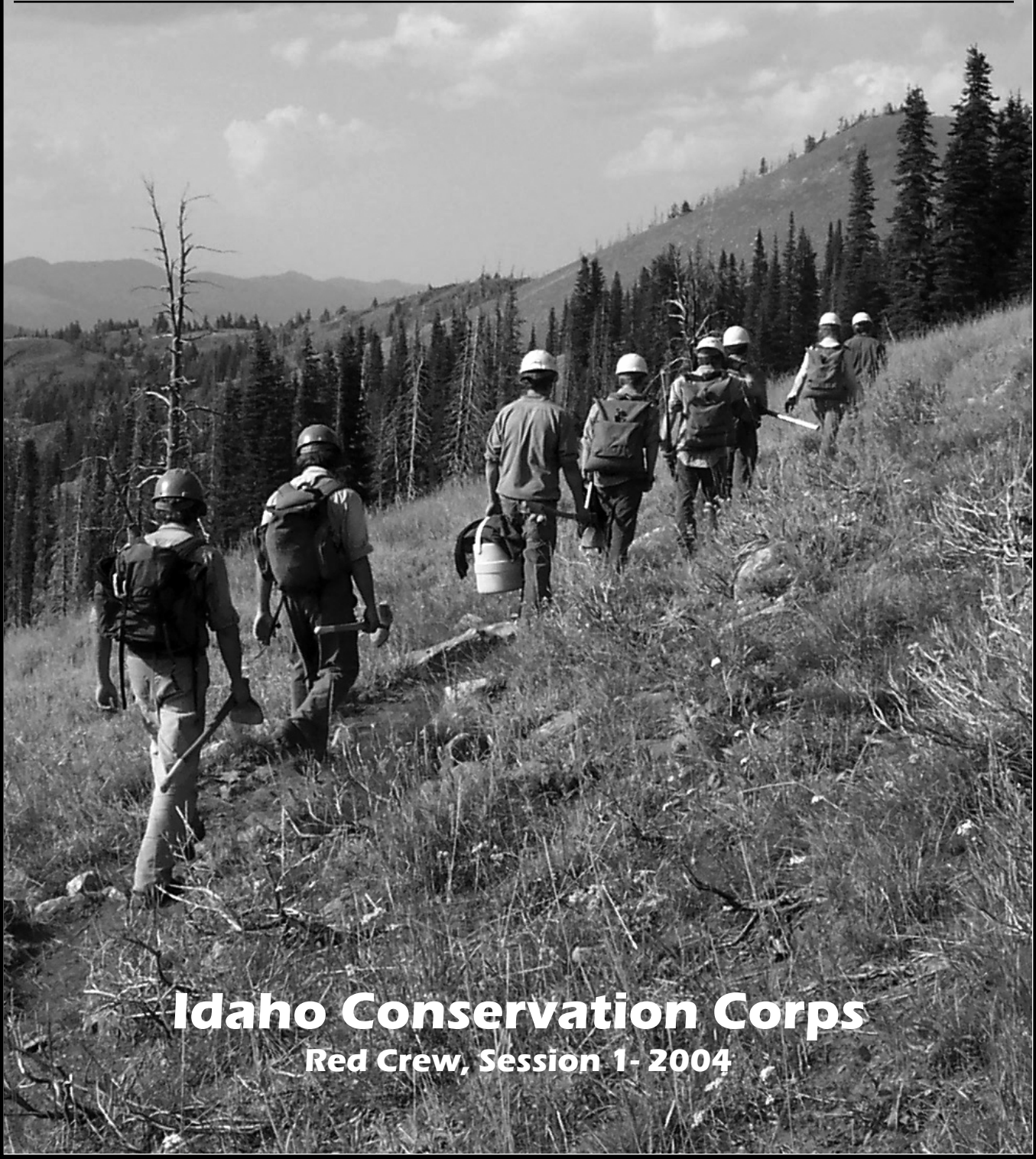




Crew Journal



Idaho Conservation Corps
Red 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: Payette NF
Ranger District: McCall
Project Name: Willow Basket Creek Area Trails

Week 1: June 14, 2004

Monday

Red crew walked in 3 miles with yellow crew and set up camp. The next day we took down camp and moved a mile or less away. We then rebuilt trails and took apart a bridge and carried it away. I'm having fun getting to know people and learning about the outdoors. Bryce J.

Tuesday

The project for this week is to clean up trails and make it more awesome. We are in Payette National forest and we are near McCall. We are widening and refurbishing, and repairing trails to get it nicer. Kaitie T.

Wednesday

Well I think our crew is determined to do a good job! We want to work to do our full potential! We want to accomplish our assigned jobs as a team and use each person's talents in a way that makes us better as a whole. We want no serious injuries, and also want to get all of our tasks somewhat mastered by the end of the week. Kaitlin T.



Thursday

At the beginning of the week our crew didn't know how to do the job or work together. I'm pretty impressed how we learned how to build a trail, a turnpike, how to carry heavy stuff, cook on a fire... I'm glad we're working so well together. When some kids from yellow crew came in to help us out today I realized how hard my own crew works and how well we are coming together as a team. A couple days ago I wasn't sure how great it would be to do this for five weeks. I love the hours we are working, and now we are ending our first week and I feel great. Anna C.

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

Week 2: June 21, 2004

Monday

This weekend my crew and yellow crew met up at a weekend sit near McCall Idaho. For our rec activity we got to go to a museum and relax by a lake. The museum was an old log house and was very interesting to learn about and explore. During the rec activity we got to be with some yellow crew members. It was fun to meet some new people and talk about what they did that week. The most exciting part aside from taking a shower and eating ice cream was getting to call home. I called my mom and dad and told them about what I had been doing with NYC. I miss my parents a lot but staying here has been very educational. I've learned a lot and I'm very excited to learn more in the upcoming weeks. Carmen C.

Tuesday

It is the second week out of the five and as they say the honeymoon is over. We have found some things by now that may drive us crazy, for instance the red ant that just bit my leg or the constant "Arnold" impersonations, but despite it all, today I realized I really like my crew! I am learning so much. For instance I learned more about cows here in the past week than in all my 19 years in Wisconsin. Everyone here is so different and so unique! I am enjoying learning about each person's life, their background and personality. For everything I have found bad I have found 20 things good. Also I know by the end I will be a better person for knowing these people and for what they have all taught me. Kaitlin T.

Wednesday

From what I can see today was a good day. I think we had some interesting conversations on the trail today. One was how all the other jobs that I applied for were a lot less fun. Working at Ace hardware wouldn't have been as much fun as being in the woods and actually building something that people will use as opposed to selling them hardware. Josh B.

Thursday

I had a good day today. The weather was fair but there is a thunderstorm over-head right now, it is not raining yet but it would be kind of cool to see it thunderstorm. I have always loved thunderstorms they are very relaxing to me. It looks like the sky is about to break....ahh it just did. Today's work was pretty same same but it was cool to have the pride at the end of the day to say, "that is that trail I built," and be proud of it. Max A.

Friday

I think we came together as a crew a lot this week. Even after doing the tread on trails we did earlier this week, the still had too many holes and rocks, whereas the work we did today looked pretty good. I was really discouraged this morning when we hiked in over trail I had thought we had finished, but I got into a good groove later that day. I really love working on trail. I feels good to be at the top of a line and dig a lot and push myself, as long as no one makes me too mad or comes too far into my space, I feel like I could do that work for hours. We're all really looking forward to going into town. It's not that we don't love it at this site, or that we are looking forward to anything in particular. I think we're all so used to school and jobs that we can count down hours without even being aware of it. So, it feels good to have the week done and see our crew coming together and improving. I hope we can keep up through next week!! Anna C.

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

Week 3: June 28, 2004

Monday

When I think about the hard work days and early mornings here at NYC I feel tired and a little overwhelmed. But I'm glad I'm here. It's hard to explain and hard to understand why I would have a good time out in the wilderness, working hard and eating all kinds of powdered food. Doing these things with my crew has been awesome. Each day I'm here I feel lucky to be doing this. Carmen C.

Tuesday

Hail...hail...hail...and more hail. Hail is cold and wet.

Though we thought the tent was set

This was far from true.

Sleeping in long underwear

Because sopping pants we all do share

While Carrie runs from a big black bear

Work was long and boring

Because we did not sleep

We shivered in our tent and tried to count sheep

Now its time for alchemist we're going to hit the sack

See you in the morning if the bear does not come back Kaitlin T.& Crew

Wednesday

Today we saw a fox, we named him Pete. Dane was the first person to see him as he was chopping a root that was in the middle of the trail. He turned and saw it. The Pete was a red tail fox but he was actually blondish color. He went to tell Katie and Pete followed him up to her. Then they called me and I came over and saw him and then he sat down and looked at us then Pete got up and took a stick from a dead log and walked off. Max A.

Thursday

Today was an interesting day. We walked all the way to work then 4 of us got to go back and bush wack the things on the edge. That was fun but then we had to go back with the rest of the crew and move rocks, lots and lots of rocks and it felt like it went on forever. But we made it through and when we got to 2nd break and found out we didn't have to work the last ½ hour of work, so I walked as fast as I could and I was the first one back. Brandy L.

Friday

Two weeks ago our crew woke up at the weekend site at 7:00am. We were told where we were going and loaded he trailer and headed out for the Salmon/Challis National Forest. We then met our contacts, Brain and Nara, and they hiked in the four miles with us to our camp. It was a pretty ugly trail with roots and rocks all over the place. When Monday rolled in we got up and started on the trail, we made good time and got pretty far for the first part of the trail, just below our camp. The next day we started on the trail above our camp, man was that a long trail. The

next few days we started on the turnpikes and gathering the rock. We also encountered the three biggest hail storms ever, man, hail sure does hurt when it hits you. Anyway the storms rolled on and on our last day, the hike out seemed to be forever, but when our crew finally reached the van, we were so happy we decided to get pizza. That was the best meal we had eaten in three weeks. We then went to sleep. In the morning we went and took our showers, those felt good, then we started our laundry. Dane M.

National Forest: Salmon/Challis NF
Ranger District: Middle Fork
Project Name: Rapid River Trail Maintenance

Week 4: July 5, 2004

Monday

Today we got a late start because we worked on our bear hang until 10:30. Since this happened we had to work in the heat of the day but we stuck it out and prevailed. Upon returning to camp our contact Brian risked his life by leaning over a cliff to save our food from dropping into the river of no return. Bryce J.

Tuesday

Today was really exciting; I woke up while the moon was still out. Yesterday was kind of slow and sluggish, but we really busted trail out today! It was so much fun to see how good we are getting at trail work. We all had a part in the trail, each job made that turn out just the way it did and that was really special to me. Carmen C.

Wednesday

I had such a good day today! Twiggs and I got to work on a Culvert it was really muddy and we had fun at lunch getting to throw it at each other. While digging the trench I saw a board and we both decided to pry it up. We expected it to lead to nothing but we were surprised to find a hollow little way going through the mountain and under the trail. We both thought it was an old mine. It was exciting to think about it being an old mine and about the people who would have used it. Our contact told us there were some old mines around but this one was all buried, I was proud to think we found something like that. Everyone on our crew was asking questions about it and it felt very good to tell everyone the story of what happened because everyone was very interested in what I was saying. Once we had everyone come out and look at it a boy on my crew named Josh told us it was just a drain, and he was right. Carmen C.

Thursday

Today we found out that we hiked 4 miles to work and 4 miles back. We all wanted to die. But when we all got back to camp it felt that we had accomplished so much even though it took us forever to get there and back and the hike back felt so long because we weren't getting paid. Brandy L.

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.

Sunday

The week has begun. The mind wonders and drifts through the work day... it starts in one and ends in another. Random thoughts as we pound out more trails. We beat our record but set another. We break 1,000 but we feel like we have just begun. We have no idle chatter but awesome thoughts, deep, passionate, and from the heart. We learn from others what we cannot grasp ourselves. I know at least I have grown not in height but in ideas. I feel you can learn years in one conversation. But first the crew opens their minds. I gained what I had hoped... knowledge. Through it all we keep making more trails. Maxwell A.

National Forest: Salmon/Challis NF
Ranger District: Middle Fork
Project Name: Rapid River Trail Maintenance

Week 5: July 12, 2004

Monday

Today is Monday. It is always slow with difficulties with keeping a pace, working hard, or just standing. Then it gets a little warmer and we get our pace and everyone is working to a point. But today we were working fast and at a great pace until the heat hit with force and we slowed down steadily. Today though it was really hot it was fun because we did a great deal of work in our time and I was in front helping with cutting the top line to a fine 45*angle. It was hard work and a challenge but I stuck through it and once I got going it was very easy after that. Today was really fun. Kaitie T.

Tuesday

Today we met our goal for the week. We made it to Sheep creek. We stood on the bridge over sheep creek admiring our accomplished goal for five minutes; we saw a burn tree that looked like the statue of liberty. There was also some arguing on the trail today. We talked and sang songs while we worked. We get root beer for meeting our goal. Zack L.

Wednesday

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.

Thursday

Well, I believe this will be the last time I write a journal entry. It is the end of our work week and the last week of the session. We made it through storms of hail, we made it through fights, and we made it through cold nights on the ground and long hot work days and endless hikes. It feels good... but I will miss it all. I will miss sleeping in a tent with four awesome girls

(women). I will miss all the good talks on trail and around the camp fire. I will miss all the goofing around and laughing till we can no longer breath. I will miss all the beautiful places we stayed at, the things I saw and smelled and touched and heard. From his I have gained experience and knowledge I have me ideas of things I would like to do in the future, Its time to go home but I will take part of my experiences here with me always.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

In the second to last day was getting ready for the hike out. Katie T.

The last day because of hike out cause when I was almost out, my ropes came untied. Zach L.

I had a hard time in the middle of the last week, because I was getting sick and everyone's nerves were stretched. I was ready to leave, but by the end of the week I was having a lot of fun again. Anna C.

Having to go through parent's week and having to leave my family again. Dane M.

When we walked 11 miles & I had a very heavy pack. Bryce J.

The day the parents left on 4th of July and we weren't able to go with them. Brandy L.

The days I didn't feel like working. I had to force myself to get to work. Josh B.

The last day it seemed in slow motion. Max A.

When I got sick & couldn't move with out hurting but stuck it out through the last work day. Katie T.

In the 2nd week I felt alone and not myself. It was hard to have all that on my shoulders and still have to work my 8 hours. But I'm glad I worked right through it as hard as that was. Carmen C.

That there is more the person than there physical being. Brandy L.

Push myself to more than I can handle. I will always tell my mom I love her. Zack L.

Be more comfortable around people I don't know that well I will be more accepting. Josh B.

I will always appreciate the trail, I would tell my mom I love and appreciate her. Max A.

From now on I will always remember I can push myself & be so much more. Katie T.

Appreciate the work I have done to help the forest and keep it green. Dane M.

To get breaks from life and spend time outdoors, and remember that people aren't all they're cracked up to be. Anna C.

Time to realize all possibilities for my life. I feel proud knowing I can and did do something in life. NYC has helped me look at my potential in many areas. Carmen C.

From Now On I Will Always...

The conflict & resolution we had in our crew, also how we over came all of them. Brandy L.

The hard work. I will also remember the relationships I made. Josh B.

I will remember the mountains & the stars at night. I will remember Josh's feet. Bryce J.

No one quit on our crew and we all stuck with it. Katie T.

The sweat and blood I put into the trail. How good it looked in the end. Max Allee
Conversations I had with my friends, and how much I love nature and work. Anna C.

Being able to put my logging knowledge to the test. Dane M.

The people that I met an NYC and the crew leaders. I will remember the trail work I did. Zack L.

My friends I met here & this place & how great it was. Katie T.

The times we got to chill and just talk. I've learned about who I am by getting to know every one else. Carmen C.

At NYC I Learned...

I have learned so much I learned to be responsible for your actions and take the consequences. I learned about myself and I learned to deal with people that can get on you nerves. Max A.

I learned ho to work hard how to be more accepting person, and how to be more independent. Josh B.

I have learned a lot about different people and different backgrounds, I learned about pushing myself & hard work & about different things I could do in my future. Katie T.

I learned the things I value in life and what I hope to be in 5 or 10 years. Anna C.

I learned to work with other people and learned to make great trail, and learned to hike with really heavy packs. Katie T.

To deal with other people & that I need to work harder. Bryce J.

I learned to get to know other people, work harder, and have more fun. Dane M.

How to be more patient with annoying people. Also how to cope with peoples attitudes and problems. Brandy L.

That trail work is harder then it looks. How to deal with people who I don't get along with much. Zach L.

I learned to be freely me around these people, I learned to not take things to seriously, and work hard all the time. Carmen C.

