

# National Volunteer Week

April 16-22, 2023

## Shining a Light on Those Who Serve

Across USACE we celebrate National Volunteer Week by shining a light on those individuals who give their time and talent to make a difference at our projects and in our communities.

## Northwestern Division

In the Northwestern Division, we are shining a light on volunteers at the Willamette Valley Project and Fort Peck Lake.

The Willamette Valley Project consists of 13 dams that contribute to a water resource management system which provide flood risk management, power generation, water quality improvement, irrigation, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation. There are more than 50 developed recreation sites within the Willamette Valley Project.

Fort Peck Lake, stretching across the upper Missouri River in northeastern Montana, is 134 miles long with over 1,500 miles of shoreline. It's vast size and remoteness from major population centers provide a variety of high quality outdoor experiences.

**\$4,712,812**

VALUE OF TIME VOLUNTEERED

**157,356**

HOURS SERVED BY VOLUNTEERS IN NWD

## Alyssa Lampi



Alyssa (Alise) Lampi has volunteered over 50 days and 260 hours to environmental stewardship work at the Willamette Valley Project, which entails an 88-mile round-trip commute each day!

Her efforts were instrumental to the rediscovery of native Northwestern Pond Turtles at these USACE Projects (not reported in some areas for over 30 years). Additionally, she worked to mitigate the effect invasive Red Ear Sliders have on these native turtles. Alise aided project staff with Western Purple Martin nest box monitoring and banding, added value to rare plant surveys, established four transects surveying for the endangered Fender's blue butterfly, conducted monitoring of wintering bald eagle activity, and literally "immersed" herself in the work of conducting amphibian egg mass surveys.



Not one to complain and never deterred by inclement weather or temperature extremes, Alise has worked carefully and meticulously to add to the body of scientific knowledge surrounding the Willamette Valley Project's environmental stewardship mission.



**260**

Over 260 hours of volunteer service provided



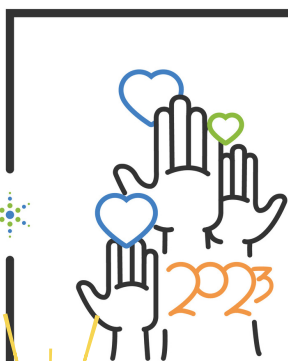
**Survey**

Established and surveyed 4 transects for the endangered Fender's blue butterfly



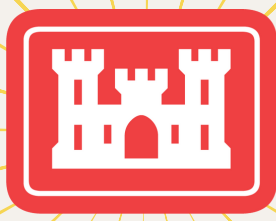
**Monitor**

Monitors Western Purple Martin next boxes



POINTS OF LIGHT  
**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**  
APRIL 16-22





# National Volunteer Week

David and Paula Blankenship

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When Fort Peck Dam signed up volunteers David and Paula Blankenship to run an 86-site Class A campground, they got much more than they bargained for! In the last two years, the Blankenships have accrued over 1,400 hours of service running the campground and accomplished so much more.

David applied his woodworking skills to make Visitor Center pollinator exhibits, constructed "little libraries" to place in campgrounds, and completely remodeled the old gate house from sill to shingles. Meanwhile, Paula cared for beehives, maintained landscape plantings, and helped maintain the park grounds.

When award of the restroom cleaning contract was delayed by several months, the Blankenships stepped in to shoulder both host duties and facilities cleaning. Paula also covered gaps in the Visitor Center assisting with all aspects of interpretation and keeping the center in good order.

The Blankenships tackled Project needs with fearlessness and creativity. Their initiative and teamwork at the Fort Peck Project amounted to not only \$43,000 in volunteer value but so much more!



## Woodworking

David built a little library to scale of a RV camper for the campground book exchange program. In the photo above, David and Paula stand next to pollinator habitat he constructed.



## Helping Hand

Provide a helping hand where ever needed such as restroom cleaning, maintenance, and park landscaping.



1,400

Over 1,400 hours of volunteer service provided.



Host

Serve as campground hosts.

# THANK YOU

To all of our volunteers in the Northwestern Division!

