

## Brandon Harper



Employed at Reclamation through the STEP, Brandon Harper calls Lewiston, Idaho his hometown. In addition to majoring in Civil Engineering, he minors in Chinese Language.

As a Civil Engineering student at Boise State University, I am always on the lookout for opportunities to gain experience alongside my studies. My academic advisor sent me an announcement for an Engineering Aid position at Reclamation's Clearwater Snake/Salmon Recovery Office, located in Boise, Idaho. Since I am very interested in Environmental Engineering, I felt this would be a good fit and applied. I was fortunate enough to receive this position for the summer of 2011 and have been able to continue working in the position through spring 2012.

Reclamation has introduced me to a wide variety of experiences. I have taken part in everyday tasks, such as data management, plus my favorite part of the job; field work. In the field I have made stream flow measurements and have received training on various types of equipment, such as Marsh-McBirney Flow Meters and a SonTek River Surveyor. I have also accompanied inspections and helped identify possible future project locations.

This internship has been a great experience, allowing me to apply my studies and gain hands-on know-how. I have also previewed how my career could look in the future.

As an engineering aide I have worked on a large variety of projects. I have assisted my team with drafting reports, writing assessments, and gathering data. Putting together a booklet on the different types of habitat restoration structures used by Reclamation was one of the biggest projects I helped complete.

My primary goal for the future is to finish earning my Bachelor's Degree. After this I am looking into many career options as a Civil Engineer. I also plan to continue my education to earn a Master's Degree in either Environmental Engineering or Coastal Engineering.