please visit the UCD website for more information and to register.

[www.ucdwa.org](http://www.ucdwa.org)

Underwood Conservation District | 509.493.1936

# 2022 native plant sale by the numbers:

- # of total native plants sold and distributed to our region - 19,275
- lbs of native seed sold - 172
- # of native plant species – 37, plus 2 seed mixes
- # of on-line pre-orders - 240
- # of plants sold at TreeFest - 1,863
- # of partner booths with awesome info – 12
- # of volunteers - 10
- # of amazing UCD staff - 5
- # of invaluable UCD board members – 5

# TreeFest returns to White Salmon

By Jacob Bertram, Columbia Gorge News Mar 23, 2022



# Yard by Yard Program

A self-paced program  
for urban and rural  
homeowners:

Checklist and on-site technical  
assistance and advice on a variety  
of issues:

- Water conservation
- Native plants
- Weeds
- Food production
- Soil health
- Water quality
- Wildlife habitat and interaction



a backyard habitat program from  
Underwood Conservation District  
[www.ucdwa.org/yard-by-yard](http://www.ucdwa.org/yard-by-yard)

# Farmland Resources

On-site technical assistance, advice, and potential cost share for best management practices:

- Livestock
- Water quality
- Irrigation improvements
- Soil health and soil testing
- Pollinator habitat
- Conservation farm planning
- \*NEW\* UCD Farm Tool Library:  
<https://www.ucdwa.org/farm-tool-library>

Other Resources:

- Gorge Grown
- WSU Extension
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS in Goldendale or Vancouver)
- Washington Farmland Trust





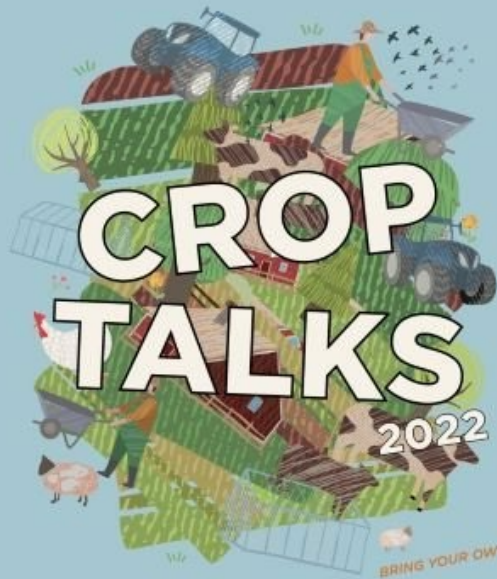
The Farm Tool Library recently opened in V tools on a weekly basis.

Jacob Bertram photo



Community members celebrate the grand opening of the Farm Tool Library.

Jacob Bertram photo



# CROP TALKS

2022

BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE!

4<sup>TH</sup> WEEK OF THE MONTH | 5:30 PM  
MAY - OCTOBER

*Crop Talks are a farmer- friendly time to network and learn from each other.*

**JUNE 23\*: Mountain Laurel Jerseys Dairy, Trout Lake (\*start time 4:30)**

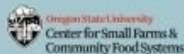
**JULY 28: Saur Farming, Parkdale**

**AUGUST 25: Killer Tomato Farm, Hood River**

**SEPTEMBER 22: Dirt Hugger, Dallesport**

**OCTOBER 27: Tierra de Lobos Vineyard, Dallesport**

**RSVP TO [DAN@UCDWA.ORG](mailto:dan@ucdwa.org) TO RECEIVE ADDRESS**



New line-up  
coming soon in  
2023!



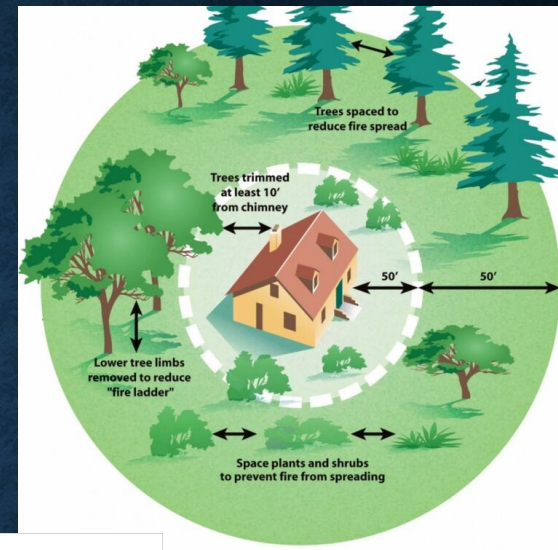
# UCD Forest Land Resources

## On-site technical assistance and advice:

- Home Hazard Assessments and supporting Wildfire Ready Neighbors program
- Small Woodland Assessments
- Referrals for Forest Management Planning
- Wildlife habitat
- Mobile chipper program (if funded)

## Other Resources:

- DNR Cost-Share Program
- WSU Extension
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS in Goldendale or Vancouver)
- Mt. Adams Resource Stewards



## EASTERN WASHINGTON SERVICE FORESTRY COST-SHARE PROGRAM

**Improve your forest's health and  
reduce your risk of damage from  
wildfire, pests and disease.**



- THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS:
- PROGRAM INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS
  - LIST OF COST-SHARED PRACTICES
  - CURRENT COST-SHARE RATES
  - THE COST-SHARE APPLICATION FORM



WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)  
cooperating with

**Grant funds from  
State  
Conservation  
Commission and  
Skamania County**



2022 included a Wildfire Ready Neighbors campaign with partners



[HOME](#)

[ESPAÑOL](#)

## ARE YOU WILDFIRE READY?

### GET YOUR FREE WILDFIRE READY PLAN TODAY!

Wildfire is a fact of life. But when we come together as neighbors, we can reduce the risk wildfire poses to our properties, homes, and community.

By working together, everyone benefits. Sign up today to get your free Wildfire Ready Plan and schedule a consultation from our local wildfire experts.

[SIGN UP](#)

# Tree of Heaven Outreach:

- City council meetings in White Salmon and Bingen.
- Website: (<https://www.ucdwa.org/tree-of-heaven-control-project>)
- Fliers and signage, producing news articles and social media posts
- Attending and setting up tables at community events
- Educating school children

**TREATMENT SITE FOR TREE OF HEAVEN**

This site has been treated to kill the Tree of Heaven tree. Why? Tree of Heaven is the preferred host for the Spotted Lanternfly, a new and emerging pest in the United States, already widespread on the East coast and making its way to the Midwest. Tree of Heaven crowds out native vegetation and Spotted Lanternfly can become a huge problem for our agricultural industry, specifically fruit trees, grapes, ornamentals and hops. Underwood Conservation District and partners are working to help control the Tree of Heaven. For information about control methods, check this website: [www.ucdwa.org](http://www.ucdwa.org), call 509-493-1936 ext. 6, or email [toh@ucdwa.org](mailto:toh@ucdwa.org) and scan the QR code below.



*Funding to support this project was provided by the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area.*



Grant funding from WA Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Program and CGCWMA

# Tree of Heaven Outreach video

Search “Underwood Conservation District” on YouTube:  
<https://youtu.be/gmZB2P29z8U>

Spotted Lanternfly



Smooth Bark  
Opposite Leaves  
Smooth Leaf Margins  
Small Basal Lobes  
Heart Shaped Spots  
Pungent Odor



# Tree of Heaven Control this summer/fall:

- In September and October 2022, with help from our partners, we treated ToH in White Salmon and Bingen, WA.
- **26 private landowner's residences** treated in White Salmon and Bingen, totaling approximately **1,180 trees**.
- Additionally: business parking lots, along the railroad and on public right of way in Bingen and White Salmon, **400 more trees** were treated.



# How Can You Help?

1. Plant native species and promote non-invasive alternatives
2. Talk to your neighbors, survey your community for Tree of Heaven and report findings
3. Control Tree of Heaven on your property and advocate for removal on public lands

**Consider attending  
Invasive Species  
and Exotic Pests  
Conference in  
Stevenson on Feb.  
23, 2023!**



Washington State  
Conservation Commission  
**CENTER FOR  
TECHNICAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

**UCD is a resource to other conservation districts statewide!**

**We are providing technical and engineering support to districts and projects across Washington.**

**Pearson Bank  
Stabilization Project –  
Protecting farmland  
from further erosion  
along Trout Lake Creek,  
White Salmon River  
Watershed**

- **Planning**
- **Funding**
- **Design/engineering**
- **Permitting**
- **Contracting**



# Instream construction – September 2022

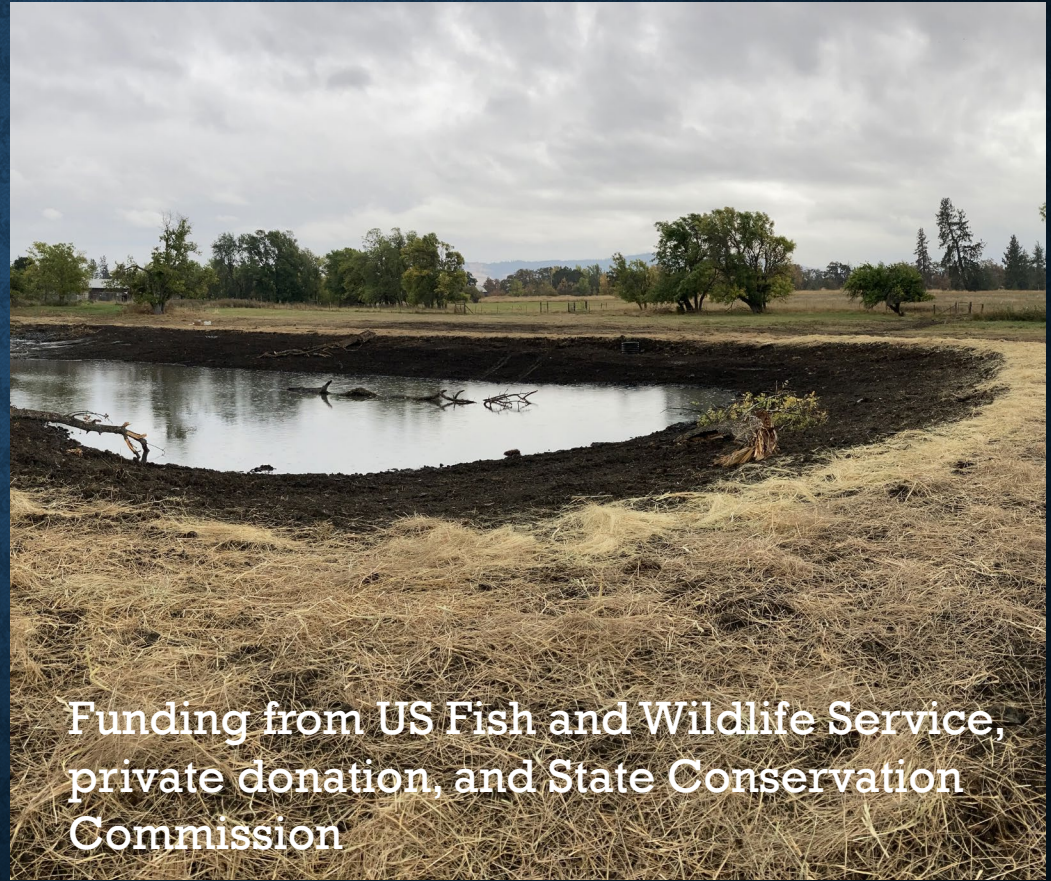


Funding from State  
Conservation  
Commission and  
Department of Ecology



# Western Pond Turtle Habitat Project – pond habitat creation west of Lyle





Funding from US Fish and Wildlife Service,  
private donation, and State Conservation  
Commission

# Mimicking beavers to restore hydrology



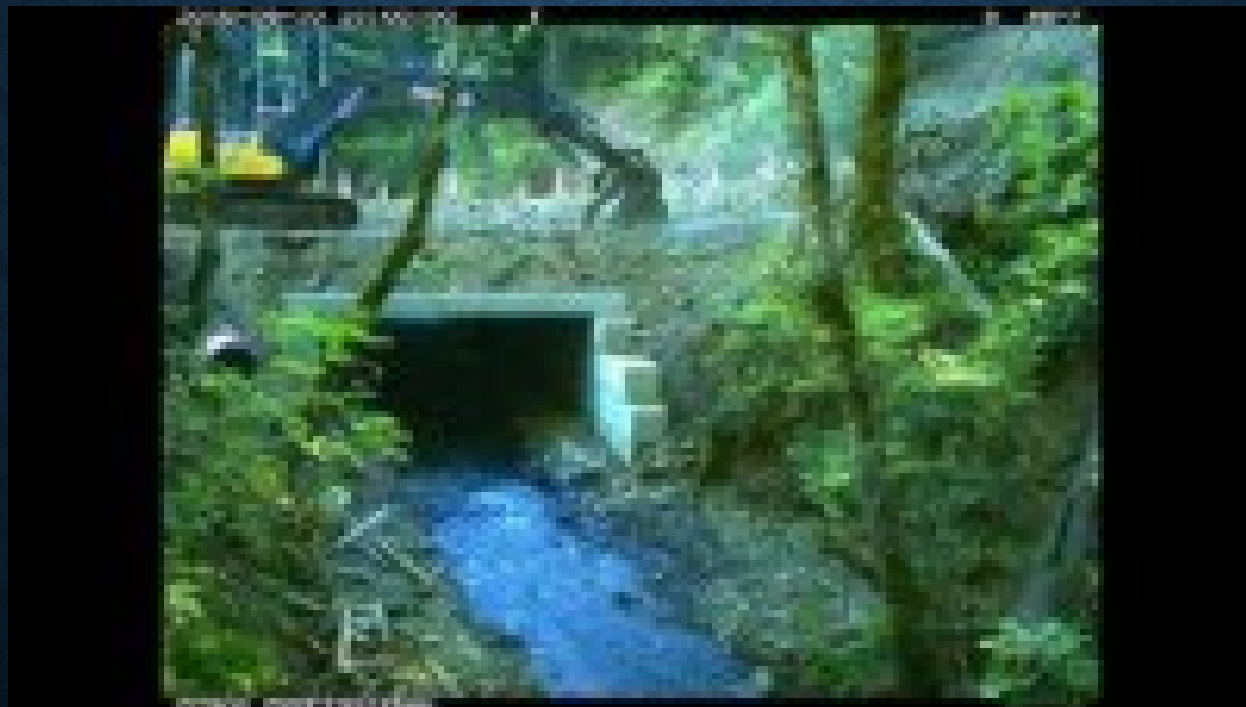
bda 2

Little Wind River habitat enhancement project with helicopter-placed large wood!

<https://www.ucdwa.org/little-wind-river-habitat-enhancement-project>



## Fish Passage



# UCD LONG- RANGE PLANNING

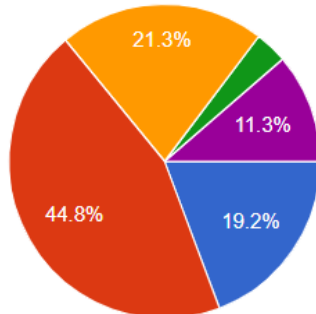
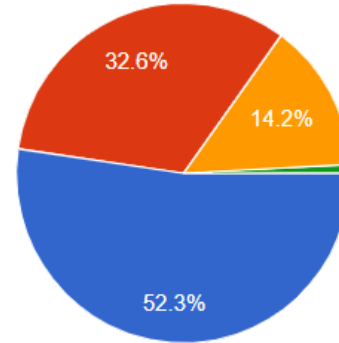
2022 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



# Respondent Demographics - 239 Total Respondents

## Do you live in the District?

- 125 Western Klickitat – 52%
- 78 Skamania County – 33%
- 34 Non-Resident, but visit often – 14%
- 2 Mystery respondents! (none of the above)

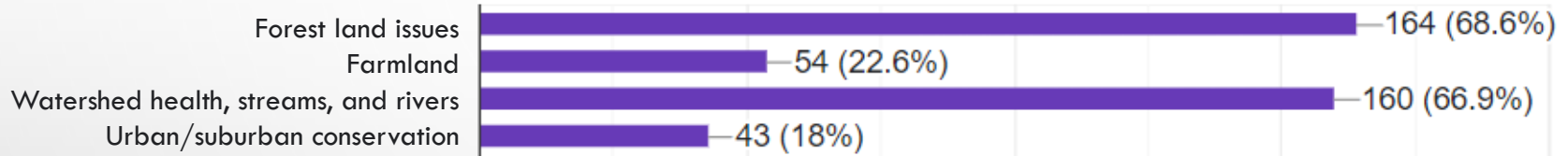


## Do you own property in the District?

- Small Rural Landowners – 45%
- Large Rural Landowners – 21%
- Urban Area Landowners – 19%
- Don't live or own in the District – 11%
- Renters – 3%

## Generally, what are you most interested in?

(Multiple choice with open comment option)

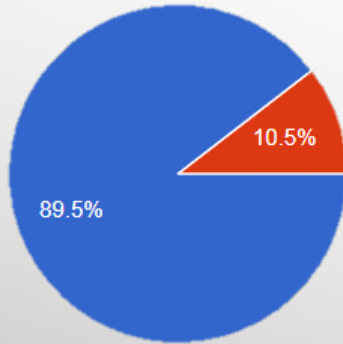


### Other topics of interest (write-in):

- **Wildfire Safety & Risk Mitigation**
- **Invasives/Noxious Weeds**
- **Soil Health/Native Plants & Ecosystems/Gardens**
- **Habitat Fragmentation/Threat of Development**
- **Human Aspects (affordable housing, homelessness, community well-being)**

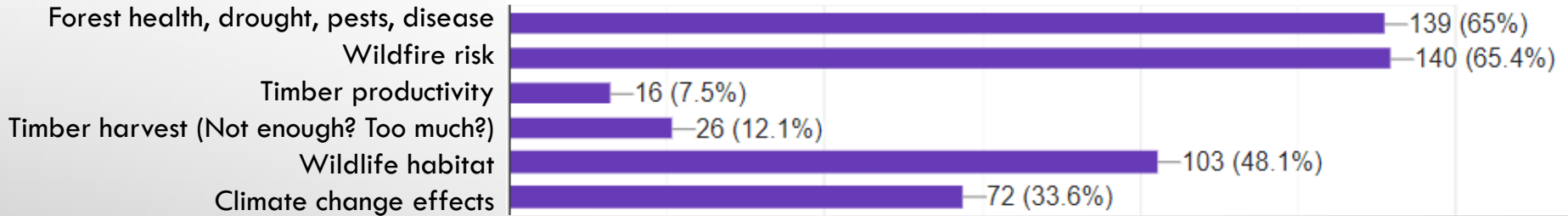


# Forest Land



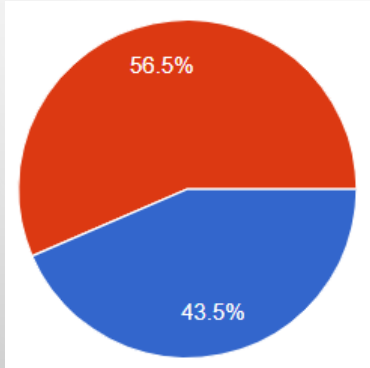
90% of respondents answered Forest Land questions

**Which forest-related natural resource concerns are the most important to you? (select top two):**



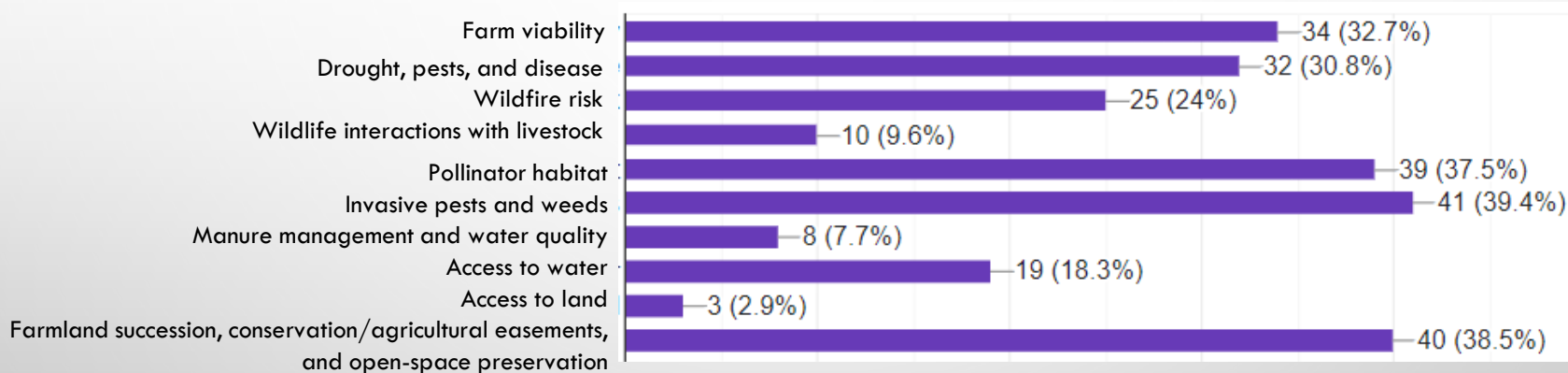
- Invasive species removal and land rehab following removal
- Late-successional forest land allocation management too
- Biodiversity conservation
- Recreation

# Farm Land



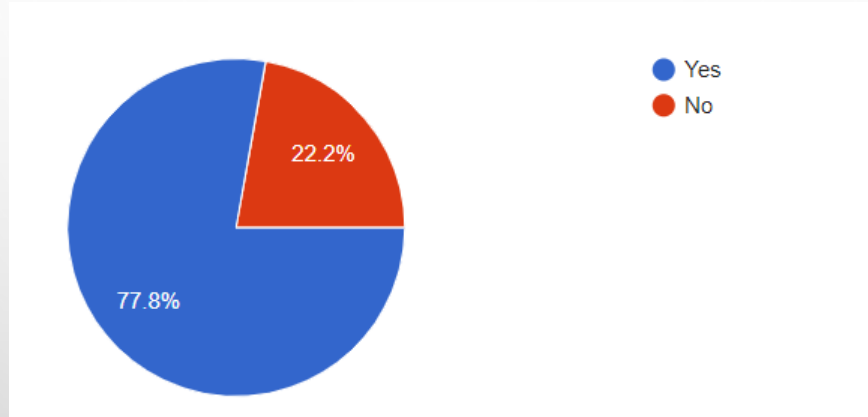
44% of respondents answered Farm Land questions

## Which farm-related natural resource concerns are the most important to you? (select top two):



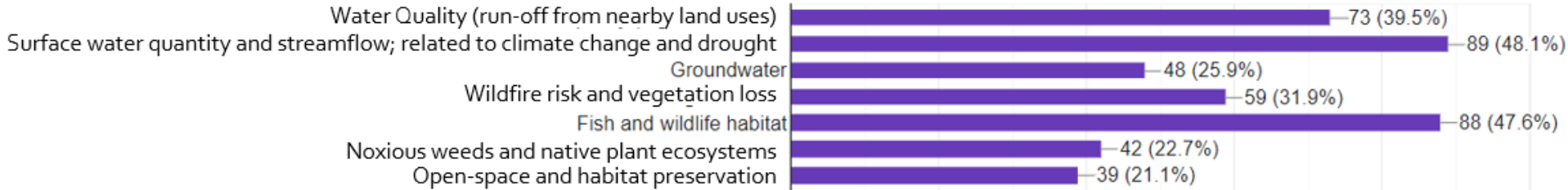
- Wildlife damage to fences, crops
- Wildlife habitat
- Assistance navigating regulations (water/Dept. of Ecology)

# Watershed Health, Streams and Rivers



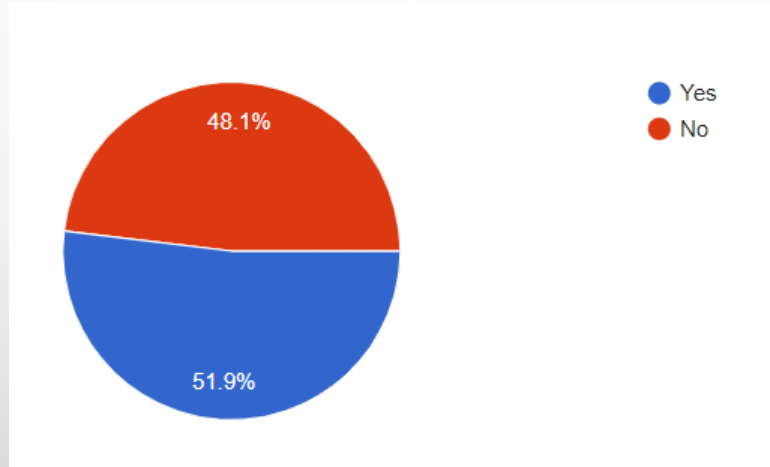
78% of respondents answered Watershed health questions

## Which watershed-related natural resource concerns are the most important to you? (select top two):



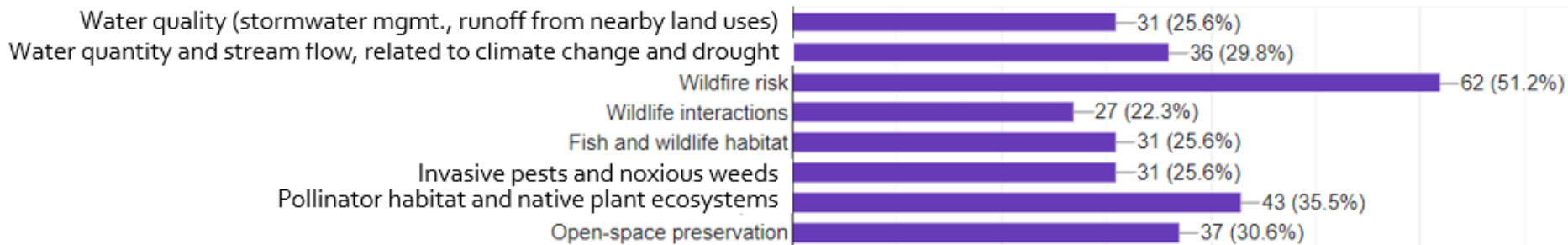
- Riparian wetland restoration
- Water access
- Climate change
- Soil preservation
- Depletion of aquifers
- Ground water quality
- Landscape fragmentation

# Urban / Suburban



**52% of respondents answered Urban/Suburban questions**

## Which urban or suburban natural resource concerns are the most important to you? (select top two):

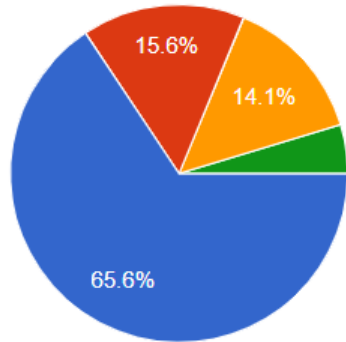


- Greenspace / Parks
- Shade trees
- Protecting critical habitat and minimizing impacts during development



## And a district dream...

**UCD has a goal of developing its own facility, which could serve as a community education center around natural resources. This property could also have farm and forest acreage demonstrating a variety of best management and conservation practices. The final outcome of such a facility could take many forms, but would you support or visit this type of facility within our district area?**

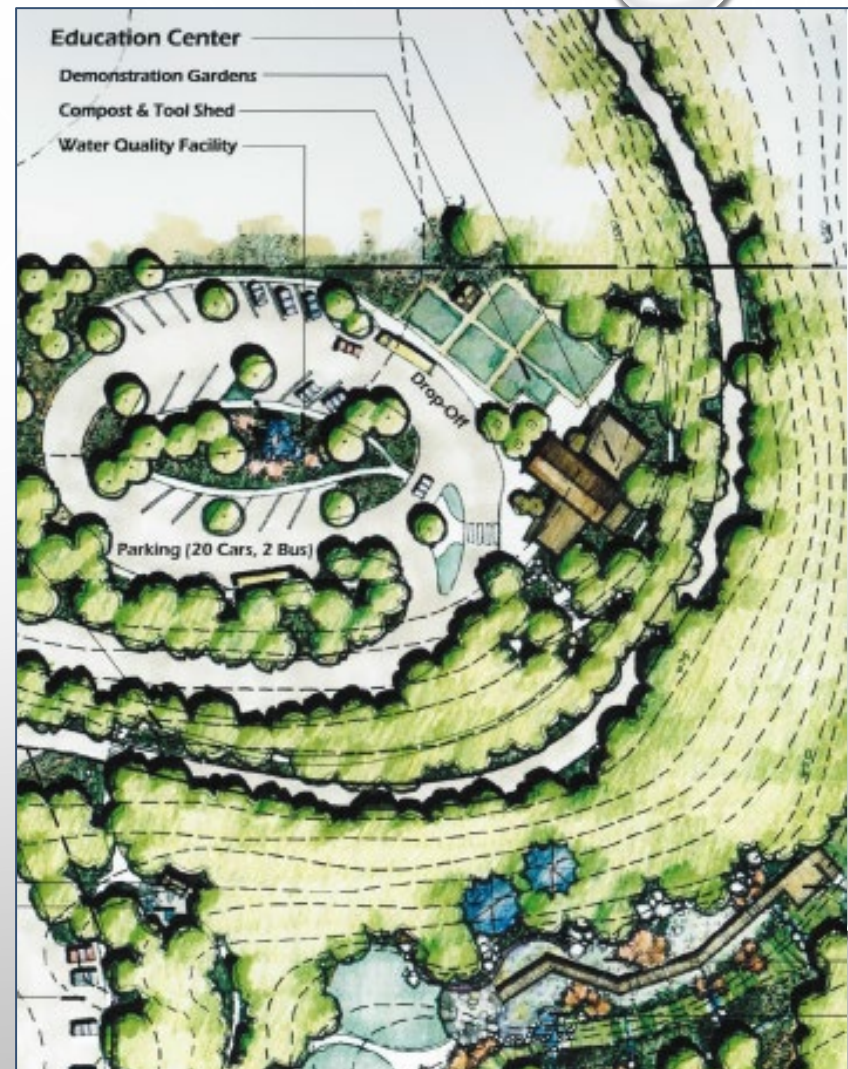


- Yes, I would strongly support or visit a conservation education center.
- Yes, I moderately support this.
- I am neutral.
- No, I am not interested in this.

# Community Conservation Center

## Objectives:

- Provide conservation demonstrations and education opportunities to area residents and landowners, as well as the general public and youth.
- Establish a base of operations (headquarters or supplemental) for UCD's stewardship programming, equipment and supplies (e.g. manure spreader, seed drill, tools, etc.).
- Facilitate and coordinate efforts to resolve complex challenges shared by diverse natural resource stakeholders in the Columbia Gorge.



## **Property Requirements:**

A parcel of land (2+ acres) near White Salmon, Husum, or Snowden with easy public access and the ability to connect plumbing and electricity. Ideally, the land would have a house or structure and covered storage space (e.g. barn) outfitted with electricity and plumbing. We are interested in land that would be donated at a charitable price or leased long-term for less than current market value.

## **The Community Conservation Center will include:**

- Convening space, with both indoor and outdoor classroom settings
- Educational displays, classes, workshops, events, and trainings
- Working farm, ranch, orchard, native plant nursery, vegetable operation, and/or forest land to demonstrate best management practices
- Wildlife rehabilitation clinic with outdoor enclosures
- ADA accessible public education walkway with native plant gardens and pollinator habitat
- Ambassador wildlife enclosures with public visibility to permitted wildlife
- Volunteer programs for local citizens and youth
- Green infrastructure and solar energy

# COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CENTER

A partnership with Rowena Wildlife Clinic and Underwood Conservation District

## DESCRIPTION

RWC and the UCD are partnering to create a Community Conservation Center in the White Salmon area. The center will provide demonstrations and educational opportunities about conservation and stewardship of natural resources, including native wildlife. The center will be available to the general public, with a focus on local citizens, area landowners and farmers, and school-aged children.

## CENTER FEATURES

- Convening space, with both indoor and outdoor classroom settings
- Educational displays, classes, workshops, events, and trainings
- Working farm, ranch, orchard, native plant nursery, vegetable operation, and/or forest land to demonstrate best management practices
- Wildlife rehabilitation clinic
- ADA accessible public education walkway with native plant gardens and pollinator habitat
- Ambassador wildlife enclosures with public visibility
- Volunteer programs for local citizens and youth
- Green infrastructure and solar energy

## ACTION PLAN

We are looking for a parcel of land (2+ acres) near White Salmon, Husum, or Snowden with easy public access and the ability to connect plumbing and electricity. Ideally, the land would have a house or structure (e.g. barn, shed) outfitted with electricity and plumbing. We are interested in land that would be donated at a charitable price or leased long-term for less than current market value.

### UNDERWOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

UCD engages landowners and the community throughout Skamania and west Klickitat Counties in the conservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of natural resources through voluntary stewardship. Since its establishment in 1940, the district works with willing and interested landowners in implementing a variety of beneficial conservation practices.

### ROWENA WILDLIFE CLINIC

RWC provides medical, surgical, and rehabilitative care to injured, ill, and orphaned wildlife for release back to the wild. Serving the broader Columbia River community, RWC also provides education about wildlife. Since its founding in 2000, the clinic has cared for more than 500 injured or orphaned native animals each year, including eagles, owls, song birds, fawns, and foxes.



## Long Range Planning Goals (draft)

**Education, workshops and trainings:** landowner assistance, Crop Talks, Winter Series, volunteer events, CTD, Treefest, development of educational materials, website, Spanish translations

- Operate CTD to assist in developing technical capacity statewide.
- Expand Spanish education

**Forestry and Firewise:** landowner assistance

- Reforesting pilot project
- Build a more robust and comprehensive Firewise program
- Build capacity for forestry technical assistance

**Agricultural and working lands:** tool library, landowner assistance, land conservation

- Explore easement options to support, facilitate, and develop staff knowledge and expertise.


## Long Range Planning Goals, continued (draft)

**Urban Habitat:** grow Yard by Yard program, support Cities

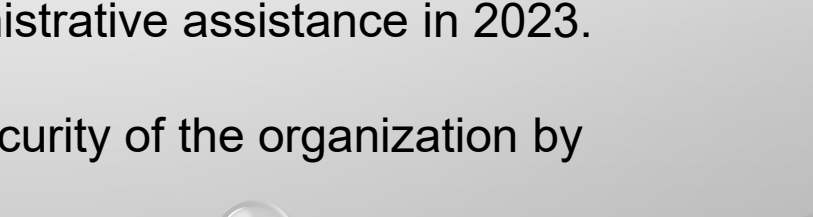
**Water quality:** manure management, irrigation improvements, riparian vegetation, livestock fencing and other BMPs

**Weeds and Native Plants:** grow the plant sale, provide support for Tree of Heaven control, continue other weed projects

**Instream Habitat and Passage:** develop instream habitat projects, ponds, fish screens, passage projects, beaver dam analogs, wetland restoration



**Capacity and Operations:** finances, grant funds and management, board development, planning, and future facility

- Maintain a 5 member and 2 associate member board.
  - Create a compelling “why” statement by June 2023 that includes a diversity, equity and inclusion lens.
  - Obtain a funding source to fund Conservation Center Planning in 2023.
  - Increase staff capacity by exploring a contract for grant writing and development, technical and administrative assistance in 2023.
  - Increase financial stability and security of the organization by \$500k/year.
- 

# Questions and Discussion





Final Poll...

# CONTACT UCD FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- 509-493-1936 | [info@ucdwa.org](mailto:info@ucdwa.org)
- [www.ucdwa.org](http://www.ucdwa.org)
- 171 NW Washington Street, Park Center Building  
White Salmon, WA 98672

Thank you for attending and please join us for future events!

