

VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

June 2013 Texas

Wounded Warrior Soldier Helps Rehab the Land

Veteran Soldier John Crawson will always remember the year of 2012. It was the year he received the heroic Purple Heart Award following an injury in Afghanistan and it was the year he was selected for the Wounded Warrior's Internship with the NRCS in TX.

Crawson works 35 hours a week volunteering at the NRCS field office in Hillsboro under the supervision of NRCS District Conservationist Dan Henson. John's duties have included: assisting with developing livestock ponds, measuring fences, checking pastures, and accompanying staff to visits with farmers and ranchers.

Growing up on the family ranch in Whitney, Texas, Crawson had always been an avid outdoorsman. His brother, Jim, works as a Soil Conservationist for the NRCS in Tulia, TX. "My brother enjoys his job, so the NRCS was my agency of choice from the get-go," Crawson said.



District Conservationist, Dan Henson (left) and Earth Team Volunteer, John Crawson (in blue hat) is at ease talking to landowners about conservation programs.

John has enjoyed his Wounded Warrior Internship with NRCS so much he is considering a career with the agency, possibly as an engineering technician.



DC Dan Henson (right) and Earth Team Volunteer John Crawson (left) check the map before heading to the field

"One of my favorite things about working for NRCS is that you get to be outside," Crawson says. "And then visiting with landowners about how to improve their land and seeing them get excited about making it better is really cool."

NRCS in Texas currently employs dozens of military veterans, in addition to providing land management consultation services to hundreds of veterans across the state.

We salute volunteer John Crawson for making a difference in Hillsboro, TX!



The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a USDA agency. For more about NRCS and the Earth Team, visit www.usda.nrcs.gov.

If you are interested in volunteering, call (888) 526-3227 or visit your local NRCS office to learn about volunteer opportunities.