

June 2011 Overview
Klamath Backcountry Trail Crew
Dani Nelson: Supervisor

The Melting Game

June arrived with an ominous dark cloudy sky and consistent drizzles. Although we were always wet, our socks soaked through anew daily, the weather seemed to fuel our energy at work. The rain was always looming (well, sometimes falling) but it was the snow that lurked just above our work site that was always there in our minds. We dared it to stop our progression! We always managed to come home soaked through with sweat even on the driest of the rainy days and we were glad of it. And thus we completed our work at Bird Ranch...

The move to Sulphur Springs was like a surprise sneak attack from summer. After waking to cold, wet boots for so long, the lush greenery and bright hot sun of our new camp was more than welcome. Even better than the weather, we discovered the namesake of the camp was our very own hot spring (well, lukewarm...and smelled a lot like sulphur, but still)! While the weather change brought some new challenges at work and a lot more mosquitoes, our lifted spirits refused to be daunted.

And yet the snow still lurked. Our original plan to move to our next camp at Poker Flat was thwarted by a treacherous, icy, snow covered, twisting, winding mountain road. The crew was discouraged but never distraught and rallied behind new found work to be done on nearby Bear Lake trail. And still the snow fought against our passage to the new camp. Unfazed, the crew pushed to higher and higher heights of trail work!

And at long last (after a delay of a week and a day), the crew could wait no longer. We would no longer wait for snow to decide to let us through. We would get through to Poker Flat regardless of what Mother Nature had to say about it. We were prepared to battle whatever the elements had to throw at us with whatever means necessary! The end of June found every corpsmember with shovel in hand, gloves and glasses in place, hardhat tilted forward for intimidation purposes, staring down the long, snow-covered road to camp, and grinning.

Work Report

For the first week of June, while still at Bird Ranch, one of the best parts of work was logcut runs up numerous trails with crosscuts and ponies. There's something about riding a pony up a gently winding mountain trail on a misty morning in the Klamath that is hard to describe. And of course, we spent a good amount of time treading, leveling out and widening and all around beautifying the actual surface of the trails.

Upon arrival at Sulphur Springs, we found a bounty of new trail maintenance to complete, mostly treading. We also became much better acquainted with Steven Addison, our new crew foreman. Finding only one small rock project to complete, the crew is still thirsting for rock work. And while working on the Elk Creek Trail, the first spike team was dispatched to a camp about seven miles out. The spike team built a reroute including four creek crossings to make the trail accessible for stock and mule trains.

Sulphur Springs also changed work for KPs back at camp with the arrival of our new cook, Emily (Klamath '09). Emily's crew actually started out at Sulphur Springs, building and maintaining many of the same trails two years prior.

Fun Happenings

Halloween Party! - We got dressed up, we decorated our camp, and we danced our little trailworker hearts out. Also, during the hula hoop competition, we were all shown up by a 10 year old. Hairy Carey won the night and the next day everyone was nearly brought down by the candy hangover of a life time.

Tyler's High School Graduation!-Although we didn't get to attend this grand event, we were all very happy for Tyler and congratulate him on his accomplishment!

Solstice Open Mic--We sang, shared poetry, and were merry. It was awesome.

Curriculum

We had a great month of classes that ranged from George "the Boot Fairy" Hawley teaching us to keep our mental cool and give each other a hand when needed to Ewan teaching his class on primitive fire. Will guided us through some creative writing and Kyle lead an incredible communication and personal mental space class. We had a number of people from the Forest Service come to share their abundant knowledge including Joe Blanchard teaching us the basics of soils and the Klamath Archeologist to discuss the Karok indians. And none other than Bill Roberts came to dinner with Peggy to share some cowboy poetry and lovely songs. Thanks to everyone for the great classes!

Personnel Changes

Sadly, Zach Willis decided to go home to Florida. We miss him a bunch and hope that life treats him (and his shoulder) well.

Happily, Bart Novak is back in action with the Klamath crew!

Klamath Mission Statement

Risin' up, back on the street
Did my time, took my chances
Went the distance, now I'm back on my feet
Just a man and his will to survive
So many times, it happens too fast
You change your passion for glory
Don't lose your grip on the dreams of the past
You must fight just to keep them alive
It's the eye of the tiger, it's the cream of the fight
Risin' up to the challenge of our rival
And the last known survivor stalks his prey in the night
And he's watchin' us all in the eye of the tiger
Face to face, out in the heat
Hangin' tough, stayin' hungry

They stack the odds 'til we take to the street
For we kill with the skill to survive
Risin' up, straight to the top
Have the guts, got the glory
Went the distance, now I'm not gonna stop
Just a man and his will to survive
The eye of the tiger