

COWICHE CANYON
CONSERVANCY

P.O. BOX 877 | YAKIMA, WA | 98907
302 N. 3RD ST | YAKIMA, WA | 98907

509-248-5065

WWW.COWICHECANYON.ORG

COWICHE CANYON COLUMNS



WINTER NEWSLETTER, 2012

GREETINGS, COWICHE CANYON INSIDERS!

Winter's Greetings to all –

Another year has flown by, and as we look ahead to our ambitious work in 2012, we pause to look back over our shoulder at the year behind us. For those of you who might be new to Cowiche Canyon Conservancy, or for those of you long-standing members who may not know, we deliver three big programs under our mission: Conservation, Recreation and Education. Our conservation work includes protecting the places most important to us, and restoring our lands where most needed. Recreation is fundamental to our mission—we are working to expand our trail network, and improve our existing facilities. Education about what we do and why it is important is the third leg of our mission.

In 2011, we **CONSERVED** the ridge-line of snow Mountain Ranch, and did battle on Scotch thistle all year at Snow Mountain Ranch, Cowiche Canyon, and our Rocky Top site at the east end of Cowiche Mountain. Our multi-year grant funded program to



A group gathers before guided hikes at the Fall Colors Festival.
Photo by David Hagen

restore the old farm fields at Snow Mountain Ranch is right on target, and after two years of preparation, the first native grass seeding was done this fall. We expanded our **RECREATION** program by forming the William O. Douglas Task Force, and worked all year with the Task Force to get that giant trail system ready for business by June, 2012. We also worked with bicyclists and horseback riders to define new trails at our Rocky Top site, opened the Riparian Overlook Trail, and worked on putting up new kiosks and trail signs. Our **EDUCATION** program was super-charged by the growing strength of our Docent program. Our Docents launched a lecture series, led field trips, and worked on developing and organizing an annual fall colors celebration event. The big news for our Education program was our successful grant request to the Yakima Valley Community Foundation for "Project Butterfly." We will put **CONSERVATION, RECREATION AND EDUCATION** together as we unveil this new program to conserve and restore butterfly habitat, hike on our trail system to see butterflies in their native habitat, and partner with school districts to join in Project Butterfly.

All of this work is accomplished with an incredibly committed board of directors, two part time staff, one of the best volunteer cadres ever, and your contributions to our mission.

Happy Trails in 2012!

Betsy Bloomfield



Volunteers carrying seed up the mountain during one of the re-seeding efforts at Snow Mountain Ranch.
Photo by David Hagen



"Jumpoff Lookout" view from the William O. Douglas Trail.
Photo by Jo Miles



Dr. James' daughter.
Photo by Dr. David James

MILESTONE

Betsy Bloomfield

Colleda Monick Takes New Position.

With just two part time staff managing CCCs work, our team effort is a foundation of our success. I started work as the Executive Director in December, 2009, just two months after Colleda was hired as the part time office assistant. For me, Colleda was my daily ally as we learned how to make the “trains run on time” together. For those of you who have worked with her, you know how deeply committed she was to our work, how much she did to improve our services, and how much she meant



Colleda Monick pictured far right with several CCC board members at this years “Rocks On!” event..

to all of us. She has taken a new position with the South Central Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council (RCD), starting in January. The RCD is a partner organization, so we won't lose sight of her. It will be a real jolt to me, though, not seeing her in the office first thing in the morning. She did, however, actively recruit her replacement, and we're very pleased to welcome Erin Hollingbery as our new Operations and Special Projects Coordinator. For more on Erin, please see the article on Project Butterfly—we really “netted” a great catch with her.



Colleda Monick pictured third from the left with Erin Hollingbery to her left about to head out and attack some scotch thistle at SMR.

CCC RECEIVES OUTSIDE PUBLICITY

David Hagen

For a number of years I have been submitting trip reports along with photographs to the Washington Trails Association's web site, wta.org, under the pseudonym “mytho-man”. The majority of these reports have been from hikes taken in the Yakima area and the Columbia Basin including hikes in Cowiche Canyon and Snow Mtn Ranch. As a result, I have become known to WTA staff as a good source of information and photos for eastern Washington hikes. This has led to some nice publicity for the Conservancy. I have seen an increasing number of trip reports posted by west siders for the canyon and Snow Mtn. Ranch on both the WTA website as well as the NW Hikers Forum. In addition, last spring the editor of WTA's publication, Washington Trails, asked me to write a piece for their “Featured Landscape” section and I chose to write up Snow Mtn Ranch. The piece appeared in the March/April, 2011 issue. More recently, WTA's web editor did an article on 5 Classic Fall Hikes in Washington for the Fall 2011 edition of Washington Magazine. Along with four hikes in the Cascade Mountains, she included Cowiche Canyon as “proof that not all fall color is found in the mountains.” The article included 3 photos of Cowiche Canyon, one of which was the lead photo for the article. This sort of publicity is clearly attracting visitors from out of the area to our properties. This visitation increases the number of those who appreciate the shrub-steppe and our work to conserve it. And these visitors inevitably patronize area businesses, thus confirming our contention that our projects not only improve the health and quality of life in the valley, but contribute to the economic vitality of the region as well.



PROJECT BUTTERFLY

By Betsy Bloomfield

How lucky for us that we struck up a relationship with Dr. David James several years ago! Dr. James, a research entomologist with Washington State University, happens to live in the Naches Heights area and enjoys family hikes in Cowiche Canyon and Snow Mountain Ranch. But his hikes aren't just for the exercise and the view—he is always stalking his prey: the jewel-like creatures that are his passion. Dr. James alerted us several years ago about the extraordinary diversity of butterflies—both common and rare—at our sites in the Canyon and on Snow Mountain Ranch. We invited him to teach us more about this wonderful life form, and he graciously led us on hikes, sent us information, and gave a fantastic lecture at Yakima Valley Community College last spring. In 2011, we were aware that we had an extraordinary opportunity and obligation to focus our conservation work on butterfly conservation. We applied to the Yakima Valley Community Foundations for a grant to conserve habitat and tell the butterfly story through a “children’s butterfly garden”. We learned that we were awarded our grant one day after a Yakima Herald story announcing the publication of Dr. James masterful book called “Life Histories of Cascadia Butterflies”. We are working with a celebrity on this project!

In the first phase of Project Butterfly, we will work with partners to propagate the plants at Snow Mountain Ranch used by different life stages of key butterfly species. We want to make these plants broadly available around Yakima to help provide more potential habitat right in people’s own back yards. We are also planning a Children’s Butterfly Garden—a special site at Snow Mountain Ranch where trained CCC Docents and other helpers can show the butterflies in their natural domain, and teach children about their life histories, rarity, and the work we do to conserve them.



Becker's White butterfly, photo by Dr. David James.



Dr. David James in Cowiche Canyon giving a lecture on butterflies.

THIS JUST IN...NEW HIRE!

Please welcome Erin Hollingbery as our new recruit to CCC!

We have a new person taking over our Operations and Special Projects position at the start of the new year, and we're happy to announce her appointment! Erin Hollingbery comes to us with a newly minted Master of Science degree from WSU in entomology, making her a perfect fit for our work in butterfly conservation and education. She worked for a small land trust in Hawaii, is a triathlete and trail runner, and already hikes our lands extensively. She's a great new member of our CCC family, and I'm sure you will all get to see her out on the trails, at our events, and follow her posts on our Facebook page—Welcome Erin!



Erin Hollingbery working on the Riparian Overlook trail. Photo by David Hagen.

“BECAUSE BEER MATTERS...”

By Colleda Monick

This is a story about land, family, conservation, sustainable agriculture and working together to give back in more ways than one.

What do you get when you combine the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy land trust, Ron Britt, an entomologist dedicated to hop pest control, Brad Carpenter, a 6th generation hop grower, and The Fremont Brewing Company, a family owned micro brewery concerned about sustainability and conservation? You get the Cowiche Canyon Organic Fresh Hop Ale whose complicated brewing process and dynamic flavors are a mirror of the dynamic individuals (ingredients) behind this hoppy, earthy, floral beer.

This story (or our first ingredient if you will) begins with a long standing partnership between Ron Britt and Brad Carpenter who set out to grow organic hops in 2009, which was risky for many reasons, but in short, because at the time the demand wasn't there for them yet and the yield is often half of what you can get off a non-organic crop. So why would they do it and how would they create a success out of it? They started by contacting Matt Lincecum, the owner of Fremont Brewing Company in Seattle (and the second ingredient), who is a long time environmentalist and community organizer.

Then they formed the American Organic Hop Growers Association (the third ingredient of our story), which is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the use of organic hops. And finally, they contacted the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy (the fourth ingredient) to balance out the other side of their mission which is to show that agriculture and conservation can co-exist and that farmers can be and should be good stewards of the land – and they are!

Now, once a year the hops are harvested and delivered to Seattle, placed in a kettle and within 24 hours of being picked, these hops are transformed into the Cowiche Canyon Organic Fresh Hop Ale, a beer that is helping to expand the organic hops industry and gives a portion of its proceeds to the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy. Why? I think they say it best at Fremont Brewery, “because beer matters”.



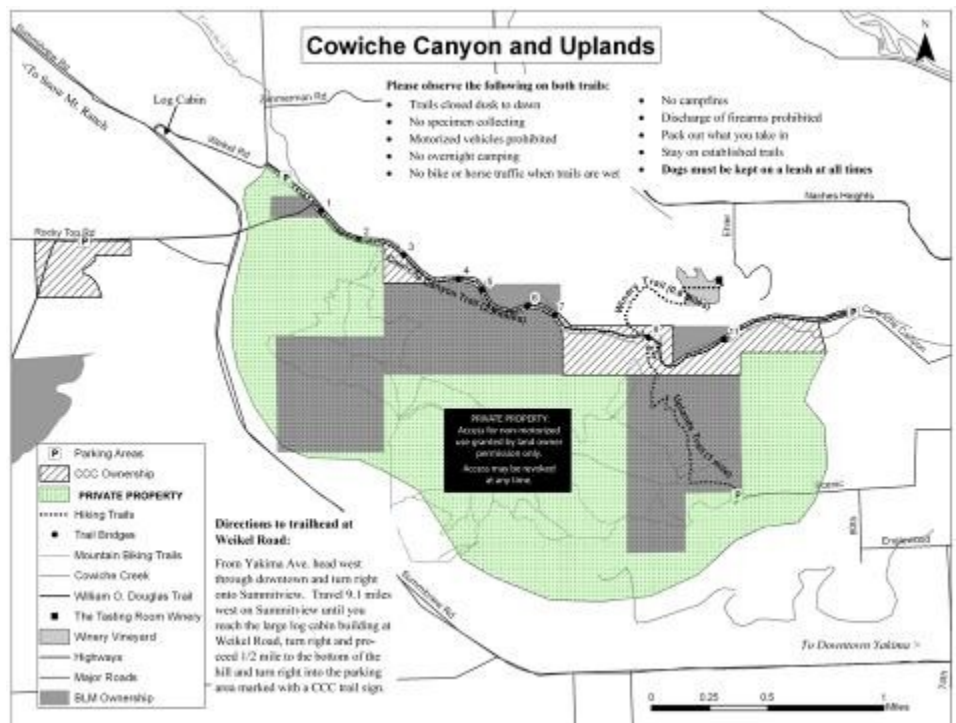
Ron Britt talking to one of the brewers at the Fremont Brewing Company in Seattle.

**Join us this year at our “Hops In” festival to have a chance to savor in this dynamic beer that really is more than just beer, Sunday, May 20th, 2012.*

UPLANDS AREA:

Notice to users:
Please observe the private property zones, access for non-motorized use granted by land owner permission only. Access may be revoked at any time.

(If viewing the map in color, the areas in green highlight the private property zones) If viewing in black and white, the lightest shade of grey is private property).



WILDLIFE CORNER

PRAON COWICHE HOLLINGBERY AND PIKE

By Erin Hollingbery

You might just be asking yourself, what kind of 'wildlife' is a Praon Cowiche Hollingbery and Pike. In short, it is a new species of parasitic wasp that was recently discovered by our new Operations and Special Projects Coordinator, Erin Hollingbery. Read on to find out more!

Rabbitbrush, *Chrysothamnus* spp. (Asteraceae), is a common perennial native shrub across the inland western United States. In the Columbia Basin growing district of Washington State, rabbitbrush is often found in close proximity to many agronomic crops, but its value as a conservation reservoir and source of parasitoids of merit in agriculture is unknown.

A Washington State

University graduate student in Entomology, Erin Hollingbery, just finished her master's research. One of her projects was aimed at defining the aphid parasitoids frequenting rabbitbrush, their aphid host

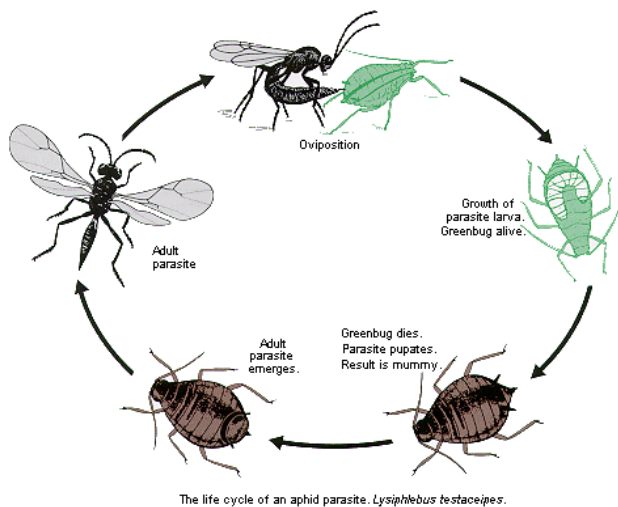
preferences, seasonal occurrence, and linkage or association with other aphids of economic and non-economic importance. One of her collection sites included **Snow Mountain Ranch** which harbored one new species of aphidiine parasitoid **Praon cowiche Hollingbery and Pike**.

Much of Cowiche Canyon Conservancy land (including Snow Mountain Ranch, Cowiche Canyon, Uplands and Rocky Top) is adjacent to agricultural land. This is important for commercial farmers as well as backyard gardeners because natural enemies of pests in crops are often supported by undisturbed native habitat adjacent to or near cropped fields. Non-crop habitat may harbor natural enemies of a

crop pest at times when the pest is in limited supply in the crop, or the source habitat may be essential for nectar, water, alternate prey hosts, or refugia for mating, oviposition, or overwintering.

In many annual crops there is minimal vegetation present and overwintering survival of natural enemies is expected to be low. Because crops are often subject to a wide range of pesticides, refugia and perimeter areas

outside treated areas are critical for natural enemy conservation. The vast majority of predators and parasitoids overwinter in field margins or outside of cultivated areas and disperse



into spring-planted annual crops after establishment in the spring. The sage-rabbitbrush steppe habitats in proximity to crops in Washington's Columbia Basin are a potential refuge or bio-corridor for conservation of biological control agents.

The new parasitoid species.— **Praon cowiche** Hollingbery and Pike is named *cowiche* after its type locality, first discovered near Cowiche, Washington at the base of Cowiche Mountain. Cowiche Mountain and South Fork Cowiche Creek are part of the Snow Mountain Ranch land, all owned by the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy.



A parasitic wasp laying its egg inside a host aphid



Snow Mountain Ranch rabbitbrush collection site. Plant shown in bottom left hand corner: Gray Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*).

FUN FACTS:

- An economically important insect is an insect that has financial impact on industry, agriculture, and human society in general. Economically important insects are not always pests! Pollinators, natural enemies, producers of silk and honey, etc are not pests! Although aphids are usually considered pest insects and their impact can result in monetary loss, either directly or indirectly.
- Parasitic wasps (*parasitica* for short) are grouped together with bees, ants and other wasps in the insect order *Hymenoptera*. The *Hymenoptera* are one of the most species-rich groups of insects in the world.
- A parasitoid wasp differs from a true parasite in that it ultimately sterilizes or kills and sometimes consumes the host.

HOPS IN...

Join us at our annual dinner fundraiser on
Sunday, May 20th, 2012
 At the Tasting Room Yakima at Wilridge
 Vineyard overlooking the scenic
 Cowiche Canyon.
Come and have a GRAPE time!

UPCOMING EVENTS



CCC DOCENT LECTURE SERIES WITH THE YVCC BIOLOGY DEPT.

**Grazing Arid Lands An
 Ecological View**

Dr. Matthew Loeser will present *Grazing Arid Lands – An Ecological View*. This presentation will include a discussion of his research findings as well as summarization of other ecological research addressing live-stock grazing in arid lands.

January 11th, 2012
 YVCC

Glenn-Anthon Hall, Room 215
7:00 PM

*For more info: 509-574-4869

**Geology of Cowiche Canyon
 by David Huycke**

The city of Yakima itself sits where much of the fascinating tectonic and gradational story of the PNW is spectacularly revealed. One need not stray far from town to find very impressive exposures of this history...

February 8th, 2012
 YVCC

Glenn-Anthon Hall, Room 215
7:00 PM

*For more info: 509-574-4646

**Butterflies of Snow Mountain
 Ranch: Conservation for Science,
 Education and Community
 Enjoyment**

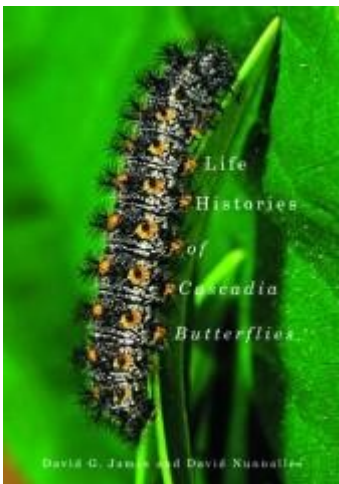
The extraordinary butterfly fauna of Snow Mountain Ranch will be illustrated and described during this lecture by Dr. David James. More species occur here than in the entire Unite Kingdom!

February 28th, 2012
 YVCC

Glenn-Anthon Hall, Room 215
7:00 PM

*For more info: 509-574-4646

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BUTTERFLY LIFE HISTORIES



Dr. David James, Associate Professor of Entomology for Washington State University, and Cowiche Canyon Conservancy's unofficial, official butterfly expert, just co-authored a book, *Pacific Northwest Butterfly Life Histories*, which will soon be available at Inklings bookstore in Yakima, the Yakima Arboretum, or can be purchased online at:

<http://osupress.oregonstate.edu/book/life-histories-of-cascadia-butterflies>

The book includes Cowiche Canyon's Lucia Blue butterfly as well as all of the species that can be found at Snow Mountain Ranch. In fact, "virtually all of the 158 butterfly species occurring in southern British Columbia, Washington, northern Idaho, and northern Oregon are included in the book. Color photographs of each stage of life—egg, every larval instar, pupa, adult—accompany information on the biology, ecology, and rearing of each species."

THANK YOU: The following is a list of individuals and businesses whose contributions we received between June 28th, 2011 and December 15th, 2011

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Ted Gamlem



Hats off to our volunteer spotlight star in this issue of Columns—Thoralf (Ted) Gamlem gets our big “YES-YOU GO, GUY” spotlight thanks to his tireless effort on our William O. Douglas Trail project. When we set our sights on making the trail open for business in June of 2012, we knew we needed a dedicated task force to make it happen. And since no group can function without effective leadership, we asked Ted if he would take this role. We knew Ted from a lot of shared experiences, so we knew that he would bring great organizing and problem solving skills to the project, and really bring out a lot of enthusiastic support among the task force members. Thanks to Ted and all of the incredible Task Force leaders, we will be seeing you on the trail—the William O. Douglas Trail—this summer!



View from the William O. Douglas Trail. Photo by Jo Miles

Rise to the Top Club:

Barnhill, James and Dee | Boyd, Tom and Becky Lang-Boyd | Dolsen, Bill and Rhonda | Gilbert, Cragg and Barb Smith | Maier, Russell and Sara Cate | Place, John and Mary | Sundquist, Curtis and Mary

Sage to Summit:

Bloxom, Jack and Connie | Britt, Ron and Kathleen | Coleman, Thomas | Frank, WD and Betsy | Smith, Bryan and Tricia | Wayenberg, Dorre

Save-An-Acre:

Barson, Len and Margie Wetherald | Carpenter Ranches, LLC | Liebe, Diane and Kyle Heisey | Lilley, Roland | Marik, Margaret | McAdams, Scott | Prentice, Andrea and Charles | Riehl, Doran and Mary | Riehl, Helen | Sundquist, Marvin and Pat | Tweedy, Matt | Wahl, Robert and Leslie

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continued:

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In memory of Alexander Hubert

Call, Ralph and Jacqueline | Craft, Arnold | Elofson, Cathy | Hatten, Lowell | Jones, Yoshiko and Gary | Joseph, Kenneth | Lenz, Sachiko I | Loechelt-Yoshioka | Meade-Jacobs, Jane | Tafoya, John and Kuniko | Vanhooose, Michie

In memory of Moleen Cline

Bailey, Gary and Gayle Scholl

In memory of Carol Williams Goodell

Hanus, Janet

In honor of John and Jeanne Rothenbueler

Maples, Mike and Marjorie Henderson

We have made every effort to acknowledge all donors correctly. If we have listed any names incorrectly, we apologize. Please contact Erin at: 509-248-5065 with questions or corrections. Thank you!

Organizational Support:

Allied Arts
Bureau of Land Management
City of Yakima
Department of Fish & Wildlife
Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties, Matt Fairbank
Eric Herzog of Huibregtse, Louman Assoc.
Gilbert Cellars
James Carmody
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Kiwanis Club of Yakima
Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
Minuteman Press
North Yakima Conservation District
Prediletto, Haplin, Scharnikow, Nelson Law Office
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Sunrise Rotary of Yakima
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board

Volunteers:

Anderson, Greg | Anderson, Peggy | Bloomfield, Betsy | Bolong, Heidi | Bolong, Randy | Britt, Reed | Britt, Nichole | Bruan, Fritz | Camden, Macy | Carpenter, Claire | Cate, Sara | Chott, Jean | Clausing, Zac | Coleman, Tom | Corpron, Doug | Drew, Becky | Drew, Dick | Effler, Dean | Effler, Martha | Fairbank, Matt | Finney, Mike | Forester, Chuck | Graham, Jeff | Hagen, Joyce | Hagen, Jeff | Hargreaves, David | Haskett, Mike | Herr, Jacob | Hertel, Jim | Hiler, Mike | Hoge, Phil | Hollingbery, Erin | Huffman, Ross | Jensen Family | Keeler, Jean | Keeler, Larry | Kenmotsu, Nancy | Kjellman, Judy | Kobes, Jerry | LaFetra, Kathy | Lang-Boyd, Becky | Licht, Hamilton | Lust, Nancy | Maier, Catherine | Maier, Russell | Maier, Ethan | Maza, Susan | McClure, Leslie | McClure, Neil | McElrea, Audrey | Miller, Amy | Monick, Colleda | Monick, Kirsten | Monick, Nate | Munson, Brock | Munson, Bill | Nolz, Alison | Nordberg, Kim | Palmer, Beth | Paoletta, Ray | Patterson, Logan | Pearson, Susan | Place, Mary | Reece, Steve | Riehl, Helen | Rohlman, Mary | Rozdilsky, Mary Lou | Schmidt, Herb | Schneider, Dan | Severson, David | Severson, Brenda | Skarin, Bob | Skarin, Leni | Smith, Gilbert | Stotsenberg, Karen | Sundquist, Curtis | Thomas, Ed | Thomas, Sue | Tolonen, Ken | Vogt, Cec | Wade, Preston | Wahl, Bob | Wahl, Leslie | Warren, Doug | Weise, Stephanie | Weise, Steve | Whiteman, Vicky | Whiteman, Lyle | Whiteside, Megan | Whiteside, Bruce | Will, Joe | Willett, Laura | Betty

Scenic Uplands Gate Keepers



We would like to extend a very special thanks to the following individuals, who 365 days a year, lock and unlock the Scenic parking lot gates: Greg & Peggy Anderson, Ed & Sue Thomas, and Mike Finney—thank you!

If you have left us in your will, be sure to let us know so we can thank you in your lifetime....

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CONSERVANCY**

P.O. Box 877
302 N 3rd Street
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Phone: 509-248-5065
Fax: 509-248-5065

E-mail: info@cowichecanyon.org

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Betsy Bloomfield
Executive Director
Erin Hollingbery
Operations & Special Projects Coordinator

The word Cowiche, sometimes spelled Cowychee, is said to mean "footbridge between the valley and the mountains"

Cowiche Canyon Conservancy is made possible by the financial support we receive through membership and donations. Join the movement to help make Cowiche Canyon lands and trails a community treasure.

Student/Senior.....\$25	Sustaining Member.....\$125
Regular Member.....\$35	"Save-an-Acre".....\$250
Family.....\$50	Sage to Summit.....\$500
1000/100 Club.....\$100	Rise to the Top Club.....\$1,000

Mail contributions to: Cowiche Canyon Conservancy | P.O. Box 877 | Yakima, WA 98907
Or join us online at: www.cowichecanyon.org

"The mission of CCC is 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."

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Yakima, WA



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