



# Washington CORPS NEWS Conservation Corps

Volume 9 Issue 5

August 2013



Above: Senator Maria Cantwell on left with WCC Supervisor Sarah Tomt on right  
Photo By: Cory Grogan, Public Information Officer for Oregon Emergency Management

## A Proud Day For AmeriCorps!

*By: Sarah Tomt, Crew Supervisor*

On Aug. 9, a great group of government officials including Senator Maria Cantwell (D) of Washington State visited our AmeriCorps team in the remote Yukon River City of Galena, Alaska. It was an honor to see a senator from our home state visit this community where AmeriCorps teams have worked energetically to help aid recovery from devastating floods.

The group also included Senator Mark Begich (D) of Alaska, Representative Neal Foster (D) of Alaska's 39<sup>th</sup> District (which includes Galena), FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Dolph Diemont, Director of the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and President of the National Emergency Management Association John Madden, and Tanana Chiefs Conference President Jerry Isaac.

AmeriCorps members were hard at work on the community ball field when the group arrived. The ball field is at the heart of the community in Galena. This is where the annual tribal softball tournament is held every summer—teams from villages all over Alaska come to compete.

### Inside this issue:

A Proud Day	1
Is this A Real Job?	2
Is this just Fantasy?	2
Kris Bruitrago's KCDNRP Crew	3
Cups	4
Reiter Story	5
Green Chemistry	6-7
Accidents Happen	8

Continued on page 6

# An Ode to WCC

## Is This A Real Job? Is This Just Fantasy?

*Lyrics Rewritten by Westra's Crew: Brittney Nelson, Scott Olausen, Derek Rubio, Hannah Saldana, Leah Vazquez  
Original Song: Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen*

Is this a real job?  
Is this just fantasy?  
Caught up in Rei-ter,  
No escape from bad wea-a-ther.

Open your eyes,  
Look up the O.R.V. trails and see,  
It's just a broken to-ter, it needs no sym-pa-thy,  
Because the trails are rough, as you know,  
Real-ly high, real-ly low,  
Any way the gra-vel falls real-ly real-ly ma-tters to  
-o us, and DNR.

WCC, just killed a weed,  
Put a weed wrench around its stem,  
Pulled the lever, now it's de-ad.  
DNR, life had just be-gun,  
Now we've gone and pulled them all a-way.

DNR, didn't mean to break your brushcutters,  
If scotchbroom's back again this time tomorrow,  
Call us on, call us on, and we'll be back to kill  
them.

Too late, Hurricane Sandy's destroyed it all,  
Sent storms all down the coast,  
The houses all were to-ast.  
Goodbye, moldy walls,  
Got to muck you out and throw you to the curb.

FEMA, o-o-oooh (any way the storm blows)  
I don't wanna leave,  
Sometimes wish I could stay and muck forever!

I see a little silhouette-o of a knotweed  
Kill it now, kill it now, will you get the herbicide?  
Imazapyr and Glyphosate,  
very, very frightening, me.  
(Sauk-Suiattle) Sauk-Suiattle.  
(Sauk-Suiattle) Sauk-Suiattle.  
(Sauk-Suiattle) Darring-ton  
Kn-ot-we-ed.

We're just a poor crew hel-ping the Land Bank.  
We're just a poor crew hel-ping the Land Trust.  
Spare the Gary Oaks from this mon-stros-ity.

Easy grub, easy grow, will you let me grow?  
Black-Berr-ies! No, will not let you grow.  
(Let us grow!) Sco-otch-broom! Will not let you  
grow.  
(Let us grow!) Wi-ld-Rose! Will not let you grow.  
(Let us grow!) Will not let you grow.  
(Let us grow!) Will not let you grow.  
No, no, no, no, no, no, no!  
(Oh Mama Ruthie, Mama Ruthie) Mama Ruthie,  
let us grow.  
Dean HAS a burn pile aside for us, for us, for  
USSS!

So we pulled weeks and built trail and so much mo  
-o-ore!  
Yeah, we cleaned up that hillside like never befo-o  
-ore!  
Ooh ba-bay, we can do this, ba-bay,  
Just gotta get out, just gotta get right out the do-o-  
or!

(Oh, yeah, oh yeah)

Our work really matters,  
Anyone can see,  
Our work really matters,  
Our work really matters, go WCC!

### Knotweed

Bent and mangled  
Green to blue  
Wither and rot  
Invade no more  
Free the natives  
From your grasp  
Slow to heal  
Mother earth  
Hear my call  
Aid your children  
To grow anew

Written by: Kayla  
MacKay, Alison  
Smith's Pierce  
County Crew

Skagit Spike Crew photo  
From left to Right: Simon Le-  
Clair, Hannah Saldana, Britt-  
ney Nelson, Leah Vazquez,  
Scott Olhasen

Photo by: Jeremy Westra



## Kris Buitrago's KCDNRP Crew

*Rewritten lyrics by: Aaron Badillo, Alyssa Pun, Laura Schlabach, Shea Scribner, Jackie Wells  
Original Song: Just Give Me A Reason by P!nk feat. Nate Ruess*

Right from the start  
We knew we were  
Sockeyes in our hearts  
Excited for what comes later

We let you see the parts of us  
That were really dirty  
In raingear and our waders

Now you've been hired by WCC  
Now you get to work with me  
Tell me that you're ready to  
massage plant roots, plant roots

Just a little planting  
Lust a little more staking  
This wetland is not broken, just bent  
Salmon will run through here again  
It's in the stars  
It been written in this week's work order  
This site's not broken just bent  
Native plants will grow here again

I'm sorry that I have to go  
Respond to hurricane sandy  
I'll be back in December  
(Oh I'll take pictures for you)

Oh no now Kris has also been  
Called on disaster response  
We have no supervisor  
(Yeah, but this is happenin')

Now randy is leaving us too, (what a jerk)  
What is happening to our crew (we'll stay  
strong)  
There's nothing but more empty seats  
In our truck, our  
In our truck, our truck

Just another crewmate  
Just another set of muscles  
Just a second our crew's not broken just bent  
And we can learn to love again  
Her name is Shea  
And she is a proud Sockeye today  
Our crew's not broken just bent  
And now our truck is full again

Our shovels will rust  
I'll fix it for us  
How much did we grub?  
Production's a must  
We'll plant at Moran  
We'll do what we can  
This site is not as bad as it seems  
We're never clean!



Just some English Ivy  
Just a few more two foot life rings  
Just use hand saws and pulaskis to free  
These trees will learn to breathe again  
Its on our arms  
Its been written in our blackberry scars  
We'll spray some knotweed and then  
Invasives won't grow here again

Just give me some shade cloth  
This water is just too hot  
Just a second you guys need your hard hats  
So we don't have any accidents  
We've learned so much  
I hope that we will all keep in touch  
The trucks not broken just bent  
And we won't hit that post again

Oh, Laura will work with Kris again  
Oh, our new IP is Aaron  
Salmon will run through here again  
Oh, #sockeyesisterhood  
This site's not broken just bent

Crew posing for photo.  
From Front to Back clockwise: Alyssa  
Pun, Jackie Walls, Laura Schlabach,  
Kris Bruitrago (Supervisor), Aaron  
Badillo and Shea Scribner  
Photo courtesy of Kris Buitrago

## When We're Done

*Rewritten Lyrics by: Mensching's crew; Taylor Staffen, Julia Martel, Katelin Gregory, Seth Czichas, Tyler Argo  
Original song: Cups "When I'm gone" by Anna Kendrick*

I got my shovel digging in the ground  
And a pack of herbicide today,  
And I sure would like some sweet company,  
Because knotweed just really  
sucks to spray.

When we're done  
When we're done,  
It'll all look better when we're done,  
The weeds were looking kinda scary so we  
grubbed out the blackberry,  
It'll all look better when we're done.

When we're done  
When we're done,  
It'll all look better when we're done,  
The weeds were looking kinda scary so we  
grubbed out the blackberry,  
It'll all look better when we're done.

I got a pair of 8 inch leather boots,  
And old Doritos bags in my shoe,  
We've got rain gear,  
We've got shovels,  
We've got waders for the puddles  
There was nothing we couldn't get  
through.

When we're gone,  
When we're gone,  
It'll still look better when we're  
gone,  
Chris Cornell gave us the flu, we  
were looking kind of blue  
But at least we were all with our  
crew

When we're gone,  
When we're gone,  
It'll still look better when we're gone,  
Chris Cornell gave us the flu, we were looking  
kind of blue  
But at least we were all with our crew

When we're gone,  
When we're gone,  
It'll still look better when we're gone,  
Chris Cornell gave us the flu, we were looking  
kind of blue  
But at least we were all with our crew



Frederickson/Pierce County Crew photo  
From left to Right: Katelyn Gregory, Julia Martel, Tyler Argo,  
Rachael Mensching (Supervisor), Taylor Staffen, and Seth Czichas

Photo courtesy of Rachael Mensching

### Work

Will power of mind  
Fight to persevere  
Work hard to enjoy  
The beauty of the wilderness  
That surrounds us  
Peace and tranquility  
Of the heart and soul  
Sweat and tears  
Day's work done  
Satisfaction complete

Written by: Kayla Mackay of Alison Smith's Pierce County Crew

To keep up with the latest information on what's happening with WCC visit us at:

[www.facebook.com/washingtonconservationcorps](http://www.facebook.com/washingtonconservationcorps)



**REITER STORY**

*Written by: Natasha Krstova Coumou,  
Andrew Tischleder's Crew*

We met one morning,  
At a sunrise flare  
By the Sultan Lockup  
In the middle of nowhere.

They loaded us in trucks  
And sent us away  
To start our work at Reiter  
On April fools day.

One to other strangers  
Little did we know  
We'll become friends  
Before the spring will show.

And so it started  
An adventure to remember  
That makes us proud to say  
I'm a WCC member,

"You will build trails"  
Our supervisors demanded  
We silently nodded clueless  
On the foothills stranded.

So our training we began  
In a new world immersed  
How to use a chainsaw  
And Remember: Safety first.

New language we mastered  
Pulaski was now a friend  
McLeods, grubbers, shovels,  
Were instant new trend.

Our daily driver was a toter  
Or a bobcat if preferred

A stump or boulder ahead  
Did not get us deterred.

We had to learn fast  
And remain strong,  
"Who will lead our morning breath,  
To whom should this honor belong?"

Every day with a different stance  
In competitive yoga we'd compete  
Yelling: "I'm so much better than you!"  
For our stretch to be complete.

We can claim we rocked  
Literally every day,  
Whether gravel or spall is in order,  
What is it next to lay?

The rainy days were no easy task,  
Digging out duff as well  
To keep up with the orders  
And what our sponsor would tell.

Just as a blink of an eye,  
Almost six months have passed.  
Not one among us

Would thought it'd go so fast.

After all trials we became professionals  
We like to brag,  
With strong work ethics  
Under the WCC flag.

At the end we want  
To thank Derek and Andrew the same  
So if we've done anything wrong  
You know who to blame.

Devoted to the Reiter Foothills Crews  
Type of work: Trail Building  
Sponsor:  
Department of Natural Resources  
Supervisors:  
Derek Voelker, Andrew (A.J.) Tischleder  
Crew members:  
Jenn Briggs, Nick Moser, Dan Oliver,  
Bryce Camp, Thor Hendrickson, Branden  
Kluin, Natasha Lozano, Kelly Dunn, War-  
ren House, Natasha Coumou  
Former crew members:  
Chris Campbell, Jackson Barnes  
(Olympia DNR IP)



## A Proud Day For AmeriCorps Cont.

Group Photo of WCC Crew In Galena, AK- From left to right the names are: Sarah Tomt (Supervisor), Samuel Newkom, Nick Gale, Hazael Reynosa, Sarah Coe, Erika Redzinak, Ernie Farmer (Supervisor), Megan Brady, Frank Vasquez, Seth Williams.  
Photo By: Cory Grogan Public Information Officer for Oregon Emergency Management.



Unfortunately, that would not be the case this summer. The field had been badly damaged by the Yukon River flooding from mid-May through early June. The ball field sits in the center of Galena. Almost everywhere you drive you pass this symbol of the community. When we arrived in Galena, the condition of the field was a constant visual reminder of the pain the community was feeling.

With can-do attitudes and a blessing from city government, AmeriCorps rolled up their sleeves and went to work. We began removing mangled chain link fencing, pulling bent metal fence posts, gathering endless debris left by flooding, and hauling logs and stumps. Those logs and stumps were then bucked into rounds, split for firewood, and delivered to community members who had lost theirs in the flood—critical for the harsh winter in Galena.

Word quickly got around that we were working at the ball field. Before we knew it, people were driving by, honking, waving and cheering in support. People were stopping to take pictures and drop off tools and wheelbarrows. People were jumping in and volunteering with us. One community member stopped and said seeing AmeriCorps working at the field brought tears to her eyes. She explained how important the field is to her and to Galena. It was a great project to take on: to restore some visual peace, to show progress moving forward, and to give hope to the community.

The senators were very impressed with the amount of hard work AmeriCorps had put into the homes in the community of Galena, and the visit meant a lot to us. They were extremely appreciative of the spirit of service AmeriCorps brings to disaster response, commenting about how supportive they are of AmeriCorps. It meant a lot that the group of dignitaries gathered the AmeriCorps team and thanked us for the hard work and personal sacrifices we had made being in Galena.

It was a wonderful and proud day to represent AmeriCorps in front of the government officials and the community we were living and working in. We felt the love and it was powerful. I would like to thank Senator Cantwell and others for their tremendous support. This experience has only reinforced how proud I am of our amazing AmeriCorps teams!

## What Is Green Chemistry?

*Written by: Jasmine Davis, WCC Outreach Assistant IP*

Have you ever shipped or received a package using Styrofoam packing peanuts? Think about the environmental effects of the peanuts from the beginning to end. How much waste resulted from making the peanuts? Do you know the chemicals used during manufacturing? Were the materials from renewable resources such as plants? How much electricity and water did it use? What about the disposal of packing peanuts? Do you reuse them or throw them away? If thrown away, how long does it take the peanuts to break down in the landfill?

Green chemistry designs chemicals, products, and processes to make safer and healthier choices for people and the environment. It also looks at the whole process of a product from start to finish. A green chemistry alternative to the Styrofoam packing peanut is the starch-packing peanut. Made from corn, this option can easily break down in the environment.

### The Purpose of Green Chemistry

Green chemistry aims to get rid of pollution by designing products that do not create it. It strives to make chemicals and products more efficiently and from renewable resources. In the end, the result is

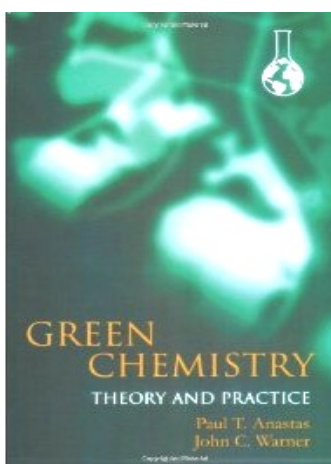
a product that is “benign by design”. These products are safer for workers, consumers, and the environment.

It helps to make a sustainable world for future generations. Creating products with little to no hazard through its lifecycle prevents further pollution. More efficient products made from renewable energy, benefit human health, the environment, and the economy.

### The Principles of Green Chemistry

In 1998, Paul Anastas and John Warner published the **TWELVE PRINCIPLES OF GREEN CHEMISTRY**, creating a guide to design or improve materials, products, processes, and systems. These principles apply to each step of a product’s life cycle: Chemical design, Product Manufacture, Product Use, and End of Life.

To put it simply, these principles are:



1. Prevent waste to avoid treating or cleaning it after it is created
2. Material in = material out; no byproducts
3. Design less hazardous chemical synthesis
4. Design safer but effective chemicals
5. Avoid solvents and separation agents. When unavoidable, select safest option.
6. Increase energy efficiency. Use room temperature and pressure when you can
7. Raw materials in the product should come from renewable resources
8. Minimize or avoid unnecessary derivatization if possible, which requires additional reagents and generates waste
9. Use catalytic reagents instead of stoichiometric reagents to minimize waste
10. Design chemical products to breakdown into harmless materials
11. Analyze hazards in real time to prevent pollution
12. Choose substances to lessen accidents during chemical process

### What Can You do?

One way you can support green chemistry is by buying products that practice green chemistry. You can choose products in local markets that have the label Design for the Environment on them. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has created a certification system to inform customers on effective but safer products. Design for the Environment labels are on household and other chemical products that use safer chemical ingredients. EPA requires each product to go through an evaluation to find if the product is safe for humans, animals, plants, and our environment. The evaluation also finds if the product works better or not compared to other products in the market.

You can learn more about green chemistry through online resources included below.



Look for the label!

### Green Chemistry Education

- Visit [beyondbenign.com](http://beyondbenign.com), an organization dedicated to teaching communities the tools to teach and learn about green chemistry.
- Free webinar series: <http://acswebinars.org/category/business-and-innovation/green-chemistry>
- See how nature provides: <http://biomimicry.net/about/biomimicry38/institute/>
- Schools with Green Chemistry programs: <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/greenchemistry/education/academicprograms.html>

### Resources

- <http://www.epa.gov/greenchemistry/>
- [http://www.epa.gov/greenchemistry/pubs/about\\_gc.html](http://www.epa.gov/greenchemistry/pubs/about_gc.html)
- <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/GreenChemistryResources/index.cfm>
- <http://migreenchemistry.org/>
- <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/greenchemistry.html>

## Accidents Will Happen

*Written By: Alicia Kellogg, Renton King County DNRP Crew Member*

All WCCers, know that no day is without surprises - maybe you forgot the one tool you needed, maybe you got lost on the way to the site, or maybe the job just takes way longer than you thought it was going to. On August 13, our crew witnessed a car accident directly in front of our truck on the way to a site. And we really saw how our crew performs when a curveball is thrown our way.

We were pulling a U-turn when one car rear-ended another right in front of us. The car struck from behind had minimal damage, but the other car was in bad shape. It had a smashed hood, coolant was leaking everywhere, and the engine was smoking.

Our supervisor Peter was the first to respond. He had put the truck in park and crossed the street



Supervisor Peter Nevin holds c-spine on a car accident victim until paramedics arrive.  
Photo By: Alicia Kellogg

with a safety vest on before any of us had time to react. We quickly mobilized, grabbing our own safety vests and digging out some traffic triangles and walkie-talkies.

Peter used his Wilderness First Responder training to tend to the driver of the car with the smashed hood. She began crying after her airbag deployed but appeared to be okay. Peter remained by her side holding her C-spine until paramedics showed up.

The rest of us worked off instinct and adrenaline. Ryan and Michelle directed traffic around the accident, which blocked an entire lane of traffic. Elyse and I helped carry out odd jobs, including delivering tools, walkie-talkies, swapping out jobs, or just standing back and waiting to be beckoned. Sometimes, the best way to help was to stay out of the way.

For two hours following the accident, we worked like a fine tuned machine. That hot August morning, in a new, scary situation, our crew excelled at working together. We communicated, were patient, and above all, remained calm. Informally it tested us on everything we silently learned to do all year long, and we passed.

By the time, the tow trucks showed up, one of the drivers was able to walk away. On a gurney, they carried the other driver away as a precaution and we believe she will be okay.

I am proud of how our crew handled the situation. I am proud that we were able to represent the WCC and help the drivers of the accident. It was a bittersweet way to be reminded that now, nearly at the end of our term, we have truly learned to work together as a team.

Washington State  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc)

August 2013  
Volume 9, Issue 5  
Ecology Publication  
13-06-015



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program at (360) 407-6600. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.