Engaging Active Duty and Student Interns at Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Dennis Buckingham
JBLM DPW/ED Fish & Wildlife
Colorado State University, CEMML
Joint Base Lewis-McChord
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99,000 acres
Rare habitats
- Puget lowland prairies
- Garry oak woodlands
- Ponderosa pine
- Artesian wetlands
- Salmon bearing streams
- 38 rare/listed animal species
- ESA endangered butterfly
- ESA threatened gopher and lark
Internship Program

Participants
- Active duty Soldiers/Airmen
- College students
- Veterans
- Military spouses
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Civilian style transition environment
Teaching circles
Custom resume building
Leadership development focus
Internship Program

FY18 Project Support

Fire
Firefighters - 148
Fire unit prep - 112
Fuel monitoring - 44
Firefighter training - 43
Co-Use - 18
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Birds
- Bluebird nest success monitoring: 69
- Purple martin tower install/repair: 44
- Bluebird box cleanouts: 28
- Purple martin snag surveys: 28
- Wood duck box cleanouts: 17
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**Butterflies**
- Hoary elfin habitat mapping - 57
- TCB occupancy transects - 33
- WDFW TCB support/release - 17
- Plantain seed collection/seeding - 16
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Mammals
Gopher surveys - 52
Squirrel surveys - 40
Bat evening counts - 21
Bat box install - 15
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**Amphibians, reptiles, fish**
- Egg mass & funnel trap surveys - 67
- Western toad searches - 34
- Reptile cover boards - 25
- Morey bypass upkeep - 13
- Salmon/steelhead surveys - 11
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Wetlands
Veg cover mats - 22
Willow staking - 9
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**Prairies**
- Plugging (oak savanna) – 20
- Prairie seeding w/CNLM - 13
- Seed collection – 11
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**Weeds**
- Invasive forb surveys - 55
- Deadheading, spraying, etc. - 33
- Herbicide training/testing - 26
- Hawthorn mapping - 23
- Blackberry mow/spray – 16
- Broom wrenching/mowing - 14
- Ivy/holly lancing - 10
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### Forests
- Oak sapling maint. - 70
- Forestry Direct Support - 63
- Timber sale surveys - 27
- Oak woodland restoration - 24
- Mowing, fire prep - 13
- Prairie Oak Preserve - 12
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**Misc.**
- Vehicle/tool maint/safety training– 46
- Data entry/GIS support - 26
- General admin support - 16
- Grant/purchasing support - 12
- Recruiting/flyers - 11
Internship Program

FY2018

1573 Total volunteer/days
12,584 hours over 183 days
8.60 volunteers per day
$310,699 total labor equivalency

- 82 Soldiers total
- 27 now in college
  (16 for environmental science)
- 14 working in environmental jobs
- 4 in veteran therapy services
- Est. 90% transition success
“When I get settled on my property in Tennessee, I’m planning to make some butterfly habitat on my hillside like that spot we’ve been working on.”

-SSG Derrick Hatfield
Infantryman, Drill Instructor & Counter Intelligence Agent
(Iraq, Afghanistan)
“When I got back from Afghanistan I was hurt bad and pretty depressed about my life. Now I wake up excited about my day for the first time I can remember.”

- SGT Ron Rudolph
  Mortarman
  (Afghanistan)
“I think my memory’s coming back, man. It’s weird, you know? I’ve been having peaceful dreams lately and I think it’s helping.”

-SGT Justin Manley
Infantryman
(Afghanistan)
“I been going home happy at night, and I’ve been playing with my kids more. Last night my wife said our marriage might work out after all. She was joking, but kinda serious, you know?”

-SPC Charles Wells
Infantryman
(Afghanistan)
Future Directions

Internal goals

• Continue to expand programming
• Partnerships w/other DPW programs
• Job boards and resume coaching
• Post-participation support
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External goals
• Seek partners for expansion
• Training manual
• Program building support
• CSU CEMML contracts

Integrated 501(c)3
• Support/admin positions
• Assist with startup and travel costs
• Possibly support satellite programs