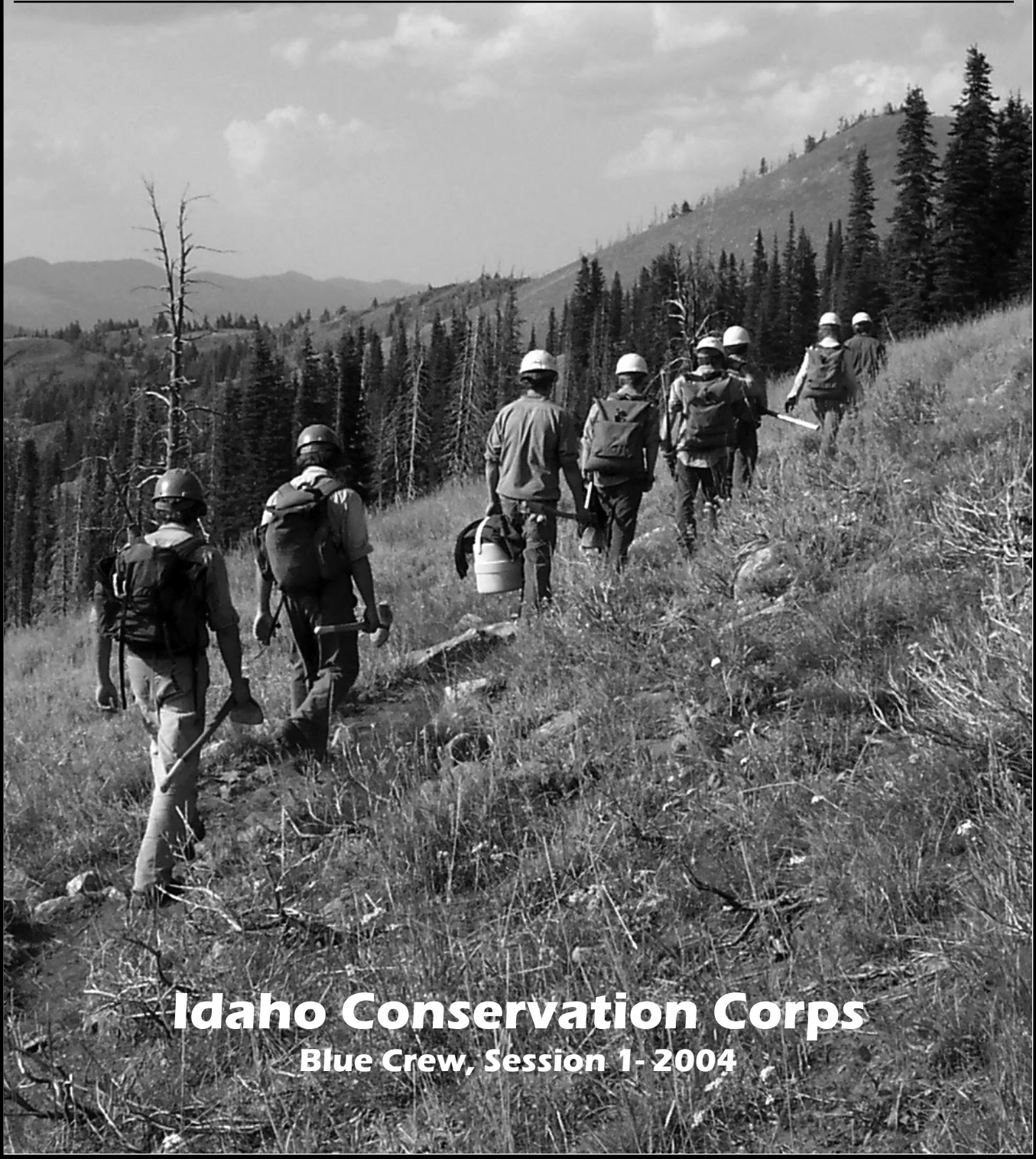




# Crew Journal



**Idaho Conservation Corps**  
**Blue Crew, Session 1- 2004**



Well, it's that time of year here at NYC, with the final tool count completed and the vans neatly tucked into their winter parking spaces, its time to sit back, reflect on the season and start recounting the tales of adventure and hardship that you'll someday tell your grandkids.

This journal is a small reflection of your crew's experiences this year; footnotes, scribbled at the end of a long day by hands aching from swinging a tool. To anyone else who hasn't lived outside for over a month, done a safety circle at 5:30 AM, done the pushup-challenge, or chugged a gallon of vesper, these notes might not seem like much. But I hope that for you they are a small key to unlocking memories that will stay with you for a lifetime. And I'm not just referring to memories of smelly vans, blistered feet, and poison oak rashes. Sure that's all part of the gig; but it's the shared hardships that bring people together and forge memories of good friends, great achievements, and incredible places.

Thank you for taking on the adventure of NYC this season. With your commitment, courage and hard work NYC crews have left a lasting legacy. While you were slogging through the woods, huddling around the fire, seeking any type of moisture available, sharpening pulaskis, or finishing the last remnants of a too-large meal; up to twenty-one other crews were doing the same things across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Northern California. The work completed by NYC crews went farther than ever before, pleased a record number of project sponsors, helped out the natural areas and communities in the Northwest, and, most importantly, . . . showed the general public that teens are responsible enough to complete a hard job with style!

As you embark on your next adventure, whatever it may be, remember the things you did here. Remember the challenges you faced and that nothing is impossible. All you need is a fistful of gorp, a PB&J and some good friends in your bump line. Make it happen!

Best Wishes,

Ryan Ojerio  
Program Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Ojerio', written in a cursive style.

**National Forest: Colville NF**  
**Ranger District: Newport**  
**Project Name: Batey Boulder Trail Reconstruction**

Week 1: June 14, 2004

Monday

This Saturday marked the beginning of the first Idaho session. The day consisted of getting acquainted activities (lots of group circles), some free time, an information session for parents, various stations where we learned vital camping skills, and other introductory types of things. After the parents said goodbye, we had a delicious dinner of macaroni and cheese and sloppy joes, which I thought would be very much an exception compared to what we'd be eating the rest of the week. Thus far; however, because we are camping front country, our meals have been superb. Anyway, Sunday morning, we joined up with our crews, had another big circle or two, and departed for our projects. We were lucky enough to be treated to a 9 hour bus ride north to the Colville National forest in north eastern Washington/ north western Idaho. When we finally arrived, we set up our camp which will be our home for the next two weeks. We've been making it really comfortable. We had some sausage, tempeh, beans, quinoa, and iodized water for dinner. Then we did dishes, circled up, and went to bed. Ben F.

Tuesday

We are building trails in Washington. The group is just learning to deal with the work placed in front of them, but everyone is doing fine. The first day we built 250 feet of trail. The second day we doubled that with a whopping 500 feet! Scott S.

Wednesday

Our crew's goal for the week is to move faster in camp chores and move in a good pace so we can get the job done. I think that Erika and Katie did a good job in moving those two big monster rocks. Josh and Scott did a great job on helping Justin on cutting the big trees down and doing their job. Stephan S.

Thursday

Our crew learned how camp life and what work is like. We learned how to take care of the tools that we use. We learned the hard way that stretching is good for work. We learned different techniques for digging trails. Stephan S.

Friday

As it was the first week, the biggest challenge was getting to know one another and being able to work together well. Getting things accomplished in a timely manner was a challenge also. Another difficult thing was learning to adapt to sharing a small tent with several other people. Learning to become aware of ones actions, the way you treat others and finding time to take care of personal needs in between chores and work. Conflicts between people had an interesting effect upon the crew's general atmosphere. Blisters...mosquito bites...all things that become second nature

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Week 2: June 21, 2004

Monday

Work was slow today because of a giant boulder field that lies in the trail's path, but considering the big rocks the crew was happy and morale was good. In the afternoon we did a journal observation that was needed to give folks some space to reflect and get away from the group for a while. Later the crew shared their writings. Justin

Tuesday

Our project this week involves completing our work on the trails of Boulder Mountain. We are working on a section of trail approximately one-half of a mile up the road from our work sit on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. The trail work has so far involved moving large rocks, removing trees, stumps and debris, and plenty of digging. All our trail work has been constructing new trails to replace old trails. These trails are used by dirt bikers. Emily P.

Wednesday

We want to get through the week and head through McCall for a good fun weekend with orange crew and then we will find out where our crew will go next and where we will travel or back pack and also on our weekend site we will go and do recreation stuff so that should be very exciting and our last but not least goal is to work hard. Josh

Thursday

We learned much more about building trail, but we are also constantly learning how to work better with each-other. It was cool to learn that our contact was unique in that he worked with us on a daily basis. Another good fact was that other crews have tension as well. We learned that when we're all aggravated, we need time to cool off and breathe deep. I think each of us is also learning where our breaking point is and how to deal with that. I personally deal with it by finishing what I'm doing and then sitting by myself for a bit. On another topic, it was hard losing a crew member, and I hope we all learned that we need to be



-Ben F

supportive when things get tense. Hopefully, having a new crew member will start our crew off on a new note. Ben F.

Friday

We got a lot more done than I thought we would on the trail considering it was everyone's first two weeks of trail work, except me. No one got fired, well almost. We all got to know really quick, like in two weeks, we all did learn real fast how to do the trail work. And we also learned quick on chores even though there were some slow days.

**National Forest: Payette NF**  
**Ranger District: McCall**  
**Project Name: Willow Basket Area Trails**

Week 3: June 28, 2004

Monday

This weekend we drove from the camp in Colville National forest to McCall. We went to the weekend site where we met up with the orange crew with crew leader Ivan. We set up our tents and emptied out the trailer and did camp chores. Our recreation was on Sat. we split up into two groups and Skelly took one group as did Ivan. Shopping at the grocery store, then lake swimming and lounging occurred. We all went to a historic museum, the log house was incredible. Sunday we packed. Erika B.

Tuesday

We made a new trail in McCall National forest. I am writing in the journal today because it is a chore to do in work today. Scott got hit in the eye by a piece of wood and went to McCall medical center. He has three bad scratches near the right eye. Katie K.

Wednesday

Our goals for the week: finish- first reroute, bridge, turnpike and get as far as possible on the second reroute. To get all of our hours even though we are a shorter crew this week and Scott had to be packed out for a day because of his injured eye. Finish all of our SEEDs; we were behind from last week. To have extra time on Friday we needed to add extra hours every day to leave enough time for hiking out and laundry and showers in town before weekend site.

Erika B.

Thursday

This week's SEEDs were very interesting. I enjoyed learning about forest succession because it helped me to better understand the environment we've been working in recently. Also Marie provided good insight into the issue of water use and forest fires. In terms of practical skills that our crew developed this week, we have learned to efficiently and effectively run a bump line for transporting materials. Also, we have been learning how to move easily to complete camp chores and tasks together. Ben F.

Friday

This week we faced several challenges. We had a back country assignment for the first time and had to back-pack 3.6 miles to our campsite, carrying all of our personal belongings, food and tools. Our job this week included two things we'd never worked on before, completing a turnpike and building a puncheon bridge

We also had a few changes in our crew, because we lost two members and gained a new one. Our accomplishments included successfully completing our trail maintenance, reroute, and reconstruction. Although some of us struggled, we all managed to successfully make the hike in and out of the area. Most importantly, we adjusted to our crew changes and became a team. Emily P.

**National Forest: Colville NF**

**Ranger District: Newport**

**Project Name: Batey Boulder Trail Reconstruction**

Week 4: July 5, 2004

Monday

This weekend was the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend as well as parent weekend. All four crews came to the weekend site at McCall. This proved to be rather hectic with all the supplies and hungry people. Friday evening was spent unpacking and setting up tarps and tents and such camp objects. Recreation trip was a scavenger hunt, 4 groups went tearing about McCall searching for various objects such as the rare "brace and bit drill" from an antique shop, or a free cookie from Paul's market. Winners received milkshakes at the illustrious "Burger Den." Feasted on meat with parents...Saturday circle... Erika B.

Tuesday

We are back in the scenic Colville National forest where we will hopefully finish up the project we began the first 2 weeks. We will build a turnpike over a very wet area of trail, and dig at least one new reroute. We will be working with John the forest service guy again, who is really awesome, but we will be in a slightly different area than before. The point is the same- to re-route unsatisfactory trail to brand new good trail. Ben F.

Wednesday

This week our crew's goals include completing a section of trail that was started by other crews. We had almost 200 ft of trail to build, in addition to a 15 ft turnpike and several retaining walls. It is important for the crew to fulfill these goals because we are the last crew from Northwest Youth Corps coming to the Batey Boulder area. Erika B.

Thursday

We learned how to work better with each-other as well as how to make a turnpike with a culvert underneath it and new types of log retaining walls. The improvement as a team is evidenced by the fact that we set a group record for trail created. We learned a lot about each-other and how our lives are in connection and will be benefited by our time together. Brian W.

Friday

We worked and we started at 6:00 and it was good, so good it was great. We got 1,950 ft in it was an awesome week this week. We had the usual challenges of trail building. The turnpike was a challenge, we were able to finish it quickly and nicely. There was a great deal of mud under the turnpike location so the work which we did was very beneficial and positive to the overall trail experience. We had a great time in Colville. I would like to come back to Colville to work with John. We had to go back to Colville. Going back to a place where we had already been kind of made us bored. Getting over the boredom of a place where we had already been was a challenge. The muddy area by the turnpike was an arduous time in which a magnificent and glorious turnpike was created as well as a difficult cup basin, but a mighty efficient line of British origin brought forth buckets of love and soil. We triumphed with efficiency.—

A collaboration of Dodger Blue

**National Forest: Sawtooth NF**  
**Ranger District: Fairfield**  
**Project Name: Paradise Trail Maintenance**

Week 5: July 12, 2004

Monday

We went swimming in McCall. We had perfect pancakes. They were excellent. We hung out on the beach, went wading in the water, had great showers. We drove to our new project Saturday night, got freaked out at the campsite, screamed a little, and went to sleep. On Sunday we packed up all of our backcountry stuff, caught mules, and hiked to our campsite. It was a great weekend. Katie K.

Tuesday

We are building a new trail at 8,000 ft. in the Sawtooth Mountains. The area that we work and camp in borders a valley with much snow melt inlets to provide us with the best water of the session. Additionally we are working with a forest crew so the next week is more interesting and we progress faster.

Wednesday

Our goal this week was to make a good impression on the forest service crew. It was the first time and NYC crew had ever worked with the Fairfield Ranger district. Another goal was to bust out and do some major trail building. We also tried to stay as safe as possible because we were working in really steep terrain and there were a lot of rocks that had to be chipped away. Safety was a definite issue this week. Kari R.

Thursday

The main thing that our crew learned this week was the positive impact the amazing natural environment can have on people. We learned how much can be accomplished as far as trail work in sheer feet is concerned. We learned what joy there is to be derived in every moment even those that appear toughest. We learned how each person has the fire inside and when it is focused it can make amazing positive things occur in the group that build on each person and never end. Brian W.

Friday

The main challenge of the week was keeping focused and getting through it with the end so near in sight. Smaller challenges included making it through the hike in, cooking on a fire, and sleeping in the cold. The crews had a good dynamic and we completed 4500 ft of trail this week. We also accomplished a difficult hike in, and braved this difficulty of backcountry. We were working above 8,000 feet, but everybody kept up the good work. It was a challenge to work at the altitude of terrain, very different from that which we'd worked in before, so we had to adjust to the way we dig trails to overcome these challenges. All in all, it was an excellent last week and we accomplished a lot. Ben F.

***My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...***

My most challenging day at NYC was the first time we went into back country. The hike in was extremely difficult for me but when I got to our campsite it was like, "Oh, I did it, I made it." I have never had a harder day. Kari R.

Our first hike into the backcountry on the third day I was with the program.  
Brian W.

My first lunge into the grassy dirt ground with a hazel. Katie K.

It is hardest when we are hiking up and down hills. Wendy M.

My hardest day was also that first hike in, it was one of the most difficult and painful things I have ever done. Laina D.

The most challenging day at NYC for me was a day at our first location when the group ran out of water. It was hot out and the work was painful. In the end we had to stop and wait for more water to arrive. Emily P.

One of the last days in the last week, the terrain was very dry and it was hot and dusty. Group dynamics were getting to me; I was exhausted and cooking dinner on the fire. I ended up dropping the pot of food and burning my hand...tears Erika B.

There was a day during the first week where I felt like I hadn't had a break since I woke up, but I kept helping around camp and everything and it only made sleep worth more. Ben F.

***My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...***

When we were in Payette national forest, we completed 650 ft of trail with 10 people in one day. Dinner every night was always interesting; it was usually my favorite time of day. The entire time in the Sawtooth was great. Kari R.

Our last night with its storm and meditation, the hike into the Sawtooth, talking with Sara and whenever I made a positive connection with crewmates was my favorite experience. Brian W.

My favorite experiences was the work experience with 11 other people, camping out with just a fire and a tent, and learning the proper way to sharpen a tool. Katie K.

Getting new friends Wendy M.

My favorite experiences were the last night on the worksite, the hike into Sawtooth, and working and talking with different people. Laina D.

The hikes in and out of Sawtooth, the afternoon of our last day of work, and being crazy and delirious with friends were my favorites. Emily P.

My favorites were backcountry the last week, backcountry the third week, and finishing the session

My favorites were every living second of the week in the Sawtooth, the beauty I felt carrying my belongings upon my back on every backpacking trip. Sleeping beneath the stars. Our last workday. Overeating at dinner. Speaking with holy spirits. The breathtaking rainstorm, fire, reading and meditating. My favorite is my connections that I have made with these children of Blue and the knowledge and happiness I have gained from them. Erika B.

Working with John, our contact in Colville, was very inspiring. Getting to see the most beautiful place I could imagine in Sawtooth National Forest and to spend a week there was amazing. I worked harder than I have ever worked before on our last day, which was very rewarding. Ben F.

***One Thing I Will Always Remember...***

I will always remember the sunrises in the Sawtooth National forest. They were incredibly beautiful. Kari R.

I will remember the people I met and the thunderstorms. Brian W.

I had good times with the crew leader, rover, and the crew. Katie K.

The people on my crew. Wendy M.

I will always remember the places we went to. Laina D.

I'll remember the new friends I have made and the crazy jokes we made when we were dehydrated. Emily P.

Sunrises of orange Justin M.

The beauty of the Sawtooth National forest as seen when waking up before sunrise. Ben F.

***From Now On I Will Always...***

I'll wipe out negative feelings. Brian W.

I'll look at nature and nature's creation never the same. Katie K.

I will be grateful for the experience I have. Wendy M.

I will always practice low impact camping. Laina D.

I will appreciate the things I have and care for the places from which the resources come. Emily P.

I'll remember that I can neither take the luxury of society or the beauty of nature for granted. Ben F.

I'll remember that I can live without all the luxuries I have at home. Kari R.

*At NYC I Learned...*

I learned how to practice low impact camping, how to make trails, how to appreciate other people when you live with them constantly. Kari R.

I learned how to hike better, how to end negative emotions Brian W.

I learned that most water is good for you, how to appreciate the life around you in the woods, and how to respect all living things in the world. Katie K.

I learned how to do a bridge and do a trail and do a turnpike. Wendy M.

I learned to work hard for 10 hours a day, how to stay positive when things get hard, and how to appreciate the simple things in life. Laina D.

I learned proper low-impact camping techniques, campfire cooking, and better interpersonal skills. Emily P.

I learned water is not bad, how to build better trail, and not to punch someone for something small.

I learned how to be a leader in a bigger group, to exude les vibes positive and be happy, and to treat the environment and people around me with love and respect.

I learned how to live external to my possessions and comforts. I learned how to work with some people I might not work with if I had the choice. I learned that I love the outdoors. Ben F.

