

Highlights in this Issue:

Another Successful Year 1
 Of Service and Salmon 2
 The Leaflet 3
 Whatcom Creek Watershed 4
 The Outdoor Collective 5
 WCC Puzzles 6
 Just a Preference 7
 Stories from the Mountain 7
 Reducing Your Carbon Footprint 8

October 2007
 Volume 4, Issue 1

Ecology Publication 07-06-023



Another Successful Year

The WCC's Class of 2007 completed their year of National Service on September 30th. Over 125 members strong, they began their service year with 4 members battling wildfires as part of a 20 person North Cascades Interagency Crew. The crew spent their entire deployment at the Hood River Complex in Eastern Oregon fighting a series of fires caused by lightning.

The Olympic National Park crew was called out early in their service year to assist in search and rescue efforts to locate two men from the Kitsap County area. The men were found safely near Upper Lena Lake in the Olympic National Park.

The November rain kept WCC Members busy with flood response throughout Central and Western Washington. Over 50 members responded to floods, many working 19-hour days. WCC Flood Response efforts lasted through November, wrapping up in December. This severe weather caused extensive damage to our local and national parks. In the Olympia area, crews repaired damage at Priest Point Park and Nisqually Wildlife Refuge. The crew based in the Olympic National Park went on to spend nearly 8 months cleaning up damage caused by these storms.

Fall and winter kept all of our members busy with large-scale restoration events resulting in nearly 200,000 native species being installed in just four months. January came and uncommon snow and ice storms brought frozen ground and slick conditions. The MLK Week of Service offered a welcomed break from digging holes in the ice. The WCC had its most successful year yet with these service projects. A huge amount of creativity was demonstrated with projects ranging from ADA accessible trails to Polar Bear Swim fundraisers.

February resulted in our third national response of the year. Twelve of our most experienced sawyers responded to severe winter storms in Aurora, Missouri. The ice storms left a mass of debris, most of which consisted of downed trees and vegetation. WCC members assisted residents in moving the debris from roads and homes, then bucking up the trees to be hauled away. In all, 44 Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis were eligible for FEMA assistance.

Shortly after the ice storms hit Missouri, severe thunderstorms and tornados struck Florida

State, killing 20 people and destroying thousands of homes. The President declared a state of emergency in 4 counties. The WCC responded by sending 24 people to assist with recovery efforts in Lady Lake, Florida. WCC Members worked alongside other volunteer organizations, including the Christian Contractor's Association, Volunteer Florida, and Conservation Corps from California, Minnesota, and Alaska.

During these incredibly busy months with disaster response at the national level, members back home were in the midst of our busiest months for restoration, as well. On average, WCC members installed 70,000 native trees and shrubs during each month for February, March, and April.

Beginning in April, the WCC sent two crews to cleanup and repair washed out trails, bridges and campgrounds at Mount Rainier National Park. The November storm was the most damaging storm in the park's history (100 + years), but weather prevented repair work being done until April. These crews finished out their year at Mount Rainier. In total, WCC Members have constructed and repaired over 161 miles of trails; a majority of which occurred at Mount Rainier.

In completing our 3-year grant cycle, the WCC planted over a million trees, opened up over 44 miles of in-stream habitat, and constructed more than 62 miles of exclusionary fencing to prevent livestock from fouling streams. Our Eastern Washington members completed a majority of the fence building efforts.

Thanks for such an incredible year and best of luck in all of your future endeavors!



Of Service and Salmon: Reflecting on a Year in the WCC or How We Wore Our Hip Waders

Poem by the NSEA Bellingham Crew

October 2006 to August 2007
We rocked the WCC like it was heaven
We're the NSEA crew
And we're bringing this to you
(cuz we're too cool for school)

NSEA
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

The salmon, they must be saved!
Because we people have misbehaved
Chum and sockeye and king might go
And don't forget the humpy and coho
Shovels and cutter Maddox in hand
We decided to take a stand

It started with a shock
When they showed us the pile of rock
And they said "you'd better bend double
And use this here shovel.
For the salmon need their spawning ground
So you there, move this pile 'round!"

Little did we know
The piles they did grow
Piles of mulch, piles of sand
Piles of rock, piles of land
We moved them too and fro
So the salmon could live and grow

As our mountainous piles dwindled
A new found love of power tools was kindled
Bits longer than your arm
(at that size they really work a charm)
We used them on Large Woody Debris
So down-river it would not flee
We placed holes in certain spots
(it's like playing connect the dots),
Then ran cable through the wood
And clamped them all tight and good

Afterwards we stood girls and boys
And used our best super hero voice
To shout in triumphant glee,
"Habitat you shall be,
For salmon headed out to sea!"
And chainsaws we also did use
Even though ours had endured abuse
Rusty and dull was the chain
That barely a cut, could we gain
But to our rescue, a crew member we sent
To the Peninsula where they slept in a tent
Where they learned of chainsaw magic
So our cuts were no longer tragic

Soon the days of power-tools grew lean
And the skies began to look mean
Then the rains came pouring down
We thought we were doomed, we could drown!
Persevered we did, despite our fear
Wearing our bright yellow raingear

Then one morning did familiarity bring
The bright tinkling sound of a telephone ring
"Good morning Darrell!" Mr. Lamb did chime
"What do you have in store this time?"
And Darrell did say
With nary a sway
"The ground is ready to receive its trees
To Chivers, post haste lest it freeze!
Trees and shrubs shall be along these waters
To provide shade for salmon sons and daughters"

The weeks and days they did pass by
With not a break in the cloudy sky
But we planted those trees with all our might
Making Chivers a majestic site
Filling in that forty foot buffer
So our salmon friends wouldn't suffer

What was it we did last December?
It was so cold, my brain froze, I can't
remember!
Nights and days, they became one
Outside of work we never saw sun
The next obstacle, it was snow
Yet still to work we did go

And finally the sun did peek through
To lighten the mood of our wet soggy crew
Into the nursery we were sent
To plant "natives" to our hearts content
Into to pots we placed trees very small
In neat rows they wait for their call
To be planted on some far site
To shelter the salmon from bird's bite

And power tools they did reappear
With all their oil, and engines, and gear
This time it was the weed whackers buzz
That helped us remove the canary grass fuzz
That threatened to swallow up and choke
Our newly planted shrub and tree-folk

To break up time during the whacker hum
Children in lines, they did come
To learn from us of the salmon way
We gave to them a fun-filled day
We wowed them with plants and water



Emily Pease, Megan Brady, Justin Lamb (sup), Alex Karpoff, Andrew Cutter, Annalisa Barron

The macros were even hotter
Days were spent finding our inner child
Then back to the crew, just for a while

Our presence did Port Townsend await
To see other crews and meet our fate
Off to class we were sent
Taught for hours with no relent
But prepared were our brains
For all the mental strains
Oh, a good time we all had
And leaving was so sad

The next task came as quite a surprise
"Build a bridge," Darrell said, "of a tractor's
size!"
The boards we cut and placed in rows
Worked so hard no time to doze
At last our mighty task was complete
then Darrell called with news of defeat
"The boards we used they were to thin,
You'll have to do it all over again!"

Summer came and we went on spike
To Mt. Rainier where we did hike
We fixed a bridge that's suspended
Started digging where a trail ended

And used a pulley system so complicated
To get a log better situated
Then into the Colonel we did pile
To return to the salmon with a smile

"We missed you so, our salmon dears
Now you needn't shed your tears
For ours is the story of the NSEA crew
We wouldn't be here if it weren't for you!"

Now we are back to drilling holes
And cabling logs to large woody poles
We've come full circle, the year is done
We've learned a lot while having fun!

The Leaflet

By Duffy Trails

featuring: Winter Foraging

Who the dang freakin' heck is Duffy Trails? A valid question indeed if you are to believe anything you read in the following article. Well, let me start from the beginning. I guess you can say that I had an "earthy" upbringing. I never knew my natural mother and father, but I had plenty of exceptional parent figures throughout my childhood. The story is that the first years of my life were spent with a pack of exceptionally patient and loving black tailed Arkansas jackrabbits. I have never been able to prove this to the skeptics as we never had any family photos taken.

At the age of two I came to a realization that was based on simple observation. I didn't have long ears, fur, or a cute cottony tail. I was not fathering baby rabbits at the age of 6 months. And finally, I no longer fit in the burrow. This was good for mama jackrabbit (that's what I called her) because it was certainly a big job to keep the place clean before I was den trained. You understand that human babies don't exactly deliver nice hard little rabbit pellets from their backsides. Anyway, it was clear that it was time to go in search for my place in life.

After an emotional goodbye and several years of travel, I found myself in a raccoon skin hat, deer skin moccasins, and sheep's wool clothing hitchhiking through the desert. It was in that very spot that a vision of great grandfather jackrabbit came to me. In a swirl of windblown sand his wise voice whispered for me to go and find ultimate wisdom in the seclusion of a hidden mountain cave. Then, the sand got into my eyes and I decided instead to go to college and learn even more about plants than I did grazing on the prairies with the rabbits. So, that pretty much brings us up to date. Now that you know a bit more about good ol' Duffy Trails, I am sure the following article on the usefulness of wild plants will be held in the highest regard.



With that, I'd like to welcome you to the WCC experience! Hopefully, most of you have a little bit of interest in the native plants found here in Washington. If so, it is my goal, through this quarterly column, to lead you down the less beaten path of enjoying some of this fine flora during meal time. The Pacific Northwest is an excellent place to find a bounty of wild food in just about every season of the year. From your own backyard to deep within the Olympic rainforest, you don't have to have been raised by rabbits to find something to nibble on. Hey, you might even think it tastes better than what you can buy at the supermarket and it will likely be much more nutritious. So grab your field guides and appetites and let's get out there and see what we can find.

Since winter is pretty much here for a while, let's learn a little bit about what types of plants you might think about trying to find during the winter. Winter is historically the time where most people use all of the food harvested and stored up to get them through the "off" season. It is true, there are fewer edibles available this time of year, but if you know what to look for you can find some good wild roots and even some fruit. The list below introduces a few:

Roses: Roses are excellent winter edibles. Leaves, buds, petals, bark, stems, roots, and hips are all useful. My favorite food this time of year is by far the rose hip. It is extremely nutritious and tastes great. Just 3 marble sized rose hips contain more vitamin C than an orange. For an especially tasty treat, make some rose hip honey by deseeding some hips and smashing them into a jar of regular honey - makes a great topping for toast or muffins. This plant is great to know in a winter survival situation.

Dandelions: Dandelion root is an excellent cleansing herb. It is high in iron and calcium and improves digestion. Roast the Dandelion root to grind as a coffee substitute or boil and eat like a vegetable. Similar to a turnip-toss in with a salad of dandelion leaves which are also tasty this time of year; the leaves lose some of their bitterness after a couple frosts

Cattail: The rhizomes should be peeled and cooked like a potato-and they taste like a spud too! Be sure to make a positive ID because cattail and irises look similar and both have rhizomes.

Common Camas: Fall/Winter is getting a bit late to be harvesting Camas unless you really know what you are doing. The lack of flowers at this time of year makes Common Camas easy to confuse with Death Camas.

Common Burdock: The root of common burdock is edible raw or cooked. The best roots come from young plants peeled and sliced. The roasted root is another coffee substitute. You might find Burdock a bit harsh, try chopping the root and soaking it in water for a few minutes for a better flavor.

Salsify: Since it is a weed, you will not worry about over harvesting this delicious root. Similar to burdock, boil, peel and add to pasta dishes--tastes like artichoke.

Chicory: Another weed with a taproot that can be prepared like dandelion and used as a coffee substitute. The roots are edible and the leaves are too (similar to radicchio).

Nodding Onion Looks and tastes like a small, sweet onion. Flowers that nod to the ground make this plant easy to identify.

Bull and Canada Thistle: This is not a tasty root, but it is good to know because of the abundance and availability in a survival situation.

I hope this information has motivated you to take a closer look at what is growing all around us. Perhaps, some of you will even harvest a plant or two for the dinner table. Just do not overlook the importance of **positive plant identification** and proper preparation. Once you have done that, you can do exactly what your mom probably told you not to do with a wild plant... Go ahead, put it in your mouth.

Whatcom Creek Watershed: Protecting the Wildlife That Lives There

Article by Chris Matson, Bellingham Crew Member

It is a fact that baby salmon and trout live in Whatcom Creek. These fish live in very polluted water. Due to motor boats on Lake Whatcom, the car dealerships on Iowa Street and people who litter, Whatcom Creek is becoming an unsuitable place for wildlife to live. Not only does the pollution harm the fish; it also impacts the beaver.

There are many issues facing the beavers that live in Whatcom Creek. Imagine swimming and living in murky water full of car tires, abandoned shopping carts and dirty diapers. This is the only place they have to call home. The beavers share this polluted environment with the birds as well.

The trees that grow along Whatcom Creek form a habitat for many birds. Woodpeckers, wood ducks and chickadees are a few of the many birds that roost in the trees. Due to increasing urban development and the pipeline explosion of 1999, we have lost a large amount of native foliage. Fewer trees means loss of bird habitat.

The problems that the fish, beaver and birds face are due to human neglect. Here are a few ways we can begin to clean up the Whatcom Creek watershed.

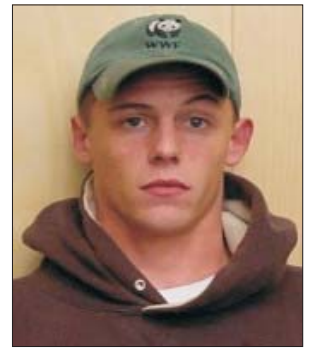
Fish and motor boats do not go hand in hand with one another. The oil and gas that comes out of the boats goes directly into the fish, causing mutations and birth defects. If

we were to ban motor boats on Lake Whatcom and only allow sail boats, that would put a stop to the majority of oil and gas that leaks into the lake. This is one way to make a healthier environment for the fish.

Beavers' dams are their homes. A lot of the trash that is tossed in the creek becomes caught in the dams. Steps to solving these problems are: public outreach, more trash cans along the creek and implementation of more effective litter laws.

A main solution for restoring the damage done by the pipeline explosion is to continue planting native trees. It will take many years for the trees to grow large enough to form ideal habitat for the birds and shade for the fish. It's only a start but we need to stick with it. One day we may have a fully functioning ecosystem.

Restoring Whatcom Creek Watershed is no small task. The fish, beavers and birds that live there are unable to clean up the damage humans have done. It is up to us, the citizens of Whatcom County, to start respecting, protecting and loving Whatcom Creek Watershed.



Chris Matson

Just a Preference

Article by Ted Dewees, Mount Rainier Spike Crew Supervisor

I prefer the Pulaski as my grubbing tool. Invented by Edward Pulaski, its sleek design and versatility speaks for itself. As you clench the smooth hickory handle and feel the weight of this tool, it so easily becomes a mere extension of your body. It is at this junction that you can feel a slight increase of empowerment.

I assign everyone on my crew a Pulaski. For the duration of our Mt. Rainier adventure that Pulaski is theirs, and soon, you start to see a relationship develop between them and their Pulaskis. It is their responsibility to maintain it. Some might think that maintaining a Pulaski is quite easy, or may think of it as a secondary aspect of their daily responsibilities. This is not the case in this crew's line of work. The Pulaski radiates its importance, and demands respect and attention. Personally, I believe that it is the Pulaski's right to be seen in its truest form. An abused Pulaski can be sharpened for the purpose of

general use in a very short time. A few shallow swipes with the old hand file can provide you with an edge that satisfies most tasks.

I believe some fail to see that it takes much more than that to achieve the excellence of operation that this tool deserves. When achieved this tool is wood and duff's most challenging opponent. You will know when you attain this prime condition when the fight that was once between you and the root becomes a fight between the Pulaski and the root. You become the observer, an admirer of the flying wood chips. You are now the third party just supplying the necessary motions as the 3-inch wood chunks depart for flight. It is a glorious and satisfying sight.



The Outdoor Collective

Article by Joss Whittaker, Individual Placement at Jefferson Conservation District

The Outdoor Collective came out of my first, frantic brainstorm about community projects, at the WCC's orientation meeting. At the time, it didn't seem over-ambitious. The premise was simple: everyone has an old tent or backpack in their garage, one they've replaced with a shiny new model, but which is too good to just throw away. More often than not, they would be happy to part with it. There are also a lot of young people in Jefferson County with very little to do, and sometimes not much money. What if they could avoid the huge expense it takes to equip their first hiking trip?

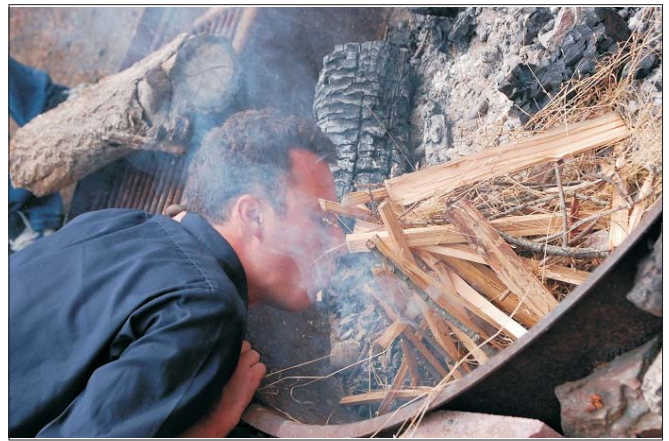
Because of the specialization inherent in a lot of outdoor equipment, and the unfortunate liability risk in some types of it, I focused on three basics: tents, backpacks, and sleeping bags. In addition to being relatively universal and liability-free, they were the kind of things that we could collect in large quantities.

I called some friends from home, and they all had input. Danny Milholland was most involved. He brought his amazing fundraising skills to the project, and organized a silent auction and dinner, which raised over \$500.00. Even before the dinner, both of Port Townsend's newspapers had published stories about us, and there was a buzz of interest around the idea.

Before long, we filled half of my garage with equipment. We got money, support, and ideas from many people. In fact, we got enough ideas to supply us for decades. One of the hardest parts of the project was telling people that we couldn't use their idea yet. From the outset I realized that if the Outdoor Collective was going to work, we had to keep it simple. That included operating with as little money as possible, since money entails bureaucracy. I preferred to accept equipment donations to money. I thought of it as a kind of guerilla service project. Therefore, we kept our goal modest-providing free basic outdoor equipment to residents of Jefferson County.

Even that became complicated. I contacted Port Townsend High School and received a barrage of liability-related condescension from its principal. I got in touch with a prominent teacher there, and for a while we were beginning to set up a survey to ask the students what type of equipment they wanted most, but his teaching duties prevented the idea from coming to fruition. Eventually, I got in touch with the Chimacum High School Outdoor Club, and they were very enthusiastic. Unfortunately, that enthusiasm came just before summer vacation, and my potential volunteers dispersed.

Indeed, volunteers were the trickiest part. Plenty of people signed up for our mailing lists, and we always got a lot of enthusiasm when we spoke at organizations like the Rotary



Joss Whittaker demonstrates fire building to participants in the West Camp for Girls program

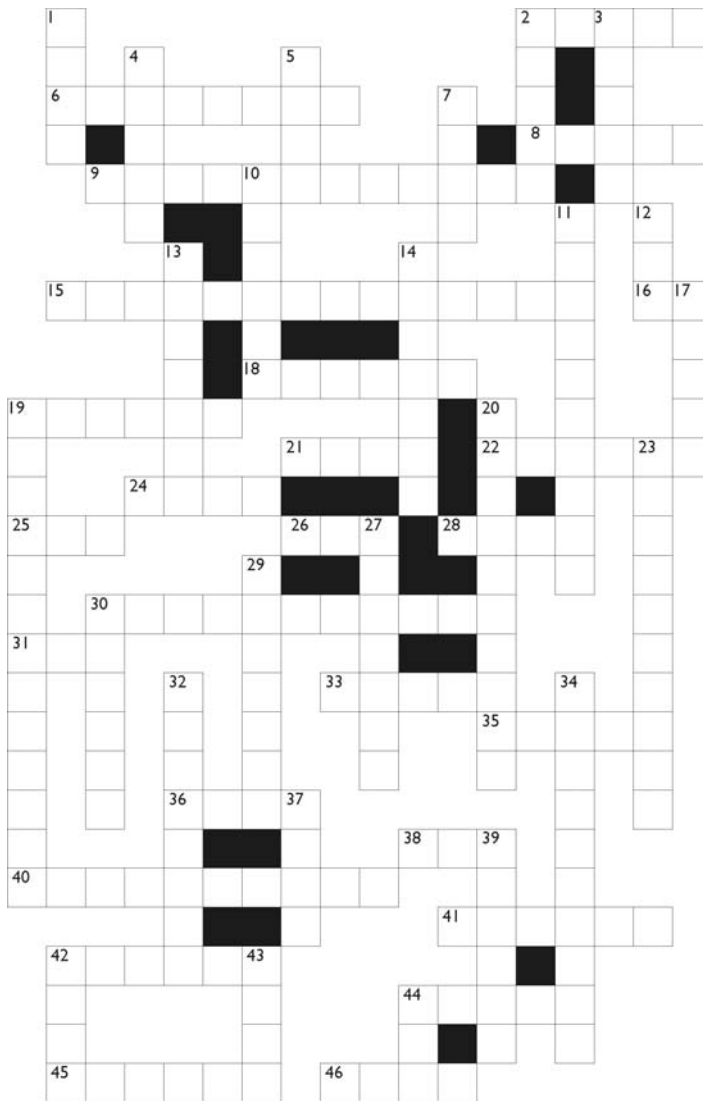
Club, the Olympic Peninsula Mycological Society, and the Mar Vista alternative school, to name a few. But follow-up was less productive. Part of it, I realized, was that they had other things going on in their lives, and it was unreasonable to expect them to drop everything so they could help volunteer, especially after only one meeting or phone call. In order to get real turnout we would need to keep badgering them, something for which I had no talent. I had run into a fundamental problem that confronts all service organizations-how do we keep people interested beyond the first few moments?

I had definitely bitten off more than I could chew. Organizing the Outdoor Collective seemed like it would take a full time worker, and I already had a full time (plus) job as it was. The organization and the badgering was lost in a haze of chopped canary grass and weed-whacker fumes, which, in all fairness, was what I signed up for.

However, the Outdoor Collective did not dissolve. Rather, it transmogrified itself into something different. First, the administrator of the West Camp for Girls, which teaches life skills for preteens, asked Danny and I to demonstrate some outdoor skills for the campers. We spent a day teaching them a variety of skills, from mountaineering footwork to trip planning to fire building. It was one of the most enjoyable days in my year of service. The Outdoor collective had accomplished one of our aims, in a way more important than the main one-we had encouraged kids to enjoy the outdoors. I believe that our increasing isolation from nature creates great problems for kids, and therefore giving them the confidence to enjoy nature is a worthy goal.

Finally, the Chimacum Outdoors Club is back in school, and they are interested in taking up the equipment (and possibly some of the original mission) of the Outdoor Collective. From all the places I looked for volunteers, I got the most interest from them, and even if they change the objectives a bit, I trust they will keep the greater objectives in mind.

WCC Puzzles: Prizes for the 1st WCC Crew/IP to return this page, completed correctly, to WCC Headquarters



Across

- 2 Blue, goose, twin
- 6 Wet Wear (2 words)
- 8 Salmon residence for 1-5 years
- 9 result of #15 across (2 words)
- 15 Parasite of #29 down (2 words)
- 16 Afternoon
- 18 Rainier originally
- 19 WCC training season
- 21 Branch Bungalow
- 22 Change
- 24 pH < 7
- 25 Short for Ecology
- 26 Hooks, nuts, soles
- 28 Federal Foresters (acronym)
- 30 AmeriCorps Benefit
- 31 Earth, Soil
- 33 Sizeable Salamander
- 35 Bacterial pollutant e.g. (abbrev)
- 36 Fuel free commute
- 38 Morning Mist or Mountain
- 40 Fish family of focus
- 41 Above the timberline
- 42 A hole in the _____
- 44 Fits like one
- 45 Root Protector
- 46 Hollow tree hazard

Down

- 1 43,560 square feet
- 2 Flower
- 3 Currants, e.g.
- 4 _____ Engagement
- 5 Opposite of #24 across
- 7 Orientation (acronym)
- 10 Ownz floor décor
- 11 Dwelling of primary color
- 12 Directs directions
- 13 Containing carbon
- 14 Catastrophic change
- 17 With winged fruits
- 19 Peeper protection(2 words)
- 20 Periodically printed
- 23 Plants of an area
- 27 Ice in motion
- 29 poison, western, mountain
- 30 Fodder Fish
- 32 Summertime PPE
- 34 Evanescent and 8-legged (2 words)
- 37 Counter Current
- 39 Belonging to the Salix genus
- 42 _____ wire
- 43 Found on a Blue Roof
- 44 Big Brother's Domain Name

Sudoku

Complete this puzzle by ensuring the numbers 1 - 9 appears in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

7		4	1	9
2			3	1
4			5	8 6
	3	6	1	
	8	9	2	
	5	4	7	
9 4	7			1
1	8			4
6	2	4		5

Stories from the Mountain

Excerpts from production reports submitted by Spike Crews based at Mount Rainier

Ted Dewees, April 2007, Carbon River - The fall 2006 weather brought with it a natural but devastating effect on the trail systems of Mount Rainier National Park. With such extensive damage, it is safe to say that the Wonderland Trail will not be fully functional for 2-3 years. It is a privilege to be part of such an extensive effort to restore the park's trail system to its historic state. To begin these efforts, we were assigned a project on the Carbon River trail, which entails multiple reconstructive routes along the Wonderland Trail. Thus far, we have completed two smaller re-route sections. Within these "smaller" sections underlies a mass of obstacles; huge rocks, stumps, roots, and dirt dominate our life up here on Mount Rainier.

Ted Dewees, May 2007, NW side of Mount Rainier NP - Through the month of June, our crew continued to work up the Carbon River Trail system constructing new trail. In order to make the trail more quickly available for hikers, the park chose an alternate route. The new route is known as the Lower Crossing. This consisted of building trail through the scoured and rocky Carbon River Valley. This type of trail construction goes a little quicker because the terrain is mostly free of duff and trees. Rolling rocks out of the way with our bodies, prying rocks up with rock bars, and winching the bigger rocks out with the come-a-long became our daily task. Since the Carbon River braids out into multiple channels, the crew was able to construct two new foot-log style bridges as we made our way to the other side of the Carbon River Valley. Once across, we gained elevation and repaired three other smaller washout areas along the hillside heading up to the Carbon Glacier. We were also able to construct a third bridge over a small drainage coming off the hillside.

Melody Abel, May 2007, Kautz River - We have been working where the Kautz River has redirected itself directly through the previous trail system. In the riverbed itself, we have moved piles and piles of boulders and rearranged them as lining for the trail. We carried 5-gallon bags of sand and poured them into the low spots of the trail; repeating this 300 times to smooth the tread. After the trail was up to par, we created a safe passage over the river itself. We found a 75-foot long log and, with chainsaw, crowbar, and Pulaski, we made the log into a bridge. Then, with the sweat of our brow and the aid of grip-hoist and rock bar, we cranked that log bridge across the river. We did not stop there though, we secured the bridge with a "few" carefully placed boulders. Last, we constructed handrails from branches. Just the right angle of attachment is key and the rails were spiked in and tested true. What a sight she is, with the backdrop of the mountain. What a month!

Ted Dewees, June 2007, NW side of Mount Rainier NP - The month of June will conclude our mountain of a project on the northwestern side of Mount Rainier National Park. We started from the trailhead at Ipsut Creek campground, rebuilt, and cleared up to the snow line of every trail on the Northwestern side of the mountain. This includes the Carbon River trail up to



Morrain Park just 2 miles from Mystic Lake; the Spray Park trail up to Cataract Campground; the Ipsut Creek Trail up to Ipsut Pass; and the Northern Loop Trail up to B Flats. Our total time here amounted to a little under 3 months, and a wet 3 months it was. There were several tours where rain dominated the weather pattern.

Melody Abel, July 2007, Upper Kautz and Vicinity - The month of July came in with the mosquitoes and out with the mosquitoes. With all the Wonderland re-routes and bridges completed and replaced the focus has turned back to trail maintenance. This requires a love for hiking steep, steep hills! It also means plenty of awesome views throughout the park. We rake the trail tread and corridor to remove debris, branches, logs and obstacles. Then we focus our attack on water drains: digging them out, re-shaping and re-strengthening where necessary. Water damage accounts for the majority of trail damage each season and our efforts seek to prevent this.

Melody Abel, August 2007, the land of the insects - This month, the bees decided to join their friends-mosquitoes, horseflies, black flies, gnats, and no-see-ums. Paired with the awesome views, it has made for an amazing month. This month's spikes consisted of a trail re-route across a sheer face and miles of trail clearing and maintenance.

Chris Humann, August 2007, Stevens Canyon - The crew spent 2 days cutting new trail at the east side of Stevens Canyon. The Longmire trail crew had blasted the hillside here in order to obtain a decent grade back slope. The terrain was very steep and rocky. After the trail was built as far as we could without entering the blasting zone, we bucked out a half-mile section on the western end of Stevens Canyon. This was a re-route that the SCA had been working on but had halted due to numerous downed trees.

Ted Dewees, August 2007, Stevens Canyon - In August, our crew has been to a variety of job sites on the southern side of the mountain. I believe the most challenging of these sites is the washout in Stevens Canyon. The Park Service trail crew has been blasting away at this site for a while. Stevens creek washed out a 350-foot section of trail, leaving a sheer cliff in its place. We lower ourselves from above onto the slope using ropes and harnesses.

-- Continued on next page

(Continued from Page 7)

We find any loose rocks and send them downhill. After removing hazard rocks, we build a platform to stand and work from. We were able to build a trail through most of the site. There is still one section remaining that we will not be able to complete until some more blasting is complete. This is an exciting and challenging project.

Ted Dewees, September 2007, Stevens Canyon - During the month of September, our crew has been working on an ongoing assignment in Stevens Canyon. This 300-foot new section

of trail has been the most challenging project due to the terrain. Extreme caution had to be taken each day for safety purposes; which has slowed the process. In the end, it all worked out very well and the trail is usable. The crew was trained to use a pionjar (gas-powered drill/breaker) which enabled us to split huge rocks that obstructed portions of a new trail we had built. We finished the month with some fall drainage clearing. We chose the skyline trail, which leads well above the tree line around the Paradise area.

Reducing Your Carbon Footprint

Article by Breanna Trygg, Individual Placement with WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife

Climate change is the new buzzword on the world stage. New green energy sources are advertised as the wave of the future. What do all these things have in common? They all relate to carbon-how much is in the atmosphere and the affects we are feeling from it. What can you do, as an individual, to make a difference? Here are a few tips to make your carbon footprint a bit smaller.

Step 1: Determine your current Carbon Footprint.

What is a Carbon Footprint? Use the Carbon Footprint Calculator: <http://www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator>

Step 2: Move forward

We are bombarded by advice every day. Start small and do research as you go along. Here are some starting points:

- Take alternative transportation to work.
- Use cold or cooler water and line dry during the sunny summer months. Most of the energy used for laundry comes from heating the water. More at: <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/laundry.html>
- CHANGE YOUR LIGHTBULBS. This is a simple and incredibly effective way to reduce your carbon output. In addition, it saves you money in the end! More at http://www.energystar.gov/under_lighting.
- Consider the distance your food travels. Shop locally & seasonally as much as possible (do you need peaches from South America in the middle of winter?)
- Always turn off your car while waiting at a drive-up or any other time your engine is idling.
- Turn your heat down a couple degrees and dress more warmly in the house.
- People who do their dishes by hand may appreciate this tip: 1) Place a dishpan in the side of the sink that you normally rinse in. Put the clean, soapy dishes in the pan as you finish washing them. 2) As you rinse these dishes, the water starts to collect in the pan and passively rinses much of the soap off dishes that are still waiting to be rinsed. Each dish has its own rinse with fresh tap water, but the splashing water from the dishes being rinsed removes a lot of the soap accumulation, thereby saving total water usage. 3) Keep a 5-gallon bucket next to your sink. Pour the rinse water from the rinse pan into this bucket. This grey water can be used in many ways: add it to your washer for that day's washing; use the water to scrub floors or wash walls (even your car); or water flowers, shrubs or lawn. The secret to how much use you can get from this grey water depends on how well you removed the grease and food in the initial dish washing process before you rinsed them. I would not advise reusing greasy, food-laden water for anything. You will be surprised at the amount of water you can accumulate from your sink each day.
- Do not stop here! Check out http://www.carbonfootprint.com/Minimise_cfp.html for more ideas on reducing your carbon.



Breanna leads environmental education activities

Step 3: Tell others!

Individual action is great, especially as it spreads from your home to your office, your neighborhood and your community.

Washington Conservation Corps

PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
PHONE: 360.407.7248
FAX: 360.407.6902
EMAIL: marp461@ecy.wa.gov
WEB: www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc

Appear in Corps News!

Seeking articles, creative writing, and artwork. Please send your work to Bridget Mason at brim461@ecy.wa.gov or Snail mail to WCC Headquarters by the quarterly due date:

- April 10: Spring
- July 10: Summer
- October 10: Fall
- January 10: Winter

About Our Organization

The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) was established in 1983 as a service 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 started by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The WCC has been an AmeriCorps Program since 1994.

The WCC provides work experience and skills to members through 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. Our partners include Federal, State, Local, and Tribal organizations. For more information, please visit our website.

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please the WCC at 360-407-7248. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.