

*Please join us in welcoming our two AmeriCorps volunteers:*



Howdy! My name is Corinne Hughes. I am an individual placement with the Washington Conservation Corps. I will be working for SFEG as a habitat restoration assistant for the next year. I worked on a crew for the Washington Conservation Corps last year in Skagit Valley. We worked with the Nature Conservancy in Rockport, Concrete, and Darrington surveying rivers and tributaries for knotweed, which gave me a lot of familiarity with the county. We were also an emergency response crew and I had the chance to travel to southern Washington for the Chehalis floods and to Louisiana for Hurricane Ike and Gustav. We worked with a number of local groups and the Red Cross. I was born in Texas originally and was raised in Austin. I somehow never learned to play the guitar in the “music capital of the world”, but I did love the music. I spent a year in college at Stephen F. Austin State University’s College of Forestry for

Wildlife Management. I spent six months of that time working with an entomologist on a National Guard base outside of Dallas, Texas trying to unearth a population of the American Burying Beetle, an endangered beetle. After college, I spent a year working as a pond landscaper. Although, as much as I love the outdoors and all the messiest jobs in the world (my pond crew went by the nickname “Pond Scum”), I do have other passions. I love reading and writing. I attended a National Book Foundation’s Writing Workshop in Vermont in 2004. I knit, quilt, and paint! After this year, I plan to use my Americorps award to return to school for oceanography.

Hey y’all, my name is Ona Strikas, and I will be serving Skagit Fisheries through Washington Service Corps for the next nine months as the education and volunteer outreach assistant. I grew up in the bustling city of Atlanta, Georgia, but moved further south to Jacksonville, Florida for middle school and high school. I braved the frigid North to get a B.A. in Environmental Science and Public Policy from Harvard College, and have spent most of my field summers studying fish and stream ecology in the Carolinas and Virginia. I am thrilled to be out in salmon country in Skagit County making a difference for the environment on a ground level. After my WSC term, I am not sure what life holds for me, be it on this coast or back east, but in the mean while, I would love to get to know all of y’all!

