

July 2011 Overview

Inyo Backcountry Trail Crew

Agnes Vianzon: Supervisor:

July. We are back in the backcountry. We were happy to once again say goodbye to our vehicles after weeks of watching the snow finally melt enough and hear that plows and snow cats busted through the giant walls of this winter's record snowfall to get us down into the Red's Meadow and the Rainbow Falls Trailhead. Hiking past the masses of tourists visiting the Devils Postpile and Rainbow Falls, we head further down the trail to Crater Creek. Wall tents come up, fire pits re-built, a kitchen, a latrine, we are HOME. We are in awe of the views and wide open skies. The stars are so amazing.

To fuel our ferocious appetites we are so blessed to have cooks at all. Not one but two amazing individuals volunteered time to cook for us. Marla DeKlotz (Stanislaus 2009) took part of her time away from cooking for the Klamath crew to help start us off right in the Inyo. Her delicious and nutritious meals are worthy of Cooks Magazine. Laura Gunter (Kings Canyon 2010) stepped in right behind without missing a beat. Both have treated us to extravagant meals including orange chicken, tri-tip, lasagna, and sushi.

We continue to learn the trail work traditions of the Inyo National Forest. We leave no rocks on the trail, nor brush within the corridor, nor tress blocking our path. With the help of our wonderful sponsor, Jarad, who spends all day commuting back and forth between all our rock work projects we are picking up the pace. Learning still but mixing frustration with diligence and determination.

Work Totals:	Maintenance:	4.5 miles
	Waterbars:	11
	Retainer Bars:	26
	New Trail construction:	32 linear yards
	Rip-Rap:	40 linear yards
	Multi-tier wall:	18 sq. ft.
	Causeway:	100 linear yards
	Cross-cut logs:	30 trees

Curriculum/Evening Activities:

Classes are in full swing with lots of knowledge being shared. We are continuing to read aloud The Last Season, completed our crew Mission Statement (yes Phil, I know it's August), began sharing our autobiographies, and a great art class by Gabriel Nuno. Keith Dawley also led and certified us in cross-cut saw use. Our month ended with a Halloween celebration on July 31st. Backpackers and packers curiously went by to see Batman, Ninja Turtles, Ghostbusters, a Rainbow, Death, and Lumberjacks playing games and busting piñatas. Three of us celebrated birthdays this month. Happy Birthday to Colby (July 1st), Stacey (July 11th), and Agnes (July 22nd)!

Weekend Adventures:

The crew is continuing to take full advantage of living in the Inyo. Groups have headed off to Olaine and Shadow Lake, Fern Lake, Ivabell Hot Springs, Lost Lakes, and Bench Lakes. Mary Hunter also received a weekend visit from her parents, Kathy and Alan.

We Appreciate You:

Special thanks to Amber Wessel. We so enjoyed your time with us this season and wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Thanks to Tessa d'Usseau who finally escaped the office to visit us and leave us with many words of wisdom. Thanks to Erin Healy for coordinating a special visit to our crew. Thanks to Karlson Hubbard for your visit and positive energy. Much thanks to Marla DeKlotz for keeping us so well fed. Thanks to LB Gunter and Rebecca Tipton for feeding a crew of 26 during the VIP trip!

Corpsmembers Words of Wisdom:

July 18, 2011 by Pete King

I haven't experienced our new home the way it is now: quiet, peaceful, even. The constant buzz that embodies this small piece of Ansel Adam's Wilderness has moved a mile or two down the trails and left me on my lonesome while I defend the camp against bears, curious hikers, or creepy packers.

Looking at a map always brings me perspective and makes me think. All these lines represent unique and unimaginable natural wonders. How difficult must it have been to bring back the first maps of this area – simple lines on a big piece of paper, and explain to those who hadn't experienced this area what it was like. Better yet, how difficult will it be to explain the beauty and mystique we are surrounded by every minute of every day to our loved ones who sit behind a desk all day or those who waste hours in a car, sitting through traffic?

I've always appreciated maps, and I've always used them for what they are used for: getting from point "A" to point "B." But this map doesn't just show points. It shows our home. A home we get to share for these 5 unique months while we learn what it takes to be a trail worker and responsible human being.

The change has already started, and I feel it in my mind and body. We are the luckiest 15 people to have this opportunity and to be halfway through it excited me to find out what will happen next.

Saturday, 7/30/11

You left us all alone, alone here at camp. The weather got fierce and the ground a little damp. The meat has been blotted, the veggies are dry, we took your clothes off the line in fear of the sky.

We thought of our costumes while snacking on sweets. Then built a piñata to hold all the treats. A lumberjack will show for Halloween tomorrow night while a dark hooded figure will give you a fright.

Eating leftover burritos and peanut butter balls, we swat at mosquitos and flies on the walls. We read "The Never-ending Nightmare of Amanda Knox". We swear she's innocent and shouldn't be behind locks.

The clouds roll by and linger like fumes. We jam to Bob Dylan and think of the camp move that looms.

The sun returns and the kitchen tent warms. We write this poem and still fight the swarms.

You'll return tomorrow on all hallows eve. You'll enjoy the night like you wouldn't believe!

Kaitlin & Colby

2011 Inyo Crew Mission Statement

This is not a f-in summer camp. We are a trail crew – hired as laborers to fulfill a job description. Yet with each swing of a tool and every step we take, we not only better the corridor, we work to learn about ourselves and experience the world around us. Though we come from different paths, we walk

on the same trail this season – to survive and work together. As we overcome obstacles and learn new skills, we push onward and upward toward our peak. We will climb higher as we learn about ourselves and even higher as we build our community, knowing the view from the summit is worth the effort to get there. Through honest and humble reflection, we will cultivate our integrity and enhance our overall quality of life together. Not even bleeding mosquito's bites nor noisy motocross crowds will deter us from living simply, kindly, and in the present. We are solid as a rock because when we are not in tents, we are intense. The weeks and weeks of uncertainty preceding this summer have made us feel even more appreciative to be among these massive granite clad mountains and sweetly scented towering pines. We left behind what we once considered our ordinary lives and now this is our home, our reality. With neutral backs, you will find no volunteer work among us, only our lovely cooks. The numbers on our paychecks are minor technicalities, for we are paid in sunsets. We will take the skills, growth, and unique experiences of this summer with us when we leave this place. We are the 2011 Inyo Trail crew. Boom! Bump UP!

p.s. We say F you to poison oak!