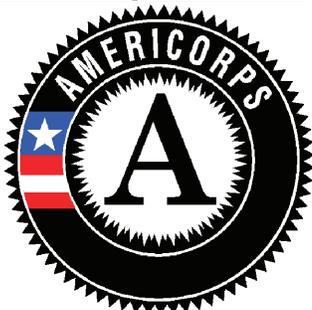




An adult black bear crosses over the Carbon River at Mount Rainier, photo courtesy of Robbie Pon of the Nisqually Crew (Spring 2011)

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LIFE AFTER WCC

A recent survey revealed that, while not everyone was sure of their plans after completing the WCC, the largest portion of our alumni said they were looking for jobs. In preparing to do so, a fine-tuned résumé is critical. If you've never created a résumé or are preparing to update yours, it can seem like a daunting task, but there are a few tips that will make this much easier.

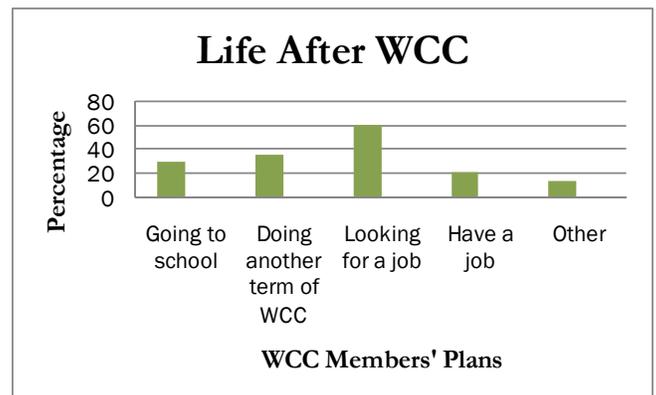
Maintain a Journal

For Alumni and Members alike, the WCC serves as a great opportunity to gain new skills. Often times, it may be difficult to recall EVERYTHING you accomplish in the program, but maintaining a running journal is helpful for this. A sentence or two at the end of the day or week is plenty. Our production reports may also help you in preparing your résumé by providing a way to quantify what you did in our program (e.g. "installed 20,000 native species as part of a 6-person

team"). Quantifying what you do proves that you have not just performed something once, but you are an expert!

Tailor Your Résumé

Once you detail everything that you've accomplished on a master résumé, be prepared to (Continued on page 7)



Data based on responses to an online survey of members exiting our program. "Other" responses included travel, unpaid internships, and applying to become a WCC supervisor.

PHOTO CONTEST: THEN & NOW

THE STORY BEHIND THE PHOTOS

In the last issue of *Corps News*, we challenged WCC members to recreate a picture of depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps members hard at work. Here are all the entries; each with their own creative spin on the theme!



(Top) King Conservation District Crew: Anthony Lafayette, Nick Ciluffo and Ken Roy get things done for America, 2011 style!



(Top) Dave Coffey and Shawn Zanievski's Olympia Spike Crews: Don't be fooled by the sepia tones, these WCC crews use modern tools and techniques to achieve some of the same goals of the historic CCC. Pictured are Jake Hanson, Jered Pomeroy, Ryan Bacon, Justin Miller-Nelson, Joseph McDonald, Dane Henze, Andrew Durham, Jeremi Sanders and Anthony Foote.

(Center) The original: No hardhats? No shirts? No problem!



(Bottom) Snohomish County Crew: James Whalen, Jen Hicks and Brad Vine show off new tools of the conservation trade, while Josh Barnes manages a sneaky cameo.

(Bottom) Kris Buitrago's King County DNRP Crew: We are not sure who these Conservationists from the future are, but they have taken every safety precaution available to them!



APPS: THE FUTURE OF PLANT ID?

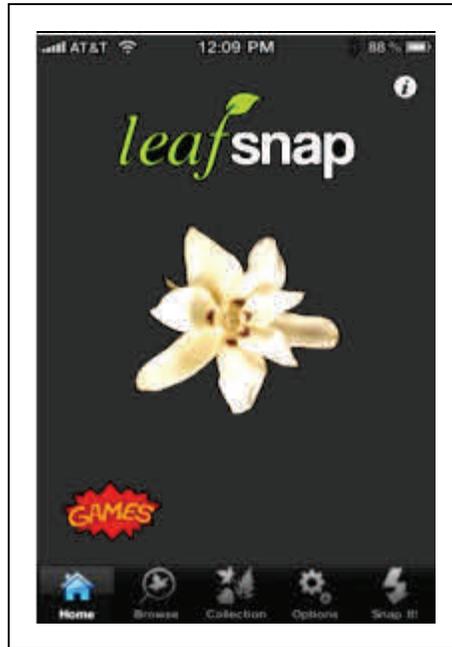
Article by Janna Sargent

Is technology changing the way we interact with nature? Absolutely! But that doesn't have to be a bad thing. A new iPhone application (or app) called Leafsnap is revolutionizing the way scientists collect data on plants.

Anyone with Leafsnap installed on their phone can take pictures of leaves and automatically identify the species using software based on facial recognition and an extensive database of photos. The program is a collaboration between Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institution.

According to the company's website, "Leafsnap turns users into citizen scientists, automatically sharing images, species identifications, and geo-coded stamps of species locations with a community of scientists who will use the stream of data to map and monitor the ebb and flow of flora nationwide."

Imagine the impact of invasive species mapping for a program like ours—our members could be in the field taking geo-tagged photos of knotweed, clematis and more; our project planners could be basing work assignments on real-time data.



Screen shot of LeafSnap's iPhone application

Don't kiss your *Pojar & MacKinnon* goodbye just yet! Currently Leafsnap's database is made up of mostly east coast tree species, but volunteers and contracted photographers are working in nearly every state (as well as 6 Canadian provinces and one site in Mexico) to capture additional samples.

Development is underway for an Android compatible application and then Blackberry, Windows Mobile and desktop PC versions will likely follow.

If you'd like to try out this new technology, download the free app on your iPhone and start snapping! If you're not lucky enough to have an iPhone (don't worry, I'm not either!) you can still visit www.leafsnap.com to view the gallery of high-quality images (see some examples of plants found in Washington to the left). Let us know what you think by sharing your review on our

Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/washingtonconservationcorps

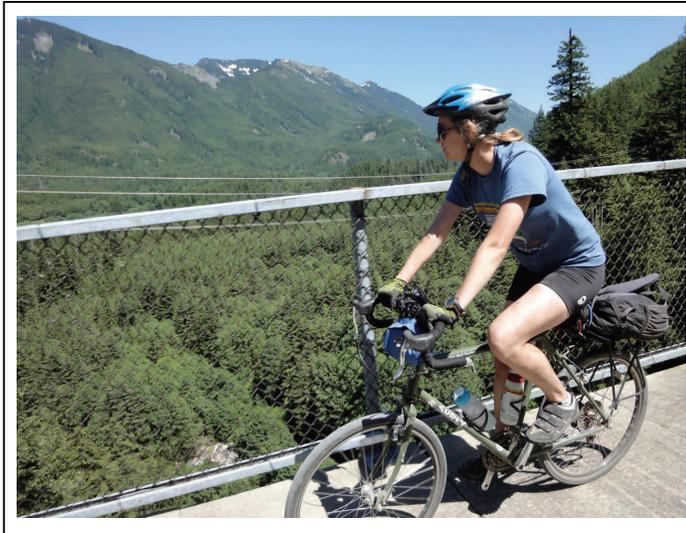
"Leafsnap turns users into citizen scientists."



Top: *Robina pseudo-acacia*, or Black locust (invasive), leaf and seed pod
Bottom: *Prunus virginiana*, or Chokecherry (native), flower and leaf
Photos are courtesy of LeafSnap, and copyright is by Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institution.

LESSONS FROM A CROSS-COUNTRY BIKE TRIP

Article by Kate Catlin



Kate Catlin, of the 2010-2011 Mountains to Sound Crew, pauses to enjoy the view from the John Wayne Trail during the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Trek in July. Photo courtesy of Kate Catlin

Kate's Lessons from the WCC:

1. Your body is a powerful tool. We see this everyday in the WCC. There's no technology yet that can decimate a blackberry patch along a creek and leave native plants unharmed in one ten hour period the way that we can. I learned this my first day biking over the North Cascades, described above. I had barely trained for the trip. As I ran out of the insufficient food and water I had packed for the day, the only thing that kept me going was pride. But that was enough. Our bodies can accomplish pretty incredible things, often even more than we believe we are capable of.

2. Washington is beautiful. I've seen most of the country now. Some of the people I biked with fell in love with various cities along the way and have even moved there. For me, the trip only reinforced that this is home. Washington has an array of climates and ecosys-

"Farm valleys to mountains, Puget Sound to desert; we've got it all. This is a place worth protecting."

On day four we hit the North Cascades. There was nothing to do but keep going up.

Aching legs, burnt neck, and a hungry and dehydrated body could not be aided by resting. I was momentarily distracted by the ponderous notion that my core could overheat but leave my fingertips numbingly cold. I vaguely hoped I would pass out so I would have a legitimate excuse to hitchhike a ride. It was the most exhausting day of my life.

In May of 2009, 8 strangers and I set out on bicycles from Gas Works Park in Seattle as part of the Trek to Reenergize America. It would be 70 days before we finished. We carried all our own gear, camped most nights, and ate about 4,000 calories a day. Organized by two college students, the idea was to study sustainability from the eyes of people across the nation and observe small localized efforts to address environmental concerns.

Biking across the country brought with it more side adventures than I can count. Along the way, I went river rafting, found a secret waterfall, toured a 1920s coal plant, snuck into an oil field, and so much more. I met amazing people who had transformed their communities' and others who were inspiring in their hospitality. I learned some hard lessons about perseverance, teamwork and a positive attitude. But there were three stand-out lessons that directly translate to my time in the WCC...



Riders from the Trek to Reenergize America dismount and carry bikes through a flooded road in North Dakota. Photo Courtesy of Kate Catlin

tems so diverse and stunning they take your breath away. Farm valleys to mountains, Puget Sound to desert; we've got it all. This is a place worth protecting and I love getting paid to do it every day.

3. Wool socks are the BEST. One week, I used extra wool socks as mittens in the snow and a sweat band in the heat (I still haven't forgiven Montana). While traversing a flooded road in North Dakota, they protected me from the leeches that we had to peel off my friend. I used them to tie a radio to my handlebars one day when I was feeling blue. They helped me clean pots, warm coffee, and cheer up a friend as hand puppets. Wool socks are the ULTIMATE must have for emergencies, physical and emotional.

As for environmental issues, the bike trip only made me more passionate that we can find solutions to create a more eco-just world. This winter I'll be traveling to South Africa for the next UN climate conference (successor to the Kyoto Protocol) as a youth delegate with SustainUS. But for now, I'm thrilled to be a member of the WCC - fighting for the environment in the state I love most. In my wool socks.



Kate's first summit crossing, on the North Cascades Highway in Washington.

It was the most exhausting day of my life. Yet, surrounded by imposing peaks, gushing waterfalls and snow dusted conifers, I was exhilarated. As I turned a corner, I found myself at the summit. Two fellow bikers were already there; rolling in the snow and whooping with excitement. I had made it and, in that moment of ecstasy, I knew I would never be the same again.



The Trek to Reenergize America group on the road in Minnesota. Photo courtesy of Kate Catlin

KATE'S TIPS FOR YOUR OWN BICYCLE ADVENTURE:

- Contact a professional bike touring company: adventurecycling.org, bicycleadventures.com, or timbertours.com. These organizations are great for beginners or those who want a cushier ride. Most will even carry your bags for you; a definite luxury.
- If you want to give back as you travel, there is a nonprofit for every cause that does bike trips across the nation. Good karma can't hurt if you're hoping to avoid bad weather.
 - Help build houses as you ride: bikeandbuild.org
 - Stop MS: biketehusforms.org
 - Raise funds and awareness for people with disabilities: pushamerica.org/journeyofhope.aspx
- Another option is to plan your trip yourself. Choose your course wisely and start by reading a lot of forums for advice: bikeacrossamerica.org, crazyguyonabike.com, or bicycletouring101.com.
- Adventure cycling offers in depth road maps for every span of the country and most small towns will let you camp in a park for free. Check out websites like couchsurfing.com or warmshowers.org (specifically for bike tourists) to get the occasional free roof over your head. As you hit the road, the best advice you can get is to talk to locals. Many will offer you a free dinner or a place to stay. Once someone just handed me \$20!

"The bike trip only made me more passionate that we can find solutions to create a more eco-just world."

WCC ALUMNI—WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Richard Bazzell now working with Kitsap County Health Department

You may have read about Alumna Jess Wasicek in the June issue of *Corps News*; here are a few more stories of former WCC members going on to do great things!

RICHARD BAZZELL, '04-'05

Richard completed a year in the WCC as an Individual Placement with Kitsap County Department of Natural Resources. Before joining the WCC, he worked for the State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for nearly 8 years, earned a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries Science from the University of Washington and studied Environmental Policy at Western Washington University.

As an IP, Richard's work included education and outreach, spawning ground surveys, water quality sampling and the Benthic Macroinvertebrate program. This required cooperation with a variety of organizations, including his former employer, the WDFW, and his future employer, the Kitsap County Health Department (KCHD). His work in the WCC led him directly to his current position in the KCHD's Pollution Identification and Correction Program.

Richard credits his AmeriCorps service with strengthening his time management and interpersonal skills. He interacted with people spanning all age groups and a variety of professional levels; from juvenile delinquent crews to state government agencies.

When it comes to job-searching, Richard advises that our current members, when the time comes, to "think outside the box. A lot of opportunities exist outside of the typical natural resources field (WDFW, DNR). Try networking. Putting yourself out there, even though it's hard, it is fruitful in the end."

CELIA JACKSON, '09-'10

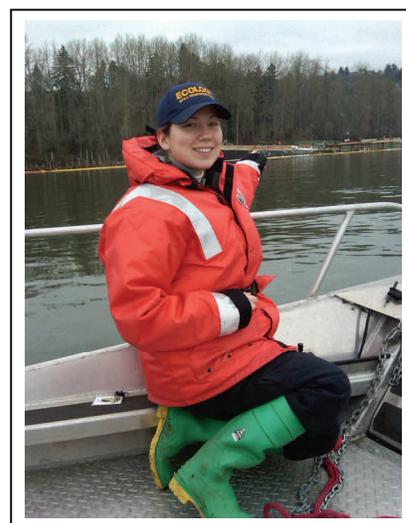
Celia spent a year in the WCC as a member on Liz Esikoff's King County DNRP crew out of Renton. Before joining WCC, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Policy from Western Washington University.

During her year as a member, along with the everyday crew work, she became Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certified through the program's elective trainings, and did trail work on crew exchanges.

These days, Celia is a Spill Responder with the Department of Ecology, a job that keeps her very busy, investigating and responding to oil spills and hazardous material incidents, admitting that it is a "pretty cool job." Celia says she recently responded to a 500 gallon ammonia tank washed ashore, a big project reminding her just how interesting her job is. She also volunteers with King County Search and Rescue, and is hoping to be EMT certified in the Spring.

Her time serving in AmeriCorps gave her the opportunity to get emergency response experience when she joined a WCC crew responding to a Mississippi tornado. Celia credits this disaster response experience, WFR training, and volunteering as "major reasons" in getting to her current position.

Celia recommends that current members take advantage of emergency response opportunities to set them apart from the crowd. Along with a lot of networking and volunteering, start the job search early since the hiring process—especially for government agencies—can be lengthy!



Celia Jackson, now a Spill Responder with the Department of Ecology

"A lot of opportunities exist outside of the typical natural resources field."

AWARDS AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Johanna Ofner, Individual Placement with the Department of Ecology (Ecology), was awarded the Commitment to Workplace Spirit Award. This award was presented at an awards ceremony in November, recognizing staff based on nominations from their peers (Ecology employees). Johanna was nominated because of her enthusiasm and perseverance in coordinating efforts around the new community garden at Ecology (see “Growing Food for the Hungry, page 13). The Governor even posted about the garden on her Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/govgregoire>.



IP Johanna Ofner

The very next week, Johanna was recognized by Ecology’s Director, Ted Sturdevant, for her efforts on the agency’s Carbon Smart Initiative in a ceremony where she received the Director’s Choice Award (pictured right). Learn more about Carbon Smart at: www.ecy.wa.gov/carbonsmart/

Kevin Farrell, WCC Project Coordinator, was also recognized at the Agency Award ceremony for his efforts as part of the Spills Program, where Kevin is an after-hours Spills Responder. The Spills Program received a team award for their work on responding to a damaged derelict vessel, the Davy Crockett. The Davy Crockett was a Navy Liberty Ship that was converted to a flat deck barge that partially sunk near Vancouver and Camas, Washington in January 2011. The Coast Guard, Ecology, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality jointly managed the response and salvage effort, preventing tar balls and oil sheen from discharging into the Columbia River. Learn more at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/incidents/DavyCrockett/DavyCrockett.html>



Anthony Lafayette

WCC Assistant Supervisor Receives GED!

Second year member and current Assistant Supervisor, **Anthony Lafayette**, recently received an important letter from the Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges. That letter announced to the world that, through perseverance and hard work, Anthony had successfully completed his Certificate of Educational Competence, based on his scores on the General Educational Development (GED) test. Kevin Farrell, Project Coordinator, and Rachel Konrady, Anthony’s Crew Supervisor, are extremely proud of him for completing this very important milestone. Great work Anthony!

“Success is simple. Do what’s right, the right way, at the right time.”

—Arnold H. Glasow

LIFE AFTER WCC *(Continued from page 1)*

create multiple résumés that are tailored to the position you are interested in. On these custom résumés, only include past activities that are relevant to the position for which you are applying. Here are some additional tips to keep in mind:

1. Diversify your job searches. Do not limit yourself to online searches—network with friends, family, former employers and schoolmates. Also consider calling or visiting organizations you are interested in (whether they are hiring or not) and get as much information as you can.
2. Put yourself in the place of your potential employer and tailor your résumé and cover letter to address all of the specific skills and qualifications they are looking for.
3. Prepare for interviews by researching the organization as much as you can and talking to people in the field. Practice interview questions with a friend and prepare some good success and failure stories.
4. Bring proof of whatever impressive and related skills you have to the interview (e.g. photos of projects you’ve done or samples of your writing) —professionally presented, of course!

Current Members: Take Advantage!

Current members should begin preparing for life after the WCC by diversifying their skill set, job shadowing, and taking advantage of networking opportunities while in the WCC Program.

WHY I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE BEACH

Article by Andrew Ryan, Coastal Monitoring Individual Placement



IP Andrew Ryan walks transects with a hand held GPS unit and backpack antenna, monitoring coastal erosion.

“An Independent placement position gives you the chance to take your WCC term to another level.”

“If I started at 5:30 this morning, does that mean I have been at work for eleven or twelve hours?” This simple question was getting the better of my tired mind as I stood on the crest of the thirty-foot erosion scarp overlooking the Pacific Ocean. With the red and yellow rays of another sunset illuminating the vast field of grass around me, my mind wandered back to the business at hand.

I was collecting driftwood to cover the coastal monitoring team’s most recent find—a survey monument used to establish geodetic reference that had been buried under 5 feet of sand for the past ten years. This monument was established in 1996 to develop a geodetic network for monitoring sediment transport along the southwest coast of Washington State. It is one of about eighty such monuments that were established for a project charged with determining how sand moved in and through the Columbia River Littoral Cell. This includes the entire area North from Tillamook Head in Oregon past the Columbia River, Long beach, Westport, and Ocean Shores, until it runs into Point Grenville in the Quinault Nation; about 100 miles in all.

Most IPs have probably had a situation similar to my own. A time where the hours of stretching yourself to the limit to keep up with new and challenging work has scrambled any logical abilities that they you may have had. These moments are usually followed by a realization, a new lesson learned, and another personal accomplishment you would not have imagined achieving months before.

For the past nine months I have been working in the Coastal Monitoring and Analysis Program (CMAP), collecting topographic data in this region and others. Using highly-accurate GPS equipment (real time kinematic differentiated global position system), we measure surface elevations using a Trimble base station, one to five roving units, and a Polaris Ranger ATV in order to map beaches as they change seasonally and annually. Up until June, the responsibility for organizing this work, caring for the equipment, and processing the ensuing data fell to the field supervisor. Unfortunately, he left for graduate school in June, leaving me with significantly higher responsibilities.

These responsibilities have lead to incredible frustration as equipment has:

- Malfunctioned (or been knocked over by a bird while several miles away)
- Broken (I punctured a hole in the sidewall of an ATV tire—an apparently difficult task)
- Refused to function (we went through four brand new TSC3 GPS controllers before settling on a new TSC2 model instead).

But these responsibilities allowed me to learn more from mistakes and malfunctions than I ever could have learned in a class or a book.

An IP position gives you the chance to take your WCC term to another level. You get the same opportunities to volunteer, train and shadow, but you also get the added experience of working independently on some amazing projects and in amazing places.

So when your brain is fried after hours spent fixing malfunctioning equipment at the beach, you can take a deep breath, look out over the beautiful sunset and say to yourself, I can handle this.



George Kaminsky and Diana McCandless of Ecology’s CMAP dig a 5 foot hole to uncover a survey monument. Photo courtesy of Andrew Ryan.

WCC TO THE RESCUE!

Article by Maria Savoca, of the Rainier Spike Crew



2010-2011: Alison Baur (Tacoma Crew), Supervisor Tom Schweiss, Maria Savoca, and Matthew Stephens of Mount Rainier Spike Crew

It was nearing the last hour of the workday on a bright, sunny, day four of spike in Mt Rainier National Park. The dust flew up in cloudy plumes as our crew worked steadily at widening the tread of the Wonderland Trail on the northeast side of the mountain. The insects were drinking in our sweat and blood as fast as we could pour it out. We had already filtered several rounds of water and I was debating whether to make another trip down trail to the waterfall for more when we heard a radio transmission that was about to shake up our power hour with a new challenge.

The call came in to White River Ranger station from Sunrise: a middle-aged man with a knee injury was stranded about a half mile up the Frozen Lakes trail above the Sunrise Visitor's Center. We overhear some interesting radio traffic that typically does not involve us, so we kept on working. Then Devin came walking down, calling to us, "stash your tools, we're going to help with the carry-out!"

The excitement spread quickly and we all scrambled to hide our tools from any covetous hikers. We strapped on our packs and hurried to hike the steep switchbacks three quarters of a mile up to Sunrise, where we refilled our water bottles and met with a park ranger. She had driven up from the White River Wilderness Information Center (WIC) and brought all the supplies that we might need to safely transport the patient. This included an impressive wire and aluminum-framed stretcher complete with a single rolling wheel that looked like it belonged on a Mack truck. She briefly explained that she did not expect us to do anything but assist with transport. Nonetheless, we were all psyched to help on a rescue mission.

We divvied up the supplies and started rolling the stretcher up the mountain, trying our best not to trample on wildflowers as the trail narrowed and twisted. We eased it over water bars, rocks, one particularly slick patch of snow, around a few more curves, and we were suddenly there. We found ourselves facing a semicircle of hikers and being photographed by one who turned out to be the injured man's wife.

We set down the stretcher and the onlookers greeted us with cheers. For a moment, I felt like I had somehow wandered into a movie. The injured man, John, was surprisingly relaxed about the whole thing. I had expected him to be grimacing and moaning in pain, or clutching his leg or something, but instead he was smiling, joking, and regaling us with stories. He told us he was a criminal defense lawyer from Seattle and, in exchange for helping him, he would grant us each a free misdemeanor. Everybody laughed as the WIC ranger laid out a rainbow of webbing in different lengths. A law enforcement ranger, or LE, had hiked up to John earlier and tried to help him out with a cane. As John told us stories about skiing adventures, the LE stabilized his knee with two poles, a SAM splint, and a couple rolls of ACE bandage. The two rangers directed us as we removed the wheel from the stretcher, lowered it to the ground, and gently lifted John into it. Then, they began constructing an elaborate system of webbing to hold John in place on the stretcher, which would prevent him from jostling as we moved, and from falling out, in case the stretcher tipped.

When they had finished, we lifted the stretcher back up and reattached the wheel, and the rangers gave us some last instructions. "Go slow, speak up if you need to stop, and try to keep the stretcher level."

We spread out along the stretcher, four people on each side, one at the head, and one at the foot. There was also a brake person, holding a rope attached to the head of the stretcher. Everyone started forward slowly, easing the stretcher over the first few rocks and shuffling to keep from stepping on people next to us. We managed to lower and maneuver the stretcher over each obstacle without jolting it, thanks to the ranger calling out directions from the front.

Everything went well until we reached a slippery patch of snow. We ended up changing our strategy and stationing people in the snow to pass the stretcher onwards, with each person leapfrogging ahead as they passed it to the next. From there on out, it was smooth shuffling. The trailhead appeared quickly for such a slow procession. Approaching hikers moved out of the way, which helped a lot. Other than a few aching forearms, we all emerged unscathed and exhilarated. Moving John to a park service truck was just a reversal of getting him into the stretcher, and he was equally cooperative.

As the adventure wrapped up, our crew managed to stay focused and be as respectful as we could without reverting to our normal silliness. Melissa showed off her safety ropes training by teaching us to daisy chain the webbing and pack it away for the rangers. Matthew managed not to ask the LE any awkward questions about his gun. Brian did not make a single internet gaming joke, Devin did not pretend to pick wildflowers, and I refrained from taking pictures of the whole thing. The LE gave Tom a junior ranger badge for our crew that now holds a place of honor on the visor of our crew truck, and we all had the satisfaction of "carrying out" some serious AmeriCorps service. All in all, it was quite the adventure, proving that you never know what might happen in the middle of an eight-day spike in the WCC.

WCC removes toxic creosote logs from Lopez Island

Article by Kevin Farrell



As fog lifted off the waters of the San Juan County Land Bank's Fisherman Bay Preserves at Spencer Spit and Weeks Wetland, a Hi-Line chopper was heard, approaching from the east. Second-year members, all Assistant Supervisors, anxiously awaited its arrival so that they could begin the process of removing tons of creosote-laden logs from within the shoreline of this seemingly pristine cove. A gaggle of geese lifted off as the chopper made its final approach into Fisherman's Bay Preserve. The wait was

over – it is time to work.

WCC crews spent two weeks on this project identifying and removing creosote logs from locations around Lopez Island. In partnership with the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), grant funding for this project was provided by the Department of Ecology. Jeanne Koenings, Project Officer for this grant, has been involved with the WCC program through several grants provided to local and state partners recently. What she likes about the WCC is our ability to “put boots on the ground to actu-

ally complete high priority restoration projects”. She says, “it is amazing to see what this group of young adults can accomplish in a short period of time”.

Lisa Kaufman, the Restoration Manager for the DNR Orca Straits Aquatics District agrees, “our foresters were very impressed with their professionalism and energy!” Lisa has been involved in creosote removal projects at the DNR for six years, and is passionate about cleaning up sensitive habitat.

Though Washington State has banned the use of petroleum-based creosote for construction materials near marine waters, existing structures break down and collect in the bays and spits throughout the San Juan Islands during winter storms. They can leach toxic chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) into the ground and water for years. PAHs have the potential to cause serious health problems and have been implicated in various cancers, reproductive problems, and organ damage.

Thank you to Supervisor Justin Lamb, and the cadre of Assistant Supervisors who worked on this project. This team was well organized and highly energized. Following this group, was Rob Crawford's Skagit crew, who were equally impressive. A job well done!

THE END – RHYMES OF A SKAGIT IP

Poem by Anna Mostovetsky

I know my IP existence is mysterious to you crews. Who is that girl? What's an IP again? What does she do? And to show you curious people what I did all year long, I wrote some embarrassing verses in a Skagit Fisheries Poem

I promise it's cheesy and, of course, it all rhymes
So, keep snoring to a low and enjoy my account of IP times

In my first few weeks when I started WCC
My sponsor said, “we'll send you to unfunded sites, cuz hell, you're free”
Which I didn't mind, since I saw some pretty neat spots
Especially while surveying creeks and sniffing fish guts

The creeks were pretty and the bear snatching sockeye was neat
Watching fish copulate, clipping their tails, smelling like carcass, it's a treat

On the cold winter days, creek tromping was a chore
But, I'd do it any day, cuz yeah I'm hard core
Planting season came with volunteer planting parties
Full of root massaging, digging and donuts for the hardy

Planting trees wasn't too bad and kind of meditative sounding
With all the patting down of soil and protector stake pounding
Then, I worked with technicians, all dudes a foot taller than me
Grubbing, fence building, planting, familiar work for WCC

Based out of a great little shop on the Northern State grounds
Except for the smell, the whole mental hospital thing, and that dang heater sound
And what would a shop be without some honest joke dealing
Like pasting Joe on a cherub or putting his chair on the ceiling

Come winter, I became a stream measuring machine
And after training the staff, I was dubbed discharge queen
I measured discharge for future restoration plans
Like culvert replacements and that sort of jazz
And you see curious things with all that time in the creeks
Like otters mating, with a wrestling match and loud squeeks

In addition to this, I monitored many long days
And hung out on Whidbey Island for seining at Dugualla Bay
We searched through muck, in the lake, and the beach
To find salmonids, sticklebacks, perch, and count each

Then after Dugualla, I'd hop in a canoe
Over at Swan Lake to download a logger or two
After hanging out with the coastal geomorphology guys
Man, I hope we create some good habitat for you fry

Sometimes a tech would say, “wanna drive a tractor with me?”
“You know I'm from Brooklyn,” I'd reply, but reluctantly agree
It's alright, there's just a few buttons, it's totally a breeze!



(Continued Next Page)

Bet you not many Russian females from Brooklyn have driven one of these

Occasionally I'd see the Skagit Crew, they'd assist with monitoring and such
But Rob and his gang move at the speed of light, so that didn't happen too much
Spawner surveys, potting, thanks for helping me with all that
Even though that one time at the nursery, I almost killed Matt

What do you know, it's planting season again, with our whopping three volunteers
Really, who doesn't want to plant frozen plants, maybe if we offered some beer?

But soon the plants thaw, and the winter layers come free
Holy cow, my toes aren't frozen, and is that sunshine I see?
As the season shifts into Spring, more nursery duties arise
Care-taking, plant tending, and other little surprises
So begins the potting, fertilizing, watering, plant succeeding
A little weeding, mowing, weeding, watering, did I mention weeding?

Nursery work's a bit lonely, but the garter snakes would drop by
And the deer came to munch my plants, after harassing the maintenance guy

The education staff is also busy throughout the year
I gladly helped to make sure the aquarium salmon water is clear
We planted, dissected shellfish, spoke of macroinvertebrate tales
And, who knew, that kids from Concrete would take such a liking to kale?
We went to the North Cascades to talk water quality stuff
And got to hang out near the Picketts as if the former wasn't enough

Then more monitoring work came up, steelhead surveys, in-stream and veg ID
I got to do a bit of all, cuz remember everyone, I am free
More tromping through creeks, fields of mosquitoes as well
For data collection, reed canary combat, and a good story to tell

Hey, remember that training week, pretty sure you all take part
That WFR class, kind of intense, that scenario was off the charts
Learned about splints and got in touch with our theatrical sides
After practicing litter techniques and watching open wound slides

Afterwards, more hanging out with the techs, now and then, spraying and weed-whacking stuff
Finding little forest treats all the time, gosh isn't life tough?
I learned all about what to whack and spray and the weed ABCs
Blackberry, tansy, knotweed, bull thistle, and reed canary

Occasionally they needed more knotweed surveyors so again, duty calls
Hop into a raft, over the logjams, for face to thorn combat with blackberry walls

Job shadows were fun, in Bellingham and Padilla Bay
In boats and float tubes, data hunting, and I'm still getting paid?



Here is our MLK community garden, done super Skagit style
And pictures of Aaron and Taylor not even cracking a smile:
Matt Rowell, IP Anna Mostovetsky, IP Brittany Collins, Casey Clark,
IP Charlie Huddleston, Aaron Minney, Taylor Barker, IP Monte Richardson, Caleb Dobey

Then in July, when the sun came out and summer no longer looked bleak
We chainsawed, drilled and prepped for placing logjams in Day Creek
The copters arrived and ran all day long, placing rocks and logs that were sorted.
We prepared to cable our days away after the heli-operation aborted

Though I did mostly field work, I'll admit to some occasional office space
For data entry, reports, eating my lunch before 9, and a generally slower pace
Next week, I'll be going to rainy Rainier to chase some butterflies down
To tromp through alpine meadows, taking my survey net to town

Then, it's time to wrap up the year and pass all my wisdom along
To the next me: hope your waders don't leak, stay warm, dry, and strong

Well, that's it, now you know. The mystery of the IP is unveiled
Hopefully, Skagit Fisheries life seems not so bad, otherwise I pretty much failed
I'm sad to go and leave the WCC life, it has been a rather nice stage
And hey, let's face it, the work that I've done – not too bad for making minimum wage

So, what's next for me, you may wonder, yeah I wonder that too
For now, I'm avoiding big life responsibilities and flying to Lima, Peru

And then who knows, maybe graduate school, field work, heck there's lots to do
Perhaps there's a chance of another term and dare I say it, maybe work on a crew

Thanks Skagit Fisheries and WCC, I've had a delightful time
And thanks to you all for bearing me and my rhymes

RECOGNITION—2011 SERVICE YEAR

Redmond/Energy Corps—Nominated by Kevin Farrell

This crew's Energy Corps work often included community conservation education where they taught local residents about conserving energy. They also changed light bulbs, installed pipe wrap, and performed other energy saving measures for low-income residents. For the City of Redmond, they performed saw work, knocked down weirs in-stream, and moved giant boulders.

Kevin explains, "All of these members went above and beyond the call of duty all year. Two members, on their own time, took a quarter of night classes in order to become certified building auditors. Brett attended radio telemetry training and regularly volunteers with the Snoqualmie Valley Elk Foundation. All the sponsors they worked with were impressed with their professionalism and can-do attitude. Sponsors have included Department of Commerce, San Juan Preservation Trust, City of Redmond, and Whatcom County PUD."



Spencer Fain, Bret Sarbiewski, Jacqueline Platt, Andrew Whipple, Meghan Kermott (supervisor), Doug Larson

*"Those who can, do.
Those who can do more,
volunteer."*

—Author Unknown

Olympic National Park—Nominated by Jason Ouellette

Members of the 2010-2011 Olympic National Park spike crew (supervised by Justin Zarzeczny) were recognized for their achievements and hard work. This crew worked in the backcountry, up Bogachiel trail, down the lower Elwha dam overlook trail, and along the lower Elwha, treating reed canary grass in preparation for the dam removal.

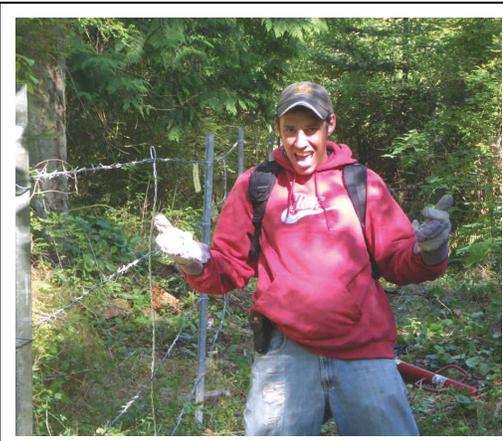


Sahara Suval, Jonathan Jessop, Phil Siefker, Aaron Cleveland, Taryn Heisler

"I'm proud of the way they overcame adversity and really bonded as a team. They had to face a number of challenges, including unstable funding. They did an awesome job on the Bogachiel Trail this past summer," says WCC Project Coordinator, Jason Ouellette.

Thanks to this crew's quality of work, the WCC plans to continue having crews in the National Park for the next two to three years. Their efforts were a major factor in securing grant funding for the 2011-2012 service year.

Stilly Snohomish IP—Nominated by Bridget Mason



IP John Newberry

John Newberry completed his final weeks in the WCC in stride, earning the title of Individual Placement of the Quarter. John served his second year as the IP with Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force.

His sponsor, Kristin Marshall, explained that the Task Force “experienced significant changes during the last several months and John adapted to these changes and helped the organization transition smoothly.” John has taken on any project and exceeded expectations. Kristin adds that his “positive attitude, his initiative, and his willingness to take a job and run with it have been essential to his success. He has gone above and beyond the usual IP duties by helping to manage our summer field calendar, train volunteer interns, supervise a Department of Corrections Crew - all while adapting to and assisting with our ongoing transition.”

John’s jovial nature makes him a great addition to any staff and we know he will have many great successes as he moves on from the WCC Program.

GROWING FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Article by Johanna Ofner

Ecology employees, St. Martin's University and Evergreen State College students, Kiwanis Club and WCC members – 35 volunteers total – came together on October 15 to harvest potatoes and winter squash from the food bank garden located on the grounds of Ecology's Lacey building.

At the end of the day, 1,650 pounds of potatoes and 40 pounds of winter squash were donated to the Thurston County Food Bank for distribution to families in need.

The day was great fun! Thanks to the large turnout, all the potatoes were out of the ground and in crates by 11:30 a.m. After harvesting wrapped up, many folks took a break to enjoy a potluck lunch and get to know one another. A handful of committed volunteers remained after lunch to till the potato field, organize the tool shed, and weed the garden fence-line of potentially invasive plants.

Getting it started

When I first started my position as an IP with Ecology's Carbon Smart Initiative, I sat down with the chair of Ecology's Sustainability Committee to discuss a project they had been thinking about for awhile: a vegetable garden on the grounds of the Lacey Headquarters facility.

So, I did some research. I contacted local organizations to see if there were available grant funds. I contacted the extension office and local gardening organizations for advice about the process of beginning a garden. I walked around the grounds and did a site survey to figure out garden placement. I performed a lot of Google searches.

And then I stumbled on something very exciting – an article in The Olympian about the Olympia Kiwanis Club's food bank garden on Capitol Campus. The Kiwanis club signed an agreement with the folks that manage the grounds of Capitol Campus – they agreed to improve the condition of several large,



Nisqually crew member, Robbie Pon, installing the garden deer-fence.

raised planters and, in exchange, received permission to use irrigation water, store their tools and, most importantly, grow thousands of pounds of food for the Thurston County Food Bank. In addition, they engaged volunteers along every step of the way.

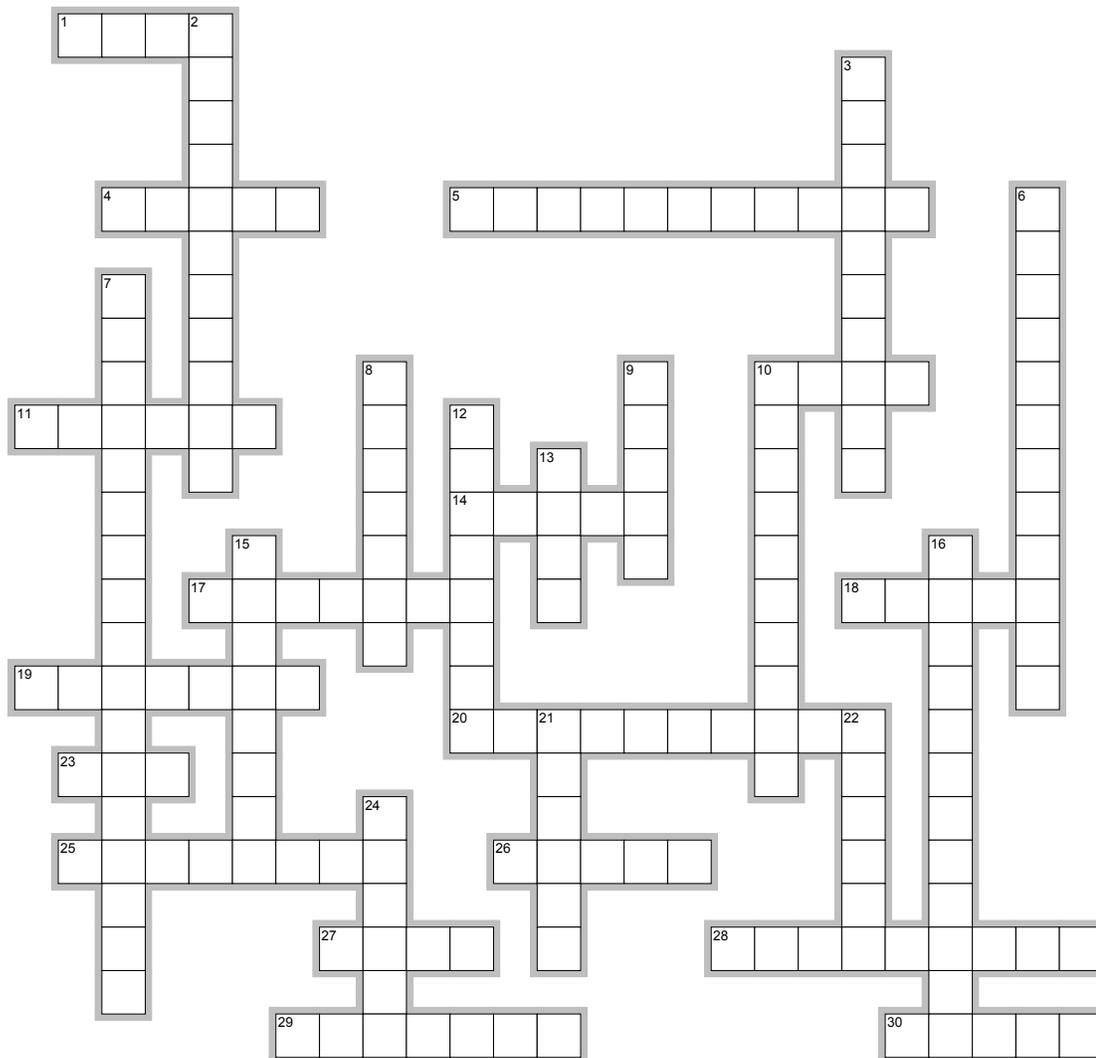
How exciting! It seemed that someone had figured out some answers to the big questions we were facing. I contacted the Kiwanis to learn more about their operation, started volunteering regularly so I could learn as much as I could (I even shoveled manure on my birthday) and began to write a garden proposal for the Sustainability Team.

The proposal took a lot of research—I surveyed employees to learn who would be interested in volunteering and how many would donate used garden tools. I estimated the volume of

(Continued on page 15)

FOR THE BIRDS

The crossword puzzle below contains clues about birds and, as usual, the WCC. The first single WCC Crew or Individual Placement to correctly fill out this puzzle will receive WCC swag!



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

1. A bird in the hand is worth two in the ____
4. Birds of a feather do this together
5. Small bird alone in its ability to fly backwards
10. The early bird gets it
11. Cacophony of crows
14. Raptor residence
17. Owl up-chuck (plural)
18. Bird that takes part in 26 across
19. Famous Chicago building or what 24 down call home
20. When owls congregate
23. Pesticide that nearly nixed our national bird
25. High-angle view (two words)
26. Term for a gaggle flying in V-formation
27. Eccentric elderly fella or dark gray duck-like bird
28. Kate Catlin recommends (two words)
29. Woodpecker party or term for declining elevation
30. How many 24 Downs does it take to make a ____?

Down

2. Most birds' secret to weightlessness (two words)
3. Popular smart phone game (two words)
6. Dads' Dreaded Discussion (three words)
7. Washington State Bird (two words)
8. Bird lingo for social networking
9. A quantity of quail
10. Franklin-proposed national bird (two words)
12. Plant ID App (two words)
13. Bird associated with a straight line
15. WCC end-of-year wrap-up sessions
16. Sad Song Singer: American _____ (two words)
21. An Unkindness, Storytelling or Conspiracy is a flock of these
22. Male hawk, or Toyota model
24. Wetland Waders

PRODUCTS IMPACT THE SOUND

Article by Stephanie Eckard, Padilla Bay IP

Ammonium Xylenesulfonate? Methylchloroisothiazolinone? The ingredient list on the back of your shampoo bottle can contain chemical names that twist your tongue when attempting to pronounce them. So, what exactly happens to these chemicals once you lather your hair and rinse them down the drain? Pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCPs) are coming into the spotlight as emerging contaminants in the aquatic environment.

PPCPs are products like cosmetics, detergents, and over-the-counter and prescription drugs that individuals use and consume. They also include hormones, antibiotics, and steroids used for livestock. The chemicals in these products flush down the drains in their original or metabolized forms and end up either at waste water treatment plants or directly into the water through storm drains.

As people use PPCPs on a daily basis, low levels of chemicals persist in the water. The effects to human health and the environment are still unknown in most cases. Scientists and government regulators are raising concerns about exposure to PPCPs, especially hormones and hormone-mimicking chemicals, for fish and other aquatic organisms. There is a lot of research to be done on this subject before we can even begin to treat and regulate PPCPs.



Stephanie performs water quality analysis

What can we do as residents enjoying a beautifully unique bay to minimize our impact? First, don't flush old pills and medications down the toilet. Most pharmacies will take your unwanted pills and dispose them properly. Second, try to make informed, conscious decisions when shopping for toiletries and household cleaners.

Biodegradable soaps and other alternatives are available even at conventional supermarkets. Save money and try cleaning around the house with a vinegar-water solution, a great disinfectant. Small steps can go a long way when a community comes together.

As research progresses on the ways PPCPs behave and influence the environment, better household and management practices will unfold. Until then, keep asking yourselves and local decision makers what can be done now to protect all the wonders Padilla Bay has to offer.

GROWING FOOD *(Continued from page 13)*



Volunteers included Robbie Pon, SEA Program Director Gordon White, IP Johanna Ofner, IP Andrew Ryan, Gary Sikel-Swinth, IP Janna Sargent

water our garden would need and how much that would cost, and I read a lot about state ethics laws. I was excited about the Kiwanis' garden and felt like the Sustainability Team could manage volunteers to grow food for the food bank in a similar way, but there were still a lot of issues that I didn't feel experienced enough to tackle. Like how to design a deer fence, where exactly to locate the garden, or how to find and manage the money the garden would need. These seemed like pretty big road blocks, and I started feeling rather stuck. I tried to get used to the idea that the garden project might remain only a proposal.

That's when the WCC's ability to "get things done" really saved the day! When I discussed a problem I was facing with WCC staff at Ecology, they would always think creatively and come up with solutions. Instead of saying "that will never work", they always said "how could we make that work?" Together, we were able to tackle the big questions left in the proposal, and make it complete enough for Ecology to give the garden a thumbs-up.

Garden's first growing season

More than 60 volunteers participated in the garden's first growing season, donating about 400 hours of their personal time to plant, weed, hill and harvest potatoes and squash. Ecology employees also generously donated garden tools, food for volunteer events, use of their roto-tillers and a beautiful garden sign.

A big thanks to all the people who helped make the harvest day a success- it was a very enjoyable way to end the food bank garden's first growing season! The food bank garden exists thanks to partnerships between Ecology Administrative Services, the WCC, the Olympia Kiwanis Club, Ecology's Sustainability Team and the Thurston County Food Bank.

Many thanks are due to the people who worked to support the garden and build these partnerships. They made it possible for the garden to produce food for local families in need and engage Ecology employees and volunteers to give back to their community.

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ABOUT THE WCC

The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) was established in 1983 as a service program for young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 (limited exceptions made for veterans and people with disabilities). The WCC has been an AmeriCorps Program since 1994. Housed within the Department of Ecology, the WCC continues the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps from the 1930s. Today, the WCC has 250 members working on projects in every part of the state. Our partners include Federal, State, Local, and Tribal organizations. For more information, please visit our website: www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc.

THE BIG HUMP INCIDENT

Article by Phil Siefker

WCC Responds to Wildfire

September 6, 2011. It was a Tuesday like any other in the WCC: building trail, spraying knotweed – the usual stuff. It was first break when we heard that a crew might be needed to assist with a fire on the Olympic Peninsula. Details were sketchy but, by lunch, we had worked out who could commit to deploy on fire response, which we now knew was in The Brothers Wilderness.



Aaron Cleveland, Michael Neiman-Veach, Austin Garcia, Lauren Antonsen, Phil Siefker

By afternoon break, we left work to pull together our fire gear, and pack what we would need to survive for the week or two away from home. We left the Olympic National Park headquarters in Port Angeles at 6:30pm with crew members Aaron Cleveland and myself. By 8pm, we had picked up a Port Townsend crew member, AJ Garcia, and met two Shelton members, Michael Niemann-Veach and Lauren Antonsen, at the Incident Command Post (ICP) located at Brinnon Fire Station 41.

We were the camp crew supervised by Kelly Sutton, working sixteen-hour days. Our responsibilities included managing the intake and distribution of logistical supplies, accepting incoming shipments, and ensuring supplies reached their final destinations at the fire line, heli-base, or fire camp. We also cared for the facilities at the fire station and camp, and took care of essentially anything else the overhead staff of the Incident Management team, helicopter crew, and twenty-person fire line crew needed. Our base of operations was a truck trailer behind the station, filled with everything an office, fire line, or medical crew might need. Work started at 4:30 in the morning for those re-

sponsible for brewing the 10+ gallons of coffee consumed per day, and continued until 10 at night for the rest, ensuring any needs were taken care of.

It was perfect weather for a fire to grow; not only the hottest week of the year, with “stark-raving clear skies,” as the meteorologist explained - it was the hottest ten days in September in 112 years. The fire had grown from an improperly extinguished campfire to 1,000 acres extending more than two miles along the north side of the Duckabush River.

By the time we packed the remaining gear in the trailer, de-mobilized, and headed for home on the 13th, the fire was being handed off to another team and downgraded to a Type 3 incident as the marine layer brought more clouds and significantly cooler temperatures. This was an excellent opportunity to see the inner workings of a wildland fire response, and to learn from people who have been doing this work for decades past.