

# The Dalles Project ~ Partnerships

Amber Tilton

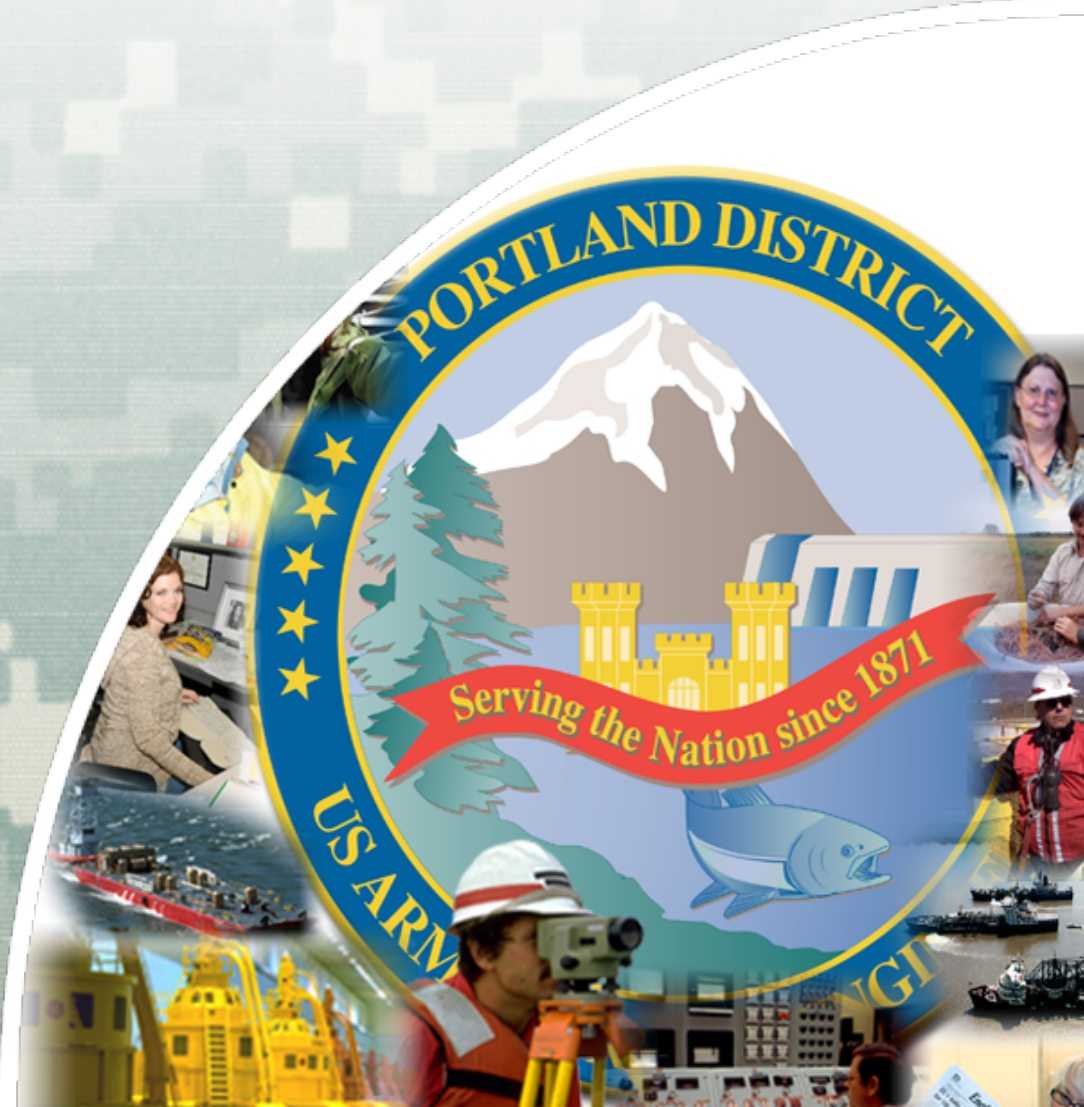
Park Ranger

The Dalles Lock and Dam

June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014



US Army Corps of Engineers  
**BUILDING STRONG**



# Making Connections

“I think I’ll go reminisce with some people I don’t know.”



1. What ~ Identify your needs and challenges
2. Where ~ Identify the resources
3. Who ~ Stakeholders, partners, volunteers, etc?
4. Why ~ Know why.....your common goals, mission, vision.
5. How ~ How can you make it mutually beneficial?
6. When ~ Plan and prepare. (Have backup plans for your backup plans.)



# FY 13 OMBIL Partnerships Stats

## Top 25 Corps Partnering Projects

<b>Project</b>	<b>Number of Partners</b>	<b>\$ Value of Partnerships</b>
Dworshak Reservoir	7	\$ 6,445,595
Lower Granite Lock and Dam	1	\$ 5,567,000
McNary Lock and Dam	10	\$ 4,924,388
Lower Monumental Lock and Dam	1	\$ 3,917,000
Little Goose Lock and Dam	1	\$ 3,601,000
HQUSACE	5	\$ 2,653,013
Libby Dam	21	\$ 2,148,163
Raystown Lake	17	\$ 1,733,766
Albeni Falls	6	\$ 1,336,070
The Dalles	13	\$ 1,199,302
Table Rock Lake	3	\$ 898,432
Lake Ouachita	15	\$ 784,952
Benbrook Lake	1	\$ 715,399
Lewisville Lake	4	\$ 714,216
Bonneville Lock and Dam	13	\$ 707,494
MS River b/w MO River and Minneapolis	24	\$ 682,802
Chief Joseph Dam	29	\$ 597,900
Sam Rayburn Lake	7	\$ 532,641
Carlyle Lake	54	\$ 496,407
Foster Lake	3	\$ 495,595
Rend Lake	14	\$ 445,033
Red Rock Lake	24	\$ 434,528
J Strom Thurmond Lake	5	\$ 404,606
Harlan County Lake	2	\$ 402,563
Lookout Point	<u>3</u>	<u>\$ 399,466</u>
	283	\$ 42,237,331



# Shared Vision and Mission

- General Categories:
  - ▶ Health and Safety
  - ▶ Recreation and Tourism
  - ▶ Stewardship and Conservation
  - ▶ Education
  - ▶ Military
- Types:
  - ▶ MOU/MOA
  - ▶ Contributions
  - ▶ Cooperative Agreements
  - ▶ Cooperating Associations
  - ▶ Challenge Partnerships
  - ▶ Handshake
  - ▶ Economy Act





# Building Strong Partners

- What do we bring to the table?
  - ▶ Unique expertise, location, and professionalism
  - ▶ Scheduling and coordinating
  - ▶ A connection to the local community
  - ▶ Staff support/sharing of resources
  - ▶ Educational opportunities and work skills
  - ▶ Help with recruiting other partners, donors, volunteers
  - ▶ Media support
  - ▶ Partner recognition
    - Partner/donor/volunteer appreciation letter
    - National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit
    - Media recognition (use your PAO)



# Train to Tram Project

- City of The Dalles

- ▶ MOU signed 2012

- \$400K grant from Federal Transportation Administration to complete trail grading, trail pavement, bridge improvements, and barrier placement.
    - City received additional grants to purchase electric shuttles to replace the tour train and promote tourism.
    - City owns and operates shuttles. **The Dalles Chamber of Commerce** helps to promote tourism in the local media, and USACE provides ranger led tours of the dam.



# Confluence Project

- Confluence Project
  - ▶ Work in progress [www.confluenceproject.org](http://www.confluenceproject.org)
    - Federal Transportation Administration grant of \$3.5 million for parking lot redesign and an additional \$800K to fix safety concerns near entrance over the railroad tracks.



# Bookstore at The Dalles Dam Visitor Center

- Discover Your Northwest
  - ▶ Cooperative Agreement signed 2011
    - DYNW provided start-up costs for material and equipment. (Shelving, cabinets, etc.)
    - DYNW oversees major operations such as: ordering merchandise, banking, etc.
    - Our visitor center is open 5 months out of the year. To date, we have had over \$18K in sales and donations. A percentage of which gets donated back to the visitor center for in-house educational purposes.





# Youth Work Crews

- Northwest Youth Corps

- ▶ Cooperative Agreement signed 2009

- They provide labor in exchange for 7k/week for overhead cost. There is an educational component, hands-on learning of job skills, and resume building involved as well.
    - 2011 work at Celilo Park and The Dalles Lock and Dam; 60 youth put in 2,400 hours of service providing a value of service at over \$51K.
    - 2013 work at Avery Park and on project; 36 youth worked 1,296 hours for a value of service over \$28K.



# Youth Work Crews

- Youth Transition Program

- ▶ Contributions, 2014

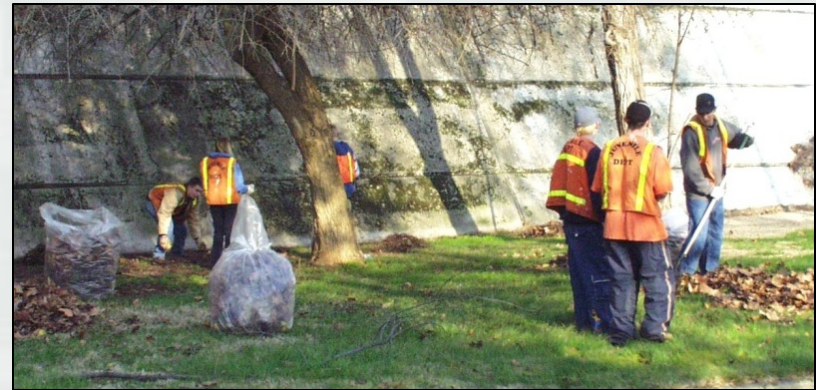
- Local high school students needing volunteer hours to graduate and on-the-job skills, provide labor in exchange for hands-on learning, resume building and job shadowing experience.
    - This year, seven students earned an accumulated total of 187 hours of service toward their needed graduation requirements for a cost savings value of over \$4K.





# Youth Work Crews

- Corrections Facilities Crews
- Ranger District Crews
  - ▶ Contributions
    - Wood removal program
    - Litter pickup
    - Rose Garden



# Youth Work Crews

- Student Conservation Association

- ▶ Cooperative Agreement 2002

- Summer of 2013, applied for and received an SCA intern funded through the National Operations Center for Water Safety.
    - Shared among 3 projects; Bonneville/The Dalles/John Day-Willow.
    - 480 hours of service completed for a value of service over \$10K.
    - Promoted water safety through interpretive outreach and projects.





# Life Jacket Loaner Kiosk's in the Columbia River Gorge

- Safe Kids Columbia Gorge
  - ▶ MOU signed 2009
  - 2012 Safe Kids purchased/installed eight new loaner kiosks at local parks, marinas, and swim beaches in the CRG area.
  - Grand total investment of over \$10K including PFD's for each.
  - **Oregon Department of Transportation** helped install the kiosks via the use of their auger truck.



# Safe Kids Columbia Gorge

- USACE and Safe Kids partners together to staff educational booths at local events and water safety outreach in local schools.
  - ▶ Cherry Fest, Children's Safety Fair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Safari
  - ▶ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Water Safety Poster Contest
    - Past 4 years 654 poster entries
    - Safe Kids purchases the bags and prizes for a \$160.00 investment/year.



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# Water Safety ~ Highway Billboard

- Meadow Outdoor Billboard Company
  - ▶ Contributions, 2014
    - Safe Kids CRG donation letter request.
    - Resulted in the donation of billboard space along Hwy 30 for the second place winner of this year's water safety poster contest. Advertisement will be displayed for 3 months at a donation value of \$1,625.00. It's estimated that approximately 7,000 vehicles pass by the billboard daily.



# Partner Donation Request Letter

November 6, 2013



Meadow Outdoor Advertising,

Subject: **Donation Request**

Did you know that drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental death and 9 out of 10 people who drown were not wearing a life jacket?

Which is why, in order to promote safe practices around water, The Columbia Gorge Safe Kids Coalition in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers holds a water safety poster contest annually at The Dalles Middle School. For the first time ever, the entire middle school's health classes are participating. This includes all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade health students. The students make their poster on brown grocery bags. After the winners are announced, the finished posters are donated to the local area farmer's market and food bank. The idea is to spread the water safety message to the public at large. This way, not only do we get the kids involved, but we can engage the community as well!

In May, the top three best posters will be chosen based on creativity, originality, quality of artwork, and how well their poster relates to the theme of water safety. The prizes for the top three candidates are gift certificates to purchase a life jacket. In addition, grab bags will be given away to all top 10 nominees. The gifts bags will have whistles, activity books, carabineers, temporary tattoos, frisbees, rulers, pencils, DVD's and more; all bearing a water safety message. To spread the water safety message to a larger audience, we would love to offer a grand prize this year to the best poster in contest, of having the poster created into a billboard to be displayed in town somewhere.

Would Meadow Outdoor Advertising please consider partnering with us and donating billboard space for this years poster contest winner? Thank you so much for your time.





# Life Jacket Donations

- International Order of the Blue Gavel
  - ▶ Contributions – 2013, possible MOU
    - Worldwide yachting club interesting in supporting water safety efforts with USACE.
    - Local chapter donated 200 life jackets to supply the Columbia River Gorge, Willamette Valley and Rouge River's life jacket loaner board program.



# Vessel Safety Check's



- U.S. Coast Guard

- ▶ MOU signed 2005

- Other partners: **state, county, and local police as well as state parks, fish and wildlife, state marine boards, and intertribal agencies.**
    - Since we began in 2010, over 90 boats have received an approved vessel safety inspection sticker and one boat that was infested with New Zealand Mud Snails was prevented from entering the John Day River.



# Spearfish Family Fishing Clinic's

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- ▶ MOU signed 2008

- Other Partners: **Trout Unlimited and National Get Outdoors Foundation**
    - Held in conjunction with the state of Washington's free fishing weekend. (no fees or fishing license required)
    - WA Department of Fish and Wildlife stocks the lake with rainbow trout and provides fishing poles and tackle.
    - Other sponsors: Biomark, local stores, bait shops and restaurants.
    - Over 225 participants in the past two years.





# Take A Warrior Fishing Events

- Catch A Special Thrill - CAST
  - ▶ MOU signed 2012
    - First event of its' kind held on the Columbia River.
    - CAST provided a broad network of contacts, monetary support, t-shirts, hats, and staff support.
    - Other Sponsors were: **All State and Northwest Industrial Supply** (provided a BBQ lunch) and **Grinder's coffee** (free coffee coupons).
    - Six Veterans and their families, plus seven volunteer boat captains from all over the state participated.





# The Dalles Dam Eagle Watch

- U.S. Forest Service
  - ▶ MOU signed 2008
    - Forest Service and **Rowena Wildlife Clinic** provide live raptor education and volunteers.
    - This event has been held annually for the past four years and has drawn over 1,130 visitors.



# Spearfish Park – Road Improvements

- Port of Klickitat

- ▶ MOU signed 2009

- Applied for Federal Transportation Administration grant to pave Port of Klickitat owned road leading into Spearfish Park.
    - Grant submittal \$188k – Port matches 13.5%
    - Goal was to pave over the current gravel entry way; approximately 1 mile, into Spearfish. Did not receive the grant. However, we were successful in the installation of a vehicle gate on Port of Klickitat property.
    - Other Partners: **Bonneville Power Administration** – due to a power line easement.



# Outdoor Reader Board Messaging

- Griffith Toyota and The Dalles Whatonka High School

- ▶ Contribution, 2013 – present

- Promotes water safety through the use of outdoor reader boards.
    - USACE provides colorful graphics, posters, and water safety messages.

They rotate through, several times a day.





# Google Volunteer Service Day

- Google

- ▶ Contributions

- 42 Google employees provided a combined 129 hours of service for a cost saving of over \$3k in 2013. They helped complete various projects such as: painting guard rail, cleaning out Paterson Pond, planting over 4 dozen native shrubs and flowers, and weeding and pruning in our public rose garden.



# Partner Recognition



# Partner Recognition

Season's Greetings Volunteers, Partners, and Donors:

As this exciting year ends, our Park Ranger staff here at The Dalles Dam would like to tell you about the programs we were able to do this year thanks to your participation and generosity.

In 2012 your involvement allowed us to:

- Host a *Take A Warrior Fishing* event that let several local veterans get out on the Columbia River and enjoy the day relaxing by fishing with their families. This was a great way to show our appreciation to these honorable soldiers.
- Host a Family Fishing Clinic at Spearfish Lake that coincided with National Get Outdoors Day. Your donations aided us by supplying staff support, fish, bait, poles and prizes!
- Host our second annual The Dalles Dam Eagle Watch. Thanks to your efforts in providing staff support and programming, it was a success.
- Conduct our third annual 6<sup>th</sup> grade Water Safety Poster Contest. Your donations and support continue to keep our youth active in learning how to be safe around water.
- Restore native vegetation and remove invasive species at Spearfish Lake and other public areas.
- Promote public safety and beautify our public lands by removing litter and debris and through trimming trees.
- Promote public safety through the donation and installation of several new Life Jacket Loaner kiosks in our parks.
- Promote public education of Corps missions through donations of interpretive materials.
- Participate in The City of The Dalles Children's Fair teaching water safety techniques to families.
- Makeover the Historic Seufert Rose Garden through removal of weeds, laying new landscape fabric, pruning and mulching.

Thank you for assisting us by offering your support and contributions. Looking ahead in 2013, our resolution is to continue promoting health and wellness through recreational opportunities, water safety education and to encouraging environmental stewardship through public outreach events. We hope you will join us again in 2013 to make that happen! It has been a great year. Thank you and happy holidays!



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# Partner Recognition

A2 Tuesday, September 4, 2012

Community

www.TheDallesChronicle.com

The Dalles Chronicle

## Gorge Safe Kids offers life jackets at loaner boards

It's now free to keep kids safe on the water with a life jacket from one of 20 life jacket loaner boards along the Columbia, Willamette and Rogue Rivers.

The local life jacket stations were established through a partnership of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Columbia Gorge Safe Kids Coalition, as well as other cooperating organizations.

"We installed nine this summer," said Amber Tilton of the Corps, including one at The Dalles Riverfront Park.

Safe Kids had the kiosks made over the winter and they were installed this spring and summer.

"It was a collaborative effort," Tilton said. "We had to get permission from all the managing agencies (Port of Hood River, Port of The Dalles, and Washington State Parks)."

The stations include a variety of jacket sizes and instructions to fit a jacket properly. Borrowers are asked to return the jackets when they have finished recreating.

Nearby locations where life jackets can be borrowed include The Dalles Marina, The Dalles Riverfront Park, Celilo Park, Mayer State Park, Heritage

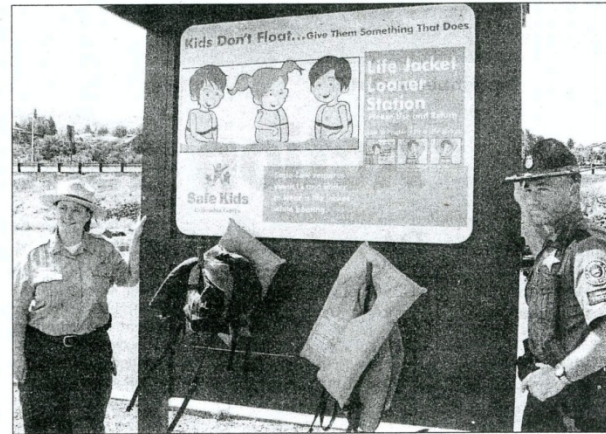
Landing at the mouth of the Deschutes River and LePage Park on the Oregon shore in Wasco and Sherman counties, and Columbia Hills State Park and Maryhill State Park on the Washington shore in Klickitat County.

Other sites in the Columbia Gorge include Hood River Waterfront Park and Hamilton Island Boat Ramp at Bonneville Lock and Dam. Plymouth Park near Hermiston also have one of the stations.

Drowning is preventable so please recreate safely by following these helpful tips: always wear a life jacket, learn to swim well, always swim with a buddy, learn "Reach-Throw-Row-don't Go" rescue techniques, take a safe boating class, and never drink and boat.

"Don't think that drowning only happens to other people or other people's children," says Melissa Rinehart, Portland District's water safety coordinator. "Remember that children are happiest when they are safe. If you love them, put them in a life jacket; because they love you, wear yours."

For a list of other loaner boards in Oregon, visit [www.boatoregon.com](http://www.boatoregon.com)



AMBER TILTON, left, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Oregon State Police Sr. Trooper Michael Holloran of the Gorge Safe Kids Coalition, point out a life jacket loaner board at Riverfront Park in The Dalles. Others are scattered throughout the gorge and Oregon, offering the free loan of children's life jackets.

Contributed photo



# Greeting Challenges with Optimism

## ■ Challenges

- Funding and staff levels
- Aligning agendas
- Communication
- Unforeseen circumstances/costs
- Making it worthwhile for partners
- Can be time consuming
- Working within bureaucracy (regulations, policies, priorities)
- Partner dedication to projects

## ■ Successes

- Meeting your Mission (water safety, recreation, etc.)
- Reaching your target audience
- Providing a public service
- Increasing visitation
- Practice makes perfect
- Supports declining staff levels and budgets
- Networking – ***Building Strong*** community ties and relationships



# Building Strong Partners

- Reminisce with some people you don't know
- Identify Needs/Challenges
- Identify Resources
- Connect
- Make it easy for them.....and have fun!

Good place to start is the NRM Gateway

<http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/partners.cfm>

