

*"Friends in distant lands, mother's in far off homes may still be wondering, often with a sigh, what has become of loved sons who years ago sought their fortunes in the land of gold, but who laid their bones on the banks of the Klamath and left no tidings behind. Alas, how many a sad history is hidden in the neglected and forgotten graves that are scattered among the wild mountains that face the Pacific"*

William Henry Brewer, Klamath River  
1863

## **KNF-13 May Overview**

*"I find myself wanting to write things like, "This experience is exactly what I wanted it to be", or "We mesh together and get along so well as a crew". But the more I think about it the more I realize that we have not earned the right to use such bold statements yet". At the beginning of our journey we each have casted about in multiple directions trying to label and define our emotions and actions regarding this unique experience. Strangers in the dark "full of self doubt at the moment", not really "here with everyone else" and wondering if "everyone feels the way I do. I feel alone here even though I know I'm not. I have so many emotions going through my head"*

In the beginning there was Doubt, Self-Doubts and doubts about the decision to be here, doubts about our bodies capacities. *"Today felt challenging for me. My body hurt and I felt weak and slow. And a return of this constant desire to be somewhere else"*. Yet we continue to push our physical limitations and personal confines. Yet, there were amazing times that each of us had the opportunity to (test ourselves against) work with Lee Bundy on his daily duels with Mother Nature. Even if the end result meant a hot mess of blisters and sore feet. Each morning Mr. Bundy, with axe in hand and X-cut on his shoulder, became our role model for what a *"bad mutha"* was on the trail.

All of us had various wants and perceived needs. There was no end to the conversation about the things we missed at home. At times conversations around the campfire dealt with the endlessness of the universe, subjective or objective morality and those hard partying *"Space Bonobos"*. Other times talk around the fire resulted in the wish to wash away all the madness that seeped into your ears and brain. However, our sponsor Dana led us through all of this. With Dana as our guide in to the priesthood of trails we all were initiated in the mysterious of the X-cut and baptized by early season lighting storms.

We are all still here. Seventeen of us in the Russian Wilderness. How symbolic that so near to our new home is the Miracle Mile, a square mile which holds exactly seventeen unique species of conifers. The only place world wide where this occurs, and with that we are feeling *"glad and grateful to be here. Yesterday was illuminating for me. I feel I saw a spark in each person"*, hopefully our individual sparks will continue to grow. Hopefully we can and will continue to nurture each other's sparks.

## **WORK**

Checks  
Single Tier Wall/Causeway  
Multi-Tier Wall  
Rip Rap  
Water bars  
Trail Maintenance  
Non-Structure-Junk Wall  
Rehab

## **CURRICULUM/EVENING ACTIVITIES**

Wow!! We had some real heavy hitters visit and instruct KNF-13 during the month of May. The one and only Lee "Super "Mr." Bundy" spent two weeks with us on the Elk Creek Trail. Mr. (heavy on the Mister) Bundy taught us basic concepts of how to safely use the X-cut. We were all able to go on logging-learning runs with The Bundy and got to experience His knowledge first hand. We were also treated to a tool re-handling, pic-mattock forging and how to fall trees with the X-cut tutorial. Not to be done at home kids, only by pros.

Larry Nothies made a special ( and much too quick) visit to teach his Conflict Management/Communication class. Though it was only a few hours we feel as if we really got something out of the time spent with Larry. We are still a little upset about the nail trick Mr. Nothies, next time we will have the last laugh. Thanks Karlson for the visit and the reading, we appreciate all of your help and stories.

The United States Forest Service (USFS)'s Happy Camp Ranger Office sent all kinds of specialist to speak with us. The Wildlife Biologist, Tim Burnett amazed us with skulls ranging from mountain lion to packrats and many different in between. He also spoke on the resurgent of Elk within the Klamath forest and efforts to track and support strong and healthy herds. Zack Rodriguez, a USFS Archaeologist lectured about his work, how he got into archaeologist and his coolest find, which happened to a Native American burial site in a Western major city. Pretty cool. The District Ranger Tom and Rec. Officer Laura came out for a visit during one of Lee's X-cut exposition.

Lastly, Bill Roberts and Chuy for cowboy poetry and songs. Thanks for all the assistants.