



NOAA FISHERIES

Habitat Conservation

FY13 Pilot Project Highlights

- 8 veterans hired
- 152 spawner surveys completed
- 228 miles of stream surveyed
- 3,464 hours of surveying completed
- 2 restoration projects completed (installing large wood and planting native trees)

NOAA developed the Veterans Corps Pilot Project in partnership with the California Conservation Corps, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and The United States Forest Service.

NOAA is training returning military veterans to monitor and restore habitat crucial for rebuilding threatened fish populations in Northern California.



This is good news for both veterans and fisheries managers.

Many returning veterans have had a hard time transitioning to the civilian workforce because the skills they acquire in the military don't clearly map to traditional civilian work roles. However, the same qualities of leadership and teamwork that are prized in the military translate well to the work of caring for habitat.

Through this pilot project, veterans receive paid technical training and marketable work experience that are expected to serve as a bridge to a new career in the environmental restoration field.

Participating veterans learn how to:

- determine spawner abundance
- collect information on juvenile fish distribution, diversity, and productivity
- identify habitat type
- conduct topographical surveys
- restore habitat

In addition, they receive additional training necessary for fieldwork such as:

- Electrofishing
- Flood training
- Chainsaw training
- HAZWOPER
- First Aid/CPR
- Injury, Illness and Prevention training

The success of this project demonstrates the potential for developing and expanding this effort at additional locations nationwide.

For more information about this project, contact NOAA Office of Habitat Deputy Director, Brian Pawlak (Brian.T.Pawlak@noaa.gov).