



# South Douglas News

South Douglas Conservation District

WINTER 2024

Assisting cooperators to adopt, implement and promote conservation practices which encourage good land stewardship and the protection of natural resources.

## SOUTH DOUGLAS ELECTION MARCH 13

South Douglas Conservation District will have a mail in ballot election for an elected supervisor position March 13, 2024. Carolyn Kelly currently holds the position and will run again.

The five member Board of Supervisors meets on the first Monday of each month, except August. The supervisors set policy and direction for the Conservation District, serving a three year term without compensation. They oversee conservation practices in southern Douglas County, promoting education and protecting natural resources. Currently, the district is involved in developing the Firewise Program in Douglas County, Tree and Shrub Sale, updating the CWPP (see article on page 2), water quality projects, and a cost share program for its cooperators.

If you need a ballot call (509) 745-9160 by February 21. Completed ballots must be received by the office by 3:00 p.m. on election day—March 13.

Joe Sprauer currently holds the appointed supervisor position and is going to submit his application.



Watch for Spring Chipping Day details in our Spring 2024 newsletter

This newsletter will be available in Spanish on our website soon after you receive it in the mail. We hope to inform more of our Douglas County residents about the importance of conserving our natural resources. Please let us know if this is beneficial to you.

Este boletín estará disponible en español en nuestro sitio web poco después de que lo reciba por correo. Esperamos informar a más residentes del condado de Douglas sobre la importancia de conservar nuestros recursos naturales. Por favor, háganos saber si esto es beneficioso para usted.

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
LOCAL



Non-Profit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 241  
Wenatchee, WA  
ECRWSS

## CWPP UPDATE

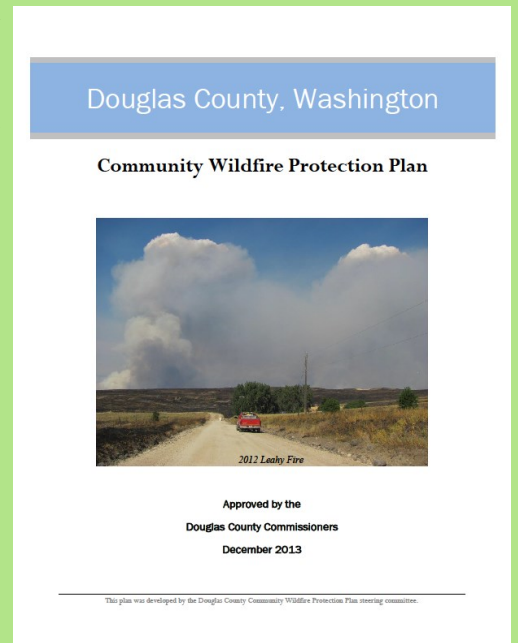
The Douglas County Community Wide Protection Plan (CWPP) was first approved by the Douglas County Commissioners in 2013. A CWPP is a comprehensive plan developed by local citizens and state and federal agencies. and covers issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, structure protection and other needs of the community.

It is time to update this plan for Douglas County. In the last ten years many factors have changed. Warmer, drier weather, increased population, land use changes and community awareness of the dangers of wildfire will all impact the revision.

South Douglas CD has received a grant to update this plan. Our first in-person meeting was January 9 at the Waterville Library. It was well attended both in person and on-line. Several agencies are involved including South Douglas and Foster Creek Conservation District, Douglas County, local fire districts, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management and Douglas County PUD.

We are looking for Douglas County residents who have been directly impacted by the fires or want to be involved in wildfire management. If you are interested in being a part of this process, contact either the Conservation Districts or your local fire district. South Douglas is organizing this project and we are looking for participants. We hope to have this completed by Spring of 2025. Your involvement can be as simple as receiving meeting minutes or attending meetings either on line or in person around the county to modernize this plan.

If you google CWPP Douglas County WA, you will see the current plan. It is 106 pages and details the fire history of the county, risk assessments and mitigation activities. Updates and projects will need to be decided on, and agencies and landowners will be vital in deciding what to include. It is also available on the South Douglas CD website.



## SPRING FLOWERS FOR BEES AND POLLINATORS

As spring temperatures reach 50 F or 10 C bees, both native and honey, start to get more active. As they venture out of their holes and hives, they are looking for food to start the year. What is available in the early spring?



1. **Crocus**—one of the first flowers of spring, often growing through snow in February and March. It is pollen-rich and gives the bees the much-needed boost in the first Spring days. Consider planting the bulbs in your lawn in the fall. They will bloom early in the spring and die back by summer.
2. **Dandelions**—the perfect lawn owner's problem, the bee lover's solution. Many bees, butterflies, moths and other pollinators visit the flowers spring into summer. It is widely distributed and blooms throughout the whole active season for the bees – from early spring to autumn. Dandelions are edible and have medicinal value. Enjoy the yellow blossoms.
3. **Primrose** -Depending on the climate and the weather conditions, primroses may appear in your garden as early as December. Their name derives from the Latin 'prima rosa', meaning the first rose. They blossom all the way to late May and are an excellent source of protein and energy for bees and butterflies.
4. **Maple trees** are native to North America but also planted in parks and yards. They blossom before most of the other trees. Its abundant flowers are in dense clusters and offer very sweet nectar, that our bees can't resist. **Willows** are also an early flowering tree the bees love.

Garden Plants for Honey Bees by Paul Lindtner details plants that bees and pollinators use throughout the year. Excellent book.

### What else can you do?

- Plant plants that provide nectar and pollen. Nectar provides carbohydrates and pollen provides protein.
- Provide a water source. Be sure to clean containers often and keep water fresh and filled. A shallow dish with flat rocks for pollinators to land on is easy to create.
- Provide sweet treats. Use your overripe fruit such as oranges and bananas to feed the butterflies. When it's a little too far gone for us is when it's just right for them. Beware, ants will find it too, so hanging the dish of fruit can help.
- Plant in a sunny area. Create continuous bloom throughout your growing season.
- Eliminate or minimize the use of pesticides and fungicides. If spraying pesticides is a must, do so very early in the day or late in the evening. This is when pollinators aren't out and about.

## Plant Sale 2024 Change of Venue

The South Douglas Tree and Shrub Sale is moving to the Douglas County Fire District #1 building at 107 N Chelan in Waterville. We have been at the NCW Fairgrounds for 30 years, starting in the beef barn, then moving between the Community Hall and the Lions Den. But not this year. The Fire District has allowed us to invade their facility for two days. It will be a bit of challenge in the new space, but it should work well.

The catalogs should be available by mail and on our website early March. Native and adapted trees, shrubs and wildflowers will be offered. Some plants will be in short supply due to the supply chain, weather and popularity. One of our suppliers said she could always tell when a plant was featured in a publication because it quickly became sought after. We try to have plenty of plants in our inventory.

Plants are available for wildlife plantings, windbreaks, erosion control and landscaping. Most of our plants are small—if you want a large one, we can see if we can get it.

The sale will be April 6, at the Douglas County Fire District #1 Station. Order by March 18. Parking might be tricky, but you can look at the “Impulse Tables” while you are waiting. We are encouraging BYOB this year.—**Bring Your Own Box**. We will have boxes available, but if you have some at home bring them with you.

We often have gardening/birding vendors at the sale as well. No one definite yet. We will have bluebird boxes available.

A sure sign of spring is our plant sale.



### We Need More Kestrel Boxes



NCW Audubon continues a long-term project placing and monitoring American Kestrel boxes on or near the Waterville Plateau. These beneficial birds of prey have diminished throughout North America. Providing nest boxes helps these small falcons stabilize their population over time. A very good article was in our Fall 2023 newsletter, available on the South Douglas CD website. The plan is to build on our success over the last few years and add more boxes to our established routes. We would love to bring in more volunteers to help in 2024. **If interested, please contact Richard Scranton at [rscrans4350@yahoo.com](mailto:rscrans4350@yahoo.com).**

The Spokane Audubon Society has monthly meetings. They have presentations at each meeting. The December meeting highlighted this Waterville Plateau Kestrel boxes. But past presentations are also available. January's topic was Burrowing Owls. Go to their website—it is under Events—Meeting Videos. Excellent.

### We Have Cost Share Dollars For You

Through the Washington Conservation Commission we receive grant dollars that we can use to help cooperators with conservation projects. We have funded a variety of projects in the past, from windbreaks to livestock waterers. These projects are usually in rural areas—we don't fund landscape projects in neighborhoods or yards. If you have questions or a project in mind, visit our website for guidance or call the office about your project.

These projects will be within the South Douglas Conservation District boundaries, which is roughly the southern half of Douglas County. Foster Creek Conservation District is the northern half, with their own funding.

\*\*\* South Douglas has partnered with DNR for fuels reduction projects on Badger Mountain. If you have property on Badger and are interested please call the SDCD office. Most of these fire reduction projects are 100% cost share reimbursed.

Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from the wheat field. D.D. Eisenhower

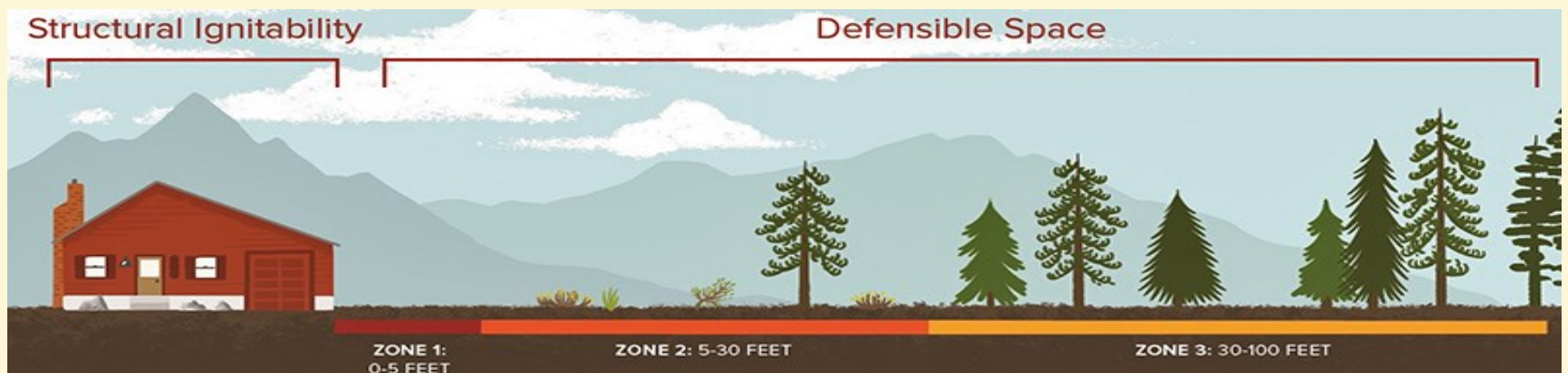


## Defend your Home from Wildfire

Spring and summer will be here before you know it. (we hope) Now is the time to think about protecting your home against wildfires. This doesn't mean stripping your property of all vegetation. But precautions can be taken to lower your risks.

- Rake leaves, dead limbs and twigs. Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures and remove vines from the walls of the home. Clear all flammable vegetation.
- Thin a 15-foot space between tree crowns, and remove limbs within 15 feet of the ground.
- Remove dead branches that extend over the roof.
- Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney outlet.
- Ask the power company to clear branches from powerlines.
- Mow grass regularly. Better yet, convert your lawn to native plantings to encourage pollinators.
- Clear a 10-foot area around propane tanks and the barbecue. Place a screen over the grill - use nonflammable material with mesh no coarser than one-quarter inch.
- Regularly recycle newspapers and rubbish at an approved site. Follow local burning regulations.
- Place stove, fireplace and grill ashes in a metal bucket, soak in water for 2 days; then bury the cold ashes in mineral soil.
- Store gasoline, oily rags and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Place cans in a safe location away from the base of buildings.
- Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and uphill from your home. Good exercise to go get the wood! Clear combustible material within 20 feet.
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy and also prepare/update a list of your home's contents
- Homes built in forests should have a minimum defensible space of 100 feet. If your home sits on a steep slope, standard protective measures may not suffice.

**Defensible space is the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it.** This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire—either from embers, direct flame contact or radiant heat.



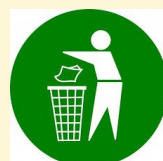
### South Douglas Conservation District

P.O. Box 246, 206 N Chelan  
Waterville, WA 98858  
(509) 745-9160 •  
[www.southdouglascd.org](http://www.southdouglascd.org)



Staff Member  
Carol Cowling, Coordinator

Board of Supervisors  
Carolyn Kelly, *Chair*  
Lindsey Morrison, *Vice Chair*  
Joe Sprauer, *Auditor*  
Mike Lesky, *Member*  
Justin Grillo, *Member*



Please recycle.