

There and Back Again: Culvert Assessments Aid Salmon Migration

By Juliet Kiester and fellow WCC City of Redmond Crew AmeriCorps Members

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Top: City of Redmond AmeriCorps Member Dylan Pollett measures a culvert for WDFW fish barrier assessment.
Bottom: City of Redmond AmeriCorps Member Matthew Hilliard takes notes for a stream habitat assessment.
Photos submitted by Juliet Kiester.

Humans and salmon have had a close-knit relationship for over 10,000 years. This is especially true for the native peoples of Washington State, whose culture is inseparable from these ancient creatures. However, the activities of modern society over the last century have been so environmentally destructive that some species of salmon have declined almost to extinction, and so culturally destructive that the tribes have had to fight for their rights and the rights of the salmon time and time again.

The story of the legal battle between the tribes, the government, and the environment goes back to 1854 with the signing of the Treaty of Medicine Creek. This treaty exchanged the many tribes' rights to their own land for permanent hunting and fishing rights. Following the signing of the treaty, all members of the tribes had to move onto reservations. One year later, other tribes in the region signed the similar Treaty of Point No Point.

The government never upheld its part of the bargain which spawned multiple conflicts. In the 1960s and 1970s, members of the tribes staged a series of protests known as the "Fish Wars," which

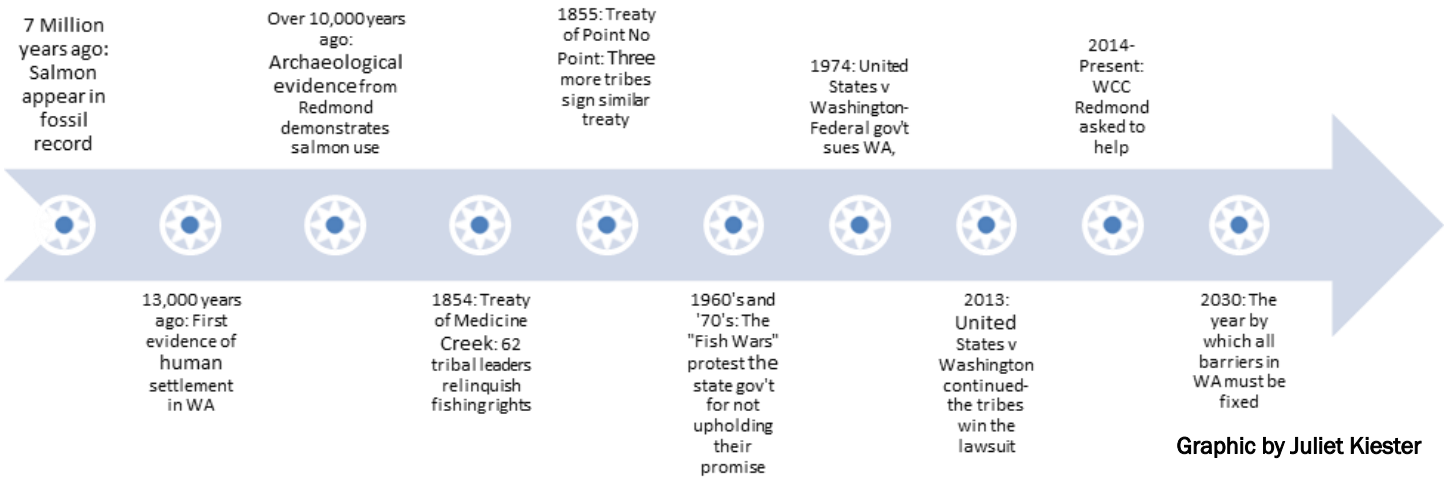
finally attracted the Federal Government's attention. This culminated in *United States v. Washington* (commonly known as the Boldt Decision), a lawsuit in which the Federal Government pressured the state to uphold its legal promises by granting Native Americans their treaty fishing rights.

While *United States v. Washington* eased some of the human conflict, some salmon species have been pushed to near-extinction over the last century. This trend of declining salmon populations is ecologically harmful and means that the tribes can no longer exercise their hunting and fishing rights. This, too, is a violation of the treaty. In 2013, Western Washington State tribes sued the state for installing culverts that prevent fish passage. The tribes' win in the courts dictated that all such culverts must be replaced by 2030. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) created a protocol for determining which culverts were impassible and for assessing the habitat upstream of each culvert.

Continued on pg. 2.



There and Back Again: Culvert Assessments Aid Salmon Migration (Continued)



Kira Gordon takes notes for a WDFW stream habitat assessment. Photo submitted by Juliet Kiester.

WCC's City of Redmond crew has been collaborating with WDFW and the City of Redmond to survey streams as part of this state-wide effort.

The crew's project support takes us up every potential fish-bearing stream in the city, from urban wastelands to pristine habitats full of native plants. Peters Creek was one of the first streams we set out to survey. We began at its confluence with the Sammamish River, where a silt-choked channel runs through slimy banks. As we walked around in our waders to measure the culvert, brown bubbles rose up from the murky water, popping at the surface and releasing a wretched odor. We also found debris and bio-hazardous litter along the banks. Yet, the most upstream section of Peters Creek, beyond multiple impassible culverts, found Western Red Cedars and Douglas-Firs towering above an understory of Salmonberry and Osoberry. These native plants shade the clear water as it ripples across multi-colored gravel perfect for spawning salmon. Once all of the barriers between these two places have been fixed, the salmon will have a chance to make it to this paradise.

The task of repairing all barriers impeding the salmon's journey is imposing. Our City of Redmond crew is halfway through our data collection but we still have over 50 culverts to assess. The data we collect is one small piece of the puzzle, but we are proud that our little piece is contributing to the future of salmon. Through our efforts and those of other dedicated restoration crews, the hope is that by 2030 all of Washington's streams will once again be available to salmon and the tribes will once again be able to carry out their traditions.



"Salmon recovery begins and ends with good habitat. Without a good home to return to, no amount of fisheries restrictions will restore this precious resource"

-Billy Frank Jr.

Puget Sound Passage: Celebrating Migratory Birds on Whidbey Island

By Ryan Kintz, WCC Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest Individual Placement AmeriCorps Member



Ryan Kintz with the group at the Migratory Bird Festival on Whidbey Island. Photo submitted by Ryan Kintz.

I love the outdoors, and because we all serve with the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) I take solace in the fact that we probably share similar outlooks. I graduated from The Evergreen State College, hail from Washington, and have reaped the benefits of living in such a lushly forested landscape. This upbringing has left me predisposed to outdoor activities. This passion led me to the WCC where I'm currently serving as the youth outreach and event coordinator for Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

I have many roles within my position. Behind the scenes I plan events and coordinate the logistics. I make sure all of the components come together in a manner that caters to the needs of the participants. When everything is ready, and the given event is underway, I enter the front lines and take whatever role is necessary. I shift from educator to crew leader to media specialist, or sometimes to occasional dishwasher. One week I'll be looking for Bald Eagles with a bus full of senior citizens, and the next I'm building relationships with Elementary Schools in Seattle so we can get their 4th graders in snowshoes. Considering there are fourteen major events this year, the breadth of this program is quite large - but there's nothing quite like my most recent event: the 2016 Migratory Bird Festival.

The Migratory Bird Festival celebrates migratory birds and their contributions to the world. I invited three partners to participate in this two-day event: InternIM Wild, Seattle Parks and Recreation Outdoor Opportunities, and the Kulshan Creek Community. This created a very diverse group of attendees both culturally and generationally. Attendees included Seattle intercity youth, international district elders, and Latina families from Mt. Vernon. Each partner brought food from their own culture to share during lunch. With help from the North Cascades Institute and Whidbey Island Audubon Society, I provided a wide range of specialized activities. Throughout the day everyone enjoyed food, education, games, and exploration.

The majority of people left after the main event, while 26 teens remained. The day continued with outdoor games which increased bonding between the groups. The highlight for many was the ocean-side sunset hike on the Pacific Northwest Trail. Everyone went to bed that night after a long day of fun where they could dream of sugar plums and hard manual labor. We awoke at 6:30 a.m. the next day to commence our service learning project where we sought to build upon the knowledge gained during the first day. The service project increased habitat for migratory birds by pulling Scotch broom in Fort Ebey State Park. All day, park patrons thanked the hard working youth for their service. Though they are unable to talk, everyone knew the birds were truly the appreciative ones.

In those two days we totaled 80 people, 645 education hours, 124 stewardship hours, and other vague units of fun. But the story doesn't end there. I've only completed half of my yearly events, and the events yet to come involve helping people who are mentally or physically handicapped hike, bike, and boat, taking teens on four different weeklong stewardship projects, cleaning a mountain all together with hordes of volunteers, and much, much more. This position has given me a chance to serve with stellar groups of people while contributing to everyone's public land. I look back on my accomplishments with warm fondness and I'll continue to seek the level of excellence that is possible with AmeriCorps positions like this.



What's in a Sign?

By Adeline Wisernig, WCC Port Angeles Olympic National Park AmeriCorps Member



The crew with landscape architect Jack Galloway (right corner). Photos submitted by Adeline Wisernig.

In a given day, I imagine the majority of people—without those of us lucky enough to spend eight days in the backcountry at a time—encounter perhaps upward to a hundred, if not more, signs throughout their lives. Traffic signs, business signs, warning labels, grocery tags—all these almost invisibly come together to direct an individual through their daily experience.

For much of February and March, my WCC Corps Network AmeriCorps crew—The Olympic National Park (ONP) Spike Crew lead by Luke Wigle—received a break from the muddy drains and soggy log-outs to help with two sign installation projects on the banks of Lake Quinalt and the Pacific coast at Rialto Beach.

Many of those reading this story have seen the sort of signs that my crew installed before: those large, often brown with white lettering, placards reading ‘such and such National Park’ affixed to a meticulously designed rock or log support system. The signs vary in shape and font but what is consistent across our country is official National Park logo: an arrowhead embossed with the relief of a mountain scape, a tree, and the outline of a buffalo. The logo reads: National Park Service and Department of the Interior. In this way, you know that when you have passed the

sign you are entering on land established as pristine, wild, and preserved— as somehow important in its un-manipulated state.

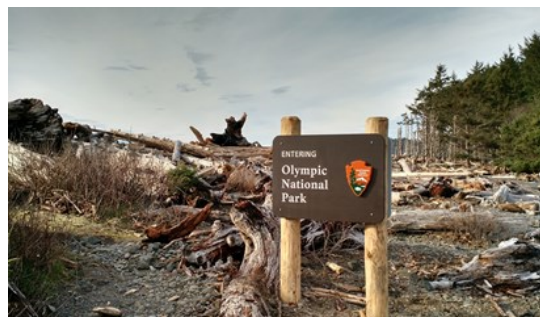
I’ll admit that I hadn’t thought critically about the subject of National Park designation signs before our project started. They had always been a symbol of relief—I have arrived to ‘nature’ or I have left hustle and bustle of the city. However, after beginning our first sign at Rialto Beach to designate National Park land from Quileute Tribal Land, I began to get the sense that this sign was a long time in the making.

I don’t know the whole intricate history of how land boundaries between the Quileute tribe and National Park came to be established, but I do know that the area that constitutes Rialto Beach has long been debated.

Jack Galloway is a landscape architect with the Olympic National Park and the man who guided our sign installations from blueprint to the logs that stand today. He has been working with ONP since 1990. After spending quite a few hours in the rain maneuvering large logs with him, I think it stands true that he has seen the park change as well as contributed to those changes quite a bit over the years.

The area of Rialto Beach sits just north of the mouth of the Quillayute River. For many years, the northern boundary of Quileute territory was debated because it was signified by the ever-changing river. For the ONP, Rialto Beach is one of the most visited areas of the park. From the parking lot you can see the old-growth driftwood that forms a beach playground along the shore, while sea-stacks plummet into the rugged Pacific.

This public draw is beneficial to both the tribe and the park, gaining revenue from tourism and respect for the areas through education and public experience. However, in the mid-1990s through the early 2000s, this area was at risk for being closed to the public if the tribe and park could not come to an agreement of where the actual boundary lay.



One side: New Quileute Reservation sign.



Other side: ONP boundary designation.

Compete in WCC Olympics at June Training!

Win glory for your team and yourself at WCC's 12th annual OLYmpic Games at June Training!

Featured events include:

- Tug of War
- Crosscut Challenge
- Hard Hat Frisbee Golf
- Spirit Award
- One-Gallon Pickup Challenge



Sign up for events Monday at training.

For full event descriptions see the flyer in the training email .

Events pictured:

Crosscut Challenge
The One Gallon Pick-up Challenge

What's in a Sign? (Continued)

This stemmed from the tribe's desire to negotiate the park boundaries and to return some of the higher elevation land back to the tribe due to growing concern of tsunami danger. Much of the tribal community averaged about 10-15 feet above sea level. With growing research and knowledge of climate change and past historical flooding, it became imperative that the tribal community begin to move to higher ground. Somewhere in the extensive negotiation papers and propositions lay the official designation of the park boundary at Rialto Beach.

In February of 2012, the Congress passed and President Obama signed a law transferring 772-acres of ONP land to the Quileute Nation to provide safe, higher ground for the village. With this law also came delineation of the southern boundary of the park to include the section that had already been developed into a parking lot and rest room area for park visitors.

Precise GPS coordinates established, Jack Galloway drew out the exact location of the holes and our crew began to dig. A week and much log positioning and leveling later, the two signs reading 'Entering Olympic National Park' on one side and 'Entering Quileute Indian Reservation' on the other, stand firmly (if still vulnerable to the will of the ocean's waves) in the ground.

Our crew helped replace two other signs on both the north and south shores of Lake Quinault after the project at Rialto was complete. As far as I know, the Lake Quinault signs were merely in need of replacing because of time and natural wear. Looking at signs after this experience, I reflect more often, for better or worse, 'how is it that this land is what it is today'?



Installing the sign support logs.

IP Spotlight: Autumn Moore-Barkus

WCC Snohomish County Marine Resources Individual Placement IP AmeriCorps Member

Serving as the IP for Snohomish County has provided many wonderful experiences. From assisting with derelict crab pot removals in Port Gardner, to beach seining off Smith Island, there are always learning opportunities right around the corner.

Within my role as the Marine Resources Assistant, I support the Marine Resources Committee. This volunteer advisory board of 12 people works to augment, support, and develop conservation and restoration programs involving surface water within Snohomish County. Some of our current projects involve:

- Oil spill prevention, preparation and response in Snohomish County
- Bull Kelp monitoring
- Recreational crabber education
- Mussel Watch and water quality sampling
- Nearshore Habitat restoration
- Forage fish monitoring

A recent highlight of my experience with this committee was attending the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in Vancouver, BC. Over the span of three days, the sold out event focused on the protection and restoration of the Salish Sea Ecosystem. I spent my days learning about a myriad of different topics, such as clam gardens, the effects of copper on juvenile salmon, and eelgrass research. These presentations provided highly useful information for my position, as well as my long term career goals by expanding my knowledge horizons.

During the conference, I also presented a poster entitled “Bringing Conservation and Recreation Together.” This poster showcased my graduate work on public interest in the integration of conservation activities (e.g. beach cleanups, invasive species removal, habitat restoration) into outdoor recreation activities. The poster and study was well received, and led to several meaningful connections and contacts.

Presenting my research will help promote my personal and career goals through effective networking, positive feedback and recommendations for my projects, and the encouragement to pursue my passions. I’ve enjoyed all of the learning opportunities my IP term has brought thus far, and look forward to what is still in store!



Autumn standing next to her poster at the 2016 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference. Photo submitted by Autumn Moore.

Native Plant Photo Contest

Last Call!



Photo by Magen Leaver.

This is the last call for the Native Plant Appreciation Photo Contest! In honor of Native Plant Appreciation Week, April 23 to May 1, we put out the call for photos with your very favorite native plant, tree, or shrub.

We will display and vote for the winning photo entry at June Elective Training, June 6-9. If you’d like your photo to be entered into the contest please make sure to:

- Include WCC and/or AmeriCorps logos in the photo
- Identify your featured native species when you submit your photo (via social media or by email)

Please email submissions to Sadie.Normoyle@ecy.wa.gov by June 2.

WCC Snapshots



1



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4



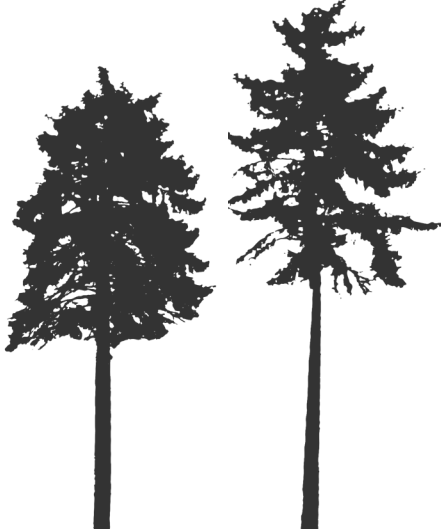
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1. Ryan Kintz with a group of teens after the Migratory Bird Festival, taking an ocean-side sunset hike on the Pacific Northwest Trail. Photo submitted by Ryan Kintz.
2. AmeriCorps Individual Placement Mattie Michalek educates kids about the importance of watersheds at the Saltwater State Park Earth Day Festival. Photo by Sadie Normoyle.
3. Supervisors Ashlie Arthur and Alicia Kellogg in firefighting gear at the Women in Trade Career Fair. Photo submitted by Alicia Kellogg.
4. WCC AmeriCorps members from Yakima and Ellensburg assist the Yakama Nation at an event at the Toppenish Cultural Center. Photo by Yakama Nation Fisheries.
5. Nisqually NWR Assistant Supervisor Mary Powell in Oystercatcher attire at the annual Shorebird Festival in Grays Harbor. Photo submitted by Alex Mesick.
6. The Port Angeles Olympic National Park crew on a large driftwood log on the shore around La Push. Photo submitted by Adeline Wisernig.
7. AmeriCorps Individual Placement Emily Carlson and King Conservation District staff looking for pollinators in Renton. Photo by Nikki Marschke and Mark Musick.



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www.facebook.com/washingtonconservationcorps

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

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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

WCC Word Search

First one to send in the correct puzzle gets a prize!

<p>A U R S H W B J D C N W O O U Z O E J I C V Y A M O Z E S C N O R L X D V S O G I U H F Y B M V B J K J Y K Y Q I L L H C B Y B N M C H D D E S N O P S E R R E T S A S I D X N N Q U L H T I N G A E T R G W R H F A D Z P J D G G F P C M Z B A F S L H Z J O Q B S W D A V E E S K X O T N Q W S G P L B J B G Y V N X B Z F W I K M G A J U P T X P W P C J X J H Q O N C V U W H Y F W L C Z Q L O P I E V H F R D C F Z K R R A O V W Q A G D N G S A A Q L F B B L D O A L S A Z B O T Q U I G Z N L M F V H V U L J O C J X S A I F X X M V Z A I E Z T Y T W E B S K Q S P S S L K O J B S P R I N G T I M E C O A O X C T L R T F X K M O R K S M Z L M Z V Y D X E O J M C V Z G R E T T E L S W E N F X L Z T F A L T P V V W Y I Z W R R H K A S D F R S E L T P R M V X R U C S K F O W G N S G E A P Z I C Y W P E D P L S Y Y D R X V R K J U C H Y D F Z S G Y S P Y V R V A R N M S P O J J J X N B B Y A M K I S D N H G T P C O S S E M S V D R N J A I R J B M E A C O V D N O A P V Y C I N W P S F J K Q K Q C Y W Y J J O R T I I V M C J R D I K Y S P L V X I U W X J H L N Z Z X O L R E D A E P R L R Y F O D P D V S L Q S B H Y E P F Q K B A Y Y U Q K I D E V J A O F B U H G T U L G E L Z I Z U Y I B I Y A T K N M Q Y A H S N C L S E K I P S M J L A O L L E J G E L U G A D C Q S Q P D Q Q U K Y V N Q N O I T A R O T S E R P W C G A C Z M R U M B P W Y P Q F R F Q Y K D M L Z F B I L Y F B N N I A K X W E R C W N U C M J G L R D C H S Y I M A M X T Q A T Y Q D Z J S A L Q L S J T R U J J R Q G F Q K C W C I V K N Y R J X Z R A W P T Z K P R C D Q O O K X B S E L H E X M S G Y L M D S S W C E Z L I L S H E L I F Q P M M E R X E L W Q F N B A T F M S V X U P X G D O S Q N R L V E V X L X L T R G D A V G J Q X J G F I H X C W S W O Z X R N F O D L V R A O C D Y H V Y U C M V T M E G W P C M W O R T G</p>				
blackberry	springtime	pnw	americorps	crew
ecology	newsletter	conservation	corps	restoration
individualplacement	cispus	saws	spike	disasterresponse

Crossword puzzle Answers
(Last Issue)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 2. Thimbleberry | 1. Scotch Broom |
| 6. Oregon Grape | 3. Blackberry |
| 8. Red Huckleberry | 4. Pacific Madrone |
| 10. Rhododendron | 5. Western Hemlock |
| 11. Salmonberry | 7. Lady Fern (or Deer Fern) |
| 12. Japanese Knotweed | 9. Dandelion |

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.