

Youths go to work in forests Corps program lets them return home at the end of shift

By Beth Casper • Statesman Journal

August 20, 2009

A new program through Northwest Youth Corps has youths working in local forests and recreation areas during the day. *Right: The Salem-area 2009 Northwest Youth Corps crew worked in Silver Falls State Park, Santiam State Park and Fisherman's Bend State Park.*

It's different from the typical program run by the corps because students can return home at night. Typically, corps workers spent five to six weeks camping while they work to maintain or build trails.

A crew of 10 students from the Salem area has built 16 water bars (areas to allow water to drain and prevent erosion), removed a culvert, built a 150-foot trench, widened 900 feet of trail and maintained 200 feet of trail in Silver Falls State Park.

They also built 16 water bars, did 150 feet of trenching for better draining, removed a culvert, widened 800 feet of trail, maintained 700 feet of trail and built 3,300 feet of new trail in North Santiam State Park.

This week, they head to the Bureau of Land Management's Fisherman's Bend recreation area.

The program was available in only five counties this summer: Marion, Multnomah, Clackamas, Lane and Jackson. "We wanted to reach out to another audience and have kids work and build a sense of stewardship in local communities," program director Tom Evans said.

The crew leaders are Andrew Fitch and Erik Willis. The crew members are Jordan Blaisdell, Alaina Butler, Tommi Gonzalez, Jared Gross, John Lathrup, Adam Miranda, O'Shea Postell, Holly Schnee, Connor Shield and Sandra Remensik.

