

July 2012 Overview
Kings Canyon Backcountry Trail Crew
Supervisor: David Weaver

This document has travelled 39 miles by mule, man, and truck to be delivered to the good old USPS in order to be seen by our friends and families. It is a document written in dirt, mud, and crud. It tells the tale of 22 deep in the second half of their Southern Sierra season. Within this document holds word of bears, sickness, and long miles traveled, but as the weeks pass and the trials are tried, and the fights are fought, we grow ever better. After more than a month in the backcountry, we have shed our front country skin to reveal the hard granite of our new selves. That is to be expected after 40+ mile work weeks involving large rockwork projects and long log-outs. Sometimes a handful of our crew members will be gone for days at spike camps in different corners of the map. The vigor doesn't end when the work ends on Friday. Even after countless long days, violent flu viruses, or defending the kitchen from bears, these children of the Southern Sierra tighten the laces on their boots and set off to find the gems hidden in these monstrous mountains. Whether you hear the story of Erick Lopez and company searching for remnants of a military bomber at the bottom of Lake Hester or Adrian Santos and group scaling Mt. Sill and Split Mountain (both over 14,000 feet) in a weekend, rest assured the adventure never ceases. Some expeditions cover more miles in a weekend than have been in the 5-day week and there's more to come...

Visitors: Dave Weaver was surprised to welcome 4 members from his 2011 Trinity Alps Backcountry Trail Crew. Eliza Keksi drove from Washington, Matt Haliday flew in from Colorado, Tyler Fogg flew from Massachusetts, and John Kenkel traveled from Sacramento.

Curriculum: John Molina dazzled us with a class on Aztec mythology, Angelo Haynes crammed our noggins with Botany 101, Andy Head did a thorough chain saw class and Forest Tresidder shared Wilderness Survival.