

August 2011 Overview

Klamath Backcountry Trail Crew

Dani Nelson: Supervisor

Let's Go On A Freakin' Adventure!

The mountains called us and we answered with a resounding yes. Fifteen warriors heading for a great adventure or certain doom. All that we knew was that there was a great beast to slay before we could prove ourselves worthy of being ultimate backcountry heroes. The kind that stories are written about.

We shared our mutual knowledge, marked our maps, and heaved everything we owned onto our backs. Determined to slay the beast, we were undaunted by the trek. Uphill, downhill, uphill. For days we progressed forward, defeating every challenge in our path.

I know that you think this is some kind of metaphor about conquering our backcountry season. That maybe the beast is "doing amazing work" or "hiking the craziest hike across the entire Marble Mountain Wilderness" but you would be wrong! We were actually killing ogres and trolls and gargoyles with our bare hands! And this was just a warm up to the actual beast which was a physical mix between Nazguls, Behemoths and Godzilla with the intelligence of the predator.

At first the crew thought they were too tired from killing all of the lesser monsters to actually muster the strength for "The Beast." But it was all a trick to lure him in and completely destroy the ugly monster.

That is all we were able to accomplish in August.

PRODUCTION: Klamath busted out major miles of reconstructed trail. Our faces have been in the dirt non-stop! We got to put some logs and rocks in the ground, and pretty much spent the month dominating the north central Marble Mountains.

CURRICULUM: This month has seen an interesting variety of classes. Corpsmembers taught us poetry (Sam Lassiter), Games (Filipo Bellinghieri), Origami (Ricky McHenry). We had a bedtime story from Steven Addison, "Loggin', Pimpin' and your pal Jim." And we had a visit from our Klamath neighborhood goat herders, Ray and Amara. They let us milk their goats, literally. We've also opened up our bio talks, which has confirmed that everyone on the crew is pretty cool.

THANK YOUS: Thanks to Emily Linders and Steven Addison for sharing the Backcountry experience with us for 3 whole months! Emily kept us fattened up (well, as fat as you can be and still have a six pack), and Steven kept us moving through miles of trail work by constantly making fun of every person on the crew. Thanks you two. "Happy trails to you, until we meet again."

Thanks to Lee Bundy for being an excellent packer and helping us through some pretty crazy logistics that allowed us to do our big hike between camps.

Thanks to Bill Roberts for being an amazing cowboy poet and for bringing your horses and mules into our camp so we could look, see and learn all about them.

Thank you to Nick, D'Andre, Ben and Brittany for coming to visit and work on the trail with us.