

## WNPS Wenatchee Valley Chapter and Upper Valley MEND's Aldea Wetland

Our WNPS chapter came through for Upper Valley MEND (Meeting Each Need with Dignity), when we helped them plant over 1,000 native plants in the Aldea Wetland in Leavenworth. It is a long story, but the wetland had been drained many years before, and as part of MEND's Meadowlark mixed income housing development, the wetland had to be restored. The Meadowlark project was canceled this year, but the wetland restoration still had to be finished.



Derby Canyon Natives supplied 21 species of native plants.\* Grette Associates in Wenatchee designed the restoration plan, and Smith Excavation contoured the land so there are swales and mounds to channel water and provide diverse habitats.

Twelve WNPS members helped over three days, October 31 through November 2, 2016. The area was indeed a wet-land, and we had to negotiate lots of mud. Thankfully MEND volunteers had drilled planting holes with an auger. Our job was to put the plants in the holes and squash mud around them. The plants will be competing with reed canary grass, and some work will be required in the spring to protect the new plants.

Without these guys we couldn't have done it.  
Photo by Ted Alway

Special thanks to WNPS volunteers Ted Alway, Louise Simons, Chris Claussen, Dave Jaecks, Joan Frazee, Linda Claeson, Barbee Teasley, Andrea Barbknecht, Leesa Broker, Ann Fink, Jim Noble, and Don Schaechtel.

Louise, Chris, Andrea, and Don recently completed the WNPS riparian stewardship course, and this was a great way to apply what they learned.

\* The native plants used were Douglas's spirea, twinberry, Nootka and Wood's rose, four species of willow, red-osier dogwood, mountain alder, water birch, quaking aspen, black cottonwood, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, vine maple, serviceberry, chokecherry, golden currant, common snowberry, and thimbleberry.

Barbee Teasley and Ted's dog Toby survey the progress.  
Note the blue sky -- quite welcome after all of the rain.  
Photo by Ted Alway

