

May 2012 Overview
Klamath Backcountry Trail Crew
Supervisor: Steven Addison

“Everything you do out here is hard work, even making your way up to the bathroom” (Jolina E.), and “I don’t think any of us really understood the meaning of hard work before we came to Backcountry” (Kelly Kate W.). So begins our journey into the Klamath National Forest (KNF) with a lot of work to do.

Together we began this journey into the unknown with a drive through the Sacramento River watershed, passing acres upon acres of California’s golden agri-business. Surrounded by mountains in the distance, the Coastal range to the west, Sierras to the east and somewhere in the clouds due north Mt. Shasta and our home range of the Klamath.

After hours in the vehicles we piled out at the Salmon/Scott Ranger District. We were greeted by Recreation Officer Sam Commarto and some mail from home. Thanks to you all for the mail, keep it coming. Laura Andrews, a backcountry legend and who has in her time cooked, led, advised and nursed every Klamath crew since the very first crew in 1983, gave us all last-minute words of encouragement to work hard, be safe and continue the Backcountry Trails Program tradition of excellence in the Klamath. Our last gas-up and frantic ultimate grab for candy, chips, soda, and nicotine in all its insidious forms, now off to the Salmon River and the red dust of the world.

With our van huffing and puffing we made it to the top of Salmon Mountain. The van instantly fills with aaahs and oohs at the view of the Russian, Trinity, and Marble Mountain Wildernesses. “Can we get out?”, “I want a picture”, “Can I pee now”, but there is no time, we need to make our plunge into the heart of the Salmon River.

Arriving a little late, but still awe struck we made it to the Little North Fork Trailhead. Waiting for us is Ellen Andrews, Salmon/Scott Trails Foreman. So quick greetings, vehicle hijinx and we are on our way to our first backcountry home of the 2012 season. Through the woods, over the hill (just about ¾ mile from the road) and we were at camp.

“We were told, don’t anger the cook,” but after working with Ms. Anne McBroom and eating fried oatmeal and hard boiled eggs, I don’t see how or why anybody would want to” (Brian F.). Ms. Anne, our cook for the next seven weeks, welcomes us each day with the smell of a home-cooked meal, the warmth of a saint and wielding her ever-present knife. We have all “learned so much from Ms. Anne, she is a truly wonderful soul” (Yuliana G.). Some of us have become quite fond of Ms. Anne, “I am excited to be KP again. Ms. Anne and I got to know each other a little better” (Joey T.).

We are working on the Little North Fork Trail and some of us are experiencing “the exhausting, miserable, cold, wet, and utterly spent sensation that follows 8 hours” (Kelly W.) of trail work. We have been involved in brushing, treading and log-outs with cross-cuts. Our skills have improved over the first several weeks, with much help from Lee “The Legend” Bundy, professional teacher of manly skills and trail work. Also, we have Robbie Thornhill (Klamath’08) for the duration of the season and packer/trail worker Dan-O son of Shain-O.

With our time up along the North Fork we headed to Happy Camp and the dashing cowboy poet Bill Roberts. Before our midnight run down the Scott River we ate a hearty (some of us two) meals at Bob’s Ranch House. Fried, sweet, salty, and in large amounts we gorged ourselves and actually sat at tables with chairs. After a rousing hello and goodbye from Bob and staff and one last slice of pie, off to laundry and sweet, sweet showers.

Blurry eyed, still stuffed and squeaky clean we stumble into our new home, Sulphur Springs campground along Elk Creek. With much work still to accomplish, we will miss many things in the outside world, however “those things will be there when we get back, we are excited about this journey” (Jolina E.)

Work Production:

Maintenance Miles	Little North Fork Trail - 6.9 Miles Bear and Elk Creek Trail – 2 Miles
Multi-Tier Wall	82 Square Feet
Checks	4
Single Tier Wall	10 Linear Yards

Curriculum:

What’s a season without Lee Bundy’s Trail and Tool Workshop? We explored cross-cut, tool re-handling and much more. Some Salmon River locals dropped in to impart a little knowledge. Retired USFS Fire Captain Mike Kerrick spoke to us about ‘Work Ethic,’ his 25-year career with the Forest Service, and how to become a fire fighter. Our

Fisheries and the Klamath Watershed Course was taught by Mike and Catarina from the Salmon River Restoration Council.

Odds and Ends:

We said goodbye to Jamie Jahnke but wish her well. We also said hello to multi-talented Evan Varrato. Pittsburg got something right. Thanks to both Karlson and Agnes for your visits and can't wait to see you all again.