

2014 Nez-Perce Clearwater NF North Zone Developed Site Maintenance

By Steve Harig, Program Coordinator



Northwest Youth Corps Blue Crew at Laird Park

Campground Maintenance Projects

This summer, the Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) in conjunction with the North Zone of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest and the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) completed a wide variety of infrastructure maintenance projects at a number of developed recreation sites on the Palouse and Clearwater Ranger Districts. Site locations included; Laird Park Campground, Giant White Pine Campground, Little Boulder Campground, Elk Creek Campground, and Partridge Creek Campground on the Palouse Ranger District and Aquarius Campground, Washington Creek Campground, Noe Campground, Kelley Forks Campground, and Hidden Creek Campground on the Clearwater Ranger District.

Projects included basic campsite maintenance which involved mowing and weed eating, fire ring cleaning, and general site clean-up. This was accomplished alongside larger projects such as picnic table rehabilitation (sanding and re-painting) and construction, new fire ring installation, brush removal to re-establish campsite and road corridors, and the removal of large blown down trees. Crews also completed several small trail maintenance projects within and adjacent to developed recreation sites once all maintenance tasks within the sites were completed. In all, over 150 campsites were maintained.



Carolina M. painting new picnic table tops

Gabe M. and Audrey E. weed eating at Laird Park

Youth Outcomes

This project helped the NYC Idaho Program to provide job training opportunities to over 70 youth this summer with a combined total of 40 youth taking part in the two projects completed through this partnership. These youth were exposed to local and regional resource management issues and the complexity of challenges facing Idaho's resource management agencies and industries. They also took part in NYC's outdoor education program which is accredited through the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools, thereby allowing them to gain high-school credit that is transferable to most public schools in Idaho. The NYC program taught these young people problem solving and leadership skills while helping them develop a strong and productive work ethic that builds character self-esteem. Participants learned essential job skills and received training that will enhance their ability to make a positive impact in the communities in which they live.

RAC and Title II

The Northwest Youth Corps Idaho Program and the North Zone of the Nez Perce National Forest are incredibly grateful to the North Central RAC for supporting our partnered efforts to complete important resource management projects while providing young people with an incredible opportunity for growth and personal development. These outcomes would not have been possible without the support and funding of the RAC.