

Washington Conservation Corps provide Invaluable Services

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For the last ten years Betsy Howell, US Forest Service Wildlife Biologist, has counted on work completed by Darrell Borden and his Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crews at Olympic National Forest (ONF).

Photo: October, 2015, Darrell Borden & Washington Conservation Corps Crew by Karen Holtrop



During that time Darrell's crews have completed numerous kinds of wildlife enhancement projects for the Forest, including installing bird and flying squirrel nest boxes; creating brush piles as cover for different species of mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles; planting shrubs as forage for big game; and restoring meadows that have become encroached upon by conifers and shrubs. This hard working crew has labored for other ONF biologists in order to improve habitat for an endangered butterfly

species, the Taylor's checkerspot, along with other critical improvement jobs.

Recently in December 2015, the crew completed some brush piling in an elk habitat improvement area on the west side of the ONF close to the Pacific Ocean. They endured tremendous rain and some wind every day and yet they managed to complete 36 (big!) piles and open up a stand to animal movement that had been previously un navigable after it had been pre-commercially thinned.



Photos: Brush piles & cleared forest by Washington Conservation Corps in December 2015

"The photos don't really do justice to the fact that these stands had been so thick with slash from the thinning work and now are like strolls in the park! Deer fern, buried beneath the slash for four years, has already been browsed by Roosevelt elk just a few days after the crew had been there," said Betsy Howell.



for the greatest good

Darrell and his crews consistently provide the Olympic National Forest with high quality work, as well as great attitudes and enthusiasm. Darrell is adept at selecting high quality crew members and is superb at inspiring these young men and women to work hard, learn new things, enjoy themselves, and believe in themselves. At the same time, Darrell's crews accomplish important resource work on our forest lands. The WCC program is invaluable to today's youth looking for opportunities as well as to the U.S. Forest Service mission to provide for the greatest good.

View [a brief history in photographs of Darrell's Washington Conservation Corps Crews.](#)

Elk cow and calves on Olympic National Forest. Photo Credit: US Forest Service, Olympic National Forest

