

Hire a Vet for the Summer !

VCC Members will be available for Summer hire jobs or internships; from June until the End of September. Don't miss out on the opportunity to hire the person who may turn out to be your most valuable asset. Hire a Vet, you'll be glad you did.

Want to learn more about the VCC ?

You can check us out the VCC on the web at: http://www.dva.wa.gov/vet_conservation_corps.html

You can see what kind of education opportunities are available at Green River Community college <http://www.greenriver.edu/>

Or you can call Mark Fisher at the number on the back of this brochure.



VCC at Miller Creek doing volunteer restoration work.



The members of the VCC would like to thank Washington State Senator Ken Jacobsen. For getting this program started, and for always getting his hands dirty when he comes out to visit us.



Washington Department of
Veterans Affairs and Green
River Community College

VCC

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**"ANY COUNTRY THAT IS WORTH
DEFENDING IS WORTH PRESERVING"**

Veterans Conservation Corps



VCC members Mike Farnum
and Doug Gannon

**Tel: 1-800-
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VCC

What is the Veterans Conservation Corps

It's the result of a conversation between two men, Washington State Senator Ken Jacobsen and Tom Schumacher of the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, from that fortunate meeting legislation was passed and the Veterans Conservation Corps was created. The purpose of the Veterans Conservation Corps is to assist veterans by providing volunteer opportunities on projects that help re-



WDVA representative and VCC Program Manager Mark Fisher.

store Washington's rivers, streams, lakes, marine waters and open lands. How does that help veterans? It helps in three ways; first there are the rehabilitation benefits to be gained from doing conservation work. Second there is networking with prospective employers like private consulting companies, city, county, state and federal agencies. And third is with educational opportunities leading toward degrees in Natural Resources, Water Quality and GIS.

"ECO-Therapy"

The rehabilitative benefits of restoration work or "eco-therapy" as it's sometimes called, I would like to bring to your attention a man named John Beal. John was a Vietnam vet who was given 6 months to live. He decided to spend his remaining days cleaning up the Washington's Duwamish River, a last gift to the planet and something positive to leave for posterity. Twenty six years later John finally passed away. This very real side effect is being credited with adding years to veteran's lives and is the topic of leading edge research at state and federal levels. This research may lead to expansion of the program to other colleges, cities and states.

"Networking Opportunities"

As for the networking opportunities, the VCC conducts volunteer work on restoration projects throughout the Puget Sound area and are able to work directly with program managers at all levels. As a result some of these managers are noticing the value veterans can bring with them. Values like a strong work ethic acquired from working long hours on long deployments. Another value is experience, everything from construction to communications and heavy equipment

management to aircraft maintenance and more.

"Educational Opportunities"

Finally and most important are the educational opportunities. This is where the Veterans Conservation Academy comes in. The Purpose of this program within the VCC is to provide eligible veterans a monthly grant to participate in specialized training approved by the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs through Green River Community College. These are primarily Natural Resources programs and include Fire, Water Quality, Park Management and GIS. Hands on or lecture, classroom or alpine forest the vets are doing it all. And best of all, the flexibility built into the program allows Vets to seek AAS or BS degrees or take their dream job at any point in between.

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