

AN AWARD WINNING PROGRAM!

BY: JANNA RYAN

Citing the enactment of AmeriCorps as one of his first votes as a legislator, Gov. Inslee said he was proud of all that these members accomplish through their year of service. During the five weeks following the landslide, WCC staff and members kept operations running smoothly at the Incident Command Post in Arlington, the drop-point at Oso, and the



Back: Meghan Kermott, Caleb Dobey, Rob Crawford
 Middle: Sonya Kaufman, Bridget Mason, Kevin Farrell
 Front: Gina Boland, Morgan Gilchrist, Governor. Inslee, Trudi Inslee, Director Maia Bellon
 Photo courtesy of the Office of the Governor

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"spike" camp in Darrington. In total, the WCC constructed 9,400 feet of drainage ditches, cleared 3,500 feet of trail, spread 3,300 feet of gravel and cleared 220 obstruction trees from in and around the debris field.

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MEET THE STAFF

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IP Coordinator



Bridget Mason
Grants & Contracts

Crew Coordinator



Jason Ouellette
Laptops & Cell Phones

Crew Coordinator



Kevin Farrell
Wildfire Response

Crew & IP Coordinator



Liz Esikoff
Program Evaluation

Crew & IP Coordinator



Nick Saling
New Regional Coordinator

Crew Coordinator



Roland McGill
Disaster Response

Training Coordinator



Janna Ryan
Outreach & Recruitment

Tools & Logistics



Ted Dewees Shawn Zaniewski

Administrative Support



Jessica Tate Toyah Ross Kate Nagel

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WASHINGTONIAN OF THE DAY

L-R: Trudi Inslee, Morgan Gilchrist, Governor Inslee
Photo courtesy of the Office of the Governor

The WCC served 13,700 meals to responders and collected and distributed 6,350 pounds of donations for local residents.

After highlighting the contributions to the SR 530 response from various agencies, the governor recognized Morgan Gilchrist, a member of WCC's AmeriCorps program, as the Washingtonian of the Day. Along with an apple pin, Morgan received an outpouring of potential job leads from state leaders in the crowd. "He gave the pin to me, but I feel like it was meant for all of the AmeriCorps members," said Gilchrist.

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SUBDUED SCAVENGER HUNT TURNS BELLINGHAM INTO TREASURE MAP

BY: RILEY HILLS, NSEA CREWMEMBER

On Friday morning, October 10th, five northwest crew supervisors and an enthusiastic gaggle of crewmembers made the trip north to Bellingham, Washington to participate in the annual Subdued Scavenger Hunt. The event pits crew against crew in a fierce but friendly competition for the coveted Deer Skull trophy, along with a fine selection of other prizes. The event, now in its second year, was created as an opportunity to build relationships between crews stationed around the northwest region of Washington.

Among other challenges, participants were instructed to locate and photograph local landmarks, find and eradicate invasive species along Whatcom Creek, explore civic engagement opportunities at the Whatcom Volunteer Center, and enjoy an authentic Bellingham treat: a Rocket donut. Although the atmosphere was competitive, as scavengers were reported buzzing around the many hilly blocks of the city at impressive speeds; crews fell into the true spirit of the hunt and socialized, laughed, exchanged numbers, and did some important networking both before and after the event.

The North Whatcom crew, led by Zach Shirk and sponsored by the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement As-

sociation, took home first place and the Deer Skull for the second consecutive year. However, it has been reported that a second and possibly third event is already in the works, with promises of colder weather, more challenges, more competition, and most importantly, more fun. Crew Supervisors wish to thank all of the crewmembers who attended, and encourage another healthy turnout at the next event.



Back L-R: Mitchell Biggs, Dylan White, Caleb Dobey, Rob Crawford, Brian Lindsay, Riley Hills, Annie England, Landon Shaffer, Zach Shirk

Middle: Ashley Matelski, Jay McMillen, Rachel Nyenhuis, Raine Chrystosom, Cassie Castrejon, Sonya Kaufman

Front: Nyssa Prowell, Shelby Herber, Brady Lester

Photo courtesy of Zach Shirk.

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately..."

-Henry David Thoreau

THE CARLTON COMPLEX FIRE: A STORY OF DEPLOYMENT

BY: NATASHA COUMOU



Photo by SFC Jason Kriess, the Washington National Guard

"The young people here don't complain about the menial tasks or the weather, whatever needs to be done—they just do it. I am very glad to see that and their exceptional devotion to hard work."

*-Chuck Wytco
Planning Sections
Chief at the Carlton
Complex Fire*

During the Carlton Complex Fire several crews, including those supervised by Jennifer Briggs and John Longworth, deployed to help with fire response in Winthrop and Omak Base Camps. I had the privilege to be part of a crew that deployed on July 18 for two weeks of intense work. Our duties included establishing a camp, helping with logistics, and maintaining facilities and supplies for the firefighters continuously working on containing the largest fire in Washington's recorded history. All of us there knew one thing: we were there to serve—the community, the firefighters, the nation—to the best of our abilities and knowledge.

As the days passed, the hours got longer, the fire response increased in size and, all the while, we had to keep our heads high and our work up to the standards of the Washington Conservation Corps. We all worked intensely to provide support and fill the shoes of our peers that responded to incidents before us, namely the crews deployed at the Oso landslide earlier this year who worked with the same incident team as our crews in Omak, WA.

Ali Trout (current Crew Supervisor), then an assistant for the Mount Vernon based Skagit spike crew, was the lead in supply. She worked the same role during the Oso landslide response, and created a unique cataloging system for tracking resources. Working alongside Justin Beebe, Rachel Nyenhuis, Josh Reasoner, Josh Henderson and Cooper Gueller, they achieved great cohesion in the chaotic resource-tracking

environment that was the supply unit. They unloaded order after order, inventorying every item that arrived, and made sure that nothing was misplaced or lost. It takes remarkable effort to serve hundreds of firefighters on a daily basis to provide whatever they need from Nomex® attire to fire hoses.

The outstanding efforts of the WCC were also noticed by Matt Ugaldea, Base Camp manager for the Omak fire. "The people working with little to no sleep, no days off, are the unsung heroes of the fire response. That's what we are, the people that keep the team together that no one talks about. The body

of work that the members are doing is huge. WCC members take initiative and know what needs to be completed without waiting for orders. The crews have also built relationships with this small community here, and people see them taking care of camp duties before it's even on the radar. The work that you do here is essential to the system in place—without you it wouldn't function."



Connor Barnes shoveling gravel at base camp
Photo courtesy of Natasha Coumou



D.J. Otis & Shea Scribner collecting trash
Photo courtesy of Natasha Coumou

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Taking care of facilities was another beast to tackle, needing seamless flow in work and delegation of tasks because of the size of the camp. Nick Weisel, Hannah Saldana, and Katy Burmaster made sure the coolers stayed stocked with ice and cool drinks. Courtney Born and Connor Barnes tackled the monster of a task to collect the trash from the 145 cans laid out in the camp that by

day seven produced a whopping 2.5 tons per day. Brittney Deakin and her crewmates Bailey Turman and Cole Robirds kept facilities

"The WCC members have the most important traits needed here, a great attitude and good work ethic."

*-Tim Williams,
Receiving and
Distribution Manager
for Incident Team 3*



Natasha Coumou creating signs to help responders navigate the base camp

Photo courtesy of Natasha Coumou

sanitized, helped the unstoppable Madison Jones-Newman to build many support structures for the camp and handled an array of complex and difficult tasks.

Justin and Cooper, who passed the Red Card training earlier this year, had the unique opportunity to go on night shift with the Ground Support Unit and work on infrared duties—discovering hotspots on the fire line and seeing firsthand the ongoing

battle with the flames. They did amazing work and earned our organization respect from key figures in Omak, including David Harsh, the ground support Unit Leader, who had many positive reflections on our work there. "This is my first time working with WCC crews on a fire response. We worked closely with them in the logistics section and I can say that it is very pleasant to see motivated and organized people [on] the camp crew. Many of the members see the 'bigger picture', are more skilled and driven compared to other non-WCC crews that I've worked with in the past. In all weather conditions, chaos and confusion, I have seen them working hard throughout this whole incident. The consistency in the quality of work that we get [from] WCC plays a great role in this response."

It was an honor to serve side-by-side with so many wonderful, devoted, and hard working people. We learned that together we can accomplish many things and I am proud to say—I am a Washington Conservation Corps member.

"Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower"

-Albert Camus

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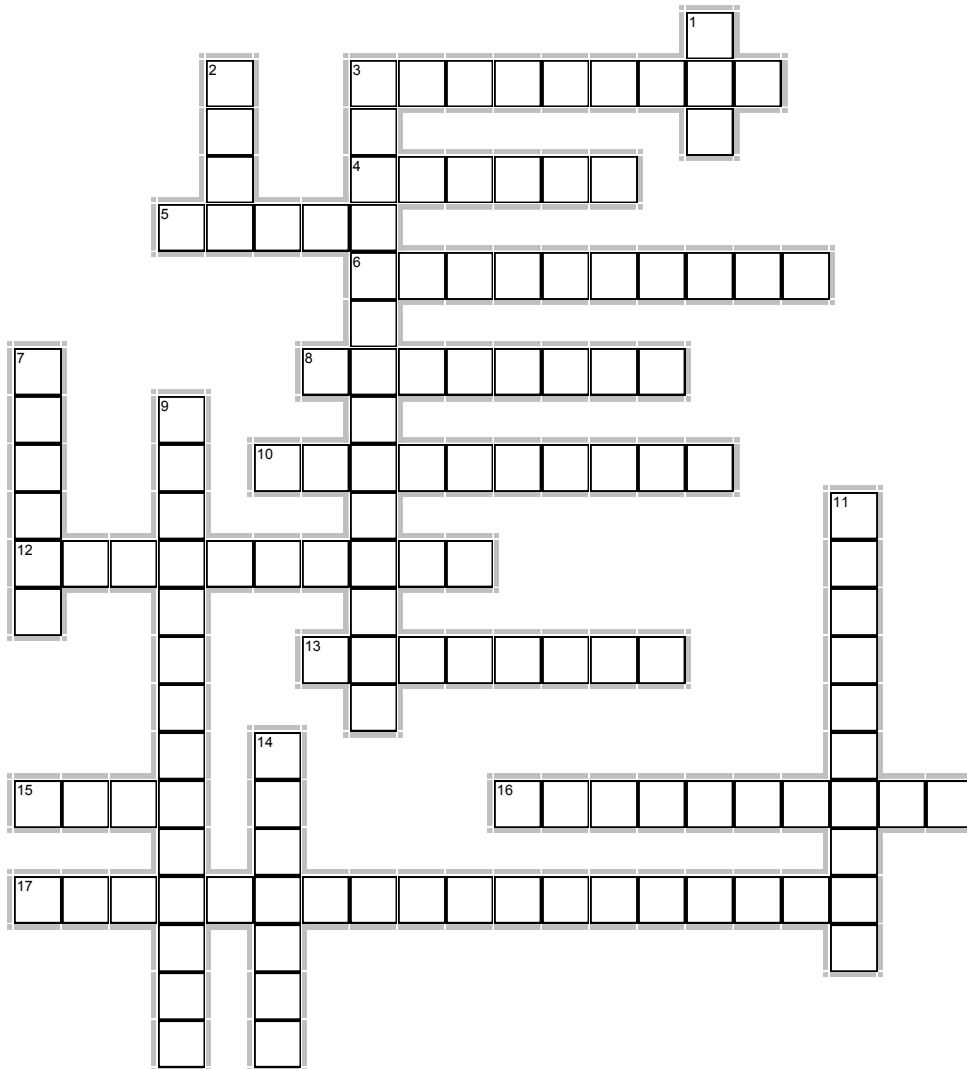
On October 9, Department of Ecology Director Maia Bellon and AmeriCorps Director Bill Basl stopped by to recognize the efforts of the WCC during the Carlton Complex Fire and the Oso landslide. They presented Bridget Mason with the Bill Basl Commitment to Service Award for her continued dedication to service. Congratulations Bridget!

L-R: Maia Bellon (Ecology Director), Bill Basl (AmeriCorps Director) and Bridget Mason

Photo by Janna Ryan



THE EVERGREEN STATE



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

3. State bird
4. WA in largest producer of this crop
5. Type of heron
6. Scientific study of trees
8. River that divides WA and OR
10. Yearly rodeo
12. Erupted in 1980
13. Won 116 games
15. Number of volcanoes in WA
16. Tectonic plate off the coast of WA
17. Largest wildfire in WA history

Down

1. 1983 was the year this organization started
2. Number of national parks in WA
3. One of over 1,000 in the state
7. Valley
9. *Tsuga heterophylla*
11. Who Puget Sound was named after

"Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience. Knowing grass, I can appreciate persistence."

-Hal Borland

1st person to send in answers will receive a prize!



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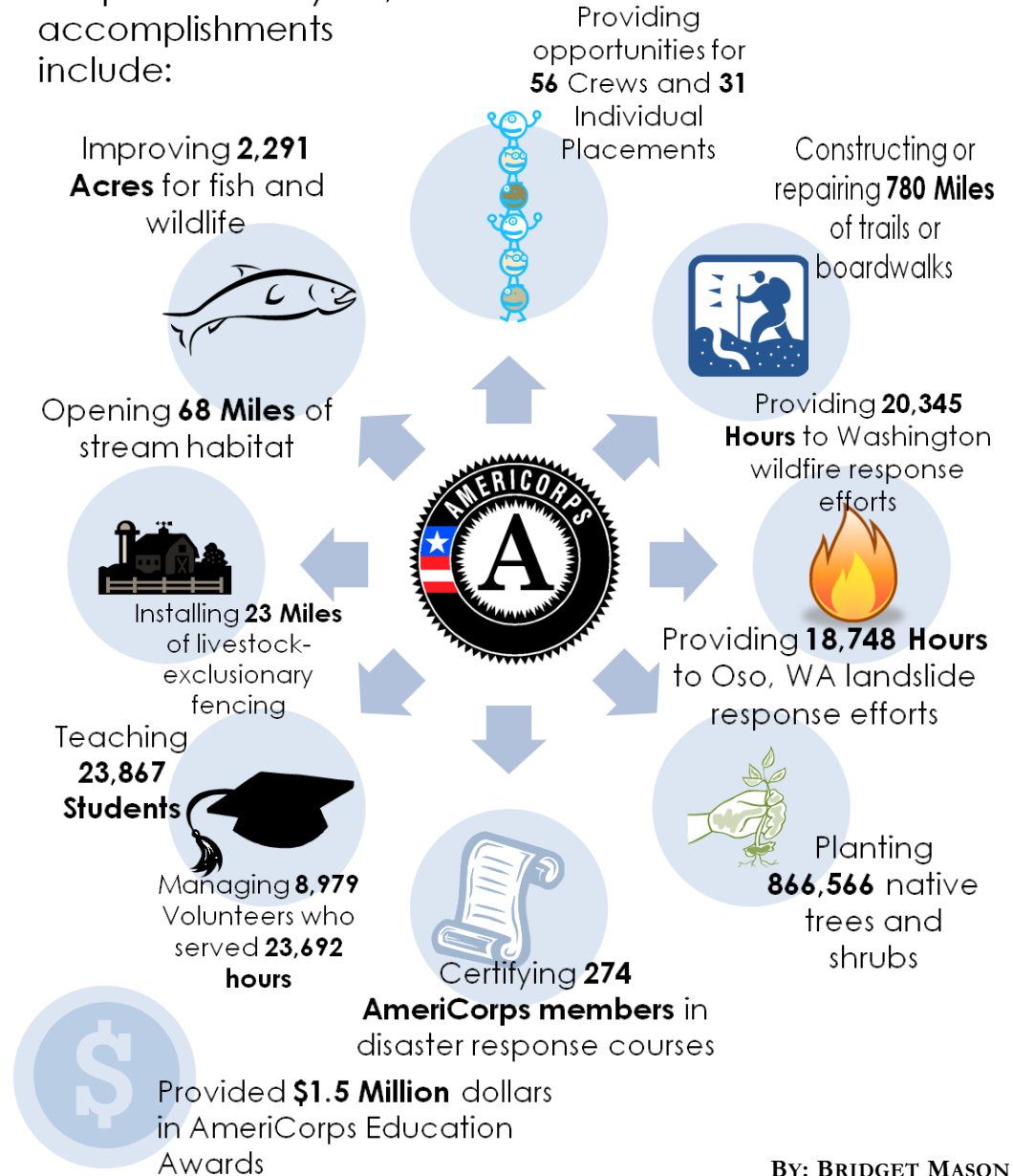
Washington Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc

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By the Numbers...

This past service year, our accomplishments include:



BY: BRIDGET MASON

ABOUT THE WCC

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 offered through the Washington 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. Today, the WCC has around 300 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.