

CDIP Project

- **Name:** Jeffrey Xavier Ortiz
- **School:** College of the Desert and transfer to Humboldt State U.
- **Major:** BS in Forest Resource Conservation
and/or Forest Hydrology
- **Work Site:** Nulhegan Basin
- **Job Title:** Git r Dun, Tag Along Dude
- **Duties:** A variety of tasks including wetland surveys for invasives, writing a broad based weed management plan, and working with Trout Unlimited to assess stream and culverts and fish telemetry.

Where I am coming from...



Notice the vastness of late May's mid spring colors!



And thus, a journey begins...

May 25th, 2011: Heading due East to NCTC

Expectations? To break down at least once,
somewhere along the way



FINALLY!... Out of the low desert... and... into the high desert



OOOOH... Neat- DARK brown rocks



Wow... A sand colored building next to sand colored... sand



And then, there were trees...





And then I broke down:
Williams, AZ - Day 1



And then... There were no trees...





SWEET!... RED brown...





Albuquerque, NM





High desert sunset...





That's where I am from, the Southwestern U.S.

What I came to

Clouds

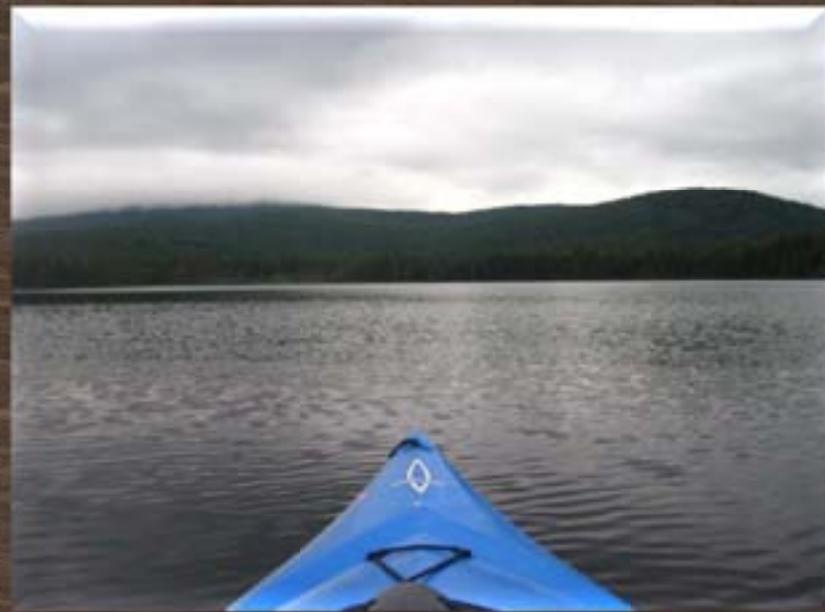


Green



Aaaahhhhh...

TREES... and WATER



Did I mention... **WATER**



My 4 favorite colors:
Grey, Green, and Water...



And Reds







The Crew

The BOSS



The Biologist



CCPPPPPP

The Forester



What?...
A good CCP
requires
good snacks

Jeremy Goetz, Forester #2, was unavailable due to being on constant rotation in Georgia starting wildfires

Maintenance Crew



- WHERE'S PAUL?

WHAT? ... No Mexicans?... Weird!



Mastered the art of Bird Band Station Observing







Trout Unlimited

Catch' em, Tagg' em



And Track' em



TU Crew leaders

Joe Martel:
Grad student

Ben Matthews
Head of Interns



TU Crew of Interns "The Stream Masters"





Indian Stream, VT

Trout Unlimited Goals:

- Restore and protect Rivers and Tributaries like Indian Stream and the Nulhegan River in the Upper Connecticut River Watershed
- Restore the Native Wild Brook Trout

Other TU projects - Stream, Culvert, and Bridge Assessments





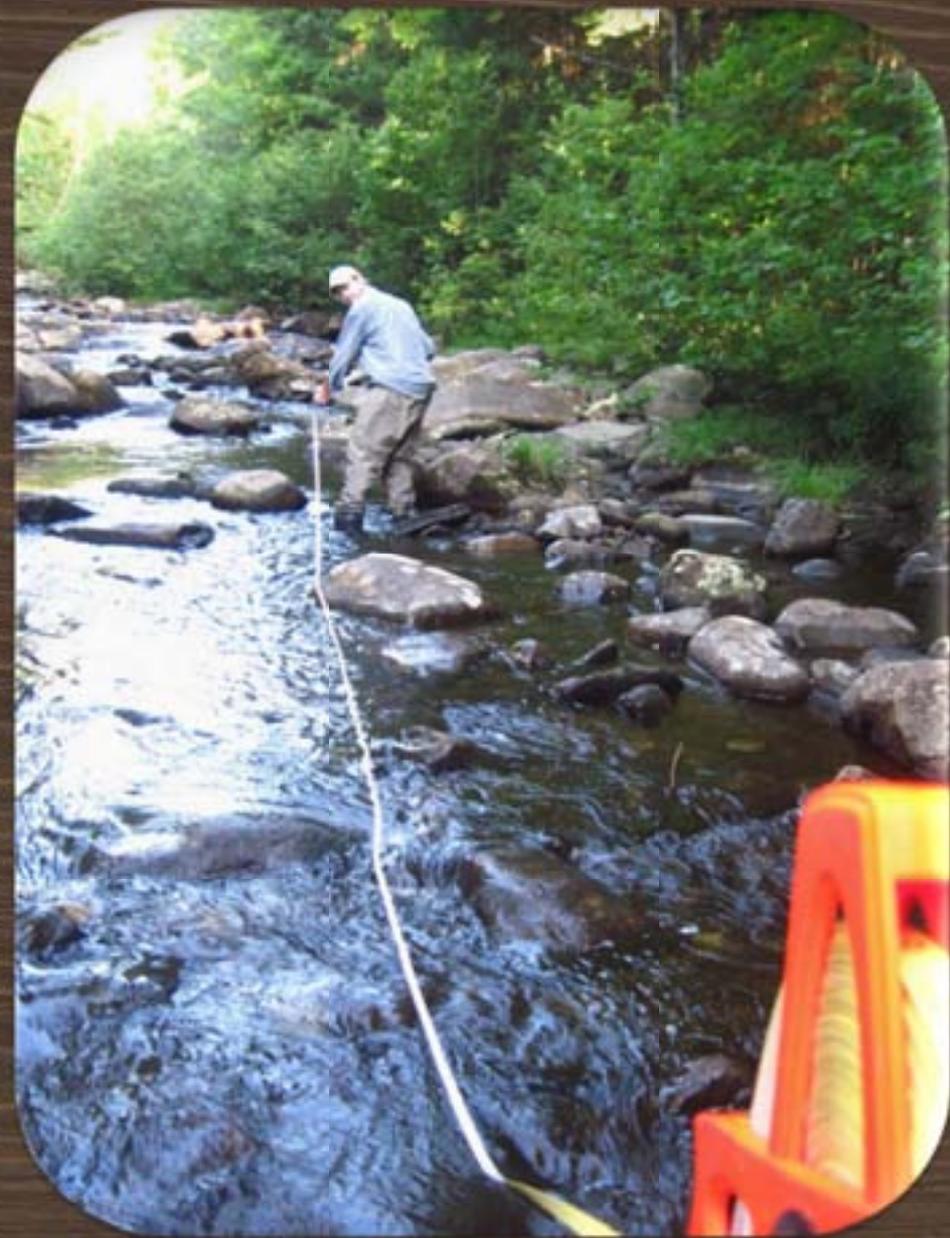
In Addition:

I helped put out numerous temperature data loggers into the confluences of several main tributaries of the Nulhegan River.

And: Stream Assessments



The way TRUE
masters
measure
Stream depths



WOW! EXPRESS: North County Festival...

What is up with this dude standing in front of the display?!



Invasive species

- Developed Weed Management Plan for Upper Connecticut River Watershed
- Manual removal of Wild Parsnip and others on Route 102 and along Refuge roadside
- Attempt of Knotweed removal from private land downstream on Nulhegan River from Refuge Headquarters
- Marveled at knotweed sites along Route 102 up into Canaan, Vermont.
- Discovered "If you can't Beat It, Eat It!" Title of wonderful cookbook with recipes for Knotweed and Garlic Mustard, available online.

Wild Parsnip Rt. 102, Somewhere VT



Before



What Parsnip?



What else did I do...







Oh Yeah!...

Data Entry:
Nulhegan Basin Bird counts

2004!

Bird point count surveys

2007!

Bird point count surveys

BLBW , BTNW , CEDW , UNWO , BTBW , AMCR , AMRE , RESQ

Worked with YCC

Camp Removal



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KILL one type of forest to allow another type to replace it!



And THEN... There was LIGHT



Mark... we need to
talk...

How can I be Paul
Bunyan with this
nonsense?





SNACK TIME
!







Wetland Surveys to Inventory Invasive Species Present

Objective: Circumvent wetlands in search of Phragmites

cir·cum·vent (sûrkm-vnt) *tr.v.*

1. To surround (an enemy, for example); enclose or entrap the exact location of the invasive and elusive phragmites.

2. To go around; bypass: I circumvented the open waters and swampy interior wetland.

3. To avoid or get around by artful maneuvering:

I planned a way to circumvent the black mud pits of death by swinging from alder branches and crossing beaver dams.

Have I mentioned... *WATER*... Yup, NO phrag!



And so I began, circumventing wetlands in search of Invasive species



Let's Roll... Orange vest so I don't get accidentally SHOT- It is Vermont! Oatmeal, gloves, hip boots, binoculars to search wetland edges unreachable, \$5000.00 Trimble Unit that doesn't work under the canopy of trees, and back up \$300.00 Garmin that always works...?





Surveying Wetlands is a lot like life...

- You may or may not know where you are going.
- Even if you know where you are going, you may not know how to get there.
- A bird's eye view is like an aerial photo; hardly a dependable way of identifying a path through reality by a ground walking species.

One man's road is another beaver's dam

Life is just that!...

A constant series of obstacles, challenges, and diversions... truly- Opportunities, designed by Nature to weed out those not ready to succeed.





Sometimes...
you go through life
with others.

Sometimes...
Because they
have to.



What?

Sometimes,
You go through life alone,
and look like a dork...

Sometimes...
Because YOU have to.



At times,

Life may be but
an animal trail
reprieving
oneself from the
surrounding
wilderness...
momentarily



At other times,

You may have to
forge your OWN WAY
through Life





Life, just as Nature
will put up
barriers,

hindering the
direct sight of
your goals...

PRESS ON!
You **WILL** get
around them!

...And then, you can use
binoculars



Your perseverance in Life may not lead to treasure chest, but rather, to a treasure for the soul.





Always be thankful for the opportunity to experience beauty that few may ever see!









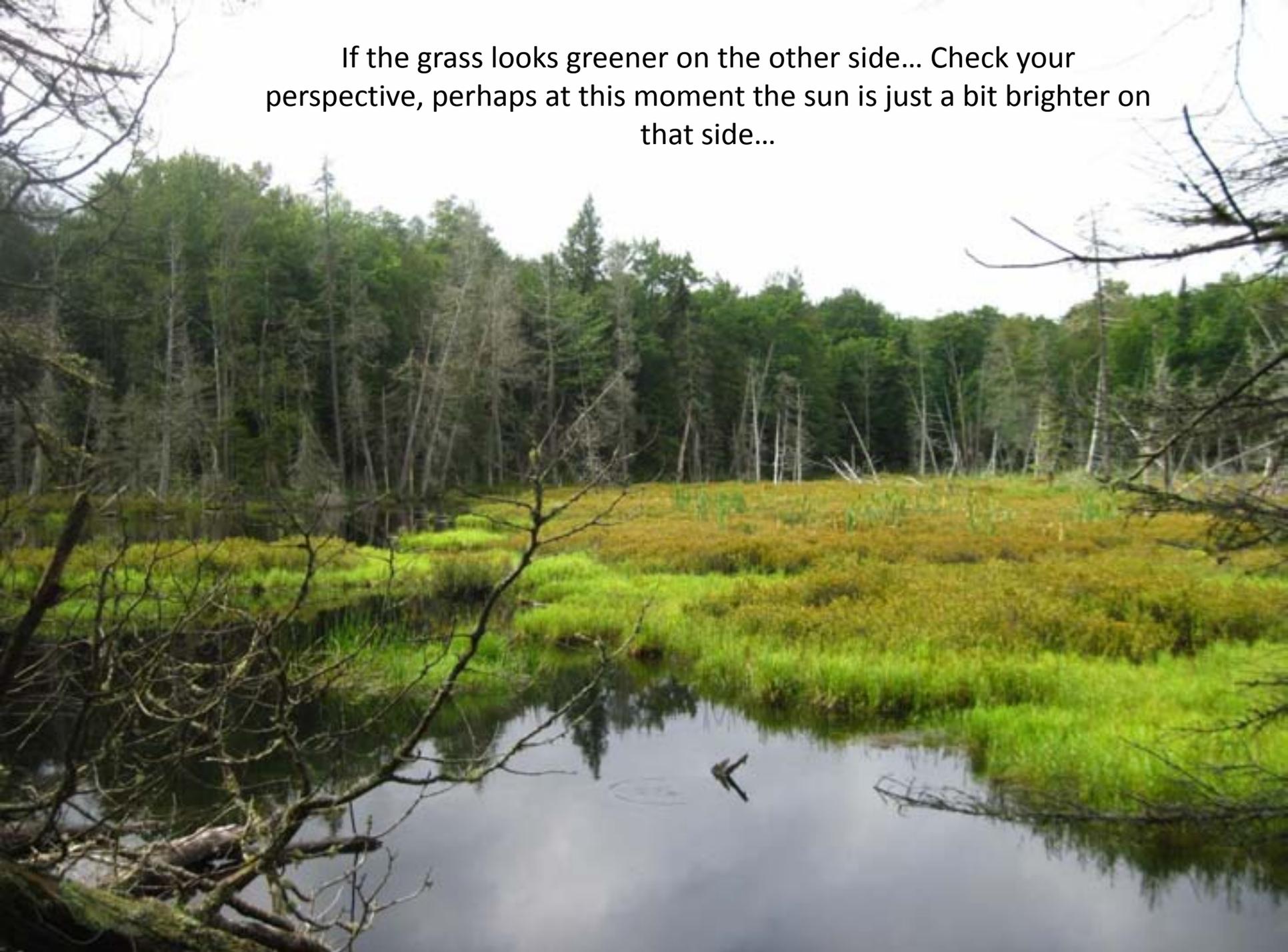


Even when Life appears to
so tranquil and perfect...

A black pit of death may be
just under foot!

LISTEN to Nature, Be Alert ,
be prepared and willing to
make detours! It could save
your life, save a lot of time,
or simply save your BOOTS!

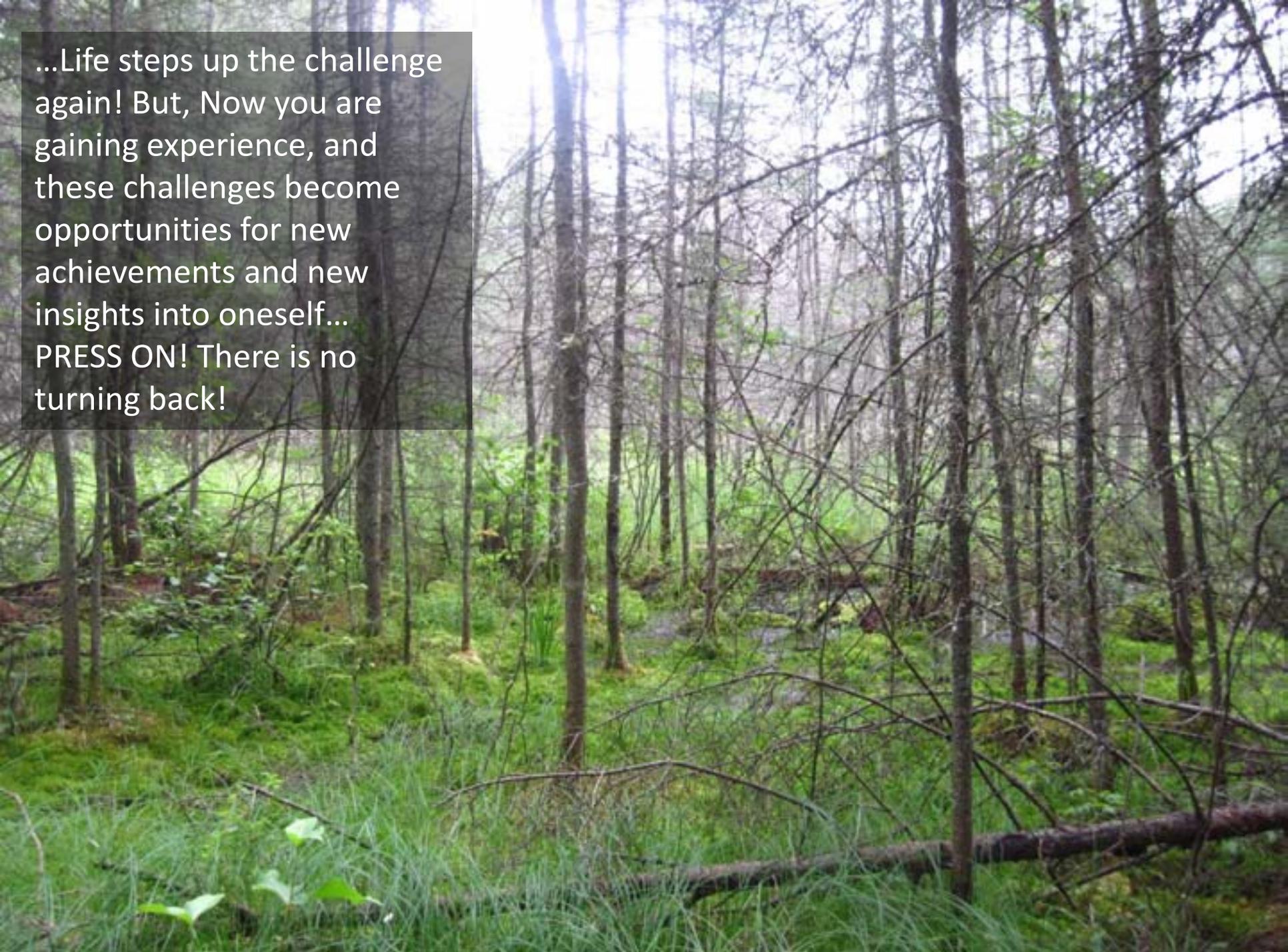
If the grass looks greener on the other side... Check your perspective, perhaps at this moment the sun is just a bit brighter on that side...





Be Observant,
Take Time, and
Seek to notice the small
things that Life and
Nature present along
your chosen Path...
It may not be long
before...

...Life steps up the challenge again! But, Now you are gaining experience, and these challenges become opportunities for new achievements and new insights into oneself...
PRESS ON! There is no turning back!



Even when you become LOST and lose your back up tools, and thunder clouds dump their reserves upon your head...

Keep your head up and remember what Bob Marley sang:

“Oh, when the rain fall, fall, fall now,
It don't fall on one man's housetop. Remember that!”



Both GPS devices lost and found within 2 hour period in dense woods and herbaceous growth

Keep the FAITH! Storm clouds WILL come,
and they WILL PASS! Keep your goals in mind!
At the end of the day, At the end of a journey,
At the end of LIFE...

You can look back and KNOW you did NOT quit,
YOU persevered, YOU overcame, YOU succeeded,
and YOU gained an Experience most will never
understand!

You experienced Nature.
You experienced Life!



Tiny baby moose in front
of mama moose





Yummy...

A close-up photograph of a dragonfly perched on a dark, textured surface. The dragonfly has a black body with prominent yellow stripes running down its abdomen and thorax. Its head is green, and its eyes are bright green. The wings are transparent with a fine network of veins. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a rock or concrete, with some lighter, whiteish spots.

Maybe it's a D.O.D.
drone... spying on me















It is amazing to think the source of the Earth's greatest destructions, disturbances, environmental alterations, degradations, and global catastrophic assaults on Nature, that is, next to Nature Herself, is wrought on by what humans have come to call "Intelligent Life."

Perhaps, one could say-

Our past conquest over Nature and the environment, was the conquering of intelligence.























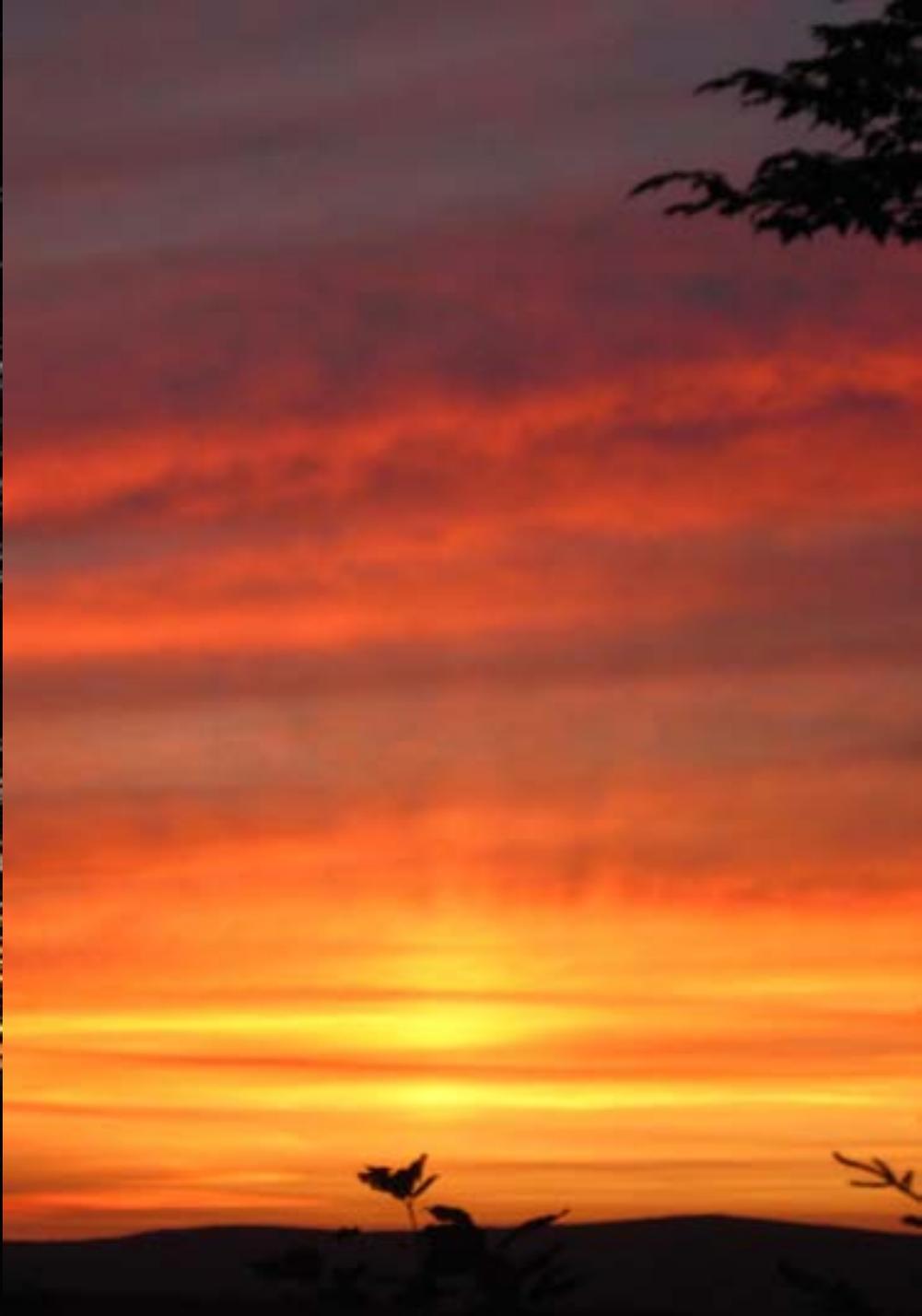


















I am Honored to have worked for an Agency, a group of conscious minded individuals, a coalition of partners serving the Planet with True Intelligence, seeking to right the wrongs, protect, conserve, restore, and preserve the Earth's natural resources.