Alaska Female Fire Fire Corps – Student Conservation Association

Kelsey Wolf – Environment, Economy, Development, Sustainability (Community Development)

BACKGROUND
- All women’s entry level wildland firefighting and fuels reduction crew in Alaska
- Partnership between Student Conservation Association and National Park Service (AmeriCorps)

PROGRAM PURPOSE
- Provide a way for people to gain skills and exposure to wildland firefighting in a supportive environment
- Designed to set up crew members with jobs in wildland fire with the National Park Service
- Complete fuels reduction projects around Alaska

JOB DUTIES
- Bucking, limbing, and felling trees with chainsaws
- Constructing burn piles
- Working on a crew and collaborating with NPS employees
- Completing camp chores daily such as cooking dinner

PROGRAM DETAILS
- 14 Week Program in the Summer (May 15 – August 19)
- Camping for the Summer
- 1 fire assignment
- Program provides Wilderness First Aid, Firefighter Type II, 5-212 chainsaw training
- Must pass an Arduous level Pack Test

REFLECTION
- Highly interested in forestry after program
- Applying to NPS wildland fire jobs for next summer
- Recommended for anyone interested in fire and natural resource management
- This program was amazing but incredibly difficult physically and mentally – must be comfortable with intense manual labor and extended camping

The crew on their first day on the Lost Horse Creek Fire outside of Fairbanks, AK.

Completing a 2-mile-long hose lay on the dozer line on the Lost Horse Creek Fire.

Fuels reduction and pile building in Wrangell St. Elias.

Helicopter briefing at Fort Wainwright Military Base in Fairbanks, AK before deployment to Fire 234.

The crew showing off their muscles at the end of fire assignment.

Crew lead Mindy Hawes sawing on the fire line at the Lost Horse Creek Fire.

Experienced women in fire who instructed Guard School.

Crewmembers getting their hands dirty on Fire 234.