

Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT



**Joint Training
for the
Big Spill**

Volume XXXV
No. 3

Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT

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Cover:

As part of an international effort to prepare for a hazardous spill response on Puget Sound, Seattle District participated in the Northwest Oil Spill Control Course hosted by the United States Coast Guard, District 13 August 26-30. Other participants included National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Washington Department of Ecology, BNSF, ExxonMobil and the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation.

Photo Brad Schultz

Flagship

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Evan Carnes:

This Flagship is for you

Evan is instrumental in Regulatory Branch's efforts to build public relations with southwest Washington applicants and local governments. He has assumed a leadership role in the Regulatory Branch through his formal and informal mentoring of junior staff. Evan is a rising star in the USACE Regulatory world, where he is getting well-deserved recognition for his policy contributions to the database used to track and document regulatory actions.

Thank you, Evan!



Selfless Service

Answering the Clarion Call

I just returned from Arizona where I was joined in the desert heat by district teammates who answered the call to support a mission of national significance. My experience there leads me to focus this column on our district and Army value of “Selfless Service.”

Some of our team modeled Selfless Service by “putting organizational or public interest above personal interest” in volunteering to leave pleasant Seattle, our operating projects or field offices in August for a 30-60 day assignment in the desert to work on a high-dollar and high-scrutiny program with exacting time lines. Our people continue to answer the call to service by volunteering on short notice to join the Task Force Barrier Team. Almost 2 dozen Seattle District employees have, or will make the trip to support the mission – many of these were by-name requests based on their previous stellar contributions to high interest projects or past deployments. Outside of two districts from the lead division (South Pacific Division) for this mission set, Seattle is the top contributing district across USACE.

Prior to Seattle District’s assignment as Northwestern Division’s lead to support the Task Force Barrier mission, we have had a dedicated group of professionals deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. Of note Steve Kelley, JBLM Area Engineer, served as a key leader on the Mosul Dam Task Force (MDTF) for much of the past two years and was one of the last four MDTF members to leave the Dam.

Days before my departure at the end of July, we celebrated many of the tremendous accomplishments of our employees during our annual Corps Day celebration. We took the time to recognize our deployees, leadership development program participants, employees who were nominated for Corps Day awards, and those who were selected for their service, innovation and teamwork.

The ceremony included recognizing 55 district employees, each with 20 years or more of federal service, adding up to more than 1,540 years of experience and stories, with

five people marking 40 years with the federal government. Forty years certainly sounds like the Selfless Service attributes of “commitment of each team member to go a little farther, endure a little longer and look a little closer to see how he or she can add value to the effort.”

In addition to accomplishments highlighted on Corps Day, our District reached two significant milestones in July.

The Veterans Affairs American Lake Phase 1 team conducted their ribbon cutting at the end of July. This was the first construction project across USACE under the new VA-USACE partnership to go from Notice to Proceed to Beneficial Occupancy, and we delivered it more than one month AHEAD of schedule. Our district and this team share a passion for supporting veterans with the care they need in safe and modern facilities.

Lastly, our recruiting facilities real estate program exceeded HQ’s goal by obligating 96 percent by the end of July, setting the pace for all other recruiting programs across USACE. This is indicative of the momentum our entire Real Estate team has generated in the past few months.

As reflected by all of our awardees during Corps Day and major milestones met, our district has an immense depth and breadth of leadership and experience in delivering our program and taking care of our workforce.

I was confident when deploying that we would have no loss in the tremendous momentum that all of you have generated throughout FY19 and beyond. While I was deployed, our district was in great hands -- Maj. Ryan Baum, our seasoned Deputy District Commander, served as the acting District Commander and Ginny Dierich remained steady in the DPM saddle.

When Seattle District teammates deploy, folks back in our district seamlessly step-in behind them, “doing their duty without thought of recognition or gain.” Your Selfless Service is commendable and recognized at the highest levels of USACE.

Thank you for all you do.

-Delivering Strong for the Pacific Northwest!



Seattle District Commander
Col. Mark A. Gerald



Eelgrass ■ providing essential aquatic habitat

By Chemine Jackels and Kasey Krall
 PPPMD, Public Affairs

In early August, four scientists from Planning, Programs & Project Management Division (PPPMD) conducted an eelgrass survey of the Duckabush River Delta as part of the



Duckabush River Restoration Project, a project authorized under the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP).

The survey conducted by Biologist Chemine Jackels, Fish Biologist Nancy Gleason, Ecologist Zach Wilson, and Biologist Amanda Ogden helped determine the extent and distribution of eelgrass beds in the area. The information was collected using Corps 2017 methods developed by Seattle District Regulatory branch and will help identify potential impacts to the beds during restoration processes along the shoreline.

A primary component of restoration efforts will be the removal of the current Highway 101 causeway and bridges, which cut across the Duckabush River Delta and estuary wetland complex. The causeway and bridges sit on fill that disrupts tidal circulation and sediment movement, and impedes fish access to productive salt marsh and slough habitats. Installation of a new long-span bridge that sits on pilings and allows for the natural flow of the tide will eliminate the problems caused by blockage from the fill.

Although there may be temporary impacts from the ini-



Above: A Dungeness crab (*Cancer magister*) finds refuge in an eelgrass bed. (photos by PPPMD)

Above right: Existing Highway 101 bridge with causeway portions to either side. The new long-span bridge will allow for significant increased tidal flow. Restoration efforts will reconnect and restore 38 acres of estuary.

Right: Wilson and Jackels conduct an eelgrass bed survey in the Duckabush River Delta August 1.

Below left: A lush and healthy eelgrass bed on the periphery of the delta, adjacent to Hood Canal.

Left: Eelgrass beds provide habitat for a sea star (*Pisaster ochraceus*), an intertidal community keystone species.

tial pulse of sediment when the existing bridge is removed and possible long-term changes in distribution as the river and channels rework themselves, significant impacts are not expected to the eelgrass beds overall, according to Gleason.

Fully reconnecting the Duckabush River Delta to Hood Canal will expand aquatic species' access to the beneficial eelgrass beds, which provide important three-dimensional habitat for a variety of fish and invertebrates, including Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed juvenile salmon and rockfish. The Duckabush estuary is located along the western shoreline of Hood Canal, and is a critical location for restoring estuarine foraging and rearing habitat for ESA-listed Chinook and Chum salmon as they acclimate from fresh to salt water conditions.

Conducting another survey a few years after the project is complete will help inform how this type of river delta restoration project may or may not impact eelgrass bed distribution and abundance.

To date, no other natural resources agency has looked at the Duckabush estuary eelgrass beds in such detail; the PPPMD staff will provide their eelgrass survey results to other regional scientists.



Corps Day 2019: Family & Friends

By Anitria Guilford
Guest Contributor



Above: Seattle District Commander Col. Mark Geraldi and Deputy District Engineer Ginny Dierich present Electrical Engineer Technician Mel Latham with the Steel de Fleury Medal.

Above Right: Economist Scott Long, Civilian Welfare Council president, fires up the grill, a Corps Day tradition.

Right: Col. Mark Geraldi and DDE Ginny Dierich present Architect Allison Pride and son Benjamin with the Architect of the Year award.



Above: Corps Day attendees gather for a group photo before heading out to the picnic.

Left: Architect Ronnie Pride and daughter Mirai accept the Commander's Leadership Award presented by Col. Mark Geraldi.

Center: The U.S. Army band attends the picnic to provide music for attendees.

Below and below left: Cake walk winners display their prizes.



Left: Program Analyst Ron Hortillosa and daughters Cathy and Celeste enjoy food and family time.

Right: (from left to right) Project Manager Wayne Joh, HR Assistant Yongah Outten, Civil Engineer Seungwoo Chang, and Environmental Engineer Michael Suh take a break and socialize with co-workers.



Engineering With Nature® initiative captures sustainability award for the Corpssystem Restoration Project Partnership Agreement

By Holly Kuzmitski
ERDC Public Affairs

When an agency that focuses primarily on developing large infrastructure projects — as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does — wins an award for sustainability, that is a meaningful achievement.

That's how Dr. Todd Bridges, national lead for the Corps' Engineering With Nature® initiative, felt when he received a phone call on July 30, 2019, from Stephen Yaeger, program manager with the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, telling Bridges that the EWN initiative had won the RNRNF's 2019 Outstanding Achievement Award.

"I think it's a great honor," Bridges said. "It stands out in the respect that an outside, non-government body is

drawing attention to the Corps' commitment and progress in leveraging nature and natural resources to develop better infrastructure projects."

The EWN initiative was nominated for the award by the Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute (COPRI) Coastal Zone Management Committee, an institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers. "The award selection process involves review by an award jury panel made up of a subset of RNRNF's Board of Directors," Yaeger said.

The RNRNF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public policy research organization comprised of scientific, professional and educational groups. Its seven member organizations include the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Geophysical Union, the American Society of Landscape Archi-

ects, the American Water Resources Association, the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, the American Meteorological Association and the Geological Society of America. "These groups have significant stature in the U.S. as professional organizations," Bridges said. "The Corps engages these technical societies. These people are our technical community; it's just fantastic."

"This recognition helps promote communication with stakeholders both inside and outside the Corps; it

Below: In one Engineering With Nature® project located on Washington's Skagit River, USACE Seattle District incorporated salmon habitat features into levee repairs made from 2007 to 2011. Woody debris is an essential component for salmon rearing and refuge habitat complexity. (USACE photo)



Above: Large logs with rootwads were laid on the riverbed bench of the levee as a mitigation feature that delivers benefits to the fish during high river flows. Skagit River has been designated as a critical habitat for three salmonid species listed under the Endangered Species Act. (USACE photo)



promotes our credibility and helps us establish trust with our partners and stakeholders," Bridges said. "It yields practical dividends by extending our ability to reach out to others. It opens avenues of communication and partnership with others."

Bridges said that this is important because there are people and organizations with whom we want to collaborate to develop new solutions and future engineering practices.

"I think it's notable at this stage in our efforts that Engineering With Nature wasn't started by a piece of legislation, a policy or a directive — it started with an idea and a few people who saw merit in the idea," he said. "From that beginning, the Engineering With Nature team has grown to include talented professionals across the Corps and many other organizations committed to delivering projects that bring engineering, infrastructure and nature together. People are attracted to the concept of delivering a broader array of benefits and functions."

Bridges said that next year is the 10th anniversary for the initiative, and that there is a lifecycle for this kind of undertaking. "We've been at this for a while," he said. "For the first couple years of a new initiative you're almost invisible, and you just have to stick with it and press forward. Then you gain speed and momentum; you gain visibility, and acknowledgements as you achieve — first within your own organization, then with your close partners and stakeholders, and then with others."

Bridges said the fall 2018 publication of "Engineering With Nature®: an Atlas," a book that showcases 56 EWN projects from around the world, including 26 Corps projects, helped bring recognition to the initiative. "The Atlas has been a phenomenal communication tool, and it played a role in the nomination for this award. It invited people to think in a substantive way about EWN and about the Corps in general."

"I've talked with a lot of people from other organizations about EWN over the last 10 years. One common pattern of response I've observed when people hear about what we're doing with EWN is that they express pleasant surprise, then curiosity, followed by enthusiasm for the fact that the Corps is leading this initiative."

"I frequently point out that the Corps has great project examples, going back decades, of what today we call EWN. Our goal is to make these exceptional projects of the past more commonplace in the future."

The formal award presentation will take place at Rockwood Manor in Potomac, Maryland, on November 12 with the RNRNF Board of Directors.



Seattle District receives EPA Green Challenge Award

By Brian Wilson
Operations Division

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, with full engagement and active participation from the General Services Administration, received EPA's Region 10 Federal Green Challenge Innovation Award for reducing energy load at the LEED Gold certified Federal Center South Building 1202 "Oxbow Building" that houses the Seattle District Office in Seattle.

The team was recognized for analyzing peak work hours to develop strategies to reduce energy load. The implemented strategies resulted in a 15 percent reduction of electricity con-

sumption and a 21 percent reduction in natural gas consumption.

As with most energy efficient buildings, it is assumed that building settings are optimal and do not need to be adjusted. However, as a result of the Seattle District conducting real-time data collection and managing the sequencing based on current conditions, the district was able to better manage energy use and reduce wasted consumption.

This sequence control effectively reduces energy load when employees are not

Top: The EPA presented the Green Challenge Award for the "Oxbow" building. (courtesy photo) **Bottom:** Settings for innovative integrated mechanical systems are based on verified occupancy and peak working hours to allow for optimized energy efficiency. (photo by Marti Sedgwick)



at work, thus reducing energy and gas consumption. The criteria used to develop these strategies and innovative methods included workforce verification and actual number of employees

occupying the building at certain times of the day. By verifying occupancy and peak working hours, these controls were managed more appropriately to facilitate reduction in energy use dur-

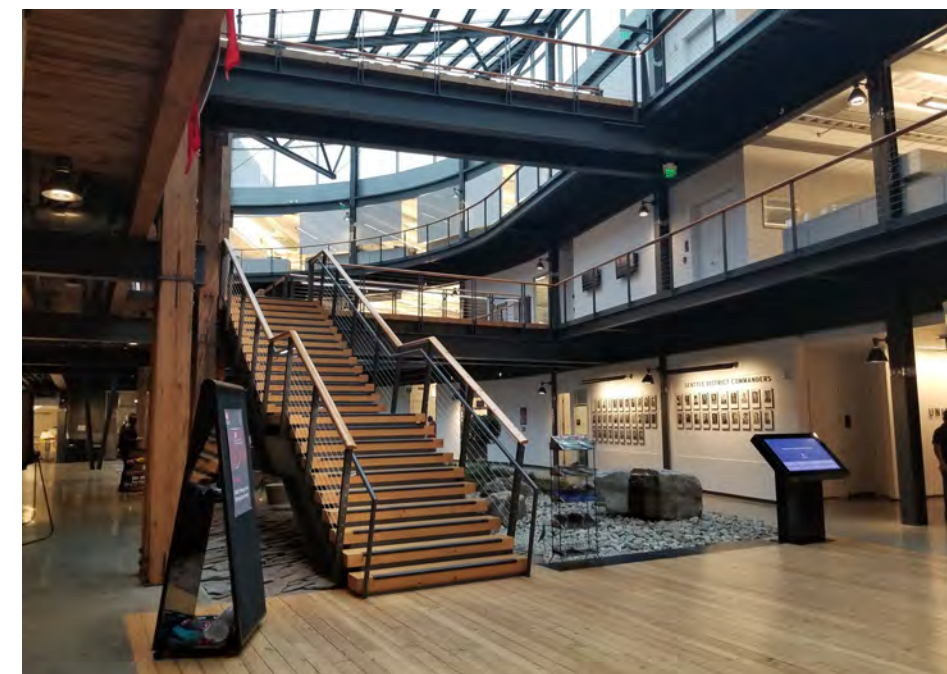
ing non-peak hours.

Moreover, as employee workforce decreased, these sequence controls could further be changed to meet real-time occupancy. This change has led to a significant change in operating conditions, allowing Seattle District and GSA to assist with decreasing workload and energy load based on current conditions versus arbitrary settings.

This is the second consecutive year the Seattle District received an EPA Green Challenge Award. Last year, the district was recognized for their efforts on energy by reducing electricity consumption by 9.76 percent at the Oxbow building.

Top: Brian Wilson and GSA Property Manager Rick Gordon accept the EPA Green Challenge Award at a district town hall. (photo by Kasey Krall)

Bottom: The EPA presented the Green Challenge Award for the "Oxbow" building. (photo by Dallas Edwards)



District participates in Northwest Oil Spill Control Course

By Dallas Edwards
Public Affairs

As part of an international cooperation to prepare for a hazardous spill response on Puget Sound, Seattle District participated in the Northwest Oil Spill Control Course hosted by the United States Coast Guard, District 13 August 26-30. Other participants included National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Washington Department of Ecology, BNSF, ExxonMobil and the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation.

Puget Sound offers a unique blend of recreation, fishing and commercial traffic. If there is a spill, it can threaten wildlife, aquatic species, shoreline habitat and nearby infrastructure. Teams from different agencies train together to respond to such an event.

Environmental compliance program manager Brian Wilson delivered instruction throughout the week, while the Corps' vessel Puget crew demonstrated deploying the U.S. Coast Guard's Dynamic Inclined Plane (DIP) 600 Skimmer equipment near the Strait of Juan de Fuca while interacting with students and other marine response vessels.

Training is conducted annually and Wilson remarked on this year's improvement.

"The setup of the DIP skimmer was smoother as compared to last year since we had practice," said Wilson.

He also discussed strong partnership Seattle District shares with the other participating agencies.

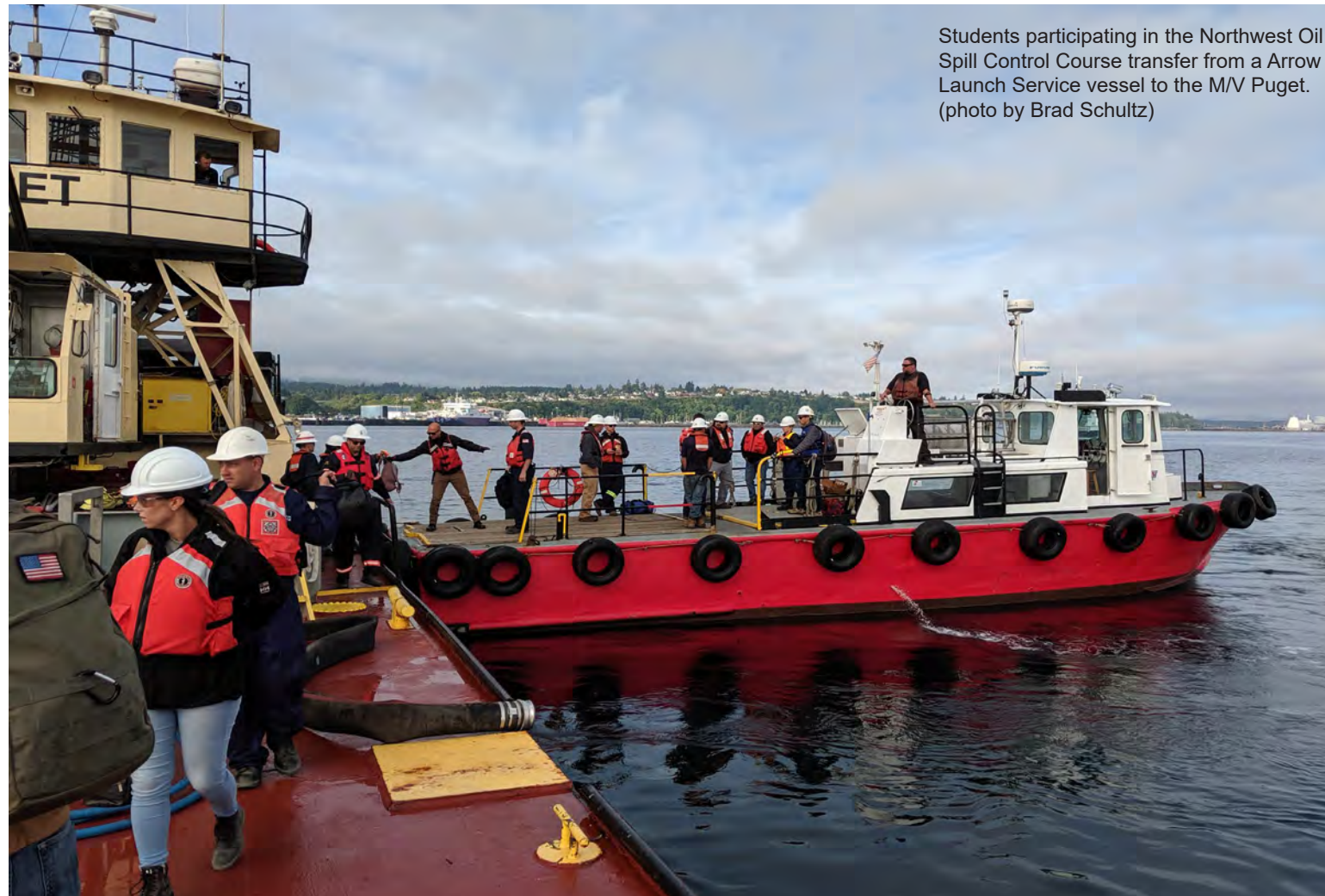
"These multi-agency exercises facilitate a platform for continued

relationship building and help identify response capabilities throughout the Pacific Northwest, while emphasizing readiness and collaboration across agency boundaries," said Wilson.

"Being able to communicate, execute, and deploy necessary resources are key. In order for us to understand how different agency policies, authorities, and response capabilities work, we must train and work together in scenario-based exercises, rather than during an actual spill event."

This is a partnership that will continue to happen in order to stay prepared for a real spill in the future.

"We will continue to build strong, meaningful spill response capabilities and relationships with the USCG and other sister agencies by actively participating in training to support on-



Students participating in the Northwest Oil Spill Control Course transfer from a Arrow Launch Service vessel to the M/V Puget. (photo by Brad Schultz)



going efforts in protecting the marine environment and Puget Sound," said Wilson.

The District's Waterway Maintenance Unit Chief, Brad Schultz was also proud of the Puget's crew in their performance.

"I am genuinely proud of the M/V Puget crew being able to think on their feet and adapt to overcome the challenges faced with this important mission," said Schultz. "From operating the vessels in challenging and dynamic wind and current conditions to having the expertise to operate and troubleshoot the skimmer equipment, the crew and Salish Sea partners came together around this vital goal of environmental protection readiness and showcased our 'team of teams' ethos."

Top: Crew members prepare pump mechanical and hydraulics equipment before participating in an exercise as part of the Northwest Oil Spill Control Course. (photo by Brad Schultz)

Bottom: Crews deploy an oil spill skimmer. (photo by Brad Schultz)



Corps, Partners sign Skokomish River Ecosystem Restoration Project Partnership Agreement

By Scott Lawrence
Public Affairs

The Skokomish River Ecosystem Restoration Project met a major milestone recently when the Project Partnership Agreement was signed by representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Skokomish Indian Tribe, Mason County and the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

The Project Partnership Agreement was signed September 17, 2019, representing the next step toward constructing the project and signifying the transition from design phase into the construction phase. It is a legally binding agreement between the Corps and its non-federal sponsors that serves to define responsibilities, cost-sharing and execution of work.

The project aims to restore a total of 277 acres in the Skokomish River Basin including habitat critical for Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed Chinook and chum salmon, key food sources for southern resident orca whales.

In addition to Chinook and chum salmon, the project will improve habitat for ESA-listed steelhead and bull trout, and over 100 additional wildlife species known to use the Skokomish River for some part of their life cycles.

The project includes channel realignment near the confluence of

the North and South Fork Skokomish River to allow for year-round fish passage, installation of large woody debris and engineered log jams, the reconnection of a historic side channel and wetland restoration at two sites. When complete, it's expected to benefit an estimated 40 miles of habitat in the river that is periodically inaccessible to ESA-listed species due to lack of water.

The Skokomish Indian Tribe and Mason County are cost-sharing, non-federal sponsors working with the Corps on the approximately \$22.1 million restoration effort.

The Skokomish River is the largest and most diverse tributary to Hood Canal, a 70-mile long natural fjord-like arm of Puget Sound that supports

vital natural resources. The project is a critical element of an integrated restoration effort in the entire Skokomish River Basin and complements restoration efforts being completed by others throughout the watershed.

Construction is scheduled to commence in summer 2020 and is expected to last about two years.

Top and Bottom Left: The PPA for the Skokomish River (shown here) Ecosystem Restoration Project was signed Sept. 17.

Bottom Right: Alex Gouley, Skokomish Tribal Council Secretary, Maj. Ryan Baum, Deputy District Commander, Kevin Shutty, Chair of the Mason County Board of Commissioners and Amalia Walton, Washington Department of Natural Resources sign the Skokomish River Ecosystem Restoration Project PPA, Sept. 17.



Congratulations:

Corps Day Awards recipients:
Michael Miyagi
Ronnie Pride
Allison Walker Pride
Daniel Roper
David Fox
Katie McGillvray
Leibnitz Watts
Jacana Wyatt
Kristine Ceragioli
Cheryl Sauro
Eliza Devlin
Ross Emry
Adrienne Murphy
Alan Manville
Christopher Frans
U27 Amortisseur
Winding Repair Team



Bradley Gibbs
MMD Fish Passage
Project Office
Selah Creek Airstrip
Project Delivery Team
Seattle District Cost
Engineering Section

Retired/Moving On:
David Sullivan
Sara Deyermond
Stephanie Meyer

Mark Kerr
Michael Stevens
Christie Austin
Farid Chouery
Emily Higa
Shannon Christensen

Deployed:
James Balken
Bridget Bentley
Christopher Brooks
Keely Brown

William Dowell
Capt. Mike Filizetti
Col. Mark Gerald
William Graney
Richard Hovde
Avril Jones
Sid Jones
Steven Kelley
Jon Lockhart
Susan Murphy
Edward Pena
Maria Selck
Travis Shaw

Condolences:
Jack Thompson, former fisheries biologist with Environmental Resources Section, passed away June 10.



3rd Quarter Award recipient Shane Riley, selected for the Up to GS-09 category



3rd Quarter Award recipient Vanessa Pepi, selected for the GS-10 and Above category



3rd Quarter Award recipient Ian Pumo, selected for the Supervisory category



Jodi Auer
 Power Plant Electrician
 Libby Dam

Welcome

 TO THE DISTRICT



Gracie Best
 EEO Specialist
 Equal Employment
 Opportunity Office



James Burrus
 Power Plant Shift
 Operator
 Libby Dam



Daniel Carlson
 Physical Scientist
 Environmental Eng.
 and Tech. Section



Jane Harrell
 Student Trainee
 Engineering and
 Architecture



Gregory Jackson
 HR Specialist
 CPAC



James Nowak
 Student Trainee
 Soils Section



Amanda Pease
 Industrial Hygienist
 Safety Office

Better Know a Section

Internal Review



Internal Review provides advice to and staff supervision of the District internal review function. They advise the commander on what should be included in the Annual Internal Review and Audit Compliance Plan. They also solicit audit suggestions of known or potential problems from functional managers in each division/separate office and prepare and update the Annual Internal Review and Audit Compliance Plan. They provide audit assistance to the commander on cases of fraud, waste and abuse and perform follow-up reviews

of audits; tracks findings and recommendations. They advise the commander and provide assistance on the Chief Financial Officer's (CFO) critical audit issues to ensure that the District financial statement will receive an unqualified opinion by the external audit agency conducting the audit.

Internal Review includes: Stephanie Chavez and Wendy Sanyk