

YOSEMITE II BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL CREW
APRIL 2013 MONTHLY REPORT
Anna Asp, Backcountry Trails Supervisor

OVERVIEW:

We have assembled – Yosemite II's 2013 Backcountry Trail Crew officially began their season along with the 5 crews from Klamath, Shasta-Trinity, Yosemite, King's Canyon, and the Inyo when they met for the first time during Corpsmember Orientation at Placer Center in Auburn, California. It seemed that while the heavy-laden, oddly shaped, shiny new backpacks filled to the brim could pull down substantially on the backcountry corpsmembers' shoulders, they could not weigh down the enthusiasm for a new adventure filled with hard work, community development, rustic backcountry living, and personal development. We had the opportunity to get a feel for each other's diverse personalities as we were trained in CCC Backcountry Program policies, Ergonomics, Wilderness First Aid, Stock Safety, and Back Strength and Flexibility, to name a few. Orientation provided some good building blocks to form a strong foundation for what we hope to be a fantastic work season in the beautiful wilderness of Yosemite National Park.

CREW UPDATE:

Yosemite II's Backcountry Trail Crew includes

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| 1. Cassandra Ball, Web: Sanbornville, NH | 7. Rosa Landa, CCC: Inland Center |
| 2. Gillian Burton, Web: Glendale, CA | 8. Sean Lopez, LACC |
| 3. Anthony Chavez, CCC: Fortuna Center | 9. Brandt McDonough, Web: Kenilworth, IL |
| 4. Halie Early, Web: Manteca, CA | 10. Brian Santiago, CCC: Ukiah Center |
| 5. Douglas Franz, CCC: San Luis Obispo Center | 11. Kelli Schmidt, Web: Portland, OR |
| 6. Kyle Kuphal, CCC: Placer Center | 12. Herbert Valdez, CCC: Pomona Center |

WORK PRODUCTION:

After the corpsmembers and I arrived in Yosemite on April 26th, we finally completed our crew with the addition of its final members – our Yosemite sponsors: Foreman Doug Matheson (Yosemite '97), Sponsor Charlie Yrke, Sponsor Tyrus Klasovsky (Yosemite '09), and Cook Rael McGinnis (Yosemite '07). Arriving at the end of the work week and with only 2 more work days remaining in the month of April, our work production numbers are understandably low this month with only half a mile of maintenance completed on the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir trail.

CURRICULUM:

After an in-depth, 5 day Orientation at Placer Center, the classes held in Yosemite revolved around Trail Crew Camp rules, regulations, and orientation; Wilderness Ethics and Leave No Trace policy; Cold Illness / Injury Prevention including a demonstration of a hypothermia wrap; and writing a crew Mission Statement.

AFFIRMATIONS:

Many thanks to our gracious hosts at Placer Center for their hospitality in accomodating and feeding us during Orientation. Thanks to Program Director Karlson Hubbard and Relief Supervisor Agnes Vianzon for all their hard work both on the spot and behind the scenes to select and organize the crews and ensure

a safe start to a successful season with a well-planned and executed Orientation schedule. Thanks to Orientation instructors Tony & Tony, Sierra Rescue instructor Emma, EEO Officer Tim Warren, David Muraki, Mary Ellen Ardouny (president and CEO of Corps Network), and David Smith (Chief of Programs & Strategy). Thanks to the Yosemite Conservancy for contracting another two trail crews to work in Yosemite through the Backcountry Trails Program. Thanks to each corpsmember for being willing to put their lives on hold and choose to leave their comfortable, civilized set of living to embark on a tough physical and mental journey in rough conditions and rugged terrain for 5 months. Thanks to their friends and families for supporting them in this challenging adventure. Thanks to the Yosemite Sponsors for their work preparing for the start of the season and for taking care of the logistics to keep the crew working hard and safely with bellies full of delicious, nutritious meals.

Quotes:

“Work until you don’t bleed”

“Closing the gap between the first and the last”