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Youth from Pacific Northwest Work Together to Improve Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge

August 15, 2006 – For ten weeks this summer, youth from across the Pacific Northwest have worked to preserve and maintain the 40,198 acre Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, the only mountainous, mixed-conifer forest refuge in the contiguous United States.

The youth, ages 16 – 19, are part of the Northwest Youth Corps program, the largest youth conservation corps in the Pacific Northwest. This summer, Northwest Youth Corps crews have spent ten weeks thinning dense timber stands and stacking woody debris into slash piles for fall burning. In an area plagued by summer wildfires, the thinning projects contribute to the overall health of The Refuge.

The Refuge crew is one of many Northwest Youth Corps crews working across the Northwest this summer. Whether crews are rehabilitating watersheds in Oregon, digging new trail in Idaho, or clearing hazardous fuels in Washington, Northwest Youth Corps participants develop an array of wilderness and teamwork skills they can utilize throughout their life.

About Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge

The Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge is located in northeast Washington, on the west slope of the Selkirk Mountain Range. The Refuge provides public access to a number of recreation opportunities including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, snowshoeing, photography, and wildlife observation.

The Refuge provides habitat for almost 200 species of birds, 58 mammals, 8 reptiles, and 6 amphibian species. Wildlife inhabitants include: owls, northern shrike, wild turkey, beaver, black bear, magpies, snipe, warblers, waterfowl, osprey, painted turtle, red-tailed hawk, white-tailed deer, great blue heron, spotted frog, bobcat, cougar, mink, and moose.

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About Northwest Youth Corps

Established in 1984, Northwest Youth Corps is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create leaders through teamwork, education, and outdoor conservation work experiences. Northwest Youth Corps is the Pacific Northwest's largest youth conservation corps, serving more than 10,000 youth. For additional information, contact Northwest Youth Corps at phone (541) 349-5055, or visit www.northwestyouthcorps.org.

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Resources

Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge
<http://www.fws.gov/littlependoreille/index.htm>
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