



NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS SUMMER OF SERVICE

We are excited to share early highlights from our 41st summer field season!

Although reduced in scale from our original plans due to challenges with our Federal partners, we have created opportunities for more than 400 young people to engage in meaningful service this summer, enhancing our public lands and strengthening our communities.

In just the past two months, we have mobilized 31 crews and 20 interns to work on vital conservation projects across the Northwest.

We deeply appreciate everyone who helped make this possible. Thank you!

HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS!

REBUILDING SILVER FALLS STATE PARK

This season, two young adult crews served with Oregon State Parks to conduct trail maintenance at the iconic Silver Falls State Park. The crews' primary focus was to reconstruct deteriorating rock walls and create efficient drainage systems to prevent trail erosion near the breathtaking South Falls.

These efforts will help millions of visitors safely appreciate the beauty of Silver Falls while preserving the park for future generations.



IMPROVING OUTDOOR RECREATION IN WASHINGTON

This year, dozens of crews are joining forces with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) to tackle a multitude of projects aimed at enhancing recreation opportunities on the three million acres of land they manage. More than 18,000 hours of work have already been completed in spring and summer, including repairing off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails, clearing downed trees from hiking trails, installing fences, and assisting at the state's silviculture facility.

Rebuilding Tiger Mountain

A significant restoration project took place on Tiger Mountain, just a short drive from Seattle, where multiple crews spent weeks repairing a trail system that a bomb cyclone had severely damaged. Tiger Mountain is renowned for its diverse ecosystems and recreational opportunities, making the restoration of its trails essential for both environmental conservation and public enjoyment.



COLLECTING DATA ON AQUATIC RESERVES

Northwest Youth Corps interns are serving with the WA DNR Aquatic Reserves on a bull kelp survey in Anacortes. During this kayak-based survey, interns collect data on the physical condition of kelp, observe grazing, identify invertebrates on the kelp, and even capture underwater video footage. They will also deploy video landers to monitor interactions between marine life and the kelp.

This data will help researchers understand why kelp thrives near Smith and Minor Islands but has disappeared from areas like Protection Island, guiding future conservation efforts for Washington's kelp forests.



PROTECTING RURAL COMMUNITIES FROM WILDFIRE

Northwest Youth Corps' Community Wildfire Protection Crews focus on reducing wildfire fuels around homes and critical infrastructure to create fire-resilient communities. This year's crews have already achieved impressive results by carrying out fire prevention treatments at 174 homes, with more work scheduled to begin this fall.

Members started their session by completing advanced training on the use of chainsaws, chippers, and pole saws. With these skills, they reduced fuels at public parks, senior and low-income communities, and schools. They also collaborated with local fire departments to construct firebreaks to slow or stop the spread of future wildfires.

Crews also served with the Umatilla Electric Company, thinning targeted areas near power lines in the Pendleton area to prevent tree limbs from coming into contact with power lines during high winds and sparking fires.



PRESERVING CRITICAL HABITAT AT GRAYS LAKE WILDLIFE REFUGE

Crews in Idaho have been hard at work rebuilding damaged fencing at Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge. So far, they have repaired and installed more than seven miles of fencing to help protect critical habitat for sandhill cranes, ducks, geese, and other wildlife from encroaching grazing cattle.



“I’ve learned so much about myself and the world around me. I learned how to love and respect myself and others. I gained so much more confidence in my work and my leadership abilities. I am ready to go back to the real world and apply everything I’ve learned to my day-to-day life.”

- Penny L. 2025 Crew Member





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"I have never worked so hard in my life. I push myself every day... I love this experience because it gave me the room to try new things, challenge myself in countless ways, and spend time away from the luxuries I now realize I take for granted."

- Recent youth participant



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NWYOUTHCORPS.ORG



Since 1984, Northwest Youth Corps has mobilized 27,800 youth and young adults who served 4.6 million hours improving public lands and communities, while earning \$43 million for their families, themselves, and their dreams.

This year, almost one thousand participants will develop essential work and leadership skills while earning money, academic credit, and professional references.

Wherever their journeys take our alumni, their experience with Northwest Youth Corps is a foundation for each of them to create the unique masterpiece of their lives.

