

## Going from WCC to Field Staff

*Kyle Koch*

Wow, it's been a whole year since I started and time has flown by so fast! It feels like forever ago since I was walking creeks and stalking salmon four days a week. Now we're still in the summer project season spending weeks controlling invasive plants.

So much has changed at Skagit Fisheries since I started last fall. When I began everybody was well established with their jobs and I was the new guy entering their world. Those were the days of being the target of Kevik's tricks and listening to his elaborate but funny stories. Or being scolded by Dwayne that I whatever I was doing was wrong and how to do it better (politely, of course). Or carpooling with Danny from Bellingham in the pitch black winter, both ways. Or debating politics with Sacha for hours while we counted salmon. Now none of them work here anymore and in some odd turn of events Joe is the only member of the crew that has been working with SFEG longer than I.



*Kyle was a good sport when the SFEG field crew threw him a birthday celebration.*

Now I've been given the opportunity to work as a member of the crew full time after my WCC term has ended. I think that I would like that. I came here from northern New Hampshire where it's cold and snowy for half of the year not and knowing exactly what to expect. I did know that I enjoy working outside. I knew that I love doing habitat restoration for freshwater ecosystems and I know that I'm very passionate about invasive species management.

I remember that I was forwarded the SFEG job posting from one of my supervisors at my last AmeriCorps position and the job description seemed to reflect what I enjoyed doing. I had heard from friends that used to live in Washington state that it was a beautiful part of the country, albeit rainy. I wasn't ready to become settled down yet and was ready for some more traveling. And now here I am, looking for places to rent in Sedro-Woolley, looking forward to being able to bike to work!

I just want to thank everybody for giving me a positive experience here with SFEG; Perry, Lucy, Kevik, Dwayne, Danny, Joe, Mary-Mae, Alison, Sacha, Mike, Andy, Kara, Danaan and all of the members of the board and anybody else that I'm forgetting, thank you. I look forward to spending more time here!