

## **Klamath Backcountry Trail Crew**

### **April 2012 Overview**

**Supervisor: Steven Addison**

*“A beginning is the time for taking the most delicate care that the balances are correct.”*

*Dune by Frank Herbert*

Of all the 5 Ws (Wilderness, Weather, Water, Wildlife and Weekends) weather seems to bear the greatest effect on BC crews. So, it is no surprise that during our first week together in the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas weather has captured our attention and imagination. Is the week's weather a premonition of our season together? We began with sunny days that turned into dark foreboding clouds which soon gave way to two days of rain. Now as we prepare to say goodbye to the life we have come to know the clear blue skies have returned. Could this be foreshadowing of the season to come?

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> the searing heat of the sun greeted us as we all arrived to the Placer Energy Center. 7:30 am began the Klamath's crew gathering with a call for a ride and our arrivals continued until dusk. Brain F., Kelly "X" Warren, Yuliana G. and Frithjof H. received last-minute well-wishes and hugs from moms, dads and friends who kindly delivered them safely to our new Backcountry family. Thanks to Barbara Long for also dropping off the one and only Joliana "J-Love" E. Lost keys left a few of us stranded at train and bus stations. Patrick S. and Emerson C., you both handled the wait like champs; patience can be a virtue on arrival days and throughout the season.

We arrived from the Sunshine State (Kenny "The Gazelle" G ) to the home of the notorious Cheeseheads (Christina M) and how poetic that during the sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's first Inaugural Address we greet Ben D. from the home state of

the “Great Emancipator.” Thanks to Tahoe, Greenwood and Chico Satellite for dropping off Stephen R., Elias C. and Aaron Courtney. Hopefully we will return them with an enhanced work ethic, improved skills and with more dedication to their communities. The lost Caravan from Fortuna finally arrived bringing us Jamie J. and James Ryan L. (Thanks for the safe driving, Ryan). Lucia L., who is soft-spoken and a little wary of this new situation, has given us the honor of including this crew in her life’s journeys, thank you. Lastly, and not the least bit forgotten we welcome Joey “J.T. Money” T. to round out our KNF-12 crew (Klamath National Forest 2012).

### **Curriculum:**

We have learned that we can sit through many a hour of different CCC and AmeriCorps edutainment. That we can continuously sign and initial our names to endless government forms. Lastly, we feel like we learned that maybe, just maybe we will be able to work hard and live with this new and crazy cast of characters that makes up the Klamath Crew.

On Saturday our new Klamath family also had a wonderful and educational experience at the Sacramento SPLASH Center. We had the privilege of learning all about vernal pools and all their endemic flora and fauna. Since “fair trade anit never no robbery” we volunteered on Sunday at the SPLASH Center to thank them for an amazing time. Thanks to our guides and new friends Misha, Nancy and Eva Bulter. We would love to guide you around our the Klamath if you make it up this summer.

### **Work:**

Yeah, well we will get back to y'all next month. We think someone got a butt rash from sitting too long and another person may have stubbed their imagination on the oscillating fluorescent lights. A really tough week.

## **Thank You:**

We stand on the shoulders of giants as we begin our journey into the unknown, with thirty plus years of tradition, hard work, low pay, miserable conditions and more to live up too. However, we would never have had the chance to try and accomplish this task without the support, encouragement and assistance of so many wonderful and committed people. The KNF-12 Crew (Klamath National Forest 2012) would like to thank;

**Placer Center:** Our hats off to corpsmember and staff alike. You all were amazingly open and helpful. Big shout-outs to Michelle, Chris and the entire kitchen crew, you are the wind beneath our sails. Thank you to Debbie, Debbie Fay and Kathie for all the little and big office assistance. Thanks to Carie for being so diligent in helping out our C1 when he had the fight with the copier. The copier was winning when you walked up. Crazy big props to Angel, Juan and Troy for all the enthusiasm and inspirational words of encouragement, hope to see you all preparing for your own seasons one day. Mr.Norm for the early morning conversations over coffee. Rod Thornhill, thanks for the lifting and encouraging words and please give your center our heartfelt thank you. Please know that any and all are welcomed to come out to visit, we love guests, especially when they bring chocolate.

**Fortuna:** The backbone of the BCTP. Without you all where and what would we do to get our crews going season after season? Roxie and Debbie thanks for making the drive and paper-pushing with a smile for each and every one of us. Although we hope never to utilize the 1<sup>st</sup> Aid/CPR Training, thanks to Kat M., Carli H., Heather H. and Vicky B. Also, Steven Addison (C1) would like to thank the Fortuna Center for hosting the C1 training.

**Headquarters:** Even though many of us avoid HQ like the plague, where would we be without you? Cynthia A., Marcia W., and Kevin “We would love a visit from you” Sperry thanks for instructing the corpmembers in; Health and Safety, Worker’s Comp and the fact that their supervisors really are godlike in the backcountry. Tony V. and Tony C. for beginning and continuing the important conversation concerning sobriety in the BC.

**BCTP:** Godspeed to all of us this summer. May your seasons be safe and productive. May you all learn to suffer, overcome, work and explore the mountains as a strong and healthy crew. To King Karlson (aka K-Nasty Hubbs) and Agnes “The Business” Avianzon thanks for the kicka\$\$ job this summer. We will try to continue the long and proud tradition of Backcountry Crew’s commitment to service in the KNF.

Peace and Hair grease and we will see you all in September.