

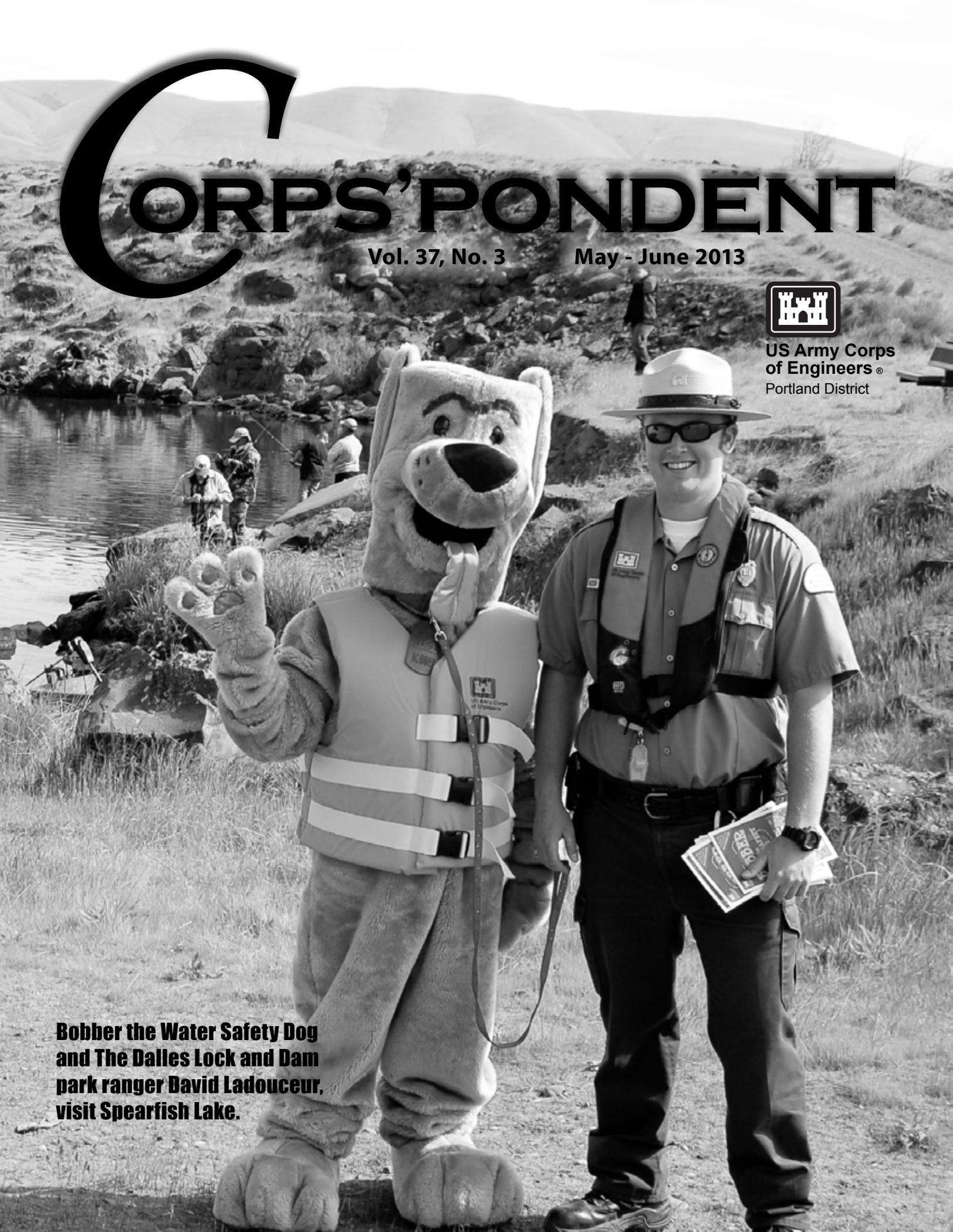
CORPS' PONDENT

Vol. 37, No. 3

May - June 2013



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District



Bobber the Water Safety Dog and The Dalles Lock and Dam park ranger David Ladouceur, visit Spearfish Lake.



CONTENTS

pg.16

May-June 2013 INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 3 Commander's Column
- 4 Portland District People
- 5 Corps recognizes "Partnership Excellence" of Upper Rogue Watershed Association
- 8 Willamette Valley reservoirs ideal for sporting events
- 11 Portland District photo contest
- 13 Restoring salmon to an urban park
- 15 Where's Bobber?
- 16 Corps messages



pg.5



pg.8



pg.11

Commander's Column

Supporting our Wounded Warriors

I know many of you are aware of the work and actions currently underway at recreation areas across the District – but in this column I want to share the Chief of Engineers' update on larger initiatives happening across the USACE Recreation Program as we continue to identify opportunities to support our Wounded Warriors.

In a recent e-mail to the Secretary of the Army and other senior leaders, Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick wrote the Corps currently has active and robust programs for engaging Wounded Warriors, military personnel and veterans in recreation and outdoor activities at its 422 water resources projects around the country.

He went on to state the Corps actively pursues employment opportunities for veterans, retired military and Wounded Warriors – recruiting them for permanent, temporary, student and volunteer positions to work in such jobs as park rangers, maintenance workers, electricians, recreation fee collectors, campground hosts, lock operators and more. The positions, both short- and long-term, are intended to build skills and experience, while also helping to ensure that millions of people can enjoy the Corps' portion of America's Great Outdoors.

At Portland District, we are actively recruiting through the Wounded Warriors Program, where possible. One of our newest employees, Philip Highwood, Oregon National Guard, is currently working with the Willamette Valley recreation program. He is a good fit with the ranger staff and has a positive, can-do attitude. So far, he has accomplished work the project was not currently resourced to do – which

reflects the synergy we can gain through the Wounded Warrior Program.

Lt. Gen. Bostick also noted that Corps project staff are working in close partnership with Army posts, Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, veteran's organizations, Wounded Warriors, Warrior in Transition Units and others to promote employment opportunities, volunteer activities as well as other special events. He identified several events – fishing tournaments, organized hunts, mountain biking races and exhibitions – saying that a majority of them were implemented in partnership with organizations such as the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the American Legions, to name a few.

He specifically pointed to a new partnership the Corps has with the Catch A Special Thrill Foundation through which the 'Take A Warrior Fishing' program is implemented – and whose purpose is to reach out to active and retired military to teach them fishing and boating skills and build their love of the outdoors.

We have already engaged with CAST to host an event. It happened last September when park rangers from The Dalles Lock and Dam held the District's first ever 'Take a Warrior Fishing' event at Lake Celilo. Many local veterans – those having served in World War II, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan – attended with their families. I believe these events are a great fit for our program. The Corps has the water access and recreation opportunities – providing the wounded warriors with a chance to enjoy a relaxing day on the water.



Col. John Eisenhauer, P.E.

The Chief also mentioned the partnerships Corps project staff have with a number of Army posts to present educational programs on water safety, environmental protection, fish and wildlife resources and recreation programs – while also highlighting the free Recreation Military Pass (which waives fees at Corps recreation areas) and free entrance to national parks and fish and wildlife refuges.

The Chief concluded his message by saying, "We are proud to employ hundreds of veterans in recreation and project operations jobs and provide many thousands of people with places to play and learn about the outdoors. We will continue our work to ensure that we do all we can to serve the Army, our Nation as well as our soldiers, civilians and their families."

I echo the Chief's pride in your accomplishments and look forward as we continue our efforts at Portland District – to engage our wounded warriors with employment, when possible – or by providing opportunities for them to enjoy and relax at many of recreation areas across the District.

COL Ike

Corps'pondent is an authorized unofficial newsletter for Department of Defense employees and retirees. Editorial content is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office, Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 2946, Portland, OR 97208. Contents herein are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army. Layout and printing by USACE Enterprise Information Products Services. Circulation 750. Contributions and suggestions are welcome by mail, phone at (503) 808-4510 or email to CENWP-PA@usace.army.mil Check out Corps'pondent online at www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Library/DistrictPublications.aspx

Commander: Col. John Eisenhauer, P.E.
Chief, Public Affairs: Matt Rabe
Editor: Erica Jensen





Kevin Perletti

Mechanical Engineer, Bonneville Lock and Dam



Describe your current job.

I provide technical support for the safe operation and maintenance of Bonneville Dam, which includes technical review of designs from the Engineering and Construction Division, writing technical supply and service contracts, monitoring and inspecting contract work and developing scopes of work for new jobs.

What do you find most rewarding about your job?

I like being part of a team effort to achieve a repair of an existing system or initiating a new system here at Bonneville Dam.

What challenges do you encounter when doing your job?

One of my biggest challenges is juggling many differing jobs while always remaining on call to address new technical issues that may arise on a daily basis. Working this way often sets up a working condition which is more reactionary than proactionary.

How does your job fit into our District mission?

My job directly involves the successful operation of the Bonneville Dam. One example of this happened when I worked with designers from the Hydroelectric Design Center and Engineering and Construction Division on the design, fabrication and delivery of a new Gantry crane at Powerhouse I. This specialty crane is used to place draft tube stoplogs at turbine units to dewater the units for maintenance and repair. It was critical that the new crane be dependable for this operation to minimize downtime of the turbine units.

What inspires you or motivates you as you do your job?

Working at an actual production (i.e. power) facility allows me to see how my efforts affect the efficiency of the facility as well as long term operation and maintenance.

What do you like most about working for the Portland District?

Portland District has excellent personnel who not only act professional but are good to work with. The District also offers a variety of work experiences which is important to me.

What are your career aspirations and how are you preparing to accomplish them?

My career goal has always been to have career positions which are interesting and challenging enough so that I can look forward each day going to work.

Corps of Engineers photo



Photo by Edward-Amerson, Rogue River Basin Project

Corps recognizes "Partnership Excellence" of Upper Rogue Watershed Association

By Chad Stuart, Rogue River Basin Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Northwestern Division recognized the Upper Rogue Watershed Association as its nominee for the Corps' 2012 Excellence in Partnerships Award in a ceremony April 1 in Shady Cove, Ore.

Northwestern Division spans 14 states and the entire Columbia, Missouri and Rogue river basins.

The division nominated the association to recognize its "exceptional contributions to the recreation and environmental stewardship programs at the Rogue River Basin Project," said Division Commander Brig. Gen. Anthony

Funkhouser in a letter to URWA Director Peter Mazzini.

"Your individual efforts and team of dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly in providing valuable services to the natural resources of the Rogue River Basin," Funkhouser continued. "Your actions in organizing and implementing environmental restoration projects and leveraging partnerships within the local community has notably improved and protected the area's natural resources while improving public participation and awareness of the Basin's valuable resources."

The Corps' Lost Creek and Elk Creek projects in the Rogue River Basin have a combined land base of only about 10,000 acres and

annual visitation of about 600,000, but the environmental stewardship and recreation missions have far-reaching effects.

URWA has over the past two years donated hundreds of hours of volunteer labor and obtained \$89,085 in contributions that directly benefited these missions.

URWA and other organizations collected discarded Christmas trees the past two winters, then braved Lost Creek Lake's muddy banks and frigid winter weather to anchor them in locations that will provide

Above: Corps employees Justin Stegall (right) and Garrett Cowett (left) team up with Molly Allen of the BLM and URWA to clean up Corps parks along the Rogue River for National Public Lands Day.



cover, food and rearing grounds for fish, invertebrates and other aquatic species.

URWA and other organizations also spent the past two years building spider blocks – cinder blocks filled with long flexible tubing sticking up in the air like spider legs – and sinking them in the lake. Over time the flex pipe will collect algae and create food and shelter for fish.

Over the past two years the association has also coordinated and participated in numerous outreach efforts that explained the importance of the Rogue River Basin ecosystem and the Corps' management role to local youths.

For example, URWA partnered with the Corps and U.S. Bureau of Land Management to create a "Kids and Bugs" event to provide young children a greater appreciation of the outdoors.

"To me there is no better way to make a connection between children and the environment than to get kids out of the classroom," said Corps Natural Resource Specialist Justin Stegall. "Having children standing on the banks of the Rogue River on a beautiful spring day, turning over rocks, identifying bugs and squealing with interest over an insect larvae they have never seen is fun to watch."

"Standing ankle deep in the Rogue River under blooming cottonwood trees with osprey diving all around them for fish, the kids learn how bugs become food for juvenile salmon, and how when the adult salmon return to spawn and die,

Below: A young volunteer concentrates hard on building her very own nesting box for Western bluebirds, a special status species. URWA makes an effort to reach out to youth to engage them in efforts to improve health of our natural resources.

Bottom: Members of URWA and OBBAC anchor about 500 old Christmas trees gathered by Boy Scouts in February 2010.



Photo by Edward Amerson, Rogue River Basin Project



Corps of Engineers photo

their carcasses become food for bug larvae," said Stegall. "You can see a connection being made that will leave a lasting impression, and this would not be possible without excellent partners like the watershed council willing to educate our local children."

One of URWA's most valuable contributions has been accomplishing environmental goals at Elk Creek.

Construction of a flood control project there was halted by litigation in 1988, leaving the dam



at one third of its design height and without adequate passage facilities for endangered fish species.

The Corps notched the 83-foot high dam in 2008 to allow normal passage of coho salmon and seven other species. However, since nine miles of Elk Creek and its tributaries were expected to be under 200 feet of water, no other management of the area had taken place.

The Rogue River Basin Project's focus at Elk Creek is now on environmental stewardship and low density recreation. URWA has partnered with numerous agencies and stakeholders in the past two years to plant riparian vegetation, remove invasive species, propagate and restore native habitats, educate the public, work with students for projects and foster habitat for game species.

No projects in the Elk Creek watershed have been more important than those directly focusing on large woody debris – a key factor for the survival of salmon.



Photos by Edward Amerson, Rogue River Basin Project

"URWA has played a valuable role in the improvement in fish habitat in the upper Rogue basin tributaries, especially Elk Creek," said Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fish biologist Jay Doyno. "The association secured a grant through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to place large woody debris over 1.25 miles of Elk Creek's West Branch. Over 130 logs created 15 structures to capture gravel, improve stream gradient, provide rearing and wintering habitat and shade to reduce temperature, and many other beneficial factors. The project total costs were \$82,710."

"This project is a prime example of URWA's drive to secure funds for a project that has tremendous benefit but would never be able to be completed by any one individual agency. It has opened the door to a collaborative partnership that has created an entire watershed restoration plan targeting several million dollars in grants on Corps lands," said Stegall.

URWA has also been instrumental in engaging other partners in restoration projects, including the Oregon Hunter's Association, SOLV, Eagle Point High School, the Upper Rogue Flyfishers and the Middle Rogue Steelheaders, to name just a few.

"We are fortunate to have individuals such as you who unselfishly give of themselves for the betterment of all," said Funkhouser. "Please accept my very sincere thanks for your contributions to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers." 

Left: URWA Director Pete Mazzini is always supportive of his diverse network of groups and partners and attends nearly every event. Here he gets his hands dirty pulling Southern Oregon's primary invasive weed threat, star thistle.

Right: UWRA was instrumental in securing a grant for 15 large woody debris structures in West Branch Elk Creek. Large woody debris has been designated as a limiting factor for the survival of coho salmon and other salmonid species.



Willamette Valley reservoirs ideal for sporting events



Photo courtesy of Peter Helzer

By Christie Johnson, Willamette Valley Project

More than a thousand rowers gathered at Dexter Reservoir on the weekend of April 13 for the 19th Annual Covered Bridge Regatta. This year's event drew 39 rowing clubs from 25 cities and five states, with participants ranging in age from 15 to 70. The competition, which features high school, college and master's level races, has grown to be one of the largest rowing events in the Pacific Northwest.

The Covered Bridge Regatta is just one example of the numerous sporting events the Corps hosts each year on its reservoirs in Oregon's Willamette Valley. The expansive water, beautiful scenery and close proximity to urban areas make the reservoirs ideal for events like boating, fishing and swimming competitions.

Triathlon events, which include swimming, cycling and running components, have become increasingly popular in the past few years. Triathlons will be held at Fall Creek, Cottage Grove, Fern Ridge and Foster reservoirs in 2013.

In order to conduct any type of special event on Corps lands and reservoirs, organizers must obtain a permit.

"We work with organizers to make sure the participants and other lake visitors will stay safe during the event," said Park Ranger Mark Chappelle who coordinates the special event permit process in the Willamette Valley. "We also need to protect the facilities and the natural and cultural resources in the area where the event will occur."

Sometimes Chappelle can make special arrangements so an event will go more smoothly. For example, dam operators maintained a steady water level in Dexter Reservoir during the rowing regatta so that temporary buoys would stay in place.

"Having a fully buoyed 2,000 meter race course is one of the reasons the Covered Bridge Regatta is so popular," said Lisa Bee-Wilson of the Oregon Association of Rowers. "Dexter Lake has become a premier place to row between Seattle and San Francisco."

For the first two years of the Cottage Grove Lake "Tri at the Grove" triathlon, Chappelle worked closely with event organizer Steve Cash, to smooth out the logistics and safety issues associated with the large number of people, vehicles and bicycles involved in the event. The Corps created a temporary parking area below the

dam to accommodate 400 additional cars, and the event sponsor paid for mowing to reduce fire danger.

"The Corps has been great to work with," Cash said. "We've had a few bumps along the way, but they gave us a chance to come up with some solutions to make it work. Our goal was to make a race that was super-safe, and the Corps has helped us make that happen."

Although coordinating and supporting special events requires considerable staff time, Willamette Valley Project Park Manager Tami Schroeder feels it is an important function of the park rangers.

"The special events held at Corps reservoirs are important to local communities," Schroeder said. "These events promote healthy, recreational activities, and they bring additional visitors to the reservoirs and nearby businesses. Lots of people come out on the day of the event, but they also may come back again and again for training or recreation."

In the February 2013 issue of *Triathlete Magazine*, the "Tri at the Grove" was selected as one of the country's 22 best triathlons due its "easy-going, outdoorsy, Oregonian vibe" and appeal to "nature-loving triathlon



Photo courtesy of dark30sports

Above: The buoyed race courses and beautiful scenery make Dexter Lake a premier rowing location in the Pacific Northwest.

Below: Hundreds of spectators attend the "Tri at the Grove" to cheer on their friends and family members.

newbies." (70 percent of 2012 participants were first-timers.)

The "Tri at the Grove" event and its national recognition "put Cottage Grove on the map," said Travis Palmer, executive director of the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce. "People will want to come here to visit our lakes, our trails and our town. That



translates into a positive economic impact because they buy gas and food and stay overnight.”

The annual Covered Bridge Regatta and other boat racing events at Dexter Reservoir are also a boon for the tiny town of Lowell, 16 miles southeast of Eugene.

“In addition to the economic benefits, hosting these events is a matter of pride for members of our small community,” said interim City Manager Mike Kelly. “People who come from out of the area are amazed at the beautiful scenery and lake that we may take for granted.”

As the popularity of water-based sporting events continues to grow, more and more visitors will be drawn to Corps reservoirs and the nearby communities. By supporting these special events, the Corps is fulfilling its mission to provide safe, healthy outdoor recreation

opportunities for the public, as well as significant economic benefits to the region. 

Below: Swimmers compete in the triathlon at Cottage Grove Reservoir.

Bottom: Swimmers get ready to enter Cottage Grove Reservoir at the Lakeside Boat Ramp.



Photos courtesy of dar130sports



2013 Call for Entries PHOTO CONTEST



Winning photos will be featured in a monthly guide to be distributed to employees in 2014.

Questions? Contact the Portland District Public Affairs Office at cenwp-pa@usace.army.mil

DEADLINE Oct. 30, 2013



ENTRY FORM

(One photograph per entry form)

Photographer/Entrant: _____ Phone: _____

Work Location: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Office Symbol: _____ Photo title: _____

Call for Entries ²⁰¹³ PHOTO CONTEST

Category: Submissions are encouraged in the following categories and must address/be on Corps land and/or feature Portland District facilities/activities.

Check one box below for which you are entering your photo:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project focus | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental restoration/stewardship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation in action at our Corps projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic /Seasonal-specific photos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USACE employees and volunteers in action | |

SUBMISSION CRITERIA/GUIDELINES:

Submission: Each photo submission should be sent to cenwp-pa@usace.army.mil along with a caption describing the photo subject and the date the photo was taken.

Eligibility: All Portland District employees, long-term contractors and volunteers.

Photography:

- Photographers should set digital cameras to the highest resolution possible. Entries should be at least 300 dpi resolution.
- Both horizontal and vertical photos will be accepted, but horizontal preferred.
- Photos with date stamps will not be accepted.
- Photos must not be digitally altered (no photo shopping, etc.)
- Each photographer may submit up to two photos per category.
- Only manual camera settings or auto settings allowed.
- All uniformed Corps employees shown in photos should be wearing the proper uniform for the activity in which they are engaged. For example, when a park ranger is outdoors they should wear their campaign hats, unless they are on a boat or on bike patrol.
For the Corps uniform regulations, visit http://publications.usace.army.mil/publications/eng-pamphlets/EP_1130-2-550/c-8.pdf
- * Safety gear and equipment is required, where appropriate.
- Close-up images of individuals under 18 must be accompanied by a signed "Photograph, audio and video release acknowledgment" form available from the Portland District Public Affairs Office.
- Submissions may be used in other Portland District publications, presentations, displays, web or other applications.

Judging:

- All submissions will be reviewed by PAO to ensure they comply with security, accuracy, propriety, or policy guidelines. Remaining entries will then judged by PAO for technical quality, composition, lighting, visual impact and applicability to category (for which photo was entered). Ten photos per category will be selected for employee voting.
- In November 2013, employees will be able to cast up to three votes (per category) by visiting an online website. Photos with most votes in each category will be declared first, second or third place winners. Winning photos from these categories will be featured in a Portland District monthly guide and in other communication publications and products.



Restoring salmon to an urban park

By Michelle Helms, Public Affairs Office

Crystal Springs Creek is one of thousands of small streams flowing through the Pacific Northwest. Most provide ideal habitat for fish, but this creek has not supported fish passage for about 40 years.

"We have accounts of salmon dating from the 50s, 60s," said Ronda Fast, Environmental Program coordinator, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services. "Then the culverts went in and the salmon populations declined."

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for the well being of 53 special status species, including endangered salmon and trout species such as coho, Chinook

and steelhead. The Corps is partnering with the city of Portland to lure salmon back to the creek by replacing the small 4-foot diameter pipe culverts that restrict water flow with 14-foot wide natural-bottom culverts. Culvert replacement is a key element of recovery of endangered juvenile salmon and trout species. Biologists say salmon are already returning to areas where culverts have been replaced along Crystal Springs Creek.

In addition to culvert replacements, the Corps is transforming the existing concrete-lined duck pond at Westmoreland Park into a wetland area through which Crystal Springs Creek will meander. The restoration will reduce water temperatures and improve habitat for threatened native salmon, said Corps project

manager Jim Adams. It will also restore habitat for native waterfowl, amphibians and mammals.

Sustainability and stewardship go hand-in-hand – the Corps must be good stewards of both financial and natural resources. Costs for the Westmoreland restoration project are shared between the Corps and the city of Portland. While both organizations have their own goals and interests, the project is the priority.

Above: The Portland District and city of Portland are partnering to restore fish passage through the cool, clear waters of Crystal Springs Creek flowing through Westmoreland Park. The Corps is removing the man-made concrete duck pond and restoring wetland habitat for native waterfowl, amphibians and mammals. When work is complete the park will be a place to experience and enjoy nature in the city.



“Ultimately both agencies see the value of the project itself,” said Fast. “We all care about the project more than we care about our own turf.”

The Westmoreland project reflects the Corps’ commitment to environmental stewardship by restoring degraded ecosystems and improving aquatic health.

“When this project is done the park is going to be a lot healthier for people and for native wildlife,” said Adams.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers strives to protect, sustain, and improve the natural and man-made environment of our nation, and is committed to compliance with applicable environmental and energy statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders. Sustainability is not only part of the Corps’ decision processes, but is also part of its culture. 



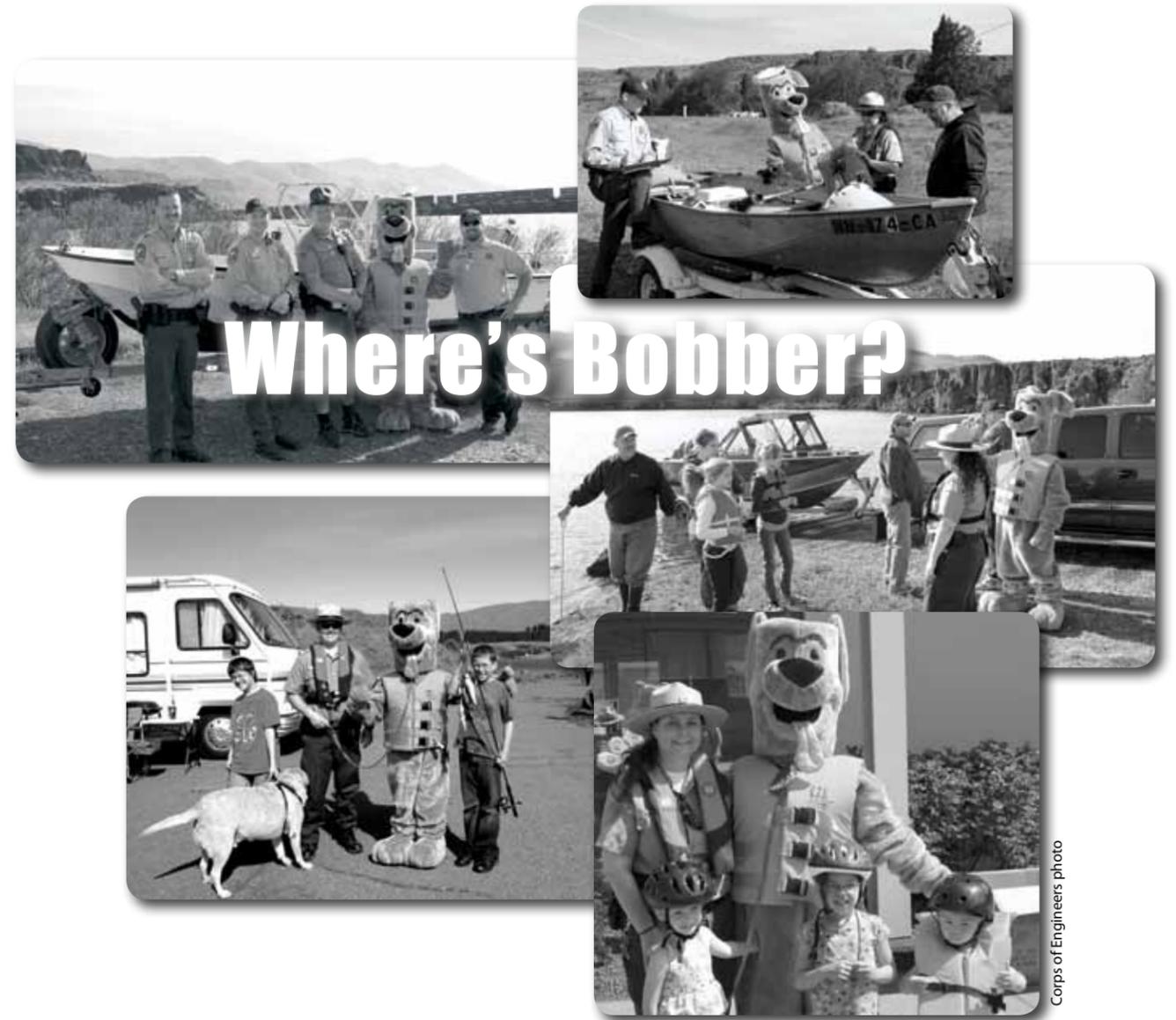
Photo by Matt Rabe, Public Affairs Office

Above: Portland District commander Col. John Eisenhauer (left) and project manager Jim Adams show Northwestern Division commander Brig. Gen. Anthony Funkhouser (pictured as a colonel before his promotion) the first phase of the Westmoreland Restoration Project in Portland, Ore. When complete the \$8 million project will improve salmon habitat and passage in an urban setting.

Below: The Portland District and city of Portland are partnering to restore fish passage through Crystal Springs Creek. The Corps is installing wider, natural bottom culverts, a key element of recovery of endangered juvenile salmon and trout species.



Photo by Michelle Helms, Public Affairs Office



Where's Bobber?

Corps of Engineers photo

If you were in the vicinity of The Dalles, Ore., April 27 you might have seen Bobber the Water Safety Dog while on his road trip with park rangers Amber Tilton, Kelly Thomas and David Ladouceur from The Dalles Lock and Dam.

The daylong tour included a stop at Columbia Hills State Park to promote water safety in the Gorge and perform free boater safety checks in partnership with rangers from Washington State Parks and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The group also visited Spearfish Lake and met with families who were there for the lakes’ opening fishing celebration ... those

casting for trout received bobbers and kids were given coloring books to help remind them to stay afloat by wearing a properly-fitted life jacket.

Bobber the Water Safety Dog and his entourage ended their water safety adventures at the 34th Annual Northwest Cherry Festival where Bobber fitted life jackets and demonstrated how to be a “Smart Thinker – Not a Sinker” by wearing a life jacket.

Who knows where Bobber the Water Safety Dog will turn up next – but be sure, wherever he goes, he’ll have a water safety message to share!



Sharing the Corps' message

You are the face of the Corps. Share these messages with your family, friends and community.



Willamette River Basin 2013 refill season

We made every effort to refill our 13 Willamette Valley reservoirs for the summer water conservation season, but water levels are unlikely to rise without significant additional rain.

We began refill of our reservoirs in February, but the Willamette Basin's total precipitation for February and March 2013 was only about 60% of average. The basin's snowpack also melted off faster than average.

We released minimum required fishery flow targets, and negotiated with fish and wildlife agencies to further lower outflows from some reservoirs (Detroit and Fern Ridge, for example) to hasten refill.

However, we had to increase releases in April and May to support the lifecycle of endangered fish species. Minimum flow targets required by the Willamette Biological Opinions support spawning, incubation, hatching, rearing and migration of juvenile salmon and steelhead.

Maintaining water levels high enough for late summer recreation may also be a challenge.

It's obviously still a long ways off and there are many factors that could change, but our latest forecast shows water levels at the end of August may be near the bottom of popular boat ramps and marinas.

We have to balance many competing interests when developing our spring and summer water management operations.

We meet regularly before and during the conservation season with other federal, state and local agencies to coordinate regional water decisions that maximize benefits and minimize impacts.

We and our partners continually monitor weather forecasts and patterns, and biological and hydrological conditions. We make adjustments to operations as rapidly as possible to address short- and long-term condition changes.