

CONGRATULATIONS...

...on the addition of your new native riparian plants along your property. One of the many wonderful features of using native species to restore riparian areas is that they require little maintenance and they are adapted to our local environment. The first few years after plant installation is the most critical period for the success of the riparian habitat restoration project. In the first year, the plants are working hard to establish themselves and develop their roots systems while competing for water and other nutrients. There are a few easy steps that you can follow to help guarantee the success of the plants in establishing themselves along the streams.

WATERING

All of the native plants that were installed are low maintenance species and require little watering. Most of the plants have been placed close enough to the stream so that their root systems can access the water table. However, as the summer lengths they may need a little help. During the summer months (June– Sept.) the weather tends to turn very hot and dry here in Chelan County. We recommend checking them weekly as it gets warmer and just give them a little drink of water if you think they are thirsty. If you have access to a hose that's great. But since most of our projects are located in rural areas a bucket is sufficient in supplying the plants and a 5 gallon bucket can go a long way.

GOT QUESTIONS?

**GIVE US A CALL OR SEND AN
E-MAIL.**



Chelan County Natural Resource Department

316 Washington Street, Suite 401
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Phone: 509.667.6324
Fax: 509.667.6527

E-mail: erin.fonville@co.chelan.wa.us

RIPARIAN PLANT CARE GUIDE



TAKING CARE OF YOUR NATIVE RIPARIAN PLANTS



WEED REMOVAL

Depending on how the riparian planting project was implemented on your property, you may have competition from weeds from time to time. While plants appear placid and docile, they are actually engaged in a battle for survival. The more weeds that are surrounding them, the less water and nutrients they have available to use. We recommend, that you visit the project site every once in a while and check to see if the weeds are overtaking your riparian plants. If so, just pull them out of the ground and remove from site. We don't recommend the use of herbicides for weed removal on riparian projects as they can get into the stream and affect water quality and aquatic species.

WEED FABRIC

Weed fabric may have been installed on your riparian project to minimize weeds, assist the plants in establishment, and provide condensation for a little extra water. The product we used is designed to be biodegradable with a life expectancy of 5 years. If after a few years the plants have grown taller than the weeds feel free to remove the weed fabric and staples.



BEAVER CAGES

We may have installed beaver cages, made out of metal fencing material around some of the planted trees to protect them from being a meal for a hungry beaver. We recommend checking the cages every once in a while to see if they are upright and staked into the ground. As the trees grow, remove the cages when there is no longer room for the plant to grow freely. You can call our office to have someone drop by and pick them up for use on a future riparian restoration project.



BROWSE GUARDS

Browse guards are light weight plastic mesh tubes that were installed during the project to protect the plants from grazing and browsing damage by wildlife. They are intended to assist the plants in surviving their first year by minimizing the impact from wildlife and allowing the plant to establish their root systems. However, plants will quickly outgrow the tubes and overtime if the tubes are left in place they can girdle the plants causing mortality. We recommend that you check your plants every once in a while to see if the plant has out grown the tube. If there is not a lot of room, gently remove the tube, being careful not to damage the plant. The tubes may be recycled at your local recycling center or you can call our office to have someone drop by and pick them up for use on a future riparian restoration project.