

# Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT



*Corps answers calls in  
emergency response*

inside

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Volume XXIX No. 1

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Cover:

### **Corps answers calls in emergency responses**

A contractor's truck delivers rock to a damaged seawall in Taholah, Wash., after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, sent a team March 28 to work with the Quinault Indian Nation to mitigate potential flood damage before a storm hit. See story on pages 8 and 9. (Corps photo by Geoff Dorsey)

### ***Flagship***

**Col. Bruce A. Estok, Commander**  
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### ***Sonya Kuhns: This Flagship is for you***



**Sonya Kuhns** is a Human Resources Specialist in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. She fills mission critical positions at various duty locations in the Operations Division and must meet tight deadlines. She's an expert on regulatory requirements to recruit for trades and craft positions at the district's hydropower plants and is independently relied on to advise her customers on staffing and classification organizational needs. She trains others and volunteers often for new assignments and opportunities. She goes above and beyond her duties to provide the highest level of service and is an invaluable member of the CPAC.

**Sonya Kuhns**, this Flagship is for you.

# Future Direction . . . Carpe Diem

commentary

Our District Future Direction Plan has been well developed, communicated and initially executed over the last nine months. As we reach the 25 percent mark in the plan's initial two-year time horizon, it's worth taking stock of where we're at and where we're going. In short, we've made solid progress, currently enjoy the "good problem" of solid workload this year, and envision a portfolio of actions to achieve business efficiencies, shape personnel and the organization, and pursue new markets. The cardinal azimuth for our organization's glidepath is set to be 17 percent smaller by 2016. But I believe we all must adopt the attitudinal direction of Carpe Diem, imbued in my generation's popular culture by the 1989 film, *Dead Poets Society*.

The Roman lyric poet Horace, in Odes 1.11, phrases "Carpe diem quam minimum credula postero," which translates as "Seize the day, put very little trust in tomorrow (/the future)." While some use Carpe Diem to justify reckless behavior as in, "you only live once," I contend it means doing all we can today to make our future better. Let's cover some of the good things to date, and how we can all contribute to a better future, starting with the bottom line and framed by our plan's main tenets.

Our organizational bottom line is execution, while our Future Direction Plan is right sizing the district using shaping tools to balance the work load and work force by 2016. Toward the former, I'm proud of our progress midway through the fiscal year. We've awarded the largest military construction project in years with the \$77 million wastewater treatment plan at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.; are doing well on overall construction placement for military and ecosystem projects like Qwuloolt, Seahurst, and Big Spring Creek; and pushed through complex barriers for ongoing planning studies and Endangered Species Act consultations. Concerning the latter objective, our reduction plan via normal attrition and voluntary measures is slightly ahead of schedule, and is not necessarily in all the right places.

We expect to be very busy this year. Since our initial analysis a few months back, we have gained clarity on additional military Facility Sustainment Restoration and Modernization work which doubles the original plan with more still possible, and a Civil Works allocation about 12 percent greater than last year. These factors reinforce three things: the plan is only as good as our information, we will revise it as the picture evolves, and we make our future by executing the present. By mid-year we now have a prioritized and time-phased project priority list to guide us through the fiscal year end. In fact, we'll be in better shape on timely workload fidelity than we have been in recent years, without being hamstrung by last year's fiscal uncertainty constraints.

Business efficiencies are an integral element of the plan and we are making solid progress in this area. Direct charging is on track in three of four major accounts. Toward overhead reductions, we have regionalized our QMS position, and are working on a similar arrangement for another function. Rent reduction actions include relocating the Northwest Area Office to rent-free military space and a time-phased plan to consolidate in the Oxbow Headquarters, freeing up un-used space for GSA to lease to another tenant. Finally, we have merged Military Programs and Partnership Programs into the Military, Environmental and Interagency Support Branch, while Engineering was also reduced by a branch. Finally, the new Lewis and Clark Project Office absorbed some existing construction and project management offices to provide a more efficient way to deliver less complex operations and maintenance-type projects across the district's

customer base. All of this represents change – I appreciate your efforts to move through it and build the future.

Shaping our organization's people and workforce is the next main tenet of the Future Directions Plan.

Thus far in Fiscal Year 2014 we have reduced staffing by 54 people, nearly 6 percent. Two-thirds of those were via normal retirements or transitions, with the rest

voluntary based on early retirement incentives for positions no longer required. With the heavy current-year workload, and these initial decreases, we are ahead of our mid-year target, and within 10 people of our year-end goal. We held the Pacific Pipeline VTC highlighting the Corps current largest programs in the event some people's personal and professional goals align opportunities to live and work in Japan or Korea for a few years, then return to Seattle. Workforce shaping entails not only quantity reductions, but also a focus on quality people in the right places. While concern about the future in an era of downsizing is natural, keep in mind our end-state remains consistent with the pre-growth 2007 organizational size, rather than orders of magnitude different. Our plan relies on the natural annual 10 percent turnover and limited new hiring – I'm confident there will be a place in Seattle District for all who perform each day and build our future.

The final Future Directions tenet is pursuing new markets among our current and prospective customer base. Effectively, finding sustainable work sources will offset anticipated reductions. In February Deputy for Programs and Project Management Olton Swanson and I traveled to Huntsville Center to learn about their execution of national programs within our area of operations and identify how we can become involved. The visit was educational, and led to a couple areas we are currently investigating. We are pursuing new leads, and perhaps just as importantly, working to identify doors to close where efforts have entailed opportunity costs yet not produced tangible results. Prospecting is hard, low yield work – the best and highest thing we can all do for our future is to execute well the work we do have.

As we move forward, three things are certain: the future will change, district leadership will review and refine our plan, and we will communicate candidly and collaboratively to inform the team and enlist support. We review specific elements of the plan monthly in conjunction with our budget meeting, producing a Five Year Strategic Plan, and will do semi-annual revisions to the Future Direction in April and October. Thanks for all you do – Plan info is at <https://intranet.usace.army.mil/nwd/nws/PAO/FiE/Pages/default.aspx>



**Col. Bruce A. Estok,  
Seattle District commander**

—*Essays!*

# Skokomish River Basin

## *Multiple reviews currently underway*

**By Scott Lawrence**  
Public Affairs Office

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study to restore the ecosystem along the Skokomish River took a huge stride forward recently when the tentatively selected plan was approved to be carried forward for further design and eventually may be recommended for construction.

The Skokomish River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Study, which includes Mason County and the Skokomish Indian Tribe as non-federal partners, focuses on the lower 11 miles of the river in a large basin which covers a 240-square-mile-area including portions of the Olympic Mountains.

“What’s unique about our study area is the number of local, state and other federal agencies working within their own authorities and using their own funding sources to restore different areas in the basin,” said Rachel Mesko, lead planner for the Seattle District study.

For example, the U.S. Forest Service is decommissioning old logging roads, restoring trails and installing large

woody debris on the upper reaches of the river’s south fork. Meanwhile Tacoma Power is working to restore upper reaches of the north fork and Washington State is contributing grant funds through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for multiple basin restoration projects.

“Having several agencies working on separate areas makes our study complex and challenging, but it’s also rewarding to see how all the pieces are coming together,” Mesko said.

The intent of the Corps’ study is to restore structure, function and process for the ecosystem with an emphasis on four Endangered Species Act-listed fish: Chinook salmon, Hood Canal summer chum, steelhead and bull trout.

A key area within Seattle District’s study area is the confluence of the north and south forks into the Skokomish River’s main stem.

“It’s where all the pieces of the river are coming together and it’s an unstable area where in the past the confluence has gotten plugged up and actually changed locations,” Mesko said. “It’s a key area because some portions are either completely blocked by sediment, so fish can’t migrate upstream, or there aren’t appropriate habit features



Corps photo

(Above) U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, study team members brief local landowners on the tentatively selected plan during an informal listening session held in Shelton, Wash., March 4, 2014. (Behind) While seemingly pristine, the Skokomish River’s severely degraded habitat lacks the necessary structures, functions, and processes necessary to sustain the 22 species of fish that call the river home, plus multiple other species that rely on the river to survive.

# Ecosystem Restoration Study:

such as the number of pools, large woody debris or vegetation to provide habitat or cover.”

In an effort to restore the river’s lower 11 miles, the Seattle District’s study team formulated a multi-million-dollar plan which includes several large scale projects and aims to restore about 330 acres of spawning, rearing and refuge habitats.

Some of the plan’s major projects include: Levee removal and restoration of natural flows at the confluence; reconnecting side channels; constructing new setback levees and breaching existing ones; installing large woody debris; and restoring tributary channels for more natural function.

Gaining approval to proceed to a feasibility-level design had added significance because the Skokomish General Investigation Study was the first in Northwestern Division to pass the TSP milestone under new planning guidelines.

Known as SMART planning, the intent is to complete quality feasibility studies within shorter timeframes and at lower costs. This is achieved by emphasizing risk-based decision-making and early engagement at all levels within the Corps and with non-federal sponsors.

“The new planning guidelines helped the team coalesce around a tangible end goal,” Mesko said. “It helped us focus, make timely decisions and maintain momentum as we moved through the process.”

In addition to gaining approval on the TSP, the Seattle District team completed the draft feasibility report and environmental impact statement for the restoration effort.

Next up for the study are concurrent reviews of the draft report and EIS by the public, Corps Headquarters and Northwestern Division. An agency technical review by individuals from other Corps’ districts is also taking place along with an independent external peer review by subject matter experts outside the Corps.



Corps photo

**An aerial view shows the mouth of the Skokomish River as it flows into Hood Canal. The Skokomish Indian Tribe has led restoration efforts to restore the Skokomish River estuary.**

“One of the biggest schedule eaters is the review process, but by doing them mostly at the same time, we streamline the process,” Mesko said. “The challenge is internally how we handle all the comments coming in a short time period and how we prioritize and respond to them.”

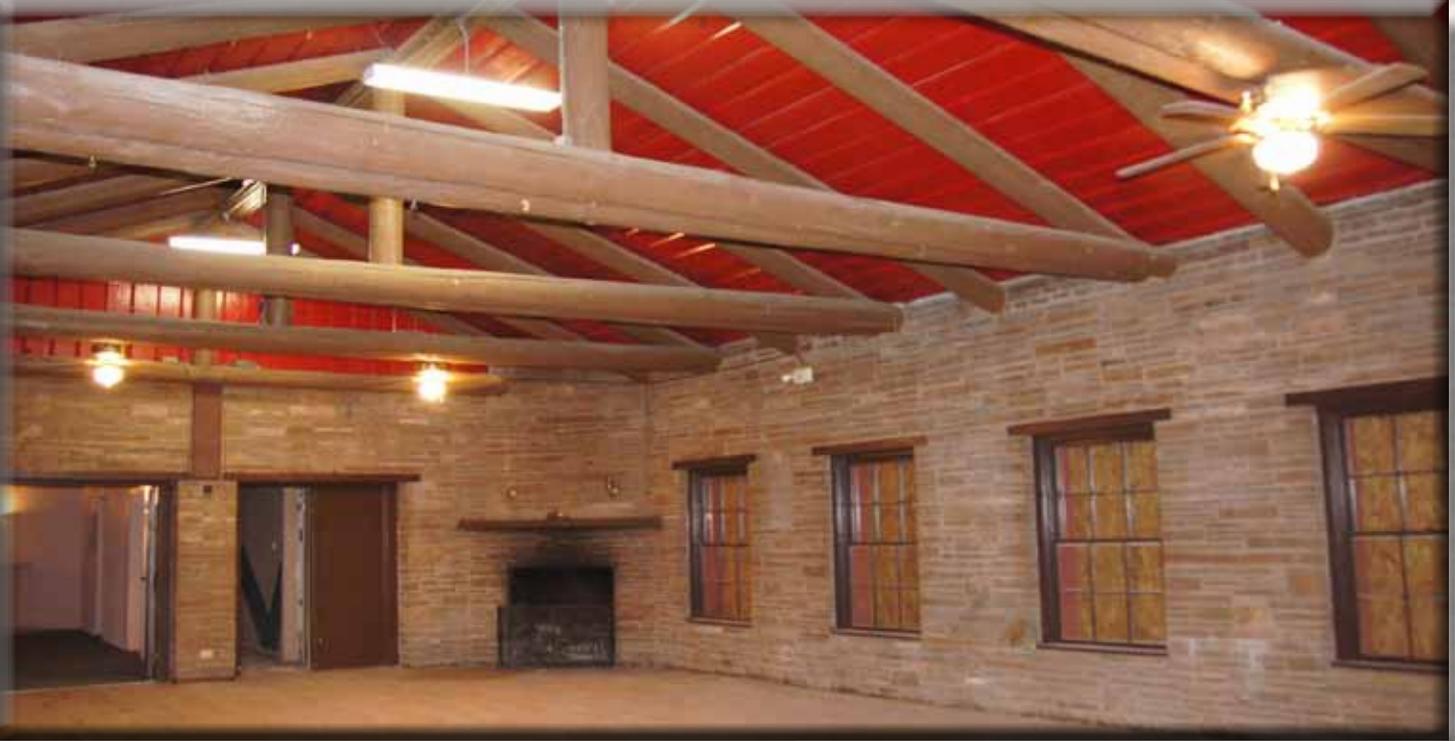
The nearly \$8 million study is being cost-shared evenly between the Corps and non-federal partners. If the plan is authorized and funded by Congress, construction could begin as early as 2017. Total estimated costs for the plan is about \$41 million, of which the Corps will pay 65 percent and non-federal partners will pick up the remaining 35 percent.

In addition to non-federal sponsors, the study team worked closely with the Skokomish Watershed Action Team which includes representatives from the timber industry, Tacoma Power, USFS, landowners and other stakeholders.

“It’s gratifying to see all the pieces fall into place, whether it was SMART planning, funding coming through at the right time, or having the right people on the team,” said Mamie Brouwer, project manager. “There is still much work to be done, but the team has worked hard to be the first in the division and first in the district to be approved for selection as a funded construction project.”

in design

# Sustainability is t



Corps courtesy photos

*Conchas Lodge, Albuquerque District:* the lodge reflects quality craftsmanship in stone and wood (above). The Depression-era building was a project of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and recalls the regional architecture of the Southwest using native Pueblo and Spanish colonial motifs. Built around 1939, the lodge opened this remote part of New Mexico to recreation after the the Corps' Conchas Lake Dam created one of New Mexico's largest bodies of water. Recreation patterns have changed, but the original portion of the building (right) could be adapted for new uses, and reclaim the embodied energy of hand laid sandstone and hewn woodwork. Seattle's Center for Historic Preservation has provided planning documents for alternative uses and will participate in public outreach meetings this summer to discuss possible re-use options.



# the capacity to endure

**By Dave Harris**  
Public Affairs Office

**D**uring World War II, the frantic pace of mobilization ramped up production 30-fold. The result: victory.

But in the feverish build-up, permanence often took a back seat. Much of that temporary construction – and the history it defined - has been lost. And with it, the investment of energy, human labor, raw materials, and even art.

Contrast “fast-track” with Corinthian columns, stalwart brick walls, and striking Art Deco motifs often found on federal properties.

“Historic preservation – rehabilitation of older structures – is the most sustainable way of managing property needs,” said Lauren McCroskey, who runs the so-named Technical Center of Expertise for the Corps here in Seattle District. “A contemporary building can be sustainable, but it still means expending new labor and energy.”

It’s a matter of apprising the property manager, archi-

tect and sustainability advocate that she has the tools for the reuse, rehabilitation – and in some cases, mitigation – of buildings and structures, McCroskey said.

Carving the sandstone columns that graced the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery took craft skills that rarely exist these days, she added. “Likewise the African American slave labor that laid up bricks for a plantation house, and the hands of Depression-era workers who built countless dams, public buildings and bridges.”

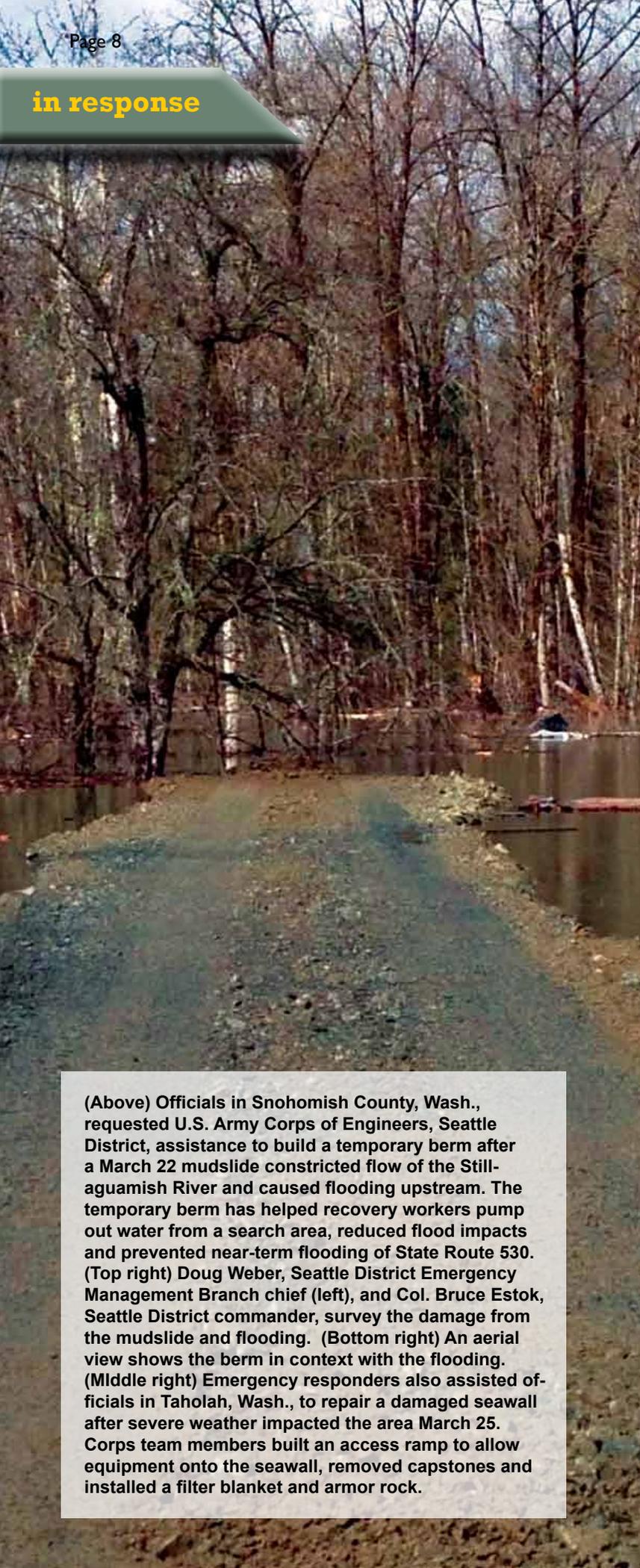
Fast forward. In recent times fast-buck builders slapped up cheap, expedient structures with paper-thin walls, insulation that’s minimal-to-none, faulty wiring and plumbing, inefficient heating and air conditioning, crumbling driveways and leaky roofs. Here today; gone tomorrow.

Today, sustainability is the core driving force in the Army Corps of Engineers. It was woven into the Corps fabric before – “Proud to sign our work.”

Now it’s the bedrock demand, from conception to creation, although the role of older buildings in this mandate is not always recognized, McCroskey said.

“But the bullion of sustainability,” she concluded, “lies mostly within the embodied labor and materials of structures and buildings yet to be reclaimed.”




 in response

# When the we will a

**By Seattle District**

*Public Affairs Office*

**E**mergency responders from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, responded to two separate requests for assistance in March and one response effort continued into April.

One request came from the Quinault Indian Nation in Taholah, Wash., beginning March 25 to perform emergency repairs to a damaged seawall.

The other request came from officials in Snohomish County, Wash., to construct a temporary berm within the State Route 530 slide area after a March 22 mudslide constricted flow of the Stillaguamish River and caused flooding upstream.

In Taholah, more than half of a 1,100-foot seawall suffered excessive damage when severe weather impacted the area. Corps emergency responders arrived within 24 hours of the request for assistance. They built an access ramp to allow equipment onto the seawall, removed the capstones, and installed a filter blanket and armor rock.

The Corps team worked around the clock to complete repairs to the seawall before high tides peaked the following afternoon. They then shifted their focus to clean-up operations as the heavy rains passed.

The emergency temporary repairs remained intact through high tides and storm surge and prevented flooding to 700 Taholah residents who make their homes nearby.

Corps assistance peaked with 11 deployed members while the district's Emergency Operations Center worked around the clock and through on many weekends to ensure deployed teams had what they needed. Those deployed to Taholah remained in

(Above) Officials in Snohomish County, Wash., requested U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, assistance to build a temporary berm after a March 22 mudslide constricted flow of the Stillaguamish River and caused flooding upstream. The temporary berm has helped recovery workers pump out water from a search area, reduced flood impacts and prevented near-term flooding of State Route 530. (Top right) Doug Weber, Seattle District Emergency Management Branch chief (left), and Col. Bruce Estok, Seattle District commander, survey the damage from the mudslide and flooding. (Bottom right) An aerial view shows the berm in context with the flooding. (Middle right) Emergency responders also assisted officials in Taholah, Wash., to repair a damaged seawall after severe weather impacted the area March 25. Corps team members built an access ramp to allow equipment onto the seawall, removed capstones and installed a filter blanket and armor rock.

# ey call, answer

place to monitor conditions until the major storm threat passed.

Meanwhile, in Snohomish County, Seattle District emergency responders constructed a 3,000-linear-foot berm, made from 20,000 tons of rock, gravel and earthen materials under difficult conditions. It was built in about a week through areas of deep water and has been accessible only via a gravel road by a USACE team and workers from Snohomish County public works.

Shortly before it was completed, forecasts predicted heavy rainfalls leading to Corps workers racing against the clock to raise the berm an additional foot to help prevent potential flooding risks. Corps teams maintained close contact with Snohomish County officials during construction as recovery workers continued to search the area.

The temporary berm has helped recovery workers pump out water from a search area, reduced flood impacts and prevented near-term flooding of State Route 530. The berm is a temporary flood prevention measure designed to prevent flooding under normal spring runoff conditions.

The Corps' work came at the request of Snohomish County, and was coordinated with the Stillaguamish, Tulalip and Sauk-Suiattle Tribes, State of Washington, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and County officials.

Public Law 84-99 enables the Corps to assist state and local authorities in flood fight activities and cost share to repair flood protection structures. The purpose is to prevent loss of life and minimize property damage associated with severe weather.



Courtesy photos



# MSO: How can we help you?

**By Tanya King**  
Public Affairs Office

The newly established Mission Support Office isn't performing new duties for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, but is simply doing business as usual.

The office formally referred to as the MSO, now has an office symbol and a budget, which falls into the General and Administrative category. The office was formally reorganized earlier this year at the direction of Col. Bruce Estok, the district's commander.

"It's important everyone is educated on this transition because if they

## MSO RESPONSIBILITIES

Leadership Development Program

GPC transactions

Training and development

Conference Memos

Supervisor training

Corps Day awards and ceremony

Telework Coordination

Afghanistan deployments

don't know about it, how can we help them?" said Susan Smith-Anderson, the district's MSO chief. "If our customers know who works in the MSO or how we affect the organization, they might come to us. People have really great ideas and we listen and try to figure out what they need. We get to help them clear road blocks; 'I want to telework, how do I do that?' might be a question they ask us."

The MSO is responsible for what Smith-Anderson refers to as an eclectic group of responsibilities that might seem random, but are deeply important to the organization.

In addition to working with the deputy commander to collaborate with and support the district, they handle such things as awards, training and development, deployments to Southwest Asia, supervisor training, Leadership Development Program, Corps Day Awards and the ceremony, Government Purchase Card transactions, telework coordination, conference memos, special initiatives, and managing the library and the records group (including historical maps, photos, and other documents).

"The MSO exists to ensure the right people have the right skills and that they are developed as leaders at the right time," said Maj. Rachel Honderd, former district deputy commander. "They make sure we reward our people, maintain the brightest and the best, retain them via the awards program and enable them to do the mission from start to finish. The MSO really is the integrator—their job is to ask, 'How can I support you in executing your mission?'"

Smith-Anderson said she is a conflict-resolver by nature, is customer focused and trains her employees to be supportive of the organization.

"What's important to me is that we are all working together as a team; we are all different but we are moving forward together," said Smith-Anderson.

"I feel good about being able to support the organization—I think

what we do is important and I like doing it well."

# SEAHURST PARK RESTORATION

in restoration

Seahurst Park Ecosystem Restoration Project Phase 2 kicked off in September 2013 with a ground-breaking ceremony in Burien, Wash. Ribbon-cutting on this major joint ecosystem restoration project is now scheduled for mid-July 2014.

Phase 2 restores an additional 2,800 feet of shoreline, building on the earlier Phase 1 restoration success at Seahurst Park's south end, where the Corps and the city removed more than 1,000 ft of seawall in 2005. This project replaces 1,800 feet of shoreline concrete armoring with natural habitat for forage fish and salmon rearing.

Seahurst Park is the pride of City of Burien and a local treasure. Restoring the park's natural shoreline will improve habitat for fish and allow other nearshore species to thrive. Five types of salmon and two types of trout inhabit the park shoreline, including two species listed as threatened by the Endangered Species Act: Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Nearshore habitat is also frequented by the small fish that salmon eat, including surf smelt and Pacific sand lance. Restoring the shoreline increases healthy habitat, a top priority in the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

The Corps is the action agency, and the City of Burien is the sponsor, along with its partners: Puget Sound Partnership, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Green/Duwamish Watershed Forum, King Conservation District, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office.



BEFORE

Courtesy photos



AFTER

in the field

# Faces from the

# John Noll



His deployed coworkers affectionately call him “The Kid.” As a mid-20s man with a young-looking face, it’s easy to understand why. With someone so young looking it’s might be easy to assume Project Manager John Noll is inexperienced.

“The funny part is they’re right,” he says jokingly.

In all sincerity though, Noll has gained a lot of experience since arriving at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Transatlantic Afghanistan District (TAA) from the Seattle District in July. He initially began work as a

project engineer in the Kunduz Resident Office, about 200 miles north of Kabul. He worked on several projects there, gaining a lot of experience.

In the Afghanistan contingency environment, a month is like five or six months of experience one might normally get in a state-side district. Project engineers have to cover the entire site, learning about pumps, gears, electrical systems, fuel tanks, generators, doors, windows, heating and cooling systems...everything involved in construction from the ground

up. By mid-September he earned a promotion to project manager, moving to TAA headquarters at Camp Phoenix, in Kabul.

Surrounded by several deployment veterans, he credits them, his supervisors and peers, and USACE in general for helping him gain experience.

“The Corps of Engineers provided excellent training and challenging assignments, giving me the flexibility to take my career where I choose,” he said. “The people have made the effort to invest in my career, allowing me to become well rounded in my



Afghanistan

# BUILDING ST

# front:

**Story and Photos By**  
Transatlantic Afghanistan District  
Public Affairs Office

skill set.”

The University of Washington civil engineer graduate said he’s having a great time overseas. According to him, the biggest challenge isn’t the type of work, or the workload, but adjusting mentally and emotionally to being in a contingency environment. He must be adjusting well, he’s planning on extending, staying in Afghanistan to garner even more experience. He’s also considering joining the U.S. Navy, wanting to serve his country in their Naval Construction Force, the Seabees.

istan

# STRONG



# Along with Spring comes cleaning, other projects

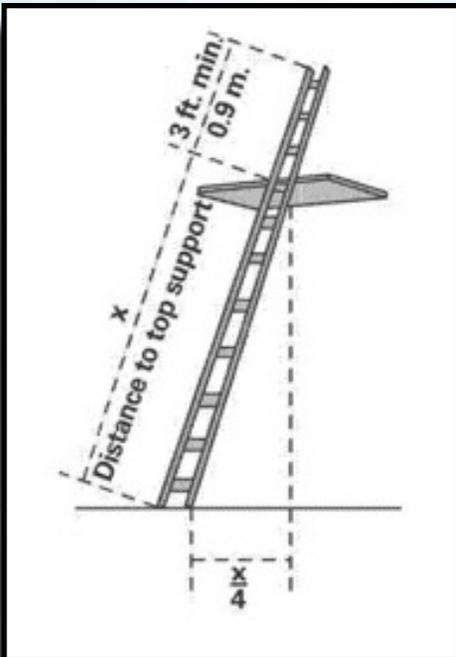
**By Seattle District**  
Public Affairs Office

Now that spring is on its way, it's time to get going on that long list of projects that has been building during the wet, cold months. Reviewing some basic safety points is part of shaking off the cobwebs. Here are some safety tips that just might keep you out of the emergency room at your local hospital.

- If spraying paint or herbicides, cover up from head to toe. Same goes when installing insulation. Wear shoes and socks, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves, safety glasses and an appropriate respirator. When painting indoors, open all doors and windows and use fans when practical.

- If the job is noisy, wear earplugs.
- Wear safety glasses or goggles.
- Use the 4-to-1 rule for ladder placement. For every 4 feet of ladder height, the bottom of the ladder should be 1

foot away from the object it is leaning against. Overreaching or balancing on the top rung is an invitation for disaster. Inspect the ladder before you use it. A cracked wooden ladder or bent metal one is an accident waiting to happen.



## 10 rules for power tools

1. Inspect your tools before use; look for frayed cords and cracked casings.
2. Maintain and use power tools in accordance with the manufacturer's warnings, precautions and instructions.
3. Be sure the power switch is off on power tools and garden appliances before you plug it in.
4. Keep your tools in good condition. Don't carry them by the cord or yank the cord when removing it from an outlet.
5. Use a clamps or vise to hold work in place. This frees both hands to operate the tool.
6. Buy a saw with a blade guard and don't disable it. Make sure they are in place and in proper working order before operating them.
7. Prevent against kickback. If a saw blade begins to bind, immediately stop the cut and hold the saw and work piece completely still. Wait for the saw blade to stop before pulling away from a cut.
8. Discard saw blades that are chipped, bent or in any way damaged.
9. Never leave an active power tool unattended. Unplug power tools before leaving the room and store them out of children's reach.
10. Remove all jewelry before using power tools.

**Congratulations:**

Selected for the 2014-15 Leadership Development Program class were **Suzanne Anderson, Travis Ball, Kyle Crass, Daryl Downing, Jeremy Draggoo, Hien Duong, Mark Fillius, Joyce Herschberger, Jennifer Kelley, Randall Scott Lynn, Sara Marxen, Stephen Munro, and Leo Stull.**

**Tanya King** was named Civilian Print Journalist of the Year and was also awarded first place in the "Features" category in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers annual Herbert A. Kassner Public Affairs Competition.

**Out and About:**

Equal Employment Opportunity Manager **Al Olvera** and Value Engineer **Oscar Eason** hosted a discussion and showed the Tuskegee Airmen documentary film, "Red Tails," at Federal Center South Building 1202 in February.

**Steve Hutsell**, Geospatial Section chief, presented a talk on "Owner's Perspective: Contracts, Operations and Maintenance related to the development of BIM" to University of Washington engineering graduate students March 6.

On February 27 during an education seminar **Anil Nisargand** briefed 40 representatives of small and large construction companies, members of Associated General Contractors Southern Region of Puget Sound, construction contractors, and other stakeholders in the successful execution of Seattle District's mission to better participate in the bidding and proposal process resulting in contract awards.

During the past quarter, **Larry Schick** hosted several talks about "Disturbing Lessons from the Severe Flooding in Queensland, Australia," to Hydraulics Hydrology and Coastal Regional Technical Forum, Federal Emergency Management Agency and a meeting of the Hydrologic Society of Washington.

**Doug Weber** spoke to 12 students and faculty at Westside Elementary School in West Seattle, Wash., in January about flood-resistant construction techniques.

**Steve Manlow** and **Peter Olmstead**, Regulatory Branch Vancouver Field Office project managers, participated January

22 in a Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Habitat Restoration Workshop attended by approximately 80 representatives from fish habitat restoration groups, consulting firms, tribes, ports, the general public, special interest groups, and local, state and federal agencies. The workshop offered information about various local, state and federal regulatory program requirements and to discuss ways to improve efficiency and predictability of the permit processes.

**Ron Hortillosa, Diane Wilson, Rebecca Weiss** and **Karen Urelus** spoke to more than 200 students, educators and parents at four separate events held at middle schools throughout the Puget Sound area this year as part of a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics outreach effort for their Leadership Development Program team project. Topics they presented included alternative energy and groundwater contamination; they discussed engineering with middle school girls and their mothers to expose them to the career field; and also acted as judges for students' team projects in a competition.

**Deployed:**

Tristan Brown

**Moving On:**

**Sam Cobble**  
**Maj. Rachel Honderd**  
**Dave Johnson**  
**Doug Knapp**  
**Sandra Vasquez**  
**Jacob Firle**  
**Diana Jones**  
**Melinda Riley**  
**Johnny Jones**  
**Al Olvera**

**Retirements:**

**Deb Black**  
**Terry Borne**  
**Monica Grosman**  
**Kelly Gustafson**  
**Gary Hartley**  
**Linda Herman**  
**Jaquelyn Hopkins**  
**Thomas Marsh**  
**Brenda Moriarty**  
**Gale Nilsen**  
**Amberine Rice**  
**Linda Smith**  
**Alice Stull**  
**Claudia Webb**

**Condolences:**

**Ken Forbes**  
**Col. (R) Norman Hintz**

**Welcome to  
the District:**

Jeff Atwood  
Review AppraiserCathleen Moreno  
Contract Specialist

Public Affairs Office  
Seattle District (CENWS-PA)  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
4735 East Marginal Way South  
Seattle, WA 98134-2392

# BURRITOS ANYONE?



**By Dave Harris**

*Public Affairs Office*

**M.V. Puget loads brush bundles or “burritos,” and woody debris composed of salvaged logs and root wads for the Hamm Creek restoration. Hamm Creek is a tributary of the Duwamish River in Washington. The logs, routinely removed from the Puget Sound by The Puget, are valued at \$2,000, and the root wads, also removed from waterways as navigation hazards, would otherwise cost \$5,000 each. The proposed project will cause the accumulation of sediment. As the sediment accumulates, water-tolerant vegetation will potentially colonize the area creating high quality habitat for juvenile salmonids and other small fishes.**

**Brush “burritos” and woody debris will be placed behind existing pilings near the mouth of Hamm Creek to enhance juvenile salmonid habitat.**