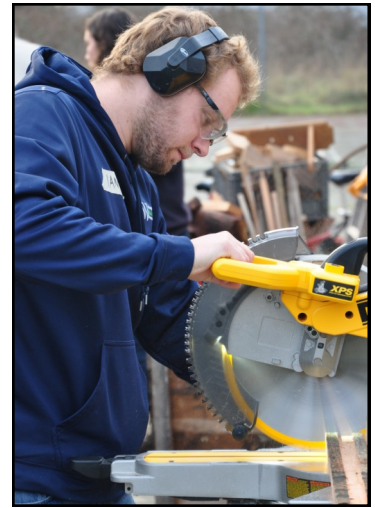


CORPS NEWS

SNAPSHOTS OF ANNUAL ASSISTANT TRAINING



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Assistant supervisors gathered at Fort Worden from January 5-8 for a week of training that included, leadership and facilitation, defensive driving, winter twig ID and volunteering with The ReCyclery; a non-profit bike shop that sells, donates and refurbishes bikes, while promoting biking for a healthier sustainable community. Photos courtesy of Bridget Mason and Laura Schlabach

FIRE DESTROYS ELLENSBURG F.I.S.H FOOD BANK DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING

BY: ERNIE FARMER, ELLENSBURG DISASTER RESPONSE CREW SUPERVISOR



Members load destroyed food into trailer for removal

Early on November 28, 2014, an electrical fire started inside the Friends in Service to Humanity (F.I.S.H) Ellensburg food bank. By mid-morning, the structure and all of its contents were a complete loss.

Immediately, the community, local WCC sponsors, crews, and individual members rallied to lend a hand. Within a week, the food bank had found a temporary distribution point and was back serving hot meals.

The immediate WCC response was spearheaded by the Ellensburg Spike Crew. WCC Project Coordinator, Roland McGill, and Mid Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group Regional Director, Rebecca Wassell, deployed the crew to assist with urgent needs.

The Ellensburg Spike Crew spent two days at the new location and completed the following:

- constructed 72 square feet of new shelving for food storage
- sorted 1000 pounds of donated food
- removed 1500 pounds of frozen food from damaged freezers
- removed hazards from the destroyed building
- installed 15 signs

On December 12, Ellensburg Disaster Response Crew Member Evan Smith (2nd-term), along with Alan Richardson (first term) delivered 10 Christmas trees from an ongoing thinning project to bring holiday spirit to the organization. One week later, both the Yakima Spike Crew and Ellensburg Disaster Response Crew removed fire-damaged food and donations from inside the destroyed building. In just a few hours, the crews removed over 13,000 pounds of damaged food and donations.

Crews then loaded trucks and trailers to transport affected food to the local transfer station. Removing these items facilitated a faster insurance inspection, payment, and helped reveal further losses.

F.I.S.H provides over 40,000 pounds of food monthly in the fight against hunger.



Interior of F.I.S.H after devastating fire

PARANOIA: OR HOW I ASSASSINATED THE WRONG MAN AND DIED AN EPIC, PUBLIC FAKE DEATH

BY: ADELINE WISERNIG, MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY CREWMEMBER

The suspenseful game "Paranoia" reappeared at Orientation Training this fall. Each participant received the name of another participant as their target. In order to "kill" your target and advance in the game, a player must tag their target with a sticker. Here is one Corps Member's personal account:

Upon arrival at Cispus, I decided to play by omission. Someone was going to have my name as their target, there was no changing that. But there were other things to worry about, like where to sit at lunch, or how to avoid those tables with the tiny chairs made for tiny children with tiny knees.

Two days of training went by. People were killing and being killed and getting to know each other and laughing all around me. I, myself, was enjoying my time playing volleyball, learning CPR, raising my adrenalin in Speed (a deck of cards, my best packing choice), and partaking in good-natured, un-digitized conversation.

On the second night, I realized my soon-to-be hit man. A friend, let's call her "Natasha" (it was Natasha), was playing games when one fellow, let's call him "Sam" (it was Sam), asked if she might know a gal named "Adelaide." Naturally, she replied "No. I don't know anyone named Adelaide." Having heard the name Adelaide, so similar to my own beloved Adeline, I walked over to inquire. "Mind if I take a look at the paper?" I asked suavely. Sam handed me the paper, which, as you might have guessed, had my name written beside "Your Target." As I recall, I yelled "It's Adeline!" followed by an innocent obscenity, threw the paper in the air, and bolted out the door.

A hot pursuit ensued. As I ran through the dark, trying to avoid tree roots and tripping hazards, I wasn't sure I was being chased. I came around the other side of the building I had just left, and went up the ramp to the wooden deck to make a sharp turn. This being Washington, it had been raining. Surfaces were slick. As I came around the corner, my feet slipped out from under me. I found myself horizontal, with my glasses and various belongings spread around me on the wooden deck.

Luckily, no one was around. A bit stunned, I retrieved my glasses and dignity and was about to run away when I figured this incident warranted a truce (if only until I was certain I had not dislocated my hip). As Sam came around the corner, I yelled, "Truce! You can tag me if you want, but I just fell so I can't really run away." Sam, being an amiable gentleman, quickly agreed, made sure I was all right, and we parted ways for our respective extracurricular activities.

I resolved that the truce would be in effect until the next day. This did not last long, primarily because I noticed that Sam had returned to his place at the game table. The trouble was, I could not, in good conscience, open that door, place a sticker on Sam, and revel in victory—not without formally calling off the truce.

*"The earth is
what we all
have in
common"*

-Wendell Barry

Cont'd p.9

FISH FLING HELPS HARVEY CREEK

BY: ALEXEI DESMARAIS, SOUND SALMON SOLUTIONS IP



Fish tails are removed for hatchery ID purposes. Photos courtesy of Alexei Desmarais

"[Fish Flings] also serve the important function of restoring an ecosystem's productivity and boosting its capacity to support salmonid life."

Have you ever wanted to get up close and personal with a Chum salmon—or maybe a couple hundred? Have you enviously eyed the fish-tossers at Pike Place Market? Do you have an affinity for guts and slime? Then a salmon carcass distribution effort, like the one recently organized by WCC IP Alexei Desmarais at Sound Salmon Solutions, may be just the thing for you. The smell may eventually wash out of your clothing, but the memories are timeless and the support you provide to a nutrient-deficient ecosystem is priceless.

On the blustery afternoon of December 11, 2014, nine dedicated restorationists dressed to the gills in raingear met at the Stillaguamish Tribe Hatchery at Harvey Creek. The group—which included Alexei Desmarais, WCC IP; the six members of Derek Voelker's Snohomish Conservation District Crew; Shawn Beach, WCC IP, and Stefan Tangen, a volunteer with Sound Salmon Solutions—was convened to pick up two "fish totes" heaped with dead Chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus Keta*).

Hatchery staff had harvested and spawned the fish over the previous week as part of their effort to ensure a viable salmon population in the Stillaguamish watershed. Now these Chum were about to complete their final, if undistinguished, function as salmon: providing vital nutrients for the freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems of the Harvey/Armstrong Creek sub-basin.

Fish carcass distribution is more than just great fun. "Fish Flings" also serve the important function of restoring an ecosystem's productivity and boosting its capacity to support salmonid life. As they return from the ocean, salmon transport a wealth of marine-derived nutrients such as carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorous to the stream ecosystems. After spawning, their carcasses are an important food source for juvenile fish

and for the aquatic invertebrate populations that juveniles primarily feed on.

Additionally, carcasses serve as fertilizer for riparian vegetation. Studies have indicated that trees and shrubs near spawning streams derive nearly a quarter of their nitrogen, an essential nutrient for plant growth, from spawning salmon.* Owing to the significant decline in local salmon runs, many streams are nutrient deficient. This decreases productivity of the ecosystem as a whole and limits the stream's ability to support salmon populations.

The trucks sagged under the weight of the fish totes as the group drove up to the distribution sites. They were headed to a reach of Harvey Creek that runs through private forestland owned and maintained Pilchuck Tree Farm. Models have shown historical salmon runs in the area, but recent salmon distribution has been low or non-existent in the sub-basin. Our fish flingers were determined to provide the stream system with some of the nutrients it lacked.

Forming an assembly line of a sort, the group jumped in (literally) to tackle the task at hand. A few stood in the truck bed, grabbing salmon—and the occasional floating fish heart—from the totes and tossing the dead fish to their colleagues on the ground. Participants then cut off the fish tails with machetes to mark hatchery fish (rather than natural spawners), before dumping them in a distribution pile. Finally, they flung the fish off the bridge and into the stream, distributing fish throughout the riparian zone, aiming for in-channel large woody debris (LWD) structures and pools to increase retention of the carcasses.

Though the fish were still flying thick and fast at the next distribution site, the group found time for an impromptu fish anatomy lesson. One of the fish removed from the tote (a male, it turned out) was missing its entire right lateral exterior, exposing its innards to the fascinated group.

The event was a great success and everyone involved had a blast. Overall, participants distributed nearly 250 Chum salmon carcasses, providing much-needed marine-derived nutrients to the stream ecosystem. We can't wait to do it again next year!

* Helfield, James M., "Effects of Salmon-Derived Nitrogen on Riparian Forest Growth and Implications for Stream Productivity" (2001). *Environmental Science. Paper 19.*



Ashley Stysma (Snohomish Conservation District) with a Chum before flinging it into the creek.

"We flung the fish off the bridge...aiming for in-channel LWD structures and pools."

THE BOARDWALK AT YESLER SWAMP: WHERE FINESSE MEETS BRUTE FORCE

BY: SHAWN ZANIEWSKI, TOOLS AND LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

On April 9, 2014, Junior Fuimaono and crew broke ground on the first phase of a five phase, 1,200 feet boardwalk project at Yesler Swamp. Yesler Swamp is located on the northwestern shore of Lake Washington. Managed by the University of Washington, Friends of Yesler and the Department of Natural Resources, Yeslar Swamp is an urban oasis on the outskirts of Seattle.

This type of construction takes a meticulous, detail-oriented mindset (plan reading/interpretation, setting footings/transit work, precise final cuts, etc.), mixed with back-breaking physical work (running a 100 pound jack hammer, packing heavy materials, manual pin driving, etc.).

Now on phase three, Junior and crew's blood, sweat and tears have created a beautiful final product that the crew, and all of the WCC can be proud of. Describing the process does not do it justice, so I thought I would demonstrate the progression through a pictorial. I hope you enjoy.

“This type of construction takes a meticulous, detail-oriented mind set... mixed with back breaking physical work”

Special Recognition to the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Tacoma Vetern Crews. Supervisor Junior Fuimaono and members Saray Carrada-Lopez, Eslee Kenic, Jake Jaraczski, Marjorie Masters, Zach Medici, Scott Miller, Fritz Peter and Prichard Tudong



Crew members preparing to place low impact concrete footings along surveyed lines. These will become the support system of the boardwalk.



Surveying the land where the boardwalk is being constructed. Precise measurements are taken to ensure a level boardwalk.



Left: Members work with a transit to find the correct elevation for the footing. Four metal pipes are inserted into each footing.



Above: These footings are known as "diamond pier footings" and will hold the boardwalk in place.



Above: Perfect placement of footings takes lots of hard work and time.

Right: Teamwork makes using a 100 lb jack hammer a little easier in really muddy conditions.



"Conservation of land and conservation of people frequently go hand in hand"
 -Eleanor Roosevelt



Above: Brackets are in place to hold wood support beams.

Right: WCC members Saray Carrada-Lopez and Eslee Kenic dig trenches along the length of the support beams.



“Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better”

-Albert Einstein



Above Left: Section of boardwalk that has had cedar planks laid by hand.

Above Right: Between planks, pins are manually driven in.



Left: Job well done. The almost finished boardwalk section looks out towards the swamp.

Paranoia, p. 3

My group devised Plan A. A friend, let's call him Zach (Hi, Zach), would walk into the game room conspicuously, as if Zach was to be Sam's assassinator. I would stand outside and wait to hear Zach tell Sam that the truce is over. I would open the door, assassinate, and proceed to revel in glory. All this would have been fine if it wasn't for a certain good-natured friend, let's call him Justin (Hi Justin!). Justin was exiting the door I was waiting by, and realized the plan. He responded with something like, "You're going to kill him? Like this? After he let you go and you had a truce?"

The only way to stop Plan A was to give myself away. I ran into the game room, yelled, "The plan is off! The truce is off!" and made a mad dash away. I noticed a dark room ran inside. To my surprise, I ran right into the middle of a few folks watching a movie. I hid up against the wall and made the classic "Shhh" gesture. Two of Sam's friends ran past the doorway, so I thought I might be in the clear. Wrong. One of them looked into the classroom in which I was very obviously "hiding," and soon I was on the run again.

After reconvening with my crew and having a good laugh, it became obvious the pursuit would have to end that night. I was no longer safe with the truce called off, and I have never been good at living with paranoia. I assumed Sam had returned to his rightful spot in the game room. The plan (not to be mistaken with Plan A) was this: my faithful crew would create a distraction by entering through the side door, one head above an-

Cont'd, p.10

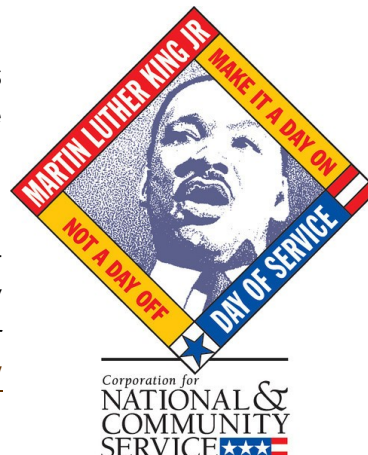
A DAY OF SERVICE

On January 19, WCC members will participate in the national MLK Day of Service. We join thousands across the country, in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by volunteering in our communities.

The Corporation for National and Community Service states, "The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community." This year, projects include working at community gardens, coordinating a food drive and helping other non-profits in our local areas.

We strive to continue working towards Dr. King's vision of a beloved community on and off the job.

We'd love to share your stories of service! Send us photos and recaps of your MLK Day of Service to publish in our next newsletter, by emailing maggie.counihan@ecy.wa.gov or share on our FB page at www.facebook.com/washingtonconservationcorps



"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with excellence"
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Yesler, p.8



Finished railings along boardwalk ensure the environment is protected from people wanting to wander through the native plants



The completed boardwalk is ADA accessible and fun for all ages!

*“Don't judge
each day by the
harvest you reap
but by the seeds
that you plant”*

*-Robert Louis
Stevenson*

Paranoia, p.9

other in the doorway, and snap their fingers like the classic movie West Side Story. I would peer in through the side window, locate Sam, and watch the performance. When the whole room was adequately distracted or confused, I would burst in through the back door, assassinate Sam, and, you guessed it, revel in victory!

The stage was set. I peered in through the window and alerted the crew that Sam was now wearing a blue hat along with his orange sweatshirt. They went in for the performance. From the window, I watched heads turn from innocent card games and Clue towards what I could only imagine was a flawless performance. This was my cue. Red sticker in hand, I burst through the back door, saw the orange sweater, and shot (well, put a sticker on) him! I turned around to a crowd of OHH's and AHH's and laughter, and threw up the ol' Nixon style V for Victory!

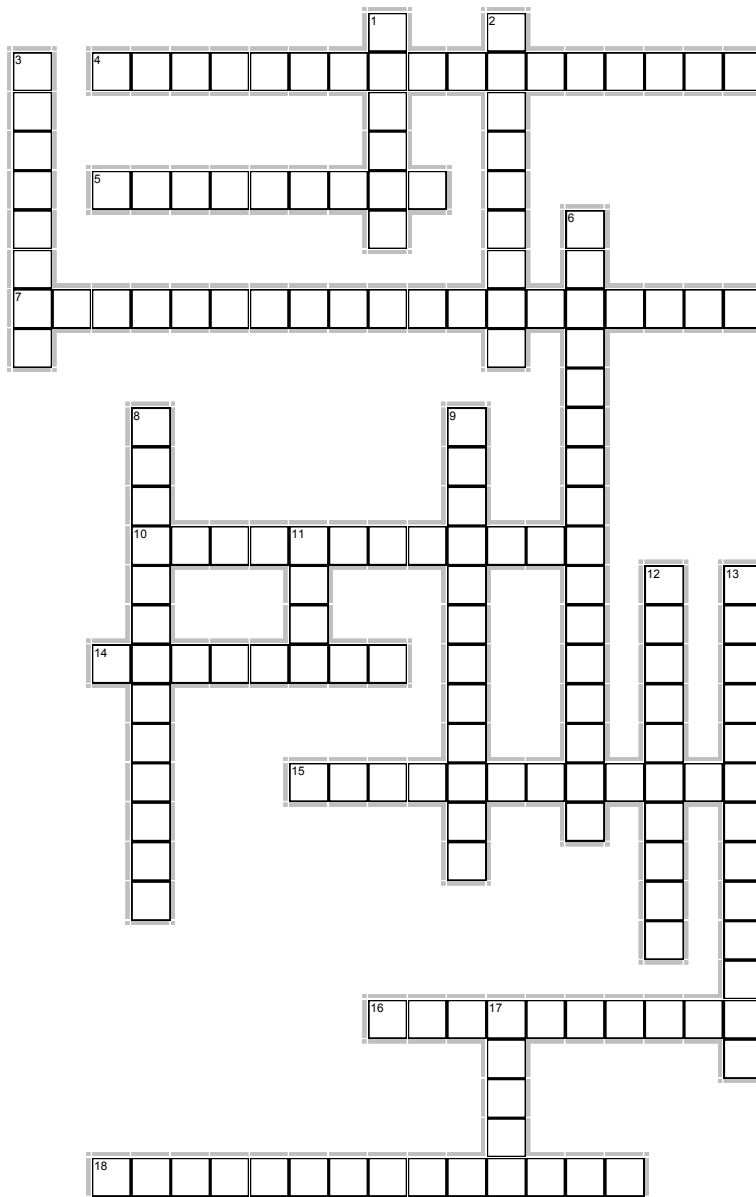
Amidst the chaos, I felt a poke on my back and shift in the tone of the chanting crowd. As I turned to the man I had killed, to the man I thought was Sam, I fell to my knees with the realization that I, in fact, was the one who got played. Sam and his trusty friend (I apologize, my good man, I did not manage to catch your name) had switched sweaters. He had taken the bullet for Sam who in turn, assassinated his target.

The crowd was in mayhem. People ran from other rooms to watch what I can only imagine to be the most public fake death I will ever experience. I thank my comrades Zach, Justin, Mel, Natasha, and Kayden, and formally apologize to all those whose games, movies, and naps I interrupted. To Sam, I say: you were the most worthy of adversaries.

**SEND US MATERIAL TO BE PUBLISHED
IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!**

*Please send your stories,
photos, and updates for
publishing to Maggie Counihan at
maggie.counihan@ecy.wa.gov*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

4. The state amphibian
5. The state insect
7. Annual New Years eve event
10. The state flower
14. First island nation that celebrates the New Year
15. He wrote our state folk song
16. The state vegetable shares its name with a town
18. The state fish

Down

1. Program that has collected a quarter billion pounds of electronics
2. Most widely used calendar
3. 2,000 lbs of ___ are dropped on the Times Square crowd
6. The state fossil
8. The state gem
9. Scottish folk song commonly sung on New Years Eve
11. The state marine mammal
12. Common editorial cartoon at end of year
13. Food that brings good luck if eaten on new years eve
17. This new year occurs on the new moon

*“Continuous effort –not strength or intelligence– is the key to unlocking our potential”
-Winston Churchill*

1st crew or IP 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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NEW OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Laura is thrilled to be back working with the WCC and says that "one aspect I loved about working on a WCC crew is witnessing the personal transformations that happen over the course of working outdoors together for an entire year. I watched some coworkers become more outgoing and confident; others deepened their love of environmental work and came away with specific career goals."

She spent two years restoring salmon habitat with the King County DNRP crews and her favorite projects usually involved planting or live-staking. "One memorable project involved building a deer-exclusion fence to protect some riparian native species that we planted along a constructed inlet. The previous year our crew watched the Pink salmon running as we worked alongside the bank."

She has an educational background in both environmental science and communication from Goshen College in Indiana. Before joining the WCC as a Corps Member, she worked as an assistant social media producer at the environmental news site, Grist.org. Most recently, she worked as the events coordinator for the fair-trade non-profit store, Ten Thousand Villages.

On the weekends, she can be found either hiking to an alpine lake, or researching the best route to enter the Enchantment Lakes. "The Goat Rocks Wilderness is my favorite place to backpack. I also enjoy trail work, yoga, and cooking."



Answers for December Puzzle

Across: 2.SNOWBOARDING 4.THUJAPLICATA 7.PUFFINS 10.DOUGLAS 13.CURLING 15.BAKER 16.ROOSEVELT 17.THUNDERBIRDS 19.CRATER LAKE 20.SEAHAWKS

Down: 1.MAZAMA 3.PCT 5.PENGUINS 6.SAINTLAWRENCERIVER 8.GLACIERS 9.SNOWBELTS 11.PTARMIGAN 12.CCC 14.LEAVENWORTH 18.BAIKAL

Agologies for the double 16's

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.