

## Revamp the Camp Report 2013

Revamp the Camp 2013 brought together more than 50 people who volunteered their time to prepare Westminster Spires for the upcoming camp season. Many thanks to Sandy Welch from St. Andrew Billings for providing leadership for this very successful weekend, and to our caretaker Simon Hill for getting the grounds ready for a major cleanup of brush piles created from the clearing of dead and hazardous trees.

We had 30 representatives from the Dillon, Butte and Billings churches, and 20 volunteers from Advanced Employment Services from Billings joined us for the day on Saturday. Special thanks to Laurie from Advanced Employment Services for arranging to have these great workers join us for the day. Sandy prepared meals for 30 people on Friday night and Saturday morning, and 50 people for lunch and dinner on Saturday. Thanks Chef Sandy!

In addition to the major cleaning of the kitchen, bathrooms and sleeping cabins, repairs were completed on screen doors, repairs to the siding on the two outdoor toilets, replacement of patches of flooring in Prouty Hall and repairs to the foundation of the Craft Cabin. Cynthia Kessler completed a full inventory and cleaning of the craft supply area and began preparing supplies for the upcoming camps.

We had 19 young people join in the work, and 15 of these will be campers or counselors this summer. It was very encouraging to have many so many camp participants involved in preparing the facilities and grounds.

The major work project this year was the clearing of brush and the creation of slash piles around the camp. Simon has cut down most of the dead or hazardous trees that have been identified by the Forest Service. Most of the usable cord wood has been removed through Forest Service permits, and the first round of burning of slash piles took place last winter. Additional burning of brush piles will take place next winter. For those who have not been to Westminster Spires in the last two years, we invite you to come to camp to see the amazing difference in the look of the camp. We have a much cleaner, safer and healthier forest and have vastly improved the fire protection of the grounds. A donation has been made to cover the additional labor costs involved in the tree cutting, timber removal and burning of brush piles.

Our contractor consultants have identified roofs that should be replaced next summer on three of the larger cabins. Individuals and churches are invited to make contributions to help cover the cost of these roofing projects.

Our deepest thanks to the many volunteers that help keep this important outdoor ministry a vibrant part of the lives of both young people and adults in Yellowstone Presbytery!

Curt Kochner  
Camping and Youth Committee