

Coastal Conservation Corps

Growing jobs while protecting Washington coast's health and heritage



Coastal residents pride themselves on our region's rugged beauty and its storied history as a natural resource-based economic powerhouse. Today, our rural communities suffer loss of forest jobs and high unemployment, lack of training opportunities for youth, and out-migration to urban areas in search of jobs. We need new solutions for economically secure and resilient coastal communities with healthy, productive lands and waters.



The Coastal Conservation Corps fills multiple community needs by delivering well-paying, year-round jobs supporting forestry, fisheries, agriculture and recreation to young people who want to remain on the coast and build careers caring for the places they call home. The CCC would provide local crews with valuable skills training, education, and affordable housing as they thin young forests to improve growth, restore salmon habitat, and remove invasive species – while reducing wildfire risk, maintaining roads and trails, and supporting disaster recovery efforts.



Healthy forests



Productive streams



Local jobs



Resilient communities



Clean coastlines

Coastal Conservation Corps

Projects and Jobs



Invasive Control

Invasive species are a threat to ecosystems and all natural resource-based industries. Crews will prevent and control invasives including Scotch broom, reed canarygrass, knotweeds, and European green crab.

Restoration

Projects restoring native habitats connect communities to work that supports them. Restoration work will add capacity to restoration project sponsors working on fish passage, forest road repair, and revegetation with native plants.



Forestry

Forestry is a critical industry on the Olympic Peninsula. Projects in forestry would include jobs in young stand thinning, wildfire fuel reduction, and creating feedstock for biochar production to store carbon and soil water.

Recreation

Recreation is a major economic driver on the Olympic Peninsula. The CCC will help maintain roads, trails, and facilities, and build bunkhouses for crew housing.



Biochar

Biochar is a widely untapped solution for climate resiliency. The CCC will be trained in pyrolysis methods and equipment use, create biochar from young forest thinning and Scotch broom biomass, and spread it where beneficial for forest growth, carbon and water storage.