

2023 Eastern Washington Riparian Planting Symposium

Embracing the challenges of riparian vegetation restoration in the Columbia Basin through shared knowledge, ideas, and collaboration.



**Brought to you by Populus: The Columbia Basin
Riparian Planting Partnership**

Salix fragilis: Influence of an exotic tree in the Kittitas Valley

LANDON SHAFFER

**Central
Washington
University
Cultural and Environmental
Resource Management
Masters Program**



Landon Shaffer graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with a B.S. in Biology in 2013. Following graduation, he worked for two years with the Washington Conservation Corps. During which time he collaborated with a variety of state and local entities and several other Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups on riparian habitat restoration. He joined the MCF team in 2016. He has worn many hats within the organization, and is currently working toward completing a master's degree in Cultural and Environmental Resource Management at Central Washington University.

Beavers and Post-wildfire Stream Recovery: Smokey the Beaver to the Rescue

ALEXA WHIPPLE

**Project Director -
Methow Beaver Project, a program
of Methow Salmon Recovery
Foundation**



Alexa is a restoration ecologist, a collaborator, and the Project Director for the Methow Beaver Project. She works for sustainability in all practices and effective, process-based solutions to challenging environmental conditions. She has called the Methow and Okanogan River watersheds home for the last 22 years but has worked across the western US studying songbirds, carnivores, plant communities, agricultural practices that sustain habitat and wildlife, and post-wildfire recovery of western riverscapes. Alexa completed her BS in Wildlife Biology at Virginia Tech and MS in Restoration Ecology at Eastern Washington University where she focused on beaver ecology and beaver mediated restoration of legacy degraded and wildfire impacted streams in the Methow River watershed.

- **Contact: alexa.mbp@methowsalmon.org,**
- **509-881-1173,**
- **www.methowbeaverproject.org**

Working With Off-Site Corrections Crew to Conduct Riparian Restoration

JUDITH JOHNSON

Kooskooskie Commons



A long-time bird watcher, Judith began her professional career in environmental conservation and protection as the Adopt-A-Forest Coordinator for Eastside Forest in Washington and Oregon, working with volunteers in collaboration with the US Forest Service to map old-growth forests east of the Cascade Mountains. After a decade with National Audubon Society, Judith transitioned to working in the Walla Walla River Basin on salmonid restoration. In 1998 she created Kooskooskie Commons, a not for profit to restore stream function through riparian restoration and working within collaborative processes to develop long term water quality and supply for the Walla Walla Basin.

Judith has been working with an Off-Site Crew of non-violent offenders from the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla to conduct riparian restoration for a decade.

Floodplain Forest Regeneration and Fluvial Processes: Understanding Cottonwood Ecology to Improve Riparian Forest Restoration

KATRINA STRATHMAN

**Mid-Columbia Fisheries
Enhancement Group
Restoration Ecologist**



Katrina Strathmann is a restoration ecologist with 25 years of experience managing restoration projects in a variety of habitats. She is part of the team of Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, a non-profit focused on protecting and restoring native salmonids across four counties in south-central Washington. Her current passion is riparian forest restoration and using new techniques that improve establishment or are effective over large floodplain areas. Katrina brings to her work her experience managing landscape-scale inventories, studies testing restoration techniques, implementation and effectiveness monitoring for vegetation restoration, invasive plant and rare plant management, and native plant propagation. Katrina's work on ecological restoration includes 8 years with the Yakama Nation and 8 years with the National Park Service. She received her M.S. in Biology from San Francisco State University.

SkillSource Youth Nurturing Nature



LEE HENDRICKSON
SkillSource
Supervisor and Army Veteran

Lee has been involved with the Workforce Development profession for 20+ years. During this time, he has motivated and counseled 1,000 of career seekers, new and seasoned, in matters of the work world. In his free time, he is a world traveler and avid outdoorsman.

Whether he is instructing a workshop, facilitating an event, or leading a group of teenagers through the woods, he is sure to bring his “A” game and energy to the mix.



CHRISTY MATAYA
SkillSource
Youth Program Coordinating
Manager

Christy has been a Workforce Development professional for over 20 years, focusing on creating opportunities for youth in the Wenatchee Valley. In partnership with WSU Chelan County Extension, she has coordinated work based learning opportunities for 100’s of youth through Eco-Stewardship. She enjoys spending time boating and walking the loop trail with her “rescue” dog, Chance. You can always count on her to take a chance on the youth in her community.

Beaver-Powered Restoration in Rock Island Creek

MICHAEL DELLO RUSSO

**Trout Unlimited
Wenatchee-Entiat Beaver
Project**



Michael Dello Russo is the Beaver/Dam Analog Habitat Coordinator for Trout Unlimited's Wenatchee-Entiat Beaver Project. Michael started working seasonally for the Wenatchee-Entiat Beaver Project in 2021 and was hired on full time in the fall of 2022. He is passionate about enhancing stream systems through beaver relocation and low-tech process-based restoration. The Wenatchee-Entiat Beaver Project works to reduce human-beaver conflict and build beaver dam analogs in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Through beaver-powered restoration the project is conserving and preserving important riparian habitat.

- Michael.DelloRusso@tu.org

BDA's: Case Studies at Three Restoration Sites



SAMANTHA BANGO
Anabranch Solutions

Sam is passionate about water resource management and the impacts of low-tech solutions. She currently manages stream restoration field crews for Anabranch Solutions all over the American West. Prior to joining Anabranch, Sam conducted undergraduate research on low-tech structures, managed pollinator programs in Central Oregon, and spent a few years living in South America. These days, you can find Sam climbing up river banks, falling down dams, and trying her best to imitate nature's best engineers - North American beavers. When she's not conducting fieldwork, Sam spends her free time mountain biking, backcountry skiing, backpacking, and finding vistas to watch beaver colonies at work.



SCOTT NICOLAI
Mt. Stuart Restoration Services

Scott is a father, grandfather, husband, teacher and learner. As a youth, he found peace wandering in the woods of western Washington. After high school, Scott worked in residential construction, and eventually as a middle school science teacher. His career with the Yakama Nation Fisheries spanned almost three decades where he was involved in all aspects of fish habitat management. Scott now works as a contractor in natural resources from his home in Ellensburg. He also volunteers with a local fraternal organization, where he is helping to design and construct an affordable housing project. Scott's other passions involve hiking, cycling, tinkering in his woodshop and most importantly, getting his granddaughter to smile as often as possible.

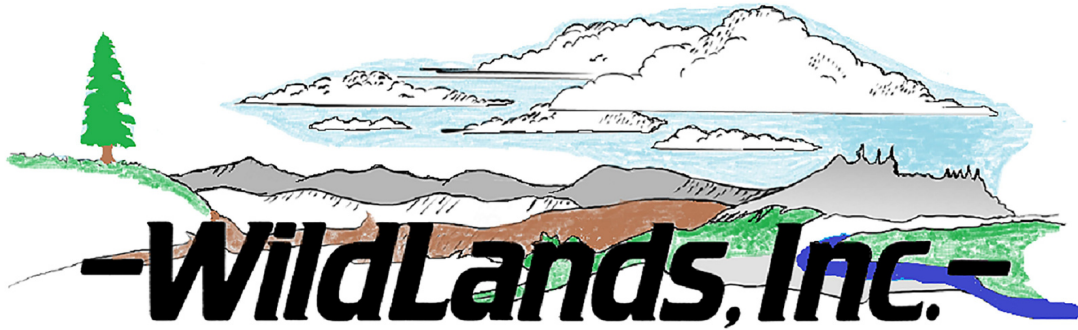


WildLands, Inc. and WildLands' Nursery Write Up

WildLands, Inc. is a full-service environmental restoration company and a qualified Small Business with the staff and resources, including various trucks and heavy equipment, to perform large and complex projects. Through our services, we help our clients fulfill stewardship responsibilities for resource management, site restoration and revegetation, habitat mitigation and enhancement, invasive species control, erosion control, and landscaping projects across diverse ecosystems. We specialize in native plant restoration and have successfully restored disturbed sites in deserts and arid lands, forests, wetlands, riparian zones, and agricultural and range lands. Our projects vary widely in size, scope, and complexity, ranging from less than an acre in size to an excess of 2,500 acres, and valued at less than \$1,000.00 to greater than \$4,000,000.00. WildLands works for clients in federal, state, and local agencies, and the private sector. We have completed multiple Indefinite Delivery and Indefinite Quantity contracts with the National Park Service and USDA Forest service, as well as provided expertise and revegetation services for a number of CERCLA sites, including Holden Mine on Lake Chelan (WA) and the Hanford Nuclear Reservation (WA). WildLands has also provided services for numerous tribal agencies across WA, OR and ID.

WildLands' staff consists of 5 full-time Project Managers with a broad and diverse blend of experience, education, and professional skill sets, and ~20 full-time and seasonal employees. Staff specialties include heavy equipment operators and earth moving specialists, wildlife ecologists, herbicide applicators, conservation biologists, erosion control specialists, nursery managers, wildlife managers, and farmers. WildLands' Nursery was opened in the mid-1990s, in order to provide hardy, site-sourced plant material in the species and sizes needed for our revegetation projects. Our nursery specializes in deep-rooted plant material in 1–5-gallon sizes, and we grow our plant material from hand collected, site-identified seed and cuttings whenever feasible, in order to provide the most appropriate, well-adapted plants for our clients. Additionally, we own stooling beds which we use to increase plant material and source cuttings when necessary. WildLands' Nursery is currently producing approximately 50 different species of native plants, with an annual production of ~125,000 plants.

2023 Sponsors



Washington State
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*Snake River
Salmon Recovery*

