

May 2011 Overview

Sequoia Veterans Backcountry Trail Crew

Supervisor: Paul Hancock

Our first month is over and we are excited about our next move to the Yolo Bole Wilderness Area on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, where the water is cold and the trees are thicker.

WORK:

Our short drive from Orientation brought us to Rancho del Oso (Valley of the Bears) in Big Basin Redwoods State Park. We were met by the State Park Crew Kirby Fosgate, Chris Pereira, Mic DaLesseo, Whitney Payne, Jose Luis Castaneda, Dan, Justin Timberlake and Qiao Lin

We were immediately put to work moving a 100' seasonal bridge into place and brushing on the Marsh Trail. Over the next couple of weeks our work consisted of the brushing of many trails and over 34 projects within the Big Basin District. We set 5 seasonal bridges, constructed one 30' bridge at Bean Hollow State Park, one 14' seasonal puncheon at Big Basin on the Skyline to Sea Trail, and one 32' puncheon on the Twin Oaks Trail in Wilder Ranch State Park. We have also spent considerable time at Wilder Ranch reconstructing the Twin Oaks trail. Members of the crew learned the fine art of wheelbarrow running and were able to begin the process of building up their stamina for the months ahead.

CURRICULUM:

We have has many classes taught by Kirby Fosgate including but not limited to: Human and Natural History of Waddell Valley, Banana Slugs, Ano Nuevo Elephant Seals and Natural History and various tool use, trail maintenance and construction classes. We also had Mark, the State Park Archeologist, give us a presentation on the local Human and Natural History of the area and the local tribes that inhabited the area. Our crew had the chance to tour Historical Wilder Ranch which was one of the first farms in the area to create its own electricity using water and a Pelton Wheel. We had a class on Soda Can Denatured Alcohol Stove construction by Andrew Bridgman and a Map and Compass class taught by James Morin.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Our crew met with the Secretary of Natural Resources; John Laird, State Park Director; Ruth Coleman, and Director of the CCC; David Muraki; on the Twin Oaks trail at Wilder Ranch. It was an honor and privilege to meet with this group of people who are passionate about the CCC and the Backcountry Trails Programs. One person on our crew (Will

Andrejack) stole the spotlight and made an appearance twice in the local newspaper, the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

FUN FACTS:

Robbie Sheppard II is a red vine eatin' fool, Rachel Frozenpants (Rosencrants) is all about the sandwich, Raul Gallegos has a beautiful mind/way with words, Aaron Hernandez is all about tacos, and the poison oak/ticks/blisters are as abundant as a mother in law.