



2008 SCA Canada-US Program
Skagit Valley Provincial Park and North Cascades National Park

November 25, 2008

Dear Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission,

Thank you again for your support of our 2008 SCA Canada-US Conservation Crew. This partnership spanning over a decade and two countries is an amazing one on many levels. Our students and leaders again this year incorporated key elements of education, recreation, research, stewardship and collaboration into their summer experience.

As the crew has left the field for the summer and winter approaches, we wanted to share their experience with you and thank you again for providing such an experience. Enclosed you will find the following:

- Final Quarterly Report Form
- Project Completion Form
- And SCA's Final Report

To confirm, the only pre-approved adjustment to the budget is below. From the agreed upon total grant amount of \$31,875 for 2008, SEEC overpaid SCA last year a total of \$2367, which is being deducted this year. So the total amount due to SCA for 2008 is \$29,508 in US dollars.

Thank you very much for all your assistance and support, it is very appreciated!

Sincerely,

Sarah

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The Crew

The eight Canada-US students for the 2008 summer were chosen from both Canada and the United States of America. They worked well together and learned a great deal about the Skagit Watershed and conservation through the hands-on projects they completed this summer from July 9 to August 12.

The 2008 Canada-US crew members included:

1. Katrina Munsterman – Four time SCA Alumni from Benicia, CA
2. Mitch Russell – Two time SCA Alumni from Bethel Park, PA
3. Elise Campbell – Lansdale, PA
4. Alexander Ching – Seattle, WA
5. Jamie Cote – Kitchener, ON
6. Sarah Forman – Wellesley, MA
7. Alisha Marshall – Kitchener, ON
8. Andrew Murray – Seattle WA

These students were led and supervised by SCA Crew Leaders Kory Hottel of Denver, Colorado and Kylie Cone of Bremerton, Washington. Six time returning Crew Leader, Kory Hottel came to this crew with a diverse background in trail, rock and lumber construction projects ranging from Alaska to Antarctica as well as medical certification as a Emergency Medical Technician. Kylie Cone came to this crew as a first time Crew Leader with enthusiasm, flexibility and teaching experience. She also brought with her a Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician certification.

Project Accomplishments

The SCA Canada-US crew supported by the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission, spent their summer working again north and south of the international

border. They started in the Skagit Valley Provincial Park and finished in the North Cascades National Park. Their work was varied and introduced the crew to many unique skills. This crew worked hard to complete the following during their short crew:

Construction

- new trail built – 500 feet total
- 2 water bars – 9 feet total
- 2 tent pads created
- log benches created

Maintenance/Restoration

- brushing completed – 12 miles total
- 25 drainage cleared – 112.5 feet total
- 2 sites restored – 1000 feet total
- 20 transplantings – 15 feet total

Crew Leaders Kory and Kylie add greater detail on their projects here:

WORK PROJECTS:

- Skagit River Trail, 4 km. Brushed and removed windfall to Harlequin Flats campsite. Rerouted sections of trail, built 2 tent pads, constructed new trails to water and washroom. Re-established tread to tent pads. Opened up 2 viewpoints with tree saw. Dug out partial hole for washroom.
- Galene Lakes, 4 km. Took helicopter to lake in order to brush and remove windfall on trail. Cleaned out fire pits/campsites.
- East Landing Campsite. Constructed 2 tent pads, put cedar shakes on roof of gazebo, constructed log benches for campsite circle and created a chess board.
- Hozemeen Lake Trail, 11 km. Brushed and cleaned out drainages up to Willow Lake section of trail and also on section of trail leading to campsite.
- Hozemeen Lakeshore Trail, 2 km. Constructed new trail in 2 separate sections to complete trail (aside from footbridge) and brushed out and cleaned up tread.
- Skyline Trail, 4 km. Brushed trail up to section of switchbacks atop ridgeline.

Educational Development and Personal Growth

In completing the projects and visiting sites around the Skagit Watershed, the crew members were introduced to professionals on both sides of the border and exposed to a great wealth of local, environmental knowledge including:

1. The crew started their crew at the North Cascades Visitor Center and listened in on a discussion of lichens, watched excellent slideshows and discussed Leave No Trace camping on the short trail system there.
2. John Riley visited the crew and discussed the ecological set up of the area and the history of the trail near Harlequin Flats.
3. Canadian Rangers Lisa and Joe gave the crew a great bear talk of the Skagit River trail and area.
4. At International Point, the crew watched a slideshow depicting how the Skagit River became a dam site with discussion by Canadian Ranger, AJ and US Ranger Doug.
5. US Ranger Bill visited the crew to talk about native plants and walk the crew through seed collection.
6. Canadian Ranger AJ provided a presentation for the crew on bats.

7. The crew celebrated their program with a 30 mile recreation trip of the high alpine environment on Devil's Dome loop trail.

Building campsites in the backcountry helps take impact off the rest of the land.

- On the importance of their work, crew member Katrina Munsterman

Recognition Ceremony and Picnic

Sarah Zablocki and Kristin Mitchell of SCA attended the SEEC Recognition Ceremony and Picnic for the crew and parks on July 26. This year we were fortunate to have many SEEC members able to join the crew and parks. While there, Sarah also evaluated all aspects of the program (projects, Crew Leaders, agencies, vehicles and crew) as well as striving to show the crew members how important their Canada-US experience is to all involved and for the long term. Crew Leader Kory later told me, "International Day proved to be extremely special to our crew members. They felt extremely supported and appreciated."

Canada/US day was so much fun and the food was delicious! The HELICOPTER ride up to Galene Lakes still gives the crew members chills of excitement! All the presentations we were fortunate enough to enjoy broadened our sense of the area/nature and the impact of the work being done here. This experience was wonderful and we're all so glad to have been part of it.

- Crew Leaders Kory and Kylie

Looking ahead to 2009

Due to the nature of the projects, the beauty of the areas, and the tremendous support provided by our SEEC and our agency coordinators on both sides of the border, SCA would be honored to continue this partnership next year. Deep gratitude again goes to the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission for your long standing support and partnership in making this program a reality. Thank you!



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