

Kate Tollefson

Many of you have met Kate at the front counter slinging the brew as one of our weekend Baristas. She's also a key player for us behind the scenes! As editor of the Plain Talk, she is working hard behind the curtain to create

our newsletter, sell ads, and keep me in line and on task! That's a tough job! She is also helping me with many of the marketing projects and created the new maps for the Plain Valley Nordic Trails cross-country and snowshoe trail systems. So, I've wondered ... how did she get so talented?

Having grown up in the Madrona neighborhood of Seattle and graduated from Roosevelt High School, during which time she played lacrosse and soccer, she went on to school at Carleton College where she studied Anthropology and Sociology. Studies also took her to Southern France, a semester sailing the Sargasso Sea, and Guatemala.

Next up was a stint with the United Nations, where Kate worked as an intern with the Indigenous Project Team in Geneva, Switzerland. Following her time at the UN, Kate went on to graduate school at the University of California – Berkeley, where she earned Masters Degrees in Landscape Architecture and City/Regional Planning.

Then it was off to the salt mines! Working for Wetlands Research Associates, Inc., based out of San Rafael, California, Kate joined a team doing wetlands-based landscape design. Lots of AutoCAD screen time! Then it was time to escape from California. Kate relocated to Plain, where her family has had a cabin for over 20 years.

Kate has started her own planning and design firm, called NOCA Planning + Design here in Chelan County. Her work includes large and small scale site analysis, conceptual planning diagrams, and planting recommendations. Her approach is to use native plants and existing patterns in the landscapes, to help clients realize their visions of functional and environmentally sound sites. Having focused on smaller projects over the past year, she's looking forward to expanding her practice, including collaborations with other designers, builders, and water and wildlife resource specialists. For more info on NOCA go to www.nocaplanning.com.

Kate is also a volunteer firefighter with our Ponderosa Fire Department and is currently attending the Upper Valley Recruit Academy to further her firefighting skills.

"Why settle in Plain?" I asked Kate. "To work and be in a place that I love."

I couldn't agree more!



Kate Tollefson suited up for her first wildland fire. Photo courtesy of Donnie Sauer (CCFD4).