



# Washington Conservation Corps

Getting Things Done

# Our Mission Statement:

To Conserve and enhance the natural resources of Washington State and help young adults enrich themselves by providing a meaningful work and service experience



WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
E C O L O G Y

# Chapter 43.220 RCW

## The Washington Conservation Corps

Section 1:  
The Washington  
Conservation Corps is  
created...

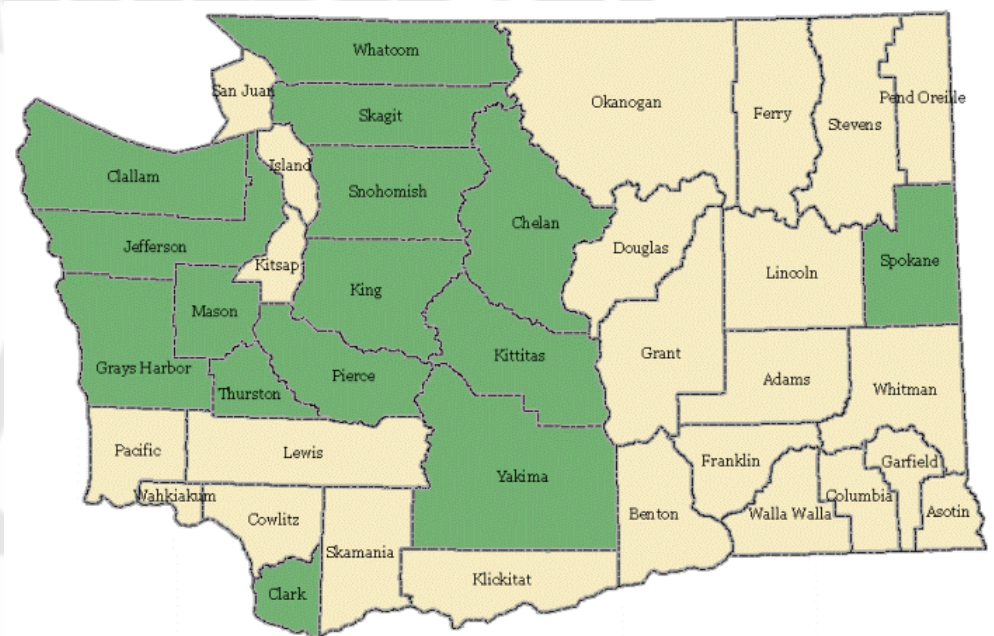


- Program Inception 1984  
Loosely modeled after FDR's  
Civilian Conservation  
Corps.
- Partnered with AmeriCorps  
in 1994



# Modern Day WCC

- Currently 58 crews statewide. Will be adjusted to 55 fulltime crews October 2014
- 31 individual Placements (IPs)
- Administration staff:  
Program Director, 4 Project Coordinators, training coordinator, 2 Tools/Logistics Coordinators, Office Administrator, Americorps/grant liaison



# Corp Member Eligibility

# The Perks:

- 18-25 years old
- U.S. Citizen/National/ Resident Alien
- High School Diploma or GED. If candidate has neither the WCC will help with obtaining GED
- Hourly wage (\$9.32)
- Basic Health Care
- Upon completion of program contract, AmeriCorps Education Award of \$5550 (12-month term)
- Paid Trainings
- Student Loan forbearance and payment of accrued interest
- One on One interactions with other professionals in the field.
- Paid job shadow hours

\*age requirement is waved for veterans

# Program Breakdown:

- **Veterans Conservation Corps**
- **Puget Sound Corps**
- **Individual Placements (IPs)**
- **Original Corps**

# Veterans Corps

- Began Fall of 2011, The Washington Conservation Corps formed a partnership with the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, and United States Forest Service.
- This is the first program of its kind.
- 5 full time crews
- 4/2 ratio of Vet vs. Non Vet

Senator Ranker helped appropriate \$1,000,000 for Puget Sound clean up



# Puget Sound Corps

- State and federal money earmarked for restoration of the greater Puget Sound area.
- Focus will be on state DNR lands
- Improvements/Restoration of shore and near shore habitat.
- Creosote log removal
- Recreational access improvements
- Recovery goal date of: 2020



# Individual Placements (IPs)

- Internships.
- Work includes public outreach, community education, monitoring, and data collection.
- These positions are Non-Administrative
- Because of the technical nature of these positions, a college degree is preferred, but not required.



# Washington Conservation Corps Crew

- Local Crews- One primary sponsor, generally focused on a relatively small or defined geographic area
- Spike Crews- Multiple sponsors throughout the year, generally 6 or more months on the road.
- Disaster Response Crew- Can be either local/spike crew. Members are generally serving there 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Crew is a primary emergency response asset deploying both locally and nationally

# The whole darn package...

- 5 person trained crew, aka THE MULES
- Experienced/Formally trained crew supervisor
- Crew buggy, a full size 6 person capacity 4x4 truck
- Full assortment of top quality hand and power tools
- No headaches just a hardworking, straight forward, efficient, and safe experience...

# Lake Mills Reservoir Reveg efforts (Elwha Dam)

Olympic National Park Trails and restoration Crew:  
Crew Supervisor: Justin Zarzeczny







# Local Level

- 2010-2011 session was first year that a crew was based in Ellensburg full time
- Before the 2010 crew year Kittitas County was serviced by a Spike Crew
- Sponsors included: Yakama Nation, Kittitas County Conservation District, and the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Supportive and cooperative sponsors are key to a successful year.

# Current Ellensburg WCC status

- Current Sponsors: Yakama Nation, WDFW, DNR, MCFEG, KCCD, City of Ellensburg, City of Roslyn, DNR, Kittitas Conservation Trust, NRCS, BOR, BLM, Fortera (formally CLC).
- Two crews consisting of 10 members
- Home of the Central Regional Lockup and Emergency Response Cache
- Projects Includes:
  - LWD recruitment, Riparian plantings/site maintenance, noxious weed management, fire fuel reductions, forest health, recreation site maintenance, exclusionary fence installation, and many more...





Over **\$250,000** in Eli Segal  
Education Scholarships awarded  
via the Ellensburg WCC

# Red Bridge Planting Site

## Sponsor: Kittitas Conservation District









# Pott Road Restoration

## Sponsor: Yakama Nation











# Taneum Thinning

Sponsor: Yakama Nations





AMERICOP





# Taneum Creek LWD















# Jack Creek Exclusionary Fencing/Planting Project Sponsor: Mid Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group













# Ronald Thinning

## Sponsor: Kittitas Conservation Trust





# Lake Wenatchee State Park

Project Sponsor: Lake Wenatchee State Park









AMERICOP



# Naneum Planting Sponsor:











# Lower Swauk Creek Planting/LWD

## Sponsor: KCCCD













# La Push Trail Work

## Sponser: Olympic National Park







# Coordinating Volunteers



AMERICORP



AMERICORP

# MLK Service Project





# All Hazard Emergency Response





# Sorry no photos...

- Union Gap Planting-  
MCFEG
- Plum Creek Mulching-  
MCFEG
- Salmon Ed Days
- Upper Swauk LWD
- Horse Heaven  
Planting/Mulching-  
MCFEG

# We're all fighting the same fight...

- At this current economic time it is key to build partnerships that allow more bang for the buck.
- Get the boots on the ground! Show ranchers, producers, recreators, and the general public **PROGRESS**.
- The WCC is another tool to be used to make your projects more successful. The Swiss army knife of natural resource work.
- Take risks, try innovative ideas, and learn from your mistakes.



Thanks for your time!  
Questions?

Ernest Farmer  
WCC Ellensburg Disaster  
Reponse

Crew Supervisor

509.885.4963

[efar461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:efar461@ecy.wa.gov)