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Corps of Engineers Photo

Handmade stone tools are displayed at a flint knapping session during the Perspectives on Cultural and Natural Resources Management training held Oct. 1 through Oct. 4 at Indian Lake on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Eastern Oregon. Many of the displayed items were created by Lloyd Barkley, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, who taught flint knapping skills to Corps attendees.



In many households across America, November traditionally begins the holiday season. But it is more than that. November is a month filled with reflection, giving thanks and paying tribute.

We've all heard about how the Puritans landed in the New World without enough time to prepare food for the winter. Thanks to aid from a local tribe - who showed the settlers where and how to find local foods - they managed to grow enough for their second winter. They celebrated the harvest with their Indian friends, which in later years formed the basis for our Thanksgiving holiday. If those local Indians hadn't shared their knowledge, history might have been much different.

November is also American Indian Heritage Month. Beginning with that first offer of assistance, Native Americans have remained proud and resilient in the face of many challenges. Their love of the land has led them to become strong environmentalists and their traditions provide continuity for younger generations who are living in a fast-paced and high-tech world. As a people, Native Americans have one of the highest rates of military service per capita in the nation.

That history of sharing Native American knowledge continues today. I had the opportunity to attend the tribal perspectives training hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation last month. The purpose of the training is to help the tribes and federal agencies work well together by sharing perspectives that can lead to common understanding. During discussions I watched as District employees not only learned about the Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla Indian perspectives, but they applied the information to their projects waiting back in the office. I believe this training will help us fulfill our trust responsibilities and develop new relationships as well as partnerships.

Celilo Village is another example of our partnerships with local tribes. The final phase of reconstruction is underway and the homes first built in the 1940s, before The Dalles Dam was completed, are being demolished to make room for new homes for the residents. All families have moved into the temporary homes while



Col. Thomas O'Donovan

Colville Tribal Services, the District's contractor, finishes the demolition and then begins to build the foundations and infrastructure for the village.

Since I took command I have had the privilege of watching this project progress. My first visit was for the longhouse dedication in 2005; since then we have met with all of the treaty tribes on many issues. The discussions are often heated, but I have always known it is because these people care so deeply about their traditions and their way of life. Creating relationships

with the tribal leaders has been very rewarding and I have great respect for those who have helped me find greater understanding.

Another occasion which is very important to me is Veterans Day. While the holiday is observed on Monday this year, the date and time never changes; it is always the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. This date commemorates the signing of the armistice ending World War I, and we still have about 20 veterans still living who fought in that war. Please take a moment on Nov. 11 to reflect back on those who have served their country, many of whom paid the ultimate price.

Correction:

The picture on the cover of the October Corps'pondent notes that Kevin Tapani is between Colonel O'Donovan and Don Dickison. It is actually Leigh Tapani. We regret the error.

CORPS'PONDENT



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Portland District

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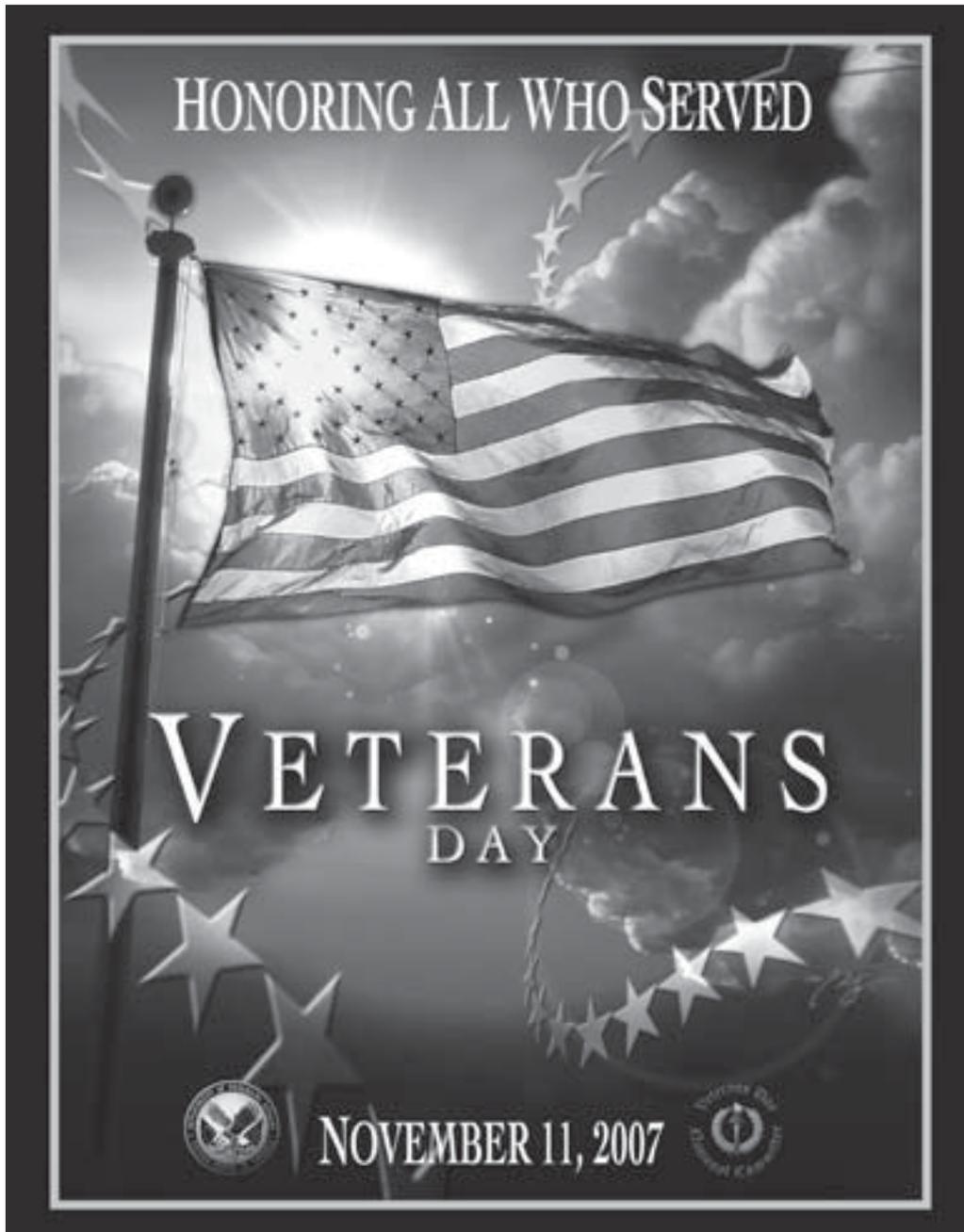


Let's also remember those Soldiers and Civilians who are today serving in the Global War on Terror during this holiday season. If you know someone serving his or her country far from home, send them a note letting them know you're thinking of them.

Finally, I've said this before, but it bears repeating: I know that in order to allow colleagues to deploy,

those of us remaining here often shoulder more responsibility. I get that and want to thank you for your service – without you we couldn't accomplish our other missions.

Denise and I wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving. Be safe and enjoy your holiday with family and friends.  **Essayons!**





Corps staff explore Native American perspectives

By Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office

Amid the lodge pole pines and grasses, 23 Corps of Engineers employees watched carefully as four poles were tied together and balanced vertically. How it was done was important, because they would need to replicate the action three more times in order to construct their overnight accommodations during their stay at Indian Lake. Lloyd Barkley, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, showed how to place the other support poles before covering the tipi with canvass.

Constructing tipis was the first of many activities planned for participants during the Umatilla Tribe's Perspectives on Cultural and Natural Resources Management, a three-day training opportunity designed to enhance cultural awareness and communication between federal agencies and Native American tribes. "Each tribe has its own traditions that may vary somewhat from its neighbors," said Teara Farrow, program manager for the CTUIR Cultural Resources Protection Program, which hosted the training. "We focus on the traditions and beliefs held by the Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes. Our aim is to provide a framework and broad understanding of Native traditions so our guests can get a feeling for our cultural heritage."

Most participants in the training were from Portland District, with a few PROSPECT students traveling from Memphis, Jacksonville, Walla Walla, Sacramento and Honolulu districts. Everyone who attended works with their local Native American communities in some way, from tribal liaisons to park rangers to district commanders, to Ed Saldana, a quality assurance representative for the Celilo Village redevelopment project.

"My customers are members from various tribes and my contractors are essentially all tribal as well," Saldana said. "My day-to-day activities require that I work closely with all my stakeholders. Understanding why some things may seem significant to them is very important to me."

Attendees learned about some of those significant things during conversations about conservation, environmental stewardship and cultural heritage. "The most significant information I learned at the training was about the importance of preserving and respecting cultural remains found on a project site," Saldana said. "This is very applicable to my project as we remove old structures and rebuild the community at Celilo Village." Cultural remains are



often remnants of tools, pottery or structures, Farrow said. "We honor all these items belonging to our ancestors and treat them with the same respect as we give to human remains that may be found."

Another significant event was experienced firsthand by everyone attending: the traditional sweat lodge. Every afternoon before sundown, two groups – one of men and one of women – crawled into small thatched-roof structures. Each structure was insulated to keep the heat inside and light outside; once the opening was covered, water infused with traditional medicine was ladled over a pit filled with red-hot rocks, creating a cloud of steam. "The sweat is important to us for more than just its role in our ceremonial traditions," Farrow said. "It offers a

chance to relax and socialize with friends. Not only that, it just feels wonderful!”

Everyone agreed they’d heard about “the sweat,” as their hosts called it, but few were prepared to enjoy it as much as they did. “I can’t believe I enjoyed sweating so much!” said Judy Linton, Regulatory Branch. “I’m generally not a fan of extreme heat, but this was different somehow ... maybe it was the spiritual and emotional nature of the sweat process.”

After several rounds in the sweat lodge it was time to return to camp and enjoy dinner and listen to members of the tribes share traditions and perspectives. “I was very impressed by the tribes’ commitment to this training,” said Col. Thomas O’Donovan, Portland District commander. “The time investment by tribal leadership was impressive and added a very important aspect. I would recommend that district commanders, DPMs and other senior Corps leaders be invited for at least one evening during the training so they can take advantage of the opportunity.”

Hands-on activities like flint knapping and mat-making were included between discussions about water resources, fisheries, wildlife, environmental rights protection and cultural resources programs, which kept energy levels and attention lively.

“The Umatilla Tribe has a very advanced and well thought out natural resources program that’s structured around their ‘First Foods’ concept,” said Loren Zulick, who traveled from Honolulu District to attend the training. “[We] need to understand the importance that Native Americans, like the Umatilla Tribe, place on their natural resources and consider both the resources and the tribe as [we] make decisions that affect our shared environment.”

Participants found an enhanced understanding of traditional practices, beliefs and ceremonies that each will incorporate into their workday relationships. “Simply by attending the training, [I learned about the] multifaceted environmental issues being addressed by the Umatilla Tribe and their commitment to the sustainability of this environment,” Zulick said.

Flint knapping, traditional dances, discussions about successfully working together, sweat lodges; all of these elements paled by comparison when the new-found tipi-making skills were put to the test during a strong rainstorm during the second night. The good news was that no tipi toppled over during the storm. The bad news was experienced by a few in each tent when cold rainwater dripped onto some while leaving others dry. 🏠



Corps of Engineers Photos

Corps attendees and Cultural Perspectives trainers enjoy a few last chilly moments together before heading back to their home districts. Topics discussed included tribal efforts in cultural preservation, wildlife and fisheries management and environmental rights protection.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Perspectives on Cultural and Natural Resource Management



Indian Lake Recreation Area
Umatilla Indian Reservation 2007





Portland District gets involved with *National Public Lands Day*

By Jennifer Sowell, Public Affairs Office

Public lands make up nearly one-third of the United States and play a vital role in the lives of all Americans. They provide abundant natural resources, protect ecosystems and offer opportunities for outdoor recreation. Unfortunately, some public lands have been greatly impacted by overuse. There are many efforts to reduce and reverse this degradation, one of which is National Public Lands Day, the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance America's public lands.

This year the Portland District sponsored several volunteer opportunities in conjunction with National Public Lands Day. Although the nationwide observance is officially the last Saturday in September, the Corps' events stretched over two weekends at locations across Oregon.

Willamette Valley park rangers teamed up with the International Mountain Biking Association on Sept. 22 to repair and enhance the portion of the Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail that runs through the Lookout Point project in Lowell, Ore.

"The trail is popular with many users, but it is avidly worshiped by our local mountain biking population," said park ranger Amy Doherty.

"Members of the Disciples of Dirt, the local mountain biking club, expressed an interest in providing maintenance for their beloved trail," Doherty said.

IMBA trail care crewmembers Ryan Schutz and Kristin Butcher started the day with a trail school to teach volunteers about sustainable trail design and proper trail maintenance techniques. The group then



Fifth and sixth graders from Dallesport, Wash., pitch in at Bonneville Lock and Dam Sept. 29. Public involvement and educational activities help make the day fun and rewarding.

set off to the Pacific Crest Trail to apply their new skills.

Volunteers worked to reduce erosion on the trail using methods they learned earlier in the day, such as armoring the trail using rocks and redirecting the path of stormwater.

"The great part about our project is that all of our volunteers learned valuable skills about trail sustainability and gained a sense of ownership for their public lands," said Doherty.

Partnering with a large, organized group like the IMBA definitely added a unique element to a volunteer opportunity, but isn't necessary to hold a National Public Lands Day event, said Melissa Rinehart, Portland District natural resources manager. "Smaller events can offer great benefits," she added.



One small group got an early start on National Public Lands Day with an event near Heppner, Ore. They took to the land and the water with a variety of projects to fix up public areas at Willow Creek Lake.

“A tremendous amount of work was accomplished,” said Dan Dunnett, park ranger. “Our volunteers helped us take care of tasks that needed doing for some time.”

Volunteers replaced an uninviting barbed wire fence at a trailhead with a retaining wall, placed “No Wake” safety buoys near boat ramps and docks, retreaded a popular switchback trail that climbs 200 feet, built five fish habitat shelters in the reservoir and striped two parking lots, including a new handicap parking space. The group’s time and effort enhanced the area, created wildlife habitat and improved visitor safety, Dunnett said.

Fifteen members of the Upper Rogue Watershed Association volunteered Sept. 29 with Corps park rangers at Bridge Hole Park at Lost Creek Lake. They spent the day cleaning up the shoreline, rejuvenating campgrounds and installing a directional sign along Takelma Drive.

“It’s nice to work with people who appreciate our public lands,” said Edward Amerson, park ranger. “Visitors can now enjoy a nicer picnic area due to the work we accomplished at Bridge Hole Park.”

National Public Lands Day activities at Bonneville Lock and Dam drew nearly 40 volunteers Sept. 29, most of whom were fifth and sixth grade students from Dallesport Elementary School in Dallesport, Wash. In addition, several parents, educators from the Lyle School District and a group from Damascus, Ore., also spent the day helping out.

Volunteers removed invasive plants and cleaned up the shoreline at Tanner Creek and Robin’s Island recreational areas. In just an hour they gathered 80 pounds of trash and collected numerous bags of monofilament fishing line to be recycled. The

volunteers also planted 30 trees near the Oregon entrance to Bonneville.

“The kids worked so hard. Even when we were moving on to other activities, they couldn’t walk by a piece of trash without picking it up,” said Tim Darland, park ranger.

Park rangers managed to work in some educational elements along the way, discussing the salmon life cycle and watching it in action as chinook and coho salmon swam up Tanner Creek to spawn. The group also got to check out the fish viewing windows at the Washington Shore Visitor Center and tour the dam’s powerhouse.

One of the goals of National Public Lands Day is to highlight critical environmental and natural resources issues while restoring and enhancing valued public lands, Rinehart said. “This year’s events met that goal through a combination of productive volunteer work, education and fun. It’s great to see members of the public committed to helping out.”

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with three federal agencies and 700 volunteers working to keep the promise made by another army corps, the Civilian Conservation Corps. Known as the “tree army,” that organization worked to preserve and protect America’s natural heritage from 1933 to 1942.

The Corps is one of the nine federal agencies now taking part in annual National Public Lands Day activities. Portland District’s events are a small but effective part of the greater national effort to take care of America’s public lands, according to Rinehart. “We really love getting the public involved. Here in Oregon we’re lucky to have enthusiastic volunteers who love the state’s natural resources and are actively involved in its upkeep.”

This year’s nationwide effort benefited more than 1,300 parks and other public land areas through the work of 110,000 volunteers across the country. 



Corps of Engineers Photos





Partnership Notes

PARTNERSHIP

From the Editor

In September's issue, Col. O'Donovan asked for your thoughts about partnerships and how you work with partners every day. Here are excerpts from some of the many responses Col. O'Donovan received.

Diane Luiz, Willamette Valley Projects

Without partnering amongst government agencies, private industries and other interested parties we as an agency will be less informed of our constituent's needs and interests. Also, we may be less informed of technical developments and new options within our professions....

We also partner within our own agency. I have seen many examples recently during the Detroit fire and recovery efforts: the initial work of North West Fire Fighting who worked very hard and diligently with the Corps to assure safety of our workers and the environment; District employees willing to offer technical expertise; the two investigative teams; the RRV and IT technical support that helped [connect] a site that had no communications, and the District Safety Office. [To me, this] is what partnering and open communication is all about: coming up with solutions to a problem through information sharing, communication and resulting in a plan and product.

Melissa Rinehart, Operations Division

The [District's] Natural Resource Section can champion many examples of successful partnerships. Our water safety program wouldn't be nearly as effective if we didn't partner with local community organizations and county/state/federal governments to share the message. Some examples include: Partnering with International Troutiers Society and National BASS foundation in the Rogue River basin, or with the Forest Service and BLM to share water safety messages at special events. Partners are a vital part of what we do. For our section and for the Rangers at our recreation and natural resource areas, partnerships are the links to the community. Partnerships are the way we become real to the public we serve.

Linda McBane, CPAC

For many years the Portland Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) has worked to build an effective partnership with the Civilian Personnel Operations Center (CPOC) in Arizona. Most important was the need for effective communication. Each side strove to understand the other's opinions and recommendations. We had joint customers who we were committed to support. Over the years the CPAC-CPOC relationship changed. At one time the CPAC was part of Portland District. Then the CPAC became an equal to the CPOC in an organization called CHRA. Last month a change resulted in some of the former CPOC employees being reassigned to the CPAC. What a benefit we have for those years of positive partnership! We [were] immediately attuned to each other and to the needs of our customers.

Dave Hamernik, Engineering and Construction Division

Partnerships are important to our business since they can have a synergetic effect if managed effectively. Larger goals that would normally be unobtainable can be within grasp. A grassroots-level example is a team working together reviewing and commenting on each others' work. "None of us is as smart as all of us" is a quote that comes to mind.

Another example on a larger scale would be TDA Spillwall project that I am working on. There are numerous partnerships that have added value to the desired finished product: Oregon and Washington departments of Environment/Ecology, BPA, tribal coalitions, etc. From what I have seen, this project (and probably just about every project on the river) would not be possible to implement without them.

Jaki Schmunk, Resource Management Division

Partnerships are truly the way the Corps has to do its business these days. Any of our cost-shared

projects are examples of partnerships between the Corps and the respective state and local agencies. We partner with BPA, through which they now fund large capital items and maintenance at our power projects. We've worked very hard at partnering with the Tribes to meet the requirements of treaties, understand their needs and save fish. The cultural resource training [held in October] is a way we're trying to educate Corps employees who work with the tribes to understand their culture, and build partnerships between us. And internal to the Corps, we are learning to work more in partnership with each other. Regional budgets have been a way for organizations throughout the region to initiate discussion on best business practices and learn from each other.

Mike Roll, Hydroelectric Design Center

As a charter member of some of the first Partnering Agreements with construction contractors undertaken by NWP about 20 years ago (Bonneville 2nd Navigation Lock), I can speak firsthand about the importance of sharing values, defining expectations, and increasing communication that partnering efforts bring to the table. Those agreements were instrumental in helping complete contracts within schedule and budget.

Partnerships at any level can substantially help our organization fulfill its mission, serve the country, and make positive economic, social, and environmental contributions on a local, regional, and national level every single day.

Dennis Stocks, The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek Projects

I feel that [partnerships between] the Corps of Engineers and local and federal emergency management teams ... have been proactive since 9/11. By [inviting] local and federal law enforcement and emergency response groups to see our operation, we help them know how they would have to respond inside our facilities. Many of these groups had never seen the inside of some of our facilities. I feel that these groups are going to be our major responders and that we should all be involved in exercises to show our readiness.

Louis Landre, Real Estate Division

The reason why I believe partnerships are important is that it helps make the best decision possible for a particular action. When working together, there is a heightened sensitivity to what people find important. What an honor to work with so many "experts" in so many different disciplines here at the Corps. It is the different disciplines and interests that make for effective stewardship; it is the greatest public good for each dollar spent that keeps us moving forward.

Don Erickson, Programs, Planning and Project Management

Partnering only works when you have two parties truly interested in partnering. The Corps has tried partnering with private organizations, other agencies, and contractors. Some have been successful, some have not. Either we have not been truly interested in partnering, or the other party has not been interested. I think our partnering relationship with Voith Siemens is a case where both parties are truly interested in partnering and it has been very successful. Partnering takes effort by both parties to be successful.

Doris McKillip, Operations Division

I'm sure that I'm not one of the first three responders to your partnering request, but thought I would let you know how important I think it is. With the Lower Columbia Solutions Group focused on dredge disposal issues in the Lower Columbia River and Regional Sediment Management as a nexus to this effort, we have made great strides in the last four years working with a wide variety of stakeholders.

One [example] was a meeting with the governor's representatives from Oregon and Washington and our Division and District personnel to talk about ways of mutually funding beneficial use sites in the nearshore at the Mouth of the Columbia River.

Another example was the annual Regional Sediment Management meeting in Mobile, [Ala.] where my colleagues from the Washington Department of Ecology, Northwestern Division and our district shared how we have worked together in our region and to learn how others are working to form partnerships. 





“American Indians and Alaska Natives continue to shape our Nation by preserving the heritage of their ancestors and by contributing to the rich diversity that is our country’s strength. Their dedicated efforts to honor their proud heritage have helped others gain a deeper understanding of the vibrant and ancient customs of the Native American community. We also express our gratitude to the American Indians and Alaska Natives who serve in our Nation’s military and work to extend the blessings of liberty around the world.”

Excerpted from A Proclamation by George W. Bush, the President of the United States of America.
(To view the complete proclamation please visit www.whitehouse.gov)

In Memoriam

Bruce Linkous died Oct. 15, 2007, at age 80. Born in Portland, he graduated from Benson High School and Oregon State University. He served in the U.S. Navy on the *USS South Dakota* during World War II. He then worked for the Army Corps of Engineers until he retired in 1995. Survivors include his wife, daughter, son, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Floyd Glanden died Oct. 27, 2007 of natural causes. He was 59. Glanden worked for the Portland District as an engineering maintenance technician, overseeing local construction projects, for nearly 10 years prior to his death. Glanden had a strong sense of public service, enlisting in the U.S. Navy after completing an architectural design degree after high school. After serving in Vietnam, Glanden continued in the naval reserves until 1991, when he was the only reservist from the Astoria “coopmineunit” sent to the Persian Gulf. During his four months there, he assisted in finding and exploding 1,100 of 1,400 mines in the Gulf.

Glanden is survived by his wife Linda, a daughter, a brother, a sister and many friends at The Dalles, John Day and Willow Creek projects and the Portland District.