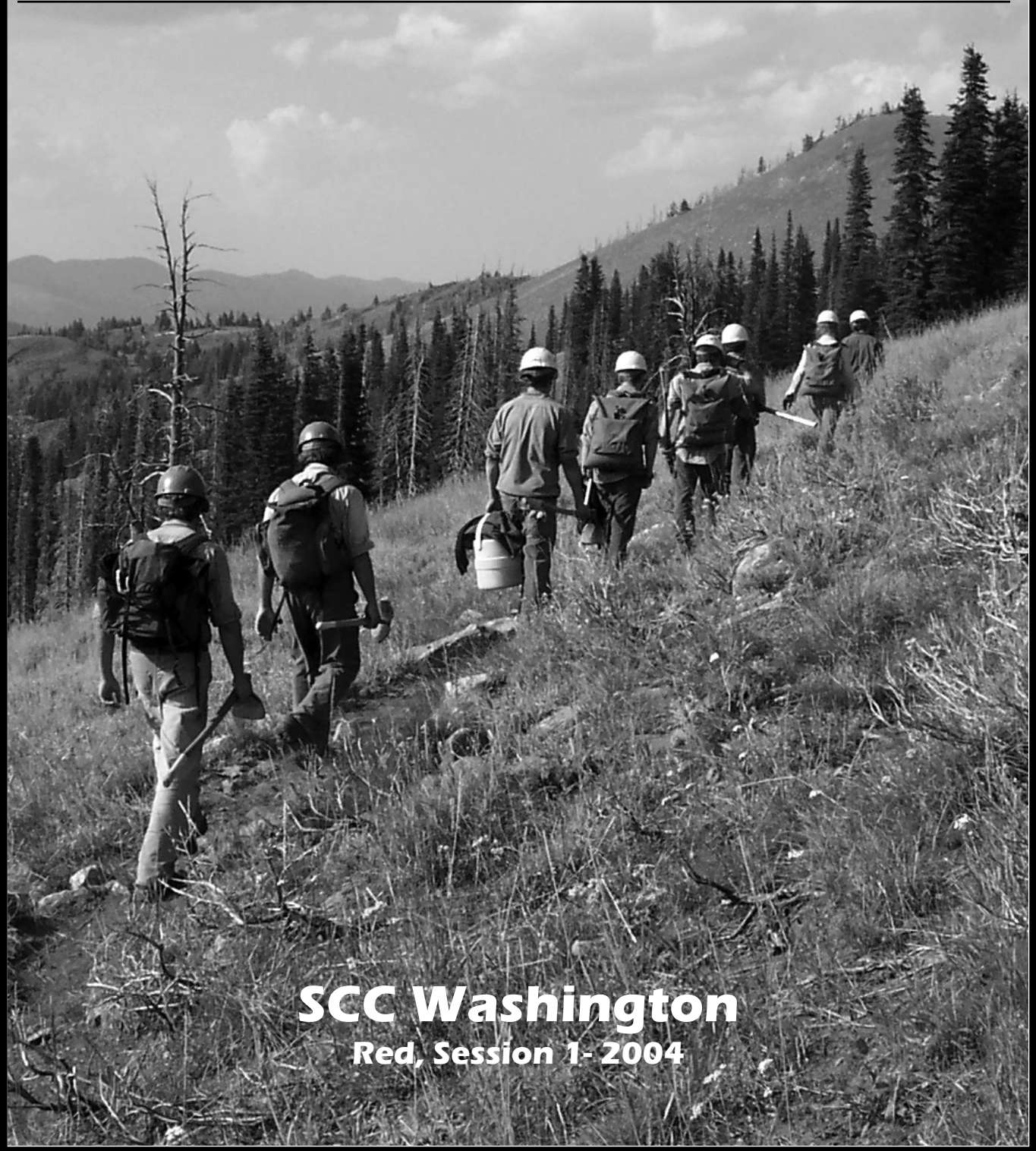




Crew Journal



SCC Washington
Red, Session 1- 2004



Hey Hey Hey! It's that time of year again. All the vans have been washed and vacuumed, all the tents have been patched, all the tools sharpened and put away, and we have finally caught up on all those short nights and long summer days of little rest and hard trail dawgin'! It's time once again to sit back, reflect on the season and start recounting the tales of adventure and hardship that you'll someday tell your grandkids. I hope this journal reminds you of the wicked hard days the awe inspiring vistas and the seemingly endless supply of pasta and trio-sauce. I hope that it takes you back to campfire stories and ice-cold creeks and that break in the rain that seemed like a holiday! We've typed out the scribbles lain down at the end of all those long days by worn out hands aching from swinging a tool and copied some of the dazzling images drawn up by the artists of the bunch. To anyone else who hasn't lived outside for over a month, done safety circle before dawn, done the push-up challenge, or chugged a gallon of vesper, these notes might not seem like much. But I hope that for those of you who know, that these entries can serve as a small key for unlocking memories that will stay with you for a lifetime. And I'm not just referring to memories of smelly vans, blistered feet and poison oak rashes. Sure that's all part of the gig, but it's the shared hardships that bring people together and forge memories and good friends, great achievements incredible places.

Thank you for taking on the adventure of NYC this season. With your commitment, courage and hard work NYC crews have left a lasting legacy. While you were slogging through the woods, huddling around the fire, seeking any type of moisture available, sharpening pulaskis, or finishing the last remnants of a too-large meal; up to twenty-one other crews were doing the same things across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Northern California. The work completed by NYC crews went farther than ever before, pleased a record number of project sponsors, helped out the natural areas and communities in the Northwest, and, most importantly, . . . showed the general public that teens are responsible enough to complete a hard job with style!

As you embark on your next adventure, whatever it may be, remember the things you did here. Remember the challenges you faced and that nothing is impossible. All you need is a fistful of gorp, a PB&J and some good friends in your bump line. Make it happen!

Best Wishes,

Billy Scrafford



National Forest or area that the work took place: Umpqua

Ranger District: Tiller

Project Name- Lupine fence

Week 1: Date

Monday: Today wasn't all that bad. I didn't hate it as much as my friends said I would. I actually kind of enjoyed it. Most of the day was chucking rocks, building these rock crib bed things and hauling tools up and down the steepest hill I've seen in a while. There were some downers though. I really had to crap by about 1, but there was nowhere to really do it, all in all it was good. Tariq S.

Tuesday: This week our project is building a fence along a hillside to keep cattle out of a certain area to prevent them from eating endangered plants. Our camp is near the top of the hill near our worksite. Today we started stringing wire between the cribs. Things are going fairly smoothly, and we are getting lots of work done. Kelly K.

Wednesday: This week is going good. We are all getting along pretty good. The project of building the fence is looking more and more like a fence every day. There has not been too much drama this week, but the hill we have to climb to get to the fence is a BIG BIG hill. But we get faster every day. So it's going pretty good this week and we had a 4-layer pizza today. Adam Hansen

Thursday: This week our crewmates have been getting along good. At work everybody's been pitching in to help other people out to make it easier for each other. When we were messing around and playing games everybody seems to be having fun considering that we are always next to each other and hanging out with each other that is a good thing. The weather has been bad though today the sun finally came out for a while, but so far it has been a good week.

Don S.

Friday: We had many challenges this week. This was our first week on the job. As such, we began in poor conditioning. This became apparent as we traversed a long 30% grade hill daily. The difficult part of this was that we had to walk UP the hill after our day of work. Before work we merely walked down the hill. As the week went on, we got in better shape and began to go up and down the hill faster and with more ease. We also learned how to properly build a fence. The fence we built is both sturdy and aesthetically pleasing. Our stabilizing rock cribs are an especially nice touch. Some of our crew hopes to visit this project next week, myself included. Others want to go elsewhere. Regardless, we will probably be walking up and down the same hill next week. Clifton

National Forest or area that the work took place: n/a

Ranger District: Tiller

Project Name- Lupine Fence

Week 2: Date

Monday: We went to the weekend site and most of us went on a rec trip to Lemolo Falls. We had a campfire and good food. It was very warm today compared to last week's rain and misery. We are almost done with the downhill section of the fence. PJ R.

Tuesday: We have accomplished half of our project. The hill that all of us hated so much is partially finished, allowing us to no longer travel to the bottom. The top part should be easy because it runs along the side of the hill. Our crew has incredible capabilities, and the power to finish our task easily by the end of this week. All that we need is a little motivation for those few who slack or fall behind.

Breakfast this morning turned out great. Adam and I made some delicious pancakes that were surprisingly well cooked all of the way through without being burned on the outside. We even made enough to have leftovers.

We ran out of water today while we were still on the worksite. This group is beginning to act more like a family. Kyle T.

Wednesday: WE hope to finish up our fence this week. It's been a 2-week project and we've been pushing ourselves really hard. It was really sunny today and hot too. Some of us got burnt and we all have some nasty farmer's tans. Adam and I saw a lizard get bitten by a black widow today. It was crazy; the lizard was twitching and then died. When we got back to camp, we took our 5 gallons to get water and got to swim in the creek. It's been a good day. Peter A.

Thursday: We almost finished our fence today, despite the overwhelming heat. We all are beginning to feel a sense of accomplishment over our nearly completed project. Our sponsor,

Gary, is pleased too. Today we caught many crayfish as we took a swim near our campsite. We cooked them up and ate them with lime as an appetizer. We can hardly wait to be finished with the fence tomorrow and enjoy another interesting and relaxing weekend. Clif M.

Friday: We had to finish up our two week project this week. We built a fence, so it was really important that we got it all done. It was a great feeling today when we finished her up and looking at what we had accomplished. It was especially satisfying because of all of the challenges that we overcame.

We were building the fence on a really steep and rocky slope. Our sponsor from the MLM said it was a 35% grade. We had to hike up and down it for the past two weeks with tools and supplies. Plus, it was in the mid 80s this week and on that bare hillside, it got hot. The heat drained us, but we pushed through it. We drank around 14 gallons of water a day during our 8 ½-9 hour days.

The next thing that we had to deal with was also due to the heat. We had a bunch of reptiles and spiders coming out. We had to deal with black widows, scorpions, wasps, and rattlesnakes. Plus, we had poison oak and stinging nettles. Combine that with the fact that the hill was serpentine soil, and it makes that place the most poisonous place I've been to.

It was an awesome experience and I wouldn't trade it for anything. It felt really good to accomplish so much and overcome so many obstacles. I think we're all excited for our next project. Peter A.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Gifford Pinchot NF
Ranger District: Mt. St. Helen's Volcanic Monument
Project Name- Craggy Peaks Trail Maintenance

Week 3: Date

Monday: My crew this weekend went to the beach and went to the lighthouse, and played with the starfish. At night we went to the beach and had a big fire, after we got firewood and talked about something stupid I can't remember. Me and my friend put ski-masks on and jumped a couple of people in our crew. When we drove back to camp we saw a black bear running down the road. Don S.

Tuesday: This week we are in WA at Mt. St. Helen's working on a trail for the first time. Also we got a rover for the first time this session, Simon. He's pretty cool. The crew is still doing good with everyone getting along.

Wednesday: Our goal this week is to prune bushes around a trail then make a better trail because the people before did a really bad job. Another goal is trying not to kill our partners because after a while working everybody is mad because we have no free time so they call people stuff and get in little fights. Don S.

Thursday: Our crew is growing weary of trail work. We have begun to realize the ease of the last two weeks. In addition, we worked a long 9-hour day today. This tired us all out. During lunch we all slept versus eat. Tomorrow is our last day on the project and even though we en-

joyed the wilderness, we are all looking forward to moving on. I want to go to the Olympic Rainforest as do most of the other crewmembers. We are all looking forward to the weekend. Clifton M.

Friday: we fixed up one but-load of trails, but seriously it was strenuous! We busted up like 2 pulaskies and like all our backs and shoulders. The trail looked good though after we busted it up and rebuilt it. At first it sucked but once we got a hang of the bump system and stuff it started to get going really good. We also met some cool Indians who were on vision quests. We all had one big potluck.

I got a burn on my foot but it's all good now.

The campsite rocked, too. We had a running cold as hell stream literally in our campsite. We also had Simon there to keep us company and to keep our workdays down to about 8 hours. Don was the stinkiest, seriously, he stank! Tariq S.

National Forest or area that the work took place
Ranger District
Project Name- Fort Clatsop Trails

Week 4: Date

Monday: This weekend was a lot of drama. A lot of people got fired. But more importantly, PJ, a good crewmember, quit, which sucks. But we have moved past that. This week will be a pretty good week I think. We are just taking out blackberry bushes and we're staying in an RV park with showers, telephones, washers and dryers so it's pretty chill. Adam H.

Tuesday: We worked a very long day today and followed it up with a Fort Clatsop Tour. Consequently we arrived very late at camp today. As I write, we are frantically preparing dinner for 11 hungry people. By working a long day, hopefully we will make our future work days shorter. Clifton M.

Wednesday: this week our goals are a little unclear because our main job was inaccessible. Instead we are cutting invasive species of plants from a park. Tonight Tyson and Catie are making Thai food for CRAZY SURPRISE DAY. It's going to be a monstrously huge meal. Tariq S.

Thursday: This week we learned that the complete elimination of blackberry bushes is a much more involved process than we initially gave it credit for. We have also learned that though we are camped out in an RV park, that Astoria and its surroundings has a lot to offer including some amazing beaches, a great interpretive center in Ft. Clatsop and, tomorrow, a crazy maritime museum. The monotony of blackberry removal was lessened today by the presence of Mr. Jenkins and when we finished up at Ft. Clatsop this afternoon, we high-tailed it back to good old' Kampers West to do a little maintenance work there as a barter for our rent. Nothing like hitting a small wee patch with 6 Mccloud-wielding CMs: intense.

We are all excited for the chill weekend that we have coming as well as a change of pace in projects for for now we are continuing to "get her complete." Tyson N.

Friday: This week was a challenging one for our crew. We performed silvaculture throughout the duration of the week. Furthermore, the flavor of silvaculture we're performing was blackberry removal. This tested our patience as demonstrated by a few emotional breakdowns this week. However, we worked a full 40-hour week and left our worksite blackberry free! We all felt, at least somewhat fulfilled by the week's work.

This was the 4th of 6 weeks. None of us can believe how fast the days fly by. However, we are all anticipating the end of the program. Some of us are already intending to return for another session. We all are hoping for a week of non-silvaculture work. We also want our rover Catie back for another week. On Sunday we will discover if our wishes come true.
Clifton M.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Siuslaw
Ranger District:
Project Name- North Fork Smith River Trail

Week 5: Date

Monday: This weekend yellow crew and we had a cook-off. They cooked a kind of fish and chips, and we cooked some mad fish, it was good. Of course we won the cook-off hands down. Some parents brought food; Cliff's brought 9 pounds of pork sirloin. That was awesome. We said goodbye because we went on a 2 week backcountry assignment. Fun . . . Tariq

Tuesday: This week backcountry is pretty cool. This is the last 2 weeks so the homestretch. The crew is doing really well and we're enjoying building fresh trail and we are in a nice forest.

Wednesday: This week our goal was to build a trail for people to enjoy nature and animals. So far we built this trail quickly out of nothing. Today I moved a rock four feet long. It took down 3 little trees and still made it to the bank of the water. I also found a small salamander type thing and when Andy was making a hinge he found a mole and put it in his hard hat and showed everybody. It looked dead for a while then it moved so we let it go on the trail but so far everything has almost went good. Don S.

Thursday: Our crew experience one of its first severe injuries today. I was hit accidentally in the back of the head, by Kelly, with a Pulaski. After Tyson patched me up, we hiked out from the worksite to our campsite and packed all of the sleeping bags for fear that we may have to sleep at the trail head. After making the three mile hike out of our campsite to the van we proceeded to the emergency room in Roseburg (I think) followed by an ambulance. After waiting in the emergency room for four hours, I received 3 buried stitches and 5 regular. Tyson, Catie and I did not get to camp until 12:00 am. Kyle T.

Friday: Peanut butter and jelly bagels subsided our hunger for the morning. After a quick store stop, our crew headed back to the trailhead, packed our next week of supplies, and began our hike back to camp. Myself barely carrying anything felt a little mean while doing so, even though I was told to take it easy for the first couple of days. When we arrived to camp, everyone had a couple hours of free time. A few went swimming while Catie and Peter slept because they were felling a bit under the weather. I was not allowed to do much of anything to help

with chores because of my head injury. We are going to have a great feast tonight!

This morning we discovered that Steve, although getting himself suspended, will be completing the final week with our crew. Kyle T.

Week 5: Date

Monday: Writing a journal for Sunday/Monday: We worked today. We are pretty tired. We are going to be working for 5 days, 8 hrs. this from Sun. to Thursday so we have Friday off. Only 32 hours of work left until we are totally done and all the way home it will be sweet. Adam H.

Monday: Today was OK. Same stuff, just a different day everyone started to have when we had to fill a long large hole made from a fallen-down tree. We used our hardhats to haul dirt. It went fast once we started a fire line instead of walking all the way to the person we threw our hat and got covered with dirt. Steven V.

Tuesday: Today we waited endlessly for Devin to show up with Gar or Margie, or maybe even Billy. Right as Cate's crew of 5 were walking out Margie shows up with some good news that we're not going to have to hike out and work two tens. Devin is coming out tomorrow followed by someone else. Tomorrow is inappropriate day, and command day. We got a jungle fashion show later tonight. Today Catie farted! Tariq S.

Today after work I was building a boat for a race. It was called the Titanic because it was five times bigger than everybody else's when trying to go up stream I fell in the water when going back down I fell again so the last time I didn't care so I just walked through the water. Our rover, Catie today lost a piece to the ear (pra?) So far she has lost a lot of things: her knife, her helmet almost got lost thanks to me though she got it, and the worst she lost it, Catie made me do ten pushups for nothing. Don S.

Wednesday: Tomorrow is our last work day. We are all happy because we only have 8 ¼ hr. to work and we might actually finish the trail. This crew has done pretty well together. We're had our ups and downs but a lot of fun doing it. Adam H.

Thursday: Today was our last work day. We got our mission complete. First we counted down the hours then the tool counts then finally our last minute we worked hard and well and got her done. We are the best. Steven V.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenged day was to have to put up with people that weren't working as hard as everyone else. I can't stand that. Adam H.

My first day was the hardest just because I wasn't used to working yet, so it took me a while to get up the hill. Kelly K.

The hardest day for me has to be my first day also, because we had to hike up a freaking mountain with all our tools and it sucked. Andy L.

The most challenging day for me was the day Kyle was hit in the head with a Pulaski. I ran to the trailhead for 3 miles in my work boots and clothes after working 9 hours, then hiked back in with a stretcher, then back out again with Kyle. Clifton M.

My most challenging day was when Kyle got hit in the head with a Pulaski. I had 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours of sleep, was having issues with another crewmember, and had just worked for 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours. I was scared for Kyle and got sick running out 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles to get a stretcher. It was a hard day. Peter A.

My most challenging day was today because I can't remember any other days. It was the worst. It took forever today, and everybody smells like a sack full of butt! Don S.

Probably those 10 hour days, either the first or second week, working on the fences. First week it was always wet, second week it was always extremely hot. Then there was the hill! Holy Smokes! Tariq

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My 1st experience was finishing the long fence we built the 1st week. 2nd, we were at Mt. St. Helen's: we got to meet a bunch of vision questers and meet most all of them that was a new experience for me. 3rd our last two week, we were building new trail. It was so nice: we got to swim every day after work in a river swimming hole. Adam H.

1. Getting two weeks' backcountry; 2. Nature ware; 3. Our first shower day and how clean I felt. Kelly K.

1. Nature wear
2. Making my raft w/ T
3. Getting my first Mohawk. Andy L.

1. Nature wear contest (wearing nothing but ferns)
2. Enjoying the river by our backcountry site
3. Meeting my new friend Peter. Clifton .

1. The accomplishment of finishing a two-week fence project
2. My family visiting me on the weekend.
3. Visiting the lava canyons on a rec trip. Peter A.

1. Nature wear
2. 1 foot salamander
3. Showers. Don

1. Leaving the fence worksite for the last time
2. two-week backcountry project
3. Finishing the session knowing that I had made some of the best friends of my life. Kyle T.

1. Everything I learned, I learned A LOT!
2. My homies
3. Our campsites, we had some bomb campsites. Tariq

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing I will never forget is dressing up in nature wear. Adam H.

Walking around wearing nothing but a thin layer of ferns, but revealing all when the breeze picked up. Clifton M.

The satisfaction of completing the fence project. Peter A.

The thought of getting done with trailwork. Don

Safety equipment and rules should never be taken lightly. Tariq

From Now On I Will Always...

I will be more conscious of turning off my lights in my house to preserve energy. Adam H.

Wear no underwear. Kelly K.

How to tie cool knots thanks to Catie V. Andy L.

Go commando in the wilderness. Clifton M.

Try to remember to always think things through with a cool head. Peter A.

I will always value showers and toilets every day. Don S.

Have more appreciation for simple household appliances. Kyle T.

Remember SEED topics on trash, endangered species, and some others, can't remember. Tariq

At NYC I Learned...

I learned to appreciate hard work. I normally don't work hard but you just felt better after a nice hard day. And I learned to not drink out of a fast, cold moving river but out of a stale puddle in certain circumstances. Also I learned about cold fusion, how it works. Adam H.

1. I learned how to build a fence. 2. How to cut a good trail. 3. Rotten wood doesn't float well. Kelly K.

1. I can't make a bow and arrow. 2 That working 40 hour weeks sucks. 3. Teamwork is good. Andy L.

1. The capabilities of a Dutch oven. 2. The meaning of hard work. 3. How good food tastes after hard work. Clifton M.

1. How to work with 10 people for 6 weeks without personal space. 2. How to cook good food efficiently in the wilderness. 3. How good everything is when you're roughing it and working hard. Peter A.

On the last week I learned how to make knots to show my friends at home and wear it for a necklace. Don

1. How to build fence using rock cribs. 2. How to restore trail. 3. That I don't like pulling blackberry bushes. Kyle T.

1. Punks are looked down on L 2. The many uses of moss. 3. How to survive on close to nothing. Not saying I could do it, but I kind of know how. Tariq

