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Youth Corps crews hit the trails

Visitors and avid hikers to the Six Rivers National Forest have more to enjoy, thanks to a group of youth ages 16-19 from the Northwest Youth Corps who have been working in the area for the last two weeks. Wearing bright red hard hats, swinging a variety of hand tools, and sweating away in their blue work shirts, the crew is in Smith River National Recreation Area repairing and maintaining trails.

The Kelsey Trail, built in the 1850s, is a scenic trail that was once a mule train trail that ran from Crescent City and ended at Fort Jones. Now this trail is being maintained by the 10-person Northwest Youth Corps crew. The youth are clearing out logs and removing unwanted vegetation so visitors can get a chance to enjoy the historical area.

The NYC crew was picked for this especially challenging project because of NYC's experience with a variety of specialized tools used only in isolated backcountry settings and reputation for high quality productive crews.

Each year NYC offers more than 1,000 youth the chance to earn money through conservation work, plus the opportunity to live in some of the most beautiful parts of California and the Pacific Northwest, travel, make new friends, get into shape, and earn high school credit.

To apply or to learn more about Northwest Youth Corps, visit www.NorthwestYouthCorps.org.