In a recent Register-Guard article, “For teens, tradition of summer jobs fading,” the author stated that fewer young people today (36 percent) are employed compared to 31 years ago (57 percent). Unemployed youth miss out on money and the responsibility that a job entails.

As we find ourselves in the hottest days of summer, and with the promise of an estimated 1 million visitors coming to Oregon later this month for the eclipse, we can now count other reasons to employ youth: Protecting Oregon's public lands against wildfire, invasive weeds, and aging recreational infrastructure.
The increased number of people in our state’s public lands provides a fitting opportunity to recognize some of the conservation work being achieved in our state. For example, this month, teens and young adults enrolled at Northwest Youth Corps are helping clear brush at Shotgun Creek, mulching and planting projects with the Friends of Trees, removing invasive weeds at the Bonneville Lock and Dam, building bridges at Umatilla and working on new trail construction in the Steens Mountain Wilderness.

Involving Oregon's youth in contributing energy to our state's environmental stewardship challenges is a win-win. In addition to earning money, these young people are earning high school credit, job references, and/or professional certifications needed for an outdoor career.

Thank you to those involved with NYC, including young Oregonians who are helping sustain our state’s natural resources and better our communities. To find out more about job opportunities right now, visit Northwest Youth Corps at http://bit.ly/2uaqR4y.

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The former Duck is edged for the last finals berth by thousandths of a second

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