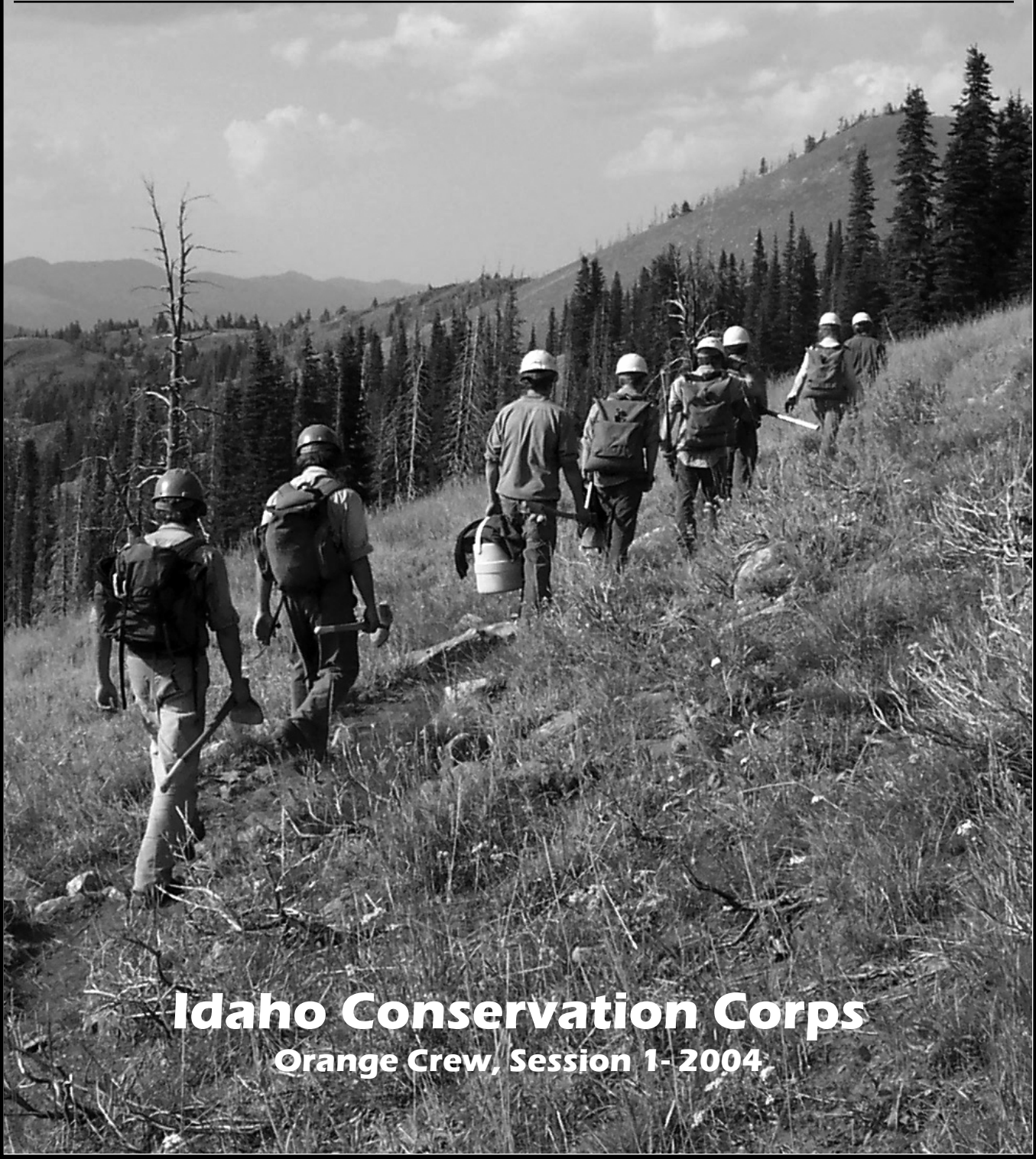




# Crew Journal



**Idaho Conservation Corps**  
**Orange 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 : Boise NF**  
**Ranger District Idaho City**  
**Project Name: Crooked River Trail Maintenance**

Week 1: June 14, 2004

Monday:

We all meet on Saturday for the first time. I just hung out with new people and looked at some of the stuff. The next morning was exciting because we found out what crew we were on. I got on the orange crew, the all guy crew. But it was cool we got to spend 3 hours in a van and hike ¼ mile straight down hill. For the first day of work we made 400' of new trail. We had a goal to get it all done but we did not quite make it. But we have like 15 feet to go it was fun so far I love it. Chris A.

Tuesday:

We are in the back country at the crooked river. We are doing trail work, mainly maintenance. We are also doing some brushing. This is necessary because the trail is so overgrown it is barely visible. Spirits remain high so far, although we are out of Iodine. There have been no Sasquatch sightings so far, but we remain hopeful. Perhaps we should set a trap. If we run out of food, it has been decided that we will eat the plumpest crew member. Nate C.

Wednesday:

Our goals for the week, is to complete the work on the trail. Things are going pretty well the crew members, including myself, Bacon has created a device that is dubbed "the man braw" it is made mostly of duct tape. That's what's happened today. The End. Frumencio .

Thursday:

Well, Thursday was pretty dark. I devised a new and improved man braw. It worked pretty well. Anyways, or anyhow for that matter, we worked pretty hard today. I got to make a rock wall by smashing rocks into a billion pieces and I made them tiny tiny pieces! Whoa that was a little exciting. Anyhow, got back to camp and made some pretty dank scalloped potatoes, well Marie made them and aside from the little iodine incident at dinner it was pretty chill. Pretty damn if you ask general Bacon Hobbs of the 1<sup>st</sup> division 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron of the NYC Navel fleet. So this is Bacon signing off saying god bless and eat bacon regularly. "Bacon" Jay H.

Friday:

This was our first week and it showed. We started off real strong and by Thursday we were dead. I believe our biggest challenge was finding the energy to keep going after Wednesday. This lack of energy came from two main sources. The first was fairly obvious. We are all extremely out of shape. It's going to take us a while to work off what fat we have (non in my case) and replace it with muscle. But it will happen. Merely because it has to. We have 4 more weeks left. We will die if we don't shape up. The other source of Fatigue was also our biggest accomplishment. We busted out at least two miles of some smoking tread. It was awesome until we realized that we were then working approx 3 miles from our campsite. When you have to walk 3 miles in sub-40 Degrees weather and then immediately start work... let's just say that it ain't easy. On the upside, we escaped rain all week. It just started after work today. Finally, I think our greatest challenge was living without the few things we miss the most; mainly root beer and Girls for some of us. We just miss the gender in general. Thankfully, our food was just rockin! For a bunch of guys who have never even heard of something called a "recipe" we've done an awesome job clearly one of our greater accomplishments. At this time we have 29 days left, 1 only hope they can be like the first six, with just a little more energy. Clifton M.

**National Forest: Boise NF**  
**Ranger District Idaho City**  
**Project Name: Crooked River Trail**

Week 2: June 21, 2004

Monday:

Well I'm so dead that I can't even think. Friday was only a half day. Friday evening we played capture the flag and I did a face plant. It hurt if you ask me. Ivan left Friday night before we started playing. Saturday we slept in. That was "dank" like Bacon aka Jay. We went to Idaho City. Let me tell you that is a small town. You drive on the main road and you can be out of the town in less than one minute. Nate came up with the idea that we are a tribe and can live out here. Sunday Nate came up with the Tribe's name Sasquatch Jedi Anaraha. Chris "ZERO" B.

Tuesday:

We are still at the Crooked River; we are still doing trail maintenance, due to the fact that the trail is still barley visible. Yeti/Sasquach sightings remain zero, although we have caught several small mammals in the sump. Today we met some hikers and there dog would have been fine eatin! The lack of our brains, and mutiny may be near at hand...Nate C.

Wednesday:

We got up about 5:00 so we could start earlier than the normal. So we could get off earlier we got a lot accomplished on the trail. We also had a Doe walk like ten feet away from me and was not scared of us. We thought it would have made good bait for the Big Foot trap but I was too nice. We have searched for a Big foot sign during our free time, but no luck. But we have not lost faith. The food is awesome but the iodine makes it a little hard because everyone stinks the tent up at night. And this is the up date signing off this is Chris A.

Thursday:

We learned there lives a baby sasquatch in our sump. We poured boiling water all over him on accident. Finally, we all learned to work together as a group to wash dishes faster, and enjoy a great group feeling while we work. During SEED we finally figured out how to not burn the stuff in the dutchee, but I miss that old fashioned taste. We had to say goodbye to Pac hake last week. Dave C.

Friday:

This weekend was the second and final week at the Crooked River, thank god. I believe that this week went better than last week because we packed it harder and busted some sweet mad-phatty sexy trail. Ivan went on a moldy flat bread vision quest and spoke with the trail goddess. She spoke to him in quote:” make sure your crew works themselves ragged. And by the way here some pimp sunglasses.” I am not making this up it is all true. So any way, we did work our selves ragged and Ivan did have pimp sunglasses, se we believed him. Another challenge besides putting up with Ivan was the heat. It was freakin’ hot. It was extremely hard to work in 90 degree weather, but oh well, I’ll stop complaining. Our accomplishments this week included almost finishing the trail, working hard, and hiking out of that stupid canyon. Well peace out for now. Word to your mother. Thomas R.

**National Forest: Colville NF or area that the work took place Colville  
Ranger District: Newport  
Project Name: Batey Boulder Trail Reconstruction**

Week 3: June 28, 2004

Monday:

Well after driving 8 hours from Idaho to Washington e set up camp & went to work in the morning. We finished several trail ends & lost our rock bar which sucks because I loved that hunk of steal \*sniff\* I am also going to miss the money from my check. “Bacon “Jay H.

Tuesday:

Today is Tuesday, we are in Coleville National Forest on Boulder Mt., We are building dirt bike trail, it is tough work due to thick layers of duff, despite that we push on. Frumencio C.

Wednesday:

As usual our first and foremost goal is to capture a yeti and sell it for large amounts of cash on Ebay. Other goals include finishing our current project with quality of course, that is our usual goal. As is being professional. Very professional Bacon’s goal is to produce a new man-braw.

His old one has worn away. As always the Yeti Jedi of Noranja will rock harder, longer, faster and louder than any other NYC crew. Nate C.

Thursday:

We learned lightning is dangerous and it really sucks when you have to go to bed wet and soggy. Cinnamon raisin and Hawaiian bread really go well together well, and Cliff learned how to make some awesome bread. We got to tear up some trail, and were taught how to take down water bridges. Bacon found out that ½ gallon of sesame seed oil and French ranch dressing does not go well on rice. It causes some nasty problems later. We still learnin' good ways to deal with each other, and haven't killed anyone yet. Dave C.

Friday:

This week we were camped with the Yellow crew so we got to chill out and together, it was cool. He got into a debate about logging because everybody had different ideas about how to conserve the forests and how to keep jobs and a good economy in the pacific northwest. Also this week there was some freaky lightning. We made it over the hump!

**National Forest: Salmon Challis NF**  
**Ranger District: Middle Fork**  
**Project Name: Middle Fork Trail Maintenance**

Week 4: July 5, 2004

Monday:

Today we woke up to a trumpet by Cliff. We had to walk about 2 miles to work where we found the tools, and what work was going to be done. Everything is going well. Bacon has had been a little sick, but that's about it. Everything is running smoothly. Dave C.

Tuesday:

We woke up and most of us felt really sick. I don't know if it was from the funky turkey last night or just some crew bug running around. After the 2 mile hike in, though a lot of us felt better. Lately a lot of my crew have been homesick, including me, and we'll start singing songs but not remember the words. I think it's good for us though-to be away from that stuff for a while. We got a new crew leader a while ago, and she taught me how to clear cut today with one of those cool old western saws-the really big ones. We hit a huge rock mountain today, and we threw rocks down the mountain to try and make some sort of a path. Later, we worked. I think I want to take up kayaking when I get home. We got to go swimming in the river, and the weather still seems friendly-same cool air and nice breeze. Until another day-Dave C.

Wednesday:

Our goals for the week are to finish a turnpike, and clear a section of trail of talus rocks. It is now week 4. Tensions in the crew are higher than usual as it has been a difficult project with long hikes, but we are hanging in there. We dream of fresh meat and vegetables. Except Ivan, he is a vegan so he just wants fresh fruit and veggies.

Thursday:

I am writing this with my remaining strength and arm. I am still alive. We learned how to build a turn pike & how to make a French drains. Although a challenge, I pounded stakes today with my one. Bacon a.k.a Jay H.

Friday:

Today we worked hard on the trail. Sometimes I get real tired, but it is worth it in the end. The hikes are usually long, and it is nice to hike to work early to get a good start on a hot day. Our crew has been getting along better this week and that is nice. Life is a lot more pleasant that way. It is also nice to be completing projects to a high degree of quality. My crew leader says that I have to work on this, but I hear that the crew leader told everyone else that too. NYC has been a challenge but it has taught me a lot.

**National Forest: Salmon/Challis NF**  
**Ranger District Middle Fork**  
**Project Name: Middle Fork Trail**

Week 5: July 12, 2004

Monday:

We've made it to the final week. Its hard to believe that the end is so close, I'm starting to get used to getting up early and the work doesn't seem nearly as hard as it did the first week. The scenery here is amazing, we've seen some groups rafting and kayaking, but not many hikers. Years from now I hope to come back to this trail and check out the work we've done

Tuesday:

Today the Ivan cooked up an amazing meal with beans and rice and lots of spices. We're so hungry after a hard day of work that almost anything tastes extra good, but this dinner was the bomb! I thought I was going to starve out here, but each week we've had plenty of food and I'm learning how to cook in the outdoors. We even made fresh baked bread in the fire. Not as good as grandmas, but man, it was good!

Wednesday:

Today was a slow and mostly uneventful day. We dug some trail, ate some food, and drank some water. I thought I saw a sasquatch until I realized it was only Nate doing his business in the bushes. I was very disappointed because I was going to capture the sasquatch and sell it for zillions on Ebay. I would have bought many things with those zillions, like buy food, food and more food. I would love eating that food very much and I would have prayed to the holly queens of the universe and thanked him for my good fortune. But of course this never happened. Thomas R.

Thursday:

Today I had a strange thought. . . Cosmic microbial genocide, oh, no! every time you take a bite, or take a step. Think of the microbes so called vegans are mass murderers pacifist tree hugging dirt-worshippers are veritable microbial-Hitlers. How can anyone live with themselves? Cosmic microbial genocide! Cosmic microbial genocide! Cosmic microbial genocide! Cosmic

microbial genocide! Cosmic microbial genocide! Cosmic microbial genocide! Cosmic microbial genocide! Cosmic microbial genocide! Beware the righteous microbial fury!

Friday:

Today we went to Stanley to make a store stop and phone calls. After that, we went to Stanley Lake to organize our stuff. And just spend some time to relax for a while. After that we took off to big clean which seemed to drag on but now it's time to eat.

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

*The first day of the third week. For some reason I had no energy. Swinging my tool was a chore. The day dragged on and on. It was hell. The day seemed longer than the first 2 weeks. It sucked I felt like laying down and the trail and sleeping. Fortunately I made it through. Nate C.*

*It was probably the first day of work because it was hard and I wasn't sure what to do. The hard work wasn't the worst part it was that I didn't know how to do the work and I kept messing up. Thomas R.*

*Was the first day, new people, new place, new work-terrifying. Jay H.*

*The first week we worked on what seemed like an impossible slope but we did it. Frumencio C.*

*The fourth and third week-iodine was giving me a hard time-and I had to kill so many trees; it was insane. David C.*

*At the weekend, where we had a scavenger hunt with only 4 people. And I won. Darren M.*

*The first week it seemed we would be here for ever. Chris A.*

### ***My Favorite NYC Experiences Were...***

*When Bacon had an eating contest with yellow crew. I loved the van rides, singing country and oldies with Ivan and the rovers. Walking around town at the weekend site at McCall. I met an old guy and we talked for a while. David C.*

*When Marie made delicious dutchie brownies. Nate C.*

*Chilling with my crew. Eating 7 bowls of food, Hanging with everyone during this weekend site. Jay H.*

*Eating lots of food. Enjoying the little sleep I had. Thomas R.*

*Feeling a sense of accomplishment. Meeting girls on weekend sites. Outdoor cooking. Frumencio C.*

*All the store stops we had. Building my first turnpike. Hanging out with the crew. Darren M.*

*Hanging out at the weekend site. Making awesome friends. Going swimming. Chris A.*

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

*The day I ate 7 bowls to “get on Ivans crew” Jay H.*

*My fellow crew members and the impact we had on each others lives. Frumencio C.*

*The people I lived with for 5 weeks. Thomas R.*

*The Frank Church wilderness of No Return. I will definitely need to return at some point. Nate C.*

*These last 5 weeks will always be remembered. Darren M.*

*All the great friends and memories I made. Chris A.*

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

*Work hard at every task before me. Frumencio C.*

*Look at the task at hand and think of the possibilities rather than thinking it's impossible. Jay H.*

*Finish what I started. Thomas R.*

*See the mistakes in trails I walk on but also appreciate the work put into it. Cliff M.*

*Try to look at life with a way more positive attitude and always smile-also to appreciate my home life much more. David C.*

*Enjoy a cush lifestyle. Nate C.*

*Be a better person towards work. Darren M.*

*Look at trails in a different way. Chris A.*

***At NYC I Learned...***

*How to build a turn pike, dig trail, and how to get along with many people. Jay H.*

*Good work ethic. How to deal with people you don't really like. Responsibility Thomas R.*

*To work to my full potential for eight hour days. That pain and fatigue are mostly mental things. Nature wipe is much more preferable than toilet paper. Cliff M.*

*How wonderful the woods are. The worth of a dollar that you've worked for, and the needs for wilderness preserves. Fremencio C.*

*To bust quality trail. To not lose it an annoying people. To pack a pack. Nate C.*

*How to dig good top line. Deal with iodized water. Interact with people. Darren M.*

*How to build trail and hike long distances. Chris A.*

