

CCC Press Release November 27,
2009



Cowiche Canyon Conservancy Names New Executive Director

Cowiche Canyon Conservancy is pleased to announce Elizabeth Bloomfield as its new permanent Executive Director.

Bloomfield has been Eastern Washington Forests Program Director for the Nature Conservancy. She will move from that position to join CCC as half-time executive director beginning mid-December, 2009. Bloomfield holds a Master of Science degree in Natural Resource Management from Central Washington University, was regional lands agent with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and was project coordinator for Mission Creek Restoration Project.

Assisting Bloomfield at CCC is **Colleda Dolinski**, who began working part-time at CCC in October. Dolinski holds an undergraduate degree with a science emphasis from Western Washington University. She has work experiences in office technology, environmental project coordination and marketing.

Together this permanent staff team, along with the CCC Board of Directors, will lead ongoing conservation, recreation, and education programs which have expanded significantly in recent years.

CCC's current interim staff team--Barb Smith Gilbert, who began working for CCC on strategic planning in 2008, and Cecilia Vogt-- who has served as temporary executive director since April, 2009-- will be changing roles as the part-time, interim staff to return as CCC volunteers, assisting efforts in regional environmental education and trails as well as CCC 25th anniversary celebrations.

Quote from Betsy Bloomfield:

"I'm delighted to become Cowiche Canyon Conservancy's new Executive Director. I have lived in Yakima since 2000 and in the region since 1992. I love what our community has to offer, and the incredible value and beauty the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy brings to our community's quality of life. I'm thrilled to be part of celebrating 25 years as an organization and I look forward to helping lead it into the next 25 years."

Further information:

In 2010, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy will be celebrating 25 years as an organization. Silver Anniversary "**Cowiche Canyon Rocks**" celebrations will begin with a members-only party December 8, 5-7 p.m. at Gilbert Cellars. **RSVP required:** info@cowichecanyon.org, 248 5065. Membership is open to anyone who would like to support the work of CCC.

During the past 25 years CCC has undergone many transformations. Most recently the CCC Board of Directors has been engaged in a two-year strategic planning process to build the capacity of the organization so as to meet current and future needs. Funding is obtained through memberships, donations, grants and partnerships.

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 recreation trails and natural landscapes.

Curtis Sundquist, CCC Board President

www.cowichecanyon.org

CCC office: 509 248 5065

Cecilia Vogt 509 969 0791

Barb Smith Gilbert 509 945 0836

Betsy Bloomfield, 509 654 6249