



2011  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

# year in

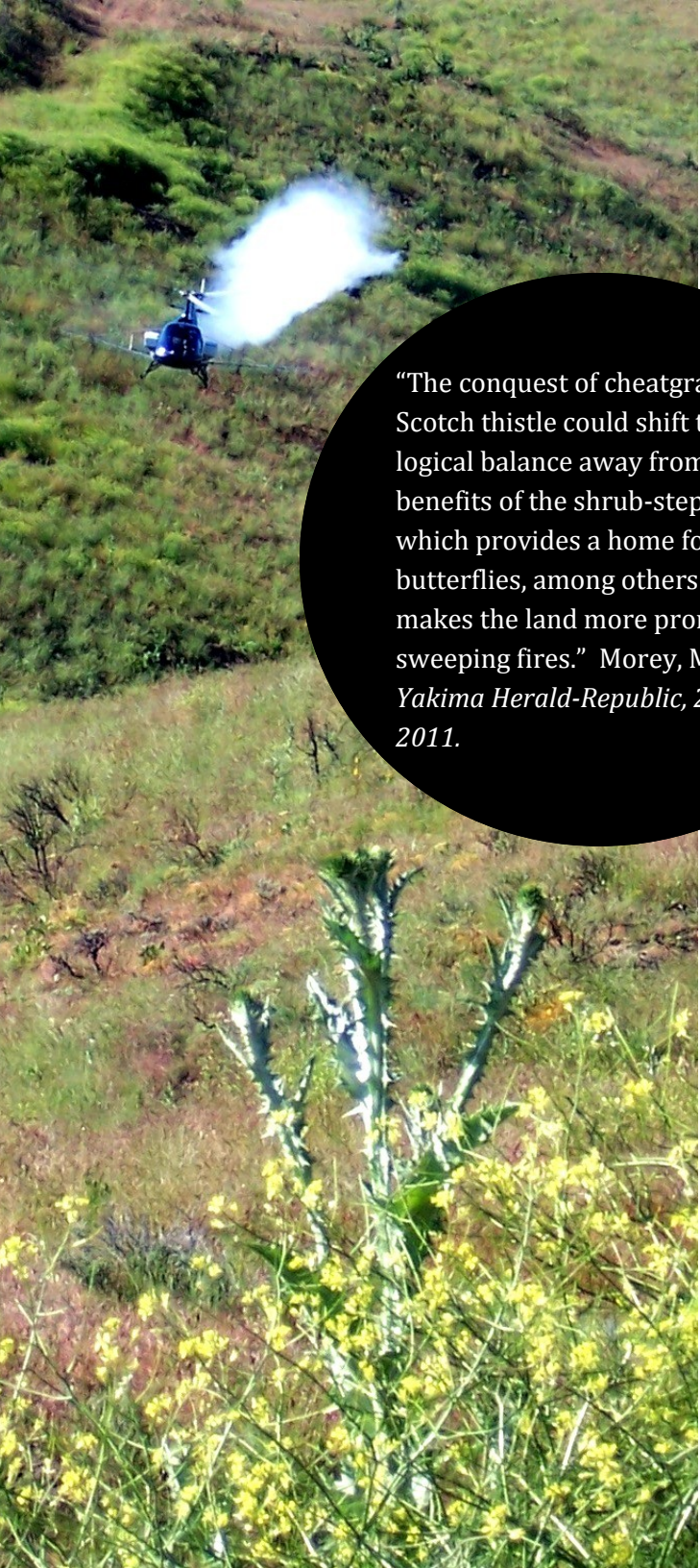
## Spring and Summer

With the excitement of the 25th anniversary year behind us, we turned our attention to the next twenty five years and beyond. Thanks to the great support from members and donors in late 2010, we were able to complete the purchase of the top of Snow Mountain Ranch—a “capstone” event for us.

We experienced the big fire on Snow Mountain Ranch in 2010. The spring of 2011 balanced nature’s scorecard, as the skies opened up and poured out lots of rain and snow. Fire and water combined to raise an astounding bumper crop of Scotch thistle at Snow Mountain Ranch. 2011 will be remembered as the Year of the War on Thistles. Many, many volunteers turned out to help—slogging through mud, rain, snow and wind to dig thistles. We ultimately got a small emergency grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to hire a helicopter sprayer to reach the remote canyons. This effort was led with huge heart by our board volunteers who never let up until the end of the growing season.

We had our second annual Cowiche Canyon “Rocks On” event at the Wilridge Winery, and delighted our friends with the unveiling of Cowiche Canyon Fresh Hops Ale—and our new partnership with the organic hops grower nestled in our canyon, and the Fremont Brewing Company in Seattle. The folks at Fremont are using the hops from Cowiche Canyon—and as they really love our work, they are donating proceeds from the sale of this delightful ale to our organization! This is a creative example of how conservation, recreation and business can work together to make our community a great place to live.

A big new value for us this year was the growth and development of our Docent Program. This special group of volunteers dedicated to educating the public about the natural history values we’re conserving launched a lecture series, led hikes, hosted education booths and assisted with field-based education events for classrooms.

A blue helicopter is shown in flight, spraying a white substance onto a field of green and brown vegetation. The helicopter is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image. The background is a steep, grassy hillside.

“The conquest of cheatgrass and Scotch thistle could shift the ecological balance away from the benefits of the shrub-steppe—which provides a home for rare butterflies, among others — and makes the land more prone to sweeping fires.” Morey, Mark *Yakima Herald-Republic, 28 Nov. 2011.*



# review

## Fall and Winter

With natural history education as part of our mission, we are committed to ongoing learning about our landscape. In addition to sharpening our understanding and practice of landscape restoration, we are also learning about the magnificent array of butterflies at Snow Mountain Ranch. Our partnership with Dr. David James, a research entomologist and butterfly expert with Washington State University is helping us create a conservation program to help these rare creatures. To that end, we successfully competed for a grant from the Yakima Valley Community Foundation to launch “Project Butterfly”— this will start taking shape early in 2012.

Our Second Annual Fall Colors Hike took place near the end of October—an annual “fun-raising” event designed to give our members an opportunity to experience our Snow Mountain Ranch system led by our docents.

Working with partners to achieve outcomes beyond our borders is important to us. We worked with a group of partners, including the West Valley Fire District to produce a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for our area. This “CWPP” will help reduce fuels and inform land owners in the shrub-steppe zone how they might prepare their properties to reduce damage from wildfires.

Finally, we worked very hard this year to prepare for the big launch of the William O. Douglas Trail in June of 2012. Our goal in 2011 was to research and map existing routes that can be done as day hikes.

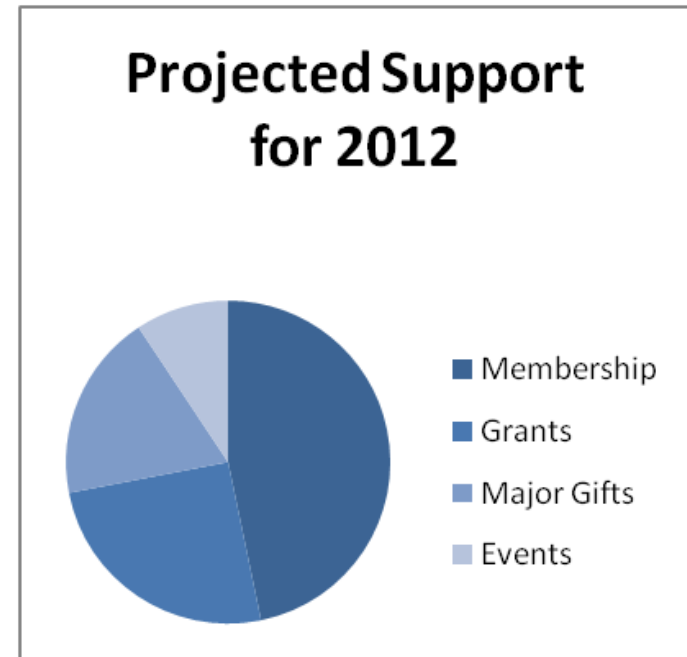
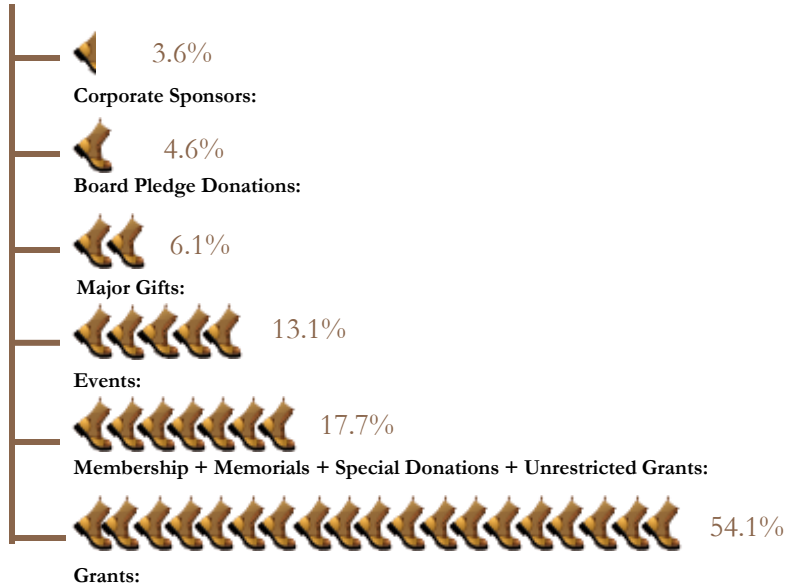
“If you provide the right habitat, they will come!”  
David James speaking about the future butterfly reserve at Snow Mountain Ranch



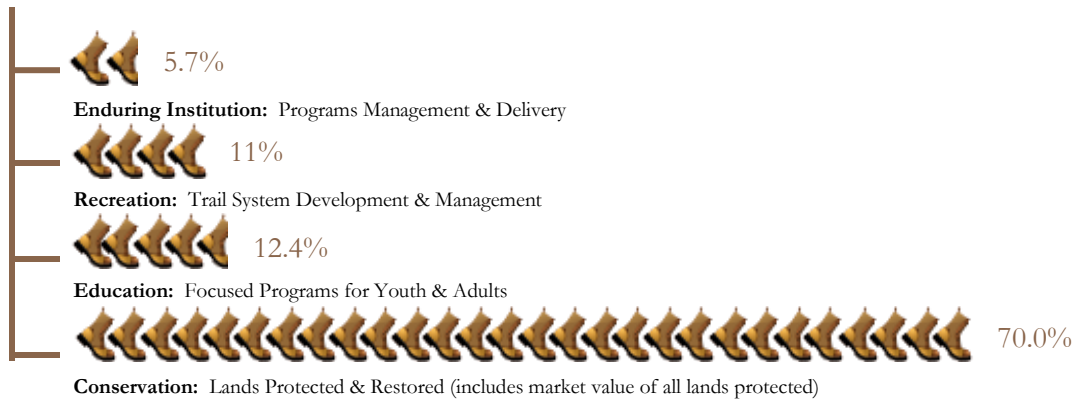
Dusky Echo Blue  
*Celastrina echo nigrescens*  
(Fletcher)

# financial summary

## Where our support came from



## What we are doing with that support



## The BIG Picture



# thank you

## Giving 2011

Abeyta, Terry | Abhold, Randy | Adams, Robert | Ahern, Helen | Altmayer, Steve and Andrea | Anderson, Grace | Anderson, June | Anderson, Ryan and Megan | Avery, Jim and Karin | Aylmer, John and Pam | Bailey, Gary and Gayle Scholl | Baldi, J.E. and Gloria | Baldwin, Wayne and Marilyn | Bamhill, James and Dee | Barson, Len and Margie Wetherald | Baule, John | Beachler, Mary Bryson | Bellamy, Justin and Lesli | Belzer, David & Karen | Beman, Thomas J. | Benson, Norma | Bianchi, Elizabeth | Bird, Phil & Marilyn | Bjorneby, Ladd | Black, Jim and Vicki | Blair, Rich and Becky | Blanton, Thomas | Blount, Brian and Barbara | Bloxom, Jack and Connie | Bohoskey, Chuck and Bev | Bordeaux, Barbara | Bosch, W. J. and G.M. 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Bilides | Del Alma, Cristina | Dennison, Joyce | Derry, Earl and Dorothy | Dezellem, Bill | Dion, Dave and Patty | Dodge, Eric and Kirsten | Dolsen, Bill and Rhonda | Douglas, Debra and Lindsey | Drenguis, William | Drew, Richard and Rebecca | Duchemin, Roger and Lucy | Easterly, Richard and Debra Salstrom | Effler, Dean and Martha | Eglin, Tom and Margaret | Eider, Wendy | Elofson, Cathy | Estep, John and Lec Ann | Evans Fruit Company | Fairbank, Matthew and Michelle Besso | Faringer, Norris and Alice | Faulk, Robin and George | Fisher, Bob and Carol Hassen | Fitch, Jim and Sally | Fleming, Martha | Forster, Chuck and Joan Jacobs | Forsythe, W.L. and K.S. | Frank, Larry and Phyllis | Frank, WD and Betsy | Gabriel, Joe and Nancy | Gargas, Donald and Jane | Gefre, Robert and Carol | Generations OB/GYN PLLC | Gibson, Gail | Gilbert, Cragg and Barb Smith | Gilbert, Julie and Curt | Gilman, Nicholas | Graham, Ron and Sue | Greenberg, Geoffrey and Barbara | Greninger, Fletcher | Gunderson, Sue and Michael | Hagen, David and Karen Wayenberg | Hagen, Jeff and Joyce | Hall, Gerald | Hanus, Janet | Hargreaves, Dave and Cindy | Harris, Will and Julie | Hartman | Haskett, Michael & Peggy | Hasslinger, Dennis | Hatten, Lowell | Heintz, Bernice and Sandra Barstad | Heinz, Lacy Westfall | Heinzen, Joel and Barbara | Heinzen, Lisa | Henderson, Pamela Brooks | Hennessy, Kathleen | Herr, Brent and Lisa | Hertel, Jim and Jackie | Hiler, Mike | Hines, Samuel and Corinne | Hlousek, Irene | | Hoge, Philip | Hollingsbery & Son Inc | Hollon, Ronald and Valda | Hostetler, Dale and Dorothy | Huang, Ed | Huffman, Paul E. | Hunsperger, Lee | Hunter, Patrick and Marilyn | Hurston, Tom and Merrilee | Huycke, David and Mary | Ireland, Karen | Isley, Stan and Lori | Janson, Gregory | Jett, David | John, Norb and Helen | Jones, Yoshiko and Gary | Joseph, Kenneth | Kaplan, Jeffrey | Kasprzak, Michael | Keeler, Jean | Keller, Daniel and Ruth | Kelly, Brenda b | Kenmotsu, Nancy | Key, Jennifer | Kime, Linda | King, Gordon | Kingle, Glenn and Robyn | Kirk, Jane | Kisala, Robin and John | Kjellman, Judith | Klavano, Byrna and Bob | Knox, Sam and Amber | Kobes, Gerald and Shaunna | Kruse, Russell and Norma | Kulik, M. Aileen | Kunkel, Anne Marie | La Fetra, Kathleen | Lattomus, Susan | Lec, Jeff | Lemp, Melissa and Bill Glenski | Lenz, Sachiko I | Lewis, Edith | Lewis, Peggy | Licht, Hamilton and Carol | Liebe, Diane and Kyle Heisey | Lilly, Roland | Lisowski, Edward | Loehelt-Yoshioka | Lolley, Reese and Kara | Lovins, Donna and Marty | Lust, Nancy | Lust, Sally | Macleod, Margaret | Maier, Russell and Sara Cate | Mann, Elizabeth | Maples, Mike and Marjorie Henderson | Marik, Margaret | Marinell, Marti | Mathieu, Debra | Matson, J.B. | Maza, Susan and Alton | Mazzola, Nancy and Russ | McAdams Wright Ragen | McAdams, Scott | McCarthy, Norm and JoAnn | McCartney, Mary | McClure, Brian | McClure, Leslie and Neil | McCulloch, Robert | McFadden, Dave | McKinney, G. Russell and Barbara | McLean, Clare | Meade-Jacobs, Jane | Medeiros, Emily and Eugene | Mercy, Kathi | Merrrell, Ray and Eileen | Miller, Bonnie | Miller, Gary and Claire Carpenter | Miller, Mark and Brenda | Miller, Martin and Amy | Mobley, Clay and Mary Ann | Monick, Duane and Kirsten | Monick, Erik and Rachel | Montgomery, Frederick and Charlotte | Mortimer, Bruce and Linda | Muehleck, Steve and Laura | Murphy, Michael and Diane | Naches Heights Vineyard | Nagle-McNaughton, Elizabeth and Paul | Nature Artists Garden Club | Nelson, Carolyn | Newman, David and Joanne | Nolz, Alison | Nunes, Brenda | Padavich, Craig and Amy | Palmer, Roger and Beth | Paoletta, Ray and Susan | Parsons, Jenifer | Patterson, Alan and Connie | Patterson, Deborah | Pearson, Delmar | Perry, Thomas | Peters, Doug and Marjorie | Peterson, Ervina | Peterson, Lawrence | Pinnell, Jim and Kaethe | Place, John and Mary | Polage, Dr. David and Glenna | Pottenger, Jan | Prentice, Andrea and Charles | Presson, Alice | Pruiett, Jeff and Patty | Pardon, Caroline | Quint, Kerry and Karen | Rainier Plastics | Rankin, Purna and David | Raschko-Winters, Ethel and Willard | RBC Wealth Management | Redman, Andrea and Matthew Loeser | Redman, Carol and Gipp | Reid, Christine and | Dennis Grandstrand | Reiss, Paul | Rennie, John | Repp, Richard | Revolution Cycles | Richardson, Jerry and Joann | Richmond, Jim and Susan | Riehl, Doran and Mary | Riehl, Helen | Rodgers, Sally B. | Rogers-Miller, Helen R. | Rose, John and Patricia | Rose, Thomas | Rossmeissl, John and Nancy | Rowles, Roger | Roy, Mark & Deborah | Rozdilsky, Mary Lou | Ryan, Edith and Bill | Schafer, Art | Schrank, Ethan | Schultz, Robert | Schulz, Nona and Leslie | Schwabauer, Charles | Seaman, Matthew and Linda | Sears, Bruce | Seifert, Ed and Gayle | Severson, David | Shaw, Janet | Shean, Mary Lou | Shinn, Guy and Mary | Shirey, Jonathon and Erin | Short, Roger & Eulalie | Simon Jr., F.J. | Simpson, Bruce | Sinclair, Robert | Skarin, Ellen and Robert | Skone, Jill and Don | Slate, Josh, Molly and Adelaide | Smith, Arthea | Smith, Bryan and Tricia | Smith, Donna and Michael | Smith, Gilbert | Solowan, Ernie and Ruth | Sonnabend, Kay | Speer, Wendy | Spiegel, Richard and Ann | Stansbury, Paul and Nancy | Stenehjem, Kenneth and Mildred | Stepniowski, Andrew and Ellen | Stevens, James | Stevens, Jeff and Lucy | Stone, Marcia | Stotsenberg, Karen | Stuhley, Joe and Carol | Sundquist, Curtis and Mary | Sundquist, Marvin and Pat | Sundquist, Steve and Cynthia | Tafoya, John and Kuniko | Taki, Ryoko and Katsumi | Talbott, Jerry and Susan | Tamsky, Daniel | Tayer, Jeff | Tayer, Shari | The Dolsen Companies | The German Group | TheLusciousLab | Tierney, Kathy and Michael Jach | Tolonen, Jack Ken and Margaret Morris | Trammell, Jeff and Diane | Trivette, Gisela | Tuesley, Linda | Tweedy, Matt | Umbarger, Virgil and Selma | Van Cleave, Marge and David | Vanhoose, Michie | Villbrandt, Robert | Vogt, Eric and Cec | Von Stubbe, William | Vornbrock, John | Wade, Don | Wahl, Robert and Leslie | Walsh, Kevin | Warren, John and Jennifer | Wayenberg, Dorre | Weise, Steven and Stephanie | West, Carol | Wiedrich, Twilla | Wiehl, Dick and Inga | Wilkes, David | Will, Joe | Willett, Laura | Willis, Bruce and Ann | Wilson, Larry | Wyles, Michelle and Robert | Yakima Federal Savings & Loan Association | Yakima Valley Audubon Society

## Organizational Support:

Allied Arts  
Bureau of Land Management  
Cascadians  
City of Yakima  
Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Fremont Brewing Company  
Gilbert Cellars  
James Carmody/Velikanje Halverson  
Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement  
Group  
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Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
State Farm Insurance Agents  
Tasting Room of Yakima  
The Nature Conservancy  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Yakima Fire Districts 1 & 12  
Yakima Valley Audubon Society

## 2011 Volunteers &

### Docents:

Anderson, Greg | Anderson, Peggy | Bloomfield, Betsy | Boyd, Tom | Braun, Fritz | Cate, Sara | Chavez, Vitalina | Clausing, Ted | Clausing, Zac | Coleman, Tom | Deal, Leah | Donahue, Barry | Drew, Becky | Drew, Dick | Drumhiller, Tim | Effler, Martha | Jensen Family | Moore Family | Finney, Mike | Fitch, Jim | Fitzgerald, Ali | Fletcher, Bill | Gilbert, Barb | Graham, Jeff | Hagen, David | Halvorson Miller, Amy | Hayden, Rich | Hertel, Jim | Hiler, Mike | Hoge, Phil | Hollingsbery, Erin | Hollingsbery, William | Huffman, Ross | Huwe, Pat | Ireland, Karen | Keeler, Jean | Kelly, Brian | Kjellman, Judy | Knicker, Tanya | Kobes, Jerry | Lang-Boyd, Becky | Lisowski, Edward | Lolley, Kara | Maier, Russell | Maza, Susan | Maza, Al | McClure, Leslie | Morrison, Chuck | Nordberg, Kiim | Nunes, Rachel | Nunes, Jr, Art | Paoletta, Ray | Paoletta, Susan | Pinnell, Jim | Place, Mary | Place, John | Ramirez, Francisco | Reece, Steve | Riehl, Helen | Rothenbueler, John | Schenk, Rex | Schmidt, Herb | Severson, David | Shean, Russ | Shean, Blair | Spiegel, Ann | Stotsenberg, Karen | Strathmann, Katrina | Sundquist, Curtis | Thomas, Ed | Thomas, Sue | Tolonen, Ken | Vogt, Cec | Wade, Preston | Wahl, Bob | Wahl, Leslie | Wayenberg, Karen | Weise, Stephanie | Wiehl, Dick | Willett, Laura | Willis, Ann

Volunteers haul native grass seed to areas burned and blackened by a 2010 fire on the Snow Mountain Ranch west of Yakima on Nov. 26, 2011.

A mixture of bluebunch wheatgrass, Great Basin Wild-drye and fescue is being used in the reseeded effort.

Among the vegetation that perished was old-growth sage taller than the average person -- prime food for deer and elk. By last fall, sage sprouts were already emerging from seeds in the soil.

Substantial regrowth should be visible within a decade, but it may take 100 years for the area to return to prior conditions, if no major fires sweep through.

Experts from the news article, "Volunteers give Mother Nature a hand replanting shrub-steppe", by Mark Morey, Yakima Herald, November 27th, 2011



Volunteers Reseeding SMR. Photo by David Hagen

*Mission: “To promote a healthy future for our community by conserving our heritage of open space, scenic vistas, and riparian corridors from Yakima to the Cascade foothills with connected recreational trails and natural landscapes.”*

**2011 Board of Directors**

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Sara Cate

Tom Coleman

David Hagen

Phil Hoge

Jerry Kobes

Becky Lang-Boyd

Leslie McClure

Ray Paoella

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Cec Vogt

Bob Wahl

Doug Warren

Ann Willis

Staff

Betsy Bloomfield, Executive Director

Erin Hollingbery, Operations & Special Projects Coordinator

**Contact Information**

Cowiche Canyon Conservancy

P.O. Box 877 | 302 N. 3rd Street

Yakima, WA 98907

Cowiche Canyon Uplands & Mt. Cleman—FRONT: Spring | BACK: Winter, Photos by David Hagen