OUR MISSION

To strengthen the connection between people and the natural world through education, service learning, career development and research.

PROGRAMS

VetsWork GreenCorps trains military veterans for wild land firefighting careers. In 2016, 87.5% of graduates were hired into the field.

VetsWork Environment engages military veterans in 45 weeks of career training. 43 veterans developed skills for public lands / natural resource jobs.

Cascade Mountain School inspires students through hands on science / recreation activities. 276 kids spent 19,968 hours outside.

Public Lands Stewards places young adults in internships on public lands. In 2016, programs provided 57,000 hours of volunteer service.
"When I left the military, I struggled to find a new sense of purpose."
Former VetsWork participant

"Our public lands need a diverse workforce that can deal with 21st century issues."
Forest Service employee

VetsWork addresses these issues with proven results

Laurel Poff
Forestry Technician
Osage National Forest

Michael McGraw
Environmental Protection Assistant
Glacier National Park

Cynthia Armentrout
Fuel Technician
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Aaron Harbin
Social Services Assistant
U.S. Forest Service Job Corps Center

Dyllon Hatcher
Wildland Firefighter
Diamond Fire

Paola Gomez
Wildland Firefighter
Uns utilis National Forest

Dan Abbott
Forestry Technician
Uns utilis National Forest

Ben Barnett
U.S. Forest Service Fire Marshal
Uns utilis National Forest

Lindsay Freeland
U.S. Forest Service Fire Marshal
Uns utilis National Forest

Aaron Botton
Wildland Firefighter
Uns utilis National Forest

Becc Nichols
Wildland Firefighter
Deschutes National Forest

Tyson Shoenmoser
Forestry Technician
Deschutes National Forest

Frank Romano
U.S. Forest Service Fire Marshal
Uns utilis National Forest

Zach Teel
Visitor Information Assistant
Glenns Ferry Ranger Station

David Blair
Park Ranger
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Jonathane Schmitt
Biologist
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Cascade Mountain School

- 10 day camps
- 6 overnight camps
- 6 custom school programs

- 532 miles hiked
- 180,000 feet of elevation hiked by participants

- 28 students received scholarships
- 20 gallons of raw milk used by campers to make mozzarella cheese

- 1,432 granola bars eaten
- 276 campers from 7 states and 2 countries

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- 276 campers from 7 states and 2 countries

- 17% minority representation

Public Lands Stewards

The diversity of roles I’m playing allows me to be involved in sharing the outdoors with students ages 6 to 18. I’m making science fun, developing teamwork and outdoors skills, and encouraging students to be creative and curious.

Erynne van Zee, Hometown: Corvallis, OR

There are not many jobs where you can spend 40 hours/week (or more) outdoors. I have been able to make connections with people from different parts of the United States. I am fortunate to display my public service while setting myself up for future endeavors.

Michael McNeil, Hometown: Chicago, IL

The beauty of Columbia Refuge is in the severity of its features, in the stark lines of migrating birds, the lonesome song of coyotes calling through the canyons in the gathering dusk, and the broken bones of bare basalt that thrust forth from the earth.

Joe Kobler, Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Planted over 3500 trees to restore critical habitat.

Hiked over 1800 miles to monitor trail conditions.

Captured over 7500 invasive Bull Frogs to protect wildlife.
NEW PROJECTS FOR 2017

In addition to continuing to refine programs to better serve our communities and participants, we have two big projects on the board for 2017.

Improve our camp facility

One of the best attributes of our Trout Lake facility is its proximity to the great outdoors. However, after 40 years, our bunkhouses and kitchen buildings are showing their age.

We will be installing energy efficient windows, updating furnishings and improving our outdoor spaces to better accommodate our growing number of camps and trainings.

Partner to engage the broader community

As our communities continue to grow in numbers and diversity, we are making efforts to engage a broader audience.

In 2016, we partnered with Mid Valley Elementary School (90% Hispanic student population) on a summer camp program that got kids into the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Our public lands are for all and we're committed to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy them.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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