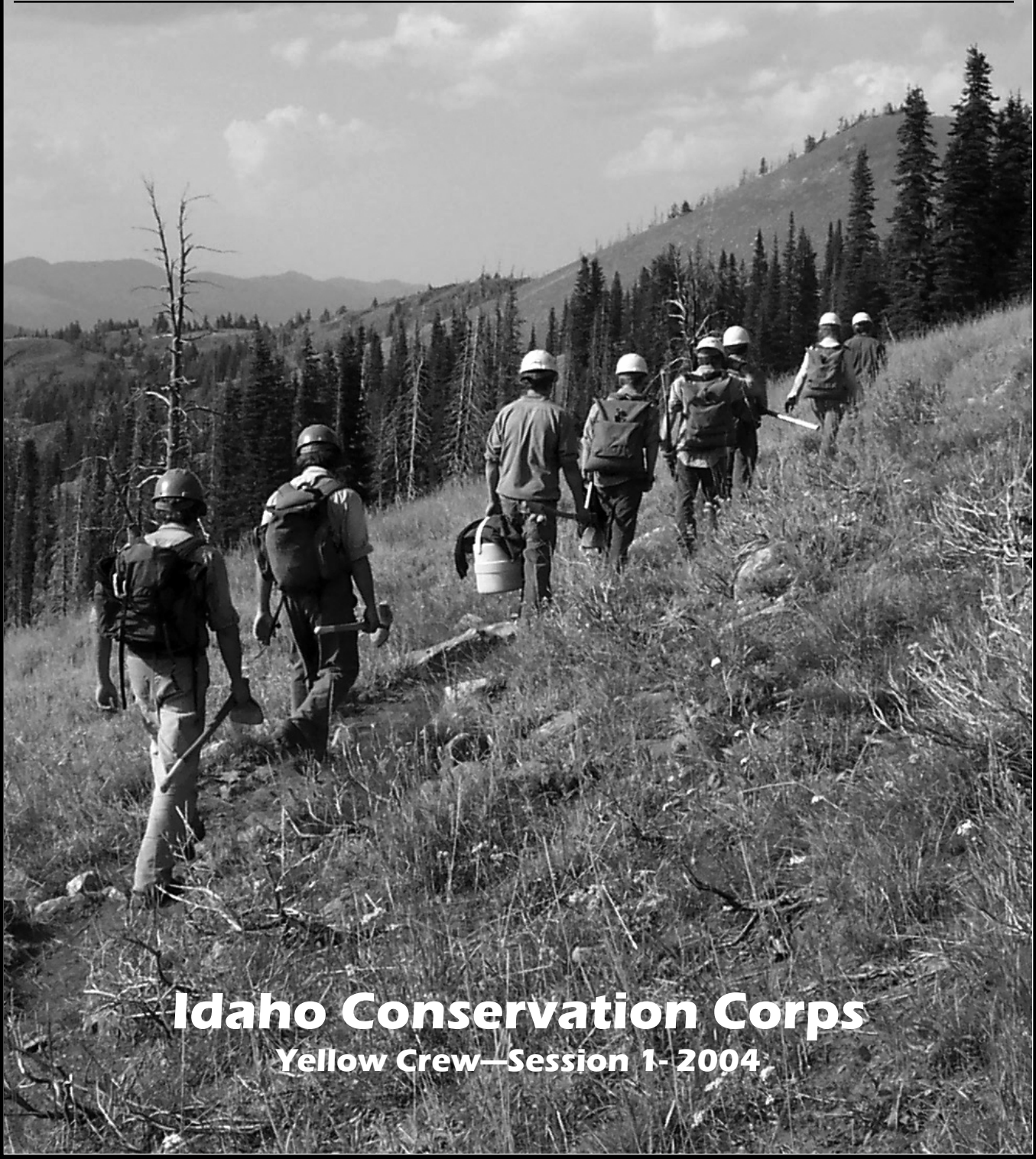




Crew Journal



Idaho Conservation Corps
Yellow 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 re-counting 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'. The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial 'R' and 'O'.



National Forest: Payette NF
Ranger District McCall
Project Name: Willow Basket Creek Bridge

Week 1: June 14, 2004

Monday:

We arrived, had orientation, and set up our respective tents. We had dinner then packed up the next day. We drove to our site long drive. I bought some new boots. We arrived at our trail head, packed up, and hiked into our site with the red crew. Alex J.

Tuesday:

We are in the McCall Ranger district. We are building a bridge. We are doing this so people can cross the river with out getting wet. This is all I know. Christina Rencehausen
We are also re-routing a trail past the bridge we are making. All I know is that this project is SWEET! Alex J.

Wednesday:

Today we learned how to work out a problem together each person grabbed the hand of the person in the circle directly across from each other and we worked to get the circle back together again without letting go. And we also move as a group without moving our foot from our partners foot and moving as one. We have been able to talk to our working partners while working to keep the day interesting. Matthew C.

Thursday:

As a crew, we learned that a little team work really goes a long way. With trail work, it is less necessary, because it is most efficient to spread out along the trail and work individually. Since we're building a bridge, we are all in it together, working towards one task and one goal. A prime example of this was the bailing system we used to remove water from the holes we were digging. If one person slacked, the whole team was let down. Alex J.

Friday:

Today we worked 5 hours just getting the abutments built up to the top of the holes. At 11 or so we headed back to camp and began to pack up. It took us a little longer than it should have and packs were a little heavier than they should have been. This was because the horses packed everything except personal gear in. we had a lot of food to pack back out. The hike out was about three miles and the pack spread out along the trail. The first few people arrived back at the van about 15 min ahead of the rest. It took us longer than it should have. When it was finally time to go we all piled into the van and got to rest for 10 min before the trailer came off, smacking into the back door of the van. The trailer drug along the ground for a few seconds before we stopped. The air was thick with dust. Everyone hopped out to put the trailer back on and get us moving again. Showers today! Expensive showers after getting laundry done. We made it to the weekend site before red crew and started getting set up. Dinner took a long time and it was dark before we ate. Next came dishes and bed.

National Forest: Colville National Forest

Ranger District: Newport

Project Name: Baley Boulder Trail Reconstruction

Week 2: June 21, 2004

Monday:

This weekend we hung out with red crew near McCall Idaho. It was really cool because there was a real toilet. I'm sure the poor people of McCall were shell shocked at having to put up with 20 kids straight in from the back country. We visited to central Idaho history museum and then we took in the lake. We had to split into two groups for the trip into town which was cool because Red and Yellow crews were mixed up. We also experienced down town McCall as well which wasn't that exciting. Jani R.

Tuesday:

This week we are building a puncheon at Baley Boulder. We are also building a trail. I think they are both going to be different, a lot different. I hope the trail isn't filled with a bunch of different little rocks. The puncheon is going to be a bit tiring because of the water most of us were trying to get out. Lynda R.

Wednesday:

Our crew's goals for the week were to destroy a puncheon and build a new one and the do some trail work after the blue crew moved out of our camp spot. Sam Angelo

Thursday:

This week we learned to demolish and rebuild a puncheon. We made the puncheon out of trees that we cut down and skinned. We used a little bit manufactured lumber but it was still a great experience. Channing A.

Friday:

Week 2 was very fulfilling & joyful. Our crew project was to build a puncheon. We accomplished our project sooner than the expected due date. We worked hard & even harder during the week. I feel our major challenge was moving the logs into a place so they were perfectly level (on all sides). It was a great accomplishment finishing the project before it was due. I feel the yellow crew was working together & has a family that's been living together for years. The last day we worked (Friday) we started build trails & we accomplished 500 feet which was great for not building trail before. Savanna B.

National Forest: Colville NF

Ranger District: Newport

Project Name: Batey Bould Trail Reconstruction

Week 3: June 28, 2004

Monday:

We worked a full day on Friday and on Saturday we picked up our new rover. I've worked with him before we watched the Rodeo Parade that was in town, it was pretty cool. We also did laundry and hung out in a local Mexican restaurant. The food was absolutely amazing. Some of us girls ordered flan and something else. We came back to camp and hung out for a while.

Christina R.

Tuesday:

We worked on a turnpike today. We started off finding large rocks to build a rock wall. We finished skinning logs and then hauled them down to the trail. We dug and filled drainage ditches with rocks. A couple of people also finished up building trail at the top. We are in the Colville National Forest, building trail for off road vehicles.

Wednesday:

Yellow crew's goals this week were to finish 1,000 feet of trail. We accomplished about 2,500 feet. Which was great we set our goals & achieved them with great expectations. So next time we can set our personal & crew goals even higher. We didn't lose anymore crew members which was a crew goal we set after we lost Alex. Peace Out Savanna B.

Thursday:

This week we learned how to build a turnpike. We did a pretty good job. We did a lot of trail work so we learned some new techniques. We are getting really good at the trail building thing. We are also trying to learn new stretches. The old ones are not doing too well. We are also learning new ways to stay off each others nerves. Lynda R.

Friday:

This week was hard because we lost another crew member, Alex. We started out the session with 11 people and now we're down to 9 another reason the week was hard was because we stayed with and worked with orange crew the entire week. This was especially frustrating for us

girls since the guys outnumbered us by like 2 to 1. Orange is an all guy crew. Our crew hasn't done much trail work so this week was fun. I think most of our crew likes building trail better than working in muddy holes. We did manage to build a small turnpike about 2,000 feet of trail and we got along with orange crew all week. We also helped tear down a couple of puncheons which was fun. Now we are headed down to the weekend site in McCall, having been out of the loop for 2 weeks. Jani R.

National Forest: Payette NF
Ranger District: McCall
Project Name: Willow Basket Bridge

Week 4: July 5, 2004

Monday:

We drove into McCall Friday. Saturday was parent's day. We had a scavenger hunt as a rec trip. After winning milkshakes, we had real hamburgers & hotdogs for dinner. Following dishes, we had a Saturday night circle. Bedtime was 9:30. at 5:00 am we woke up and packed up camp. We drove 3 hours to Payette and hiked in three miles. We arrived a little after 12:00
Thalia B.

Tuesday: This week we are in the Payette National Forest finishing our bridge. For all of yesterday and half of today, we used bucket lines to move a LOT of dirt. The entire crew is sick of bucket lines. We hate them. They are evil. The rest of the bridge looks pretty cool. It's supposed to be done by Monday or Tuesday; for the rest of today most of us dug trail while 3 people and Tim worked on the bridge. For the rest of the week we'll be doing trail maintenance and stuff like that. Jani R.

Wednesday:

The goals for the week are to finish our bridge. This includes finishing the main boards across the rope, getting planking put on and building the approaches. We will be moving a lot of soil.

Thursday:

My crew learned this week how to lay out the stringer of the bridge, the simple nail pattern that you had to use throughout the whole thing & practice our expertise of building a puncheon. We are also learning the process of how to make an approach to the bridge that is precisely 10% (ten feet rise over run). Its' coming a long great & the finish result should be on Tuesday!
Savanna B.

Friday:

This week our crew has had many challenging tasks ranging from bridge construction to rerouting trail. We successfully completed about 600 feet of trail and filled tow abutments full of dirt which we moved from barrow Pitts using buckets in a fire line. We also reconstructed some water bars and run offs. We finished most of the decking on our bridge, and we are about 65% done with our bridge; I think? But we still have a lot of dirt to move and some railing to build.
Channing A.

National Forest: Payette NF
Ranger District: McCall
Project Name: Willow Basket Creek Bridge

Week 5: July 12, 2004

Monday:

On Saturday my crew and I hiked to Loon Lake and checked out the ruins of a bomber plane. It was awesome then hung out at the lakeside for a while. Channing got stung by a massive killer bee. Then Erin, Thalia and I chased Tim with a huge frog. He screamed and wailed like a little girl. After the lake we raced down the trail to camp and ate dinner. Sunday we worked so that we may finish out top-of-the-line bridge. Christina R.

Tuesday:

We are in the Payette National Forest, building a bridge extra high because in the spring the snowmelt raises the creek quite high. Lots of people use the trails in this area including hikers, mt. bikers, horse back riders and hunters.

Wednesday:

This week our crew's main goal was to finish our bridge. We did that yesterday. So for the rest of the week our goals are showers, ice cream and graduation. Yeah so there's no more work for us to do. We're VERY happy with this. All that's left for us to do is hike out (done this morning) and hang out until the weekend site. No more bucket lines! No more mud! We hiked out this morning. Yup. Don't have anything else to write. We miss our pet deer, Beauregard. We found an alien named fillinni and made him our mascot today. Jani R.

Thursday:

On Thursday we stayed the night like a mile away from whoop um up. We read a doctor sues story that was pretty interesting. It was about this person destroying the forest and killing the wild life. That about all we did and we played in the water for a little while. Sam A.

Friday:

Our crew spent a lot of time in bucket lines filling in the approaches to the bridge. This was challenging because the second half the day and we didn't have time for that. The railing was put up and the sections of trail that led to and from the bridge were dug. And we were able to take showers on Wednesday. We also discovered toads won't stay zipped in a sleeping bag. Even if you put them in the very bottom. Fellini the new mascot was discovered in McCall possibly left by aliens.



My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

One day during the second week where we had to dismantle a puncheon and we were knee deep in mud. It was especially hard dispersing the wood because we had to take it all a really long ways up this hill. Jani R.

The day I found out that a close relative has passed away. Christina R.

When we had to empty water from holes early in the morning and sometimes we would lose a bucket in the river and have to jump in after them. Lynda R.

Carrying the buckets back & forth while it was pinching my fingers & everyday we would go back to the site my hands where swollen (but now I'm fine) Savanna B.

The first day I worked on trail work with blue crew because I wasn't used to the sun & that type of work. Thalia B.

Our first day of the last week and I did bucket lines for all eight hours of the day. It didn't seem like we were making any progress. Erin M.

The first day of work when I was trying to deal with my broken collar bone and swinging the tool. Matthew C.

Backpacking for three miles into the work site, because I have never walked with a heavy back pack for that far. Sam A.

The morning we woke up early in the morning and had to jump into a big pit of water; two feet deep, that had a thin layer of ice over it and bail water for an hour or more. My other most challenging day was in the first week, I was caught sitting on the job and make up for it by working my A** off for the rest of the day. Channing A.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Trying to find the latrine in the dark with 3 other people during the first week. When Marie dropped the guys tent on them. When we finished our bridge. Jani R.

Finishing our bridge in Payette. Bonding with my crew. The 3rd weekend site. Christina R.

Finishing the bridge. Bonding with my crew. Pulling the stakes from the guys tent. Lynda R.

Pulling the stakes from the guys tent. Taking showers. Finishing the bridge. Savanna B.

Scavenger hunt on the third weekend & buying fruit, getting to know the rovers, working on the bridge with just my crew the last 2 weeks. Thalia B.

Swimming with the girls in the creek. Getting done with the fill in our bridge. Packing out two days early. Erin M

The third weekend running around McCall. Finishing the bridge we were working on. Chilling for two days and getting two showers. Matthew C.

All the crews together at the weekend site. The third weekend somebody's parent gave me a big fat steak. A half an hour shower. Sam A.

Making friends with the people on the crews. The third weekend site with my brother and other family members, and some crew members. Finishing the bridge and hiking out 2 days early. Channing A.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Is the difference between the day we started our bridge and the day we finished it. The differences between totally flat ground and for foot deep holes and the completed bridge are amazing. Jani R.

I will always remember my crew and how we went from eleven strangers to one big family. Christina R.

The stupid things people in our crew did. The jokes we played on each other. The day to day stuff. Lynda R.

How much fun I had with my fellow crew members. The bonding memories. Savanna B.

The happiness of eating cherries & just riding in the van with nothing else to do, with good friends. Thalia B.

The hour after work on the last day swimming in the creek and how much fun it was.

Is my crew leader telling me don't go around the stump cut it out and cover it over. Matthew C.

The great time I had at the weekend site. Sam A.

My experiences at NYC and how much fun I had at the weekend site. Channing A.



From Now On I Will Always...

Remember that I, too have a valuable story to tell. Jani R.

That my life isn't as boring as it seems. Christina R.

The people I have met here. Lynda R.

Ask more questions from people & do my best to make solutions not problems.
Savanna B.

Count my blessing and remember that I can do anything I put my mind to. Thalia B.

Keep my eyes and ears open because there is always a story some one hasn't told.
Erin M.

Cut out the stump in life and remove it. Matthew C.

To be open minded and not judge people until I get to know them. Channing A.

At NYC I Learned...

To appreciate good food (no more rice and beans everyday!) That water is a precious resource. That the trails I hike on are a work of art. Jani R.

I can be a leader. I can be open minded and outgoing. You can go for weeks with out showers. Christina R.

You can go with out showers. To appreciate trail and such more. To appreciate toilets and such. Lynda R.

To be outrageous and outgoing. How to do the decking on a bridge. To use a Pulaski. Savanna B.

How to work harder than I thought I could. How to live & work with someone I didn't get along with that well. Learned about different futures & jobs. Thalia B.

That I love hanging out in a group of girls but I do need alone time. Erin M.

Two new knots. How to push my limits while not one hundred percent. How to get stronger while being weak in an area. Matthew C.

How to be a better team worker. I also learned the names of trees. Learned how to cook better. Sam A.

To be more open minded about other ways of life. I learned that it is pretty easy to lose weight when you work hard. I learned how to tie two new knots.
Channing A.

