

## May 2012 Overview

Shasta – Trinity Backcountry Trail Crew

Supervisor: Peter Martinez

Greetings from Shasta-Trinity 2012! We are finally here in the wilderness safe and working hard. Our adventure began as soon as we got onto the road. The crew piled into the vintage CCC van (which probably hasn't had A/C since 1979) and up and down every twisting mountain road we all cheered the van to keep going so that we could reach our destination. Eight hours later we made it to the New River trail head of the Trinity Alps wilderness.

We all filed out of the van to take in the last view of 'the outside world' when 3 packers on horses with 5 mules tied to each of them came striding out of the forest. Mike McFadin, our wilderness manager, smiled at us and said "Shasta-Trinity! Welcome home!" It was a special welcome to a very special place.

We camped at the New River trail head the first night and in the morning we hiked 3 miles with our 60 lb packs with pursuit of breakfast on our minds. The smell of biscuits and gravy led us to our first camp where we met our bright and chipper cook Bonnie Szabo (Yosemite '09). We were joined shortly afterwards by our first sponsor, Matthew Carson (Klamath/Trinity '00), and we set up our new camp together.

Our first week we dove right into trail work. Under the instruction of Matt Carson we started treading a switchback, harvested rocks over 100 lbs to build a rock wall and with swings of a sledge hammer by the whole crew we conquered out cropping rock on the trail. Matt tackled tool training and showed us the ropes for trail work. Peter Martinez, our fearless supervisor, pushed and encouraged us to apply everything we were learning on the trail, and with a diverse range of crew experience, our first trail came together.

Our first weekend was met with excitement as we all embarked to explore our new "office." We began our weekend by crossing the cold but refreshing Virgin Creek together before splitting into our different groups. Some groups set off to the far destinations of White Rock and Old Denny and others camped at Eagle Creek. Mountains covered in tall fir trees, smooth madrones, distant snow-capped peaks and remnants of old minor towns were just a few sites we soaked in. We came back from our weekend ecstatic from our adventures and recharged to get back to work.

The crew has settled into the routine of work days followed by afternoon bathing in the cool New River where Virgin Creek and Slide Creek meet. While working in the wild of the Trinities we have been introduced to poison oak, scorpions and rattlesnakes. At night we hear the mischievous deer and ring-tailed cats, but after a long day of hiking and work and with the constant murmur of the New River near our camp, we slip into well-earned sleep.

After our first two weeks of trail work we thanked Matt Carson and said goodbye to him as a sponsor, and we welcomed our new sponsor Holly Cliche. We also welcomed the great Lee Bundy to our camp for 2 weeks of cross cutting. Bundy gave us the training to conquer log outs eight miles to Old Denny and towards our next camp site on Soldier Creek.

Our last week before the camp move we have been treading and logging the trail to make way for our packers. As a crew we are working together to accomplish the next camp move six miles to Soldier Creek, where a black bear awaits us. The Shasta-Trinity crew is ready to create our new home together and start working on the Devils Backbone.

### Curriculum:

May has been an immeasurable month for learning. We appreciate all the staff and friends who gave their time to educate us on all the necessary skills to live healthy and safely in the backcountry.

We had an extensive stock packing class our first night taught by Eric, Mike, and Ken. We learned how to read a map and use a compass with Peter and Matt. Our temporary cook Jessica gave us a knife safety class. The packers gave us a fun and useful class on tying knots and where to use them in camp. The great Lee Bundy gave us a cross-cutting class with hands on training and how to take care of a cross-cut saw (misery whip). Matt Carson taught us an emergency response class where we learned how to use the radio. Mike McFadin taught us survival tips if we ever got lost out here and Peter taught classes on lighting our stoves and lamps and filtering our water. We were lucky enough to have Agnes Vianzon in our camp to teach a listening and motivation class.

### Odds & Ends:

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to teach our crew. Thank you to Matt Carson for helping our crew get a good start to the season. We'd like to thank Jessica McDougall and Bonnie Szabo for cooking for this hungry crew and a big thanks to the great Lee Bundy for cross-cutting and laughing with us. We are thankful for Holly Cliche for being our

sponsor and teaching us when she could be with her new husband instead! We'd like to thank all of our packers, Eric, Ken, and Matt and our interns, Paul Lugo (Shasta-T '11) and Lance Ussery (Stanislaus '11) for doing such a solid job helping us restock and move camp. Most of all we would like to thank Peter Martinez for being our supervisor and keeping this crew a well-oiled trail-safe machine!

Work Production:

New River Trail – 3 miles maintenance  
Old Denny Trail – 9 miles maintenance  
New River Trail – 20 sq ft multi-tier wall  
New River Trail – 80 ft new trail  
Virgin Creek Trail – 11.5 miles maintenance

2012 Shasta-Trinity Crew Mission Statement

We journey into the wilderness to become the people we want to be. To learn about ourselves through the struggles we face. We bond as a family – showing and gaining new respect for our peers in a challenging environment for our burdens cannot be carried individually; supporting one another will help us realize our true potential.

Forge ahead! We are here to test our limits – whether it be in humility, mental focus or physical ability. We will shape earth into trail and in the process, carve out our ideal selves, breaking personal barriers just as we break rock on the mountainside. We eat together, we 'clean house' together. We are in this together as one. Our time here – all we build and overcome will be the epitome of self-discovery. Let the legs that carried us remember the terrain of the trails we have walked and the flows of the rivers we have crossed. Let us become one with the Trinity Alps as we become one with each other and may this experience shape our futures.

We are the Shasta-Trinity 2012 Backcountry Trail Crew.