



Washington Conservation Corps Corps News

October 18, 2004
Volume 1, Issue 1

Important Dates:

- October 22nd
- AmeriCorps Kick-off Event
- October 25th-28th
- New Member Orientation Training

Highlights:

Emphasis on
Community service . . . Pg 2

Meet your
Admin Staff Pg 2

Upcoming Training . . . Pg 3

Q & A Pg 3

Did You Know? Pg 4

Lorie Bamer
Leaves WCC Pg 4

If you require this publication in an alternate format, please contact Ecology's SEA program at (360) 407-6096, or TTY (for the speech or hearing impaired) 711 or 800-833-6388.



WCC Members Dispatched to Florida to Aid in Disaster Relief Efforts

The recent severe weather in Florida has left an enormous amount of destruction behind. Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne have killed 79 people in the state of Florida. The estimated cost of damage currently stands at \$15 billion.

Florida is the first state to get pounded by four hurricanes in one season since Texas in 1886, and there are still two months remaining in the Atlantic hurricane season for 2004.

The WCC answered the call for help by sending 61 Corpsmembers to Florida for a month to help repair some of the damage. 25 Corpsmembers are still in the state working on these projects.

Our efforts in Florida have not gone unnoticed. Here are examples from some of the letters that we have received from area residents, thanking the crews that have come to Florida to help with disaster relief:



Photo taken after a tornado hit Missouri.

Dear Mr. Mott,

I just wanted to let you know that my husband thought the world of your young people. He told me he was going to adopt them and bring them home...

-J. Durham

To Whom It May Concern:

I am 94 years old and live alone and I want to tell you how much your volunteer boys helped me when "Frances" hit my mobile home roof on September 5th... my grateful thanks to your organization, all the way from Washington to help us.

- S. Towne



Hurricane Frances seen from a satellite, September 5, 2004. Courtesy NASA

This year's dispatch to Florida was not the first time that our Corpsmembers have been sent to locations outside of our state. In the past, crews have been sent to Missouri, Montana, Idaho, and Oregon. We have responded to many natural disasters, ranging from floods to wildfires.

Community Service is a Must!

Did you know that future funding for the WCC might depend on your community service? In fact, community service is so important to our program, it is our goal that every Corpsmember will participate in a community service outreach project this year.

There is even a WCC Outreach Coordinator whose primary responsibility is to assist corps members in developing and implementing community service projects. This doesn't mean simply showing up to existing functions and volunteering a few hours, but actually organizing your own projects from start to finish.

Corpsmembers are encouraged to go "outside the box" when choosing a community service project. Past projects have involved women's shelters, food banks, habitat for humanity, and even the humane society. It's never too soon to start, so please contact Bridget Mason at (360) 407-6706 or brim461@ecy.wa.gov



WCC members organized a Community Service Outreach Project to benefit the Humane Society.

Meet Your Administrative Staff

Here is a list of WCC administrative staff, their contact information, and duties.
Note: Secretary Lead position is currently vacant.



Rob Spath,
Section Supervisor
(360) 407-6936



Jason Ouellette
Logistics/Training
Coordinator
(360) 407-7475



Roland McGill
Project Coordinator
(360)407-6077



Karen VanLeeuwen
Secretary
(360) 407-7248



Bridget Mason
Outreach Coordinator
360-407-6706



Nick Mott
Project Coordinator
(360)407-6946



Corpsmember learns the basics of working a chain saw.

Information on Upcoming Training

Over the course of the next year, there will be several formal training opportunities for Corpsmembers. Beginning with New Member Orientation Training (NMOT) that is being offered October 25th-28th, WCC members will be trained in emergency response and chainsaw/brush cutter use and maintenance. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training incorporates Disaster Preparedness, Fire Suppression, Disaster Medical, Light Search and Rescue, and Disaster simulation.

Later in the year, members will become certified in first aid and CPR through an Advanced Wilderness First Aid course and receive Natural History of the North Cascades training in the North Cascades National Park. Assistant crew supervisors will attend a one week Leadership Academy.

Jason Ouellette is the coordinator for the WCC training program, please contact him by phone at (360) 407-7475 or email joue461@ecy.wa.gov for more information on upcoming training programs.

Q & A: What are the Differences Between Crew Members and Individual Placements?

As far as pay, benefits, and general requirements are concerned, there are really no differences between a Crew Member and an Individual Placement (IP), but there are some very important distinctions to note.

An IP, sometimes referred to as an intern, is not on a crew. Instead, he or she is placed individually within an agency, hence the name. While there are over 100 Crew Members, there are only 20 individual placements. In a given year, Crew Members will likely work on trail/campground upgrades and maintenance, restoration and enhancement projects, and other outdoor projects. IPs may not be in the field at all during the next year, but inside an office or class room instead.

The typical duties of an IP vary with each position, but may include environmental education, lab work, or field research. It is important to note that members have the option of switching from a Crew Member to an IP or visa versa for their second year with the WCC.

Did You Know?

Most everyone has come across a trillium out in the field, but not everyone realizes that this plant is listed as a “sensitive” plant in Washington State.

Historically, people picked trillium leaves before they had a chance to flower, decreasing the trillium population substantially. When the leaves are removed, the plant cannot make sugar and most will die. The trilliums that do survive take many years to regrow and produce seeds, slowing down population growth.

The name trillium was given to this plant because all of its parts come in groups of 3. Our local species is easy to recognize by its three white petals, three sepals (small leaves under the petals), and three large green leaves (see image at left).



Trillium

Questions?

Have a question about Health Insurance? Childcare? The Education Award? Loan Forbearance?

Many people do. Please submit your questions to Bridget at brim461@ecy.wa.gov

Good-bye, Lorie

If you are serving your second year with the WCC, you have most likely contacted Lorie Bamer on at least one occasion. Officially, she is the Secretary Supervisor for the WCC, but unofficially, she is Super Woman.



Lorie Bamer

Unfortunately for us, October 15th was Lorie's last day with our program. She has been with the WCC for over seven years and she decided that the time had come for her to make a change. Though Lorie has left the WCC, she will continue to work in state service. She has taken a new direction in her career, and has accepted a position in the Financial Department at the State Liquor Control Board. Thank you, Lorie, for all of the help and support that you provided our Corpsmembers over the past number of years.

About our Organization

The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) was established in 1983 as a job training program for young adults between the ages of 18-25. The WCC is a program offered through the Washington State Department of Ecology and continues the legacy left by the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s.

The program provides work experience and skills for projects that support conservation, rehabilitation, and enhancement of Washington's natural, historic, environmental and recreational resources. Today the WCC has nearly 150 members working on various projects in every part of the state. WCC partners include Federal, State, Local, and Tribal organizations.

Washington Conservation Corps

PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA
98504-7600

PHONE: (360) 407-7248

FAX: (360) 407-6902

E-MAIL:
kdan461@ecy.wa.gov

Photos, Suggestions, and Stories Wanted!

Please call Bridget Mason at
(360) 407-6706 or email
brim461@ecy.wa.gov

Did you know? We are on the Web!

See us at:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wcc