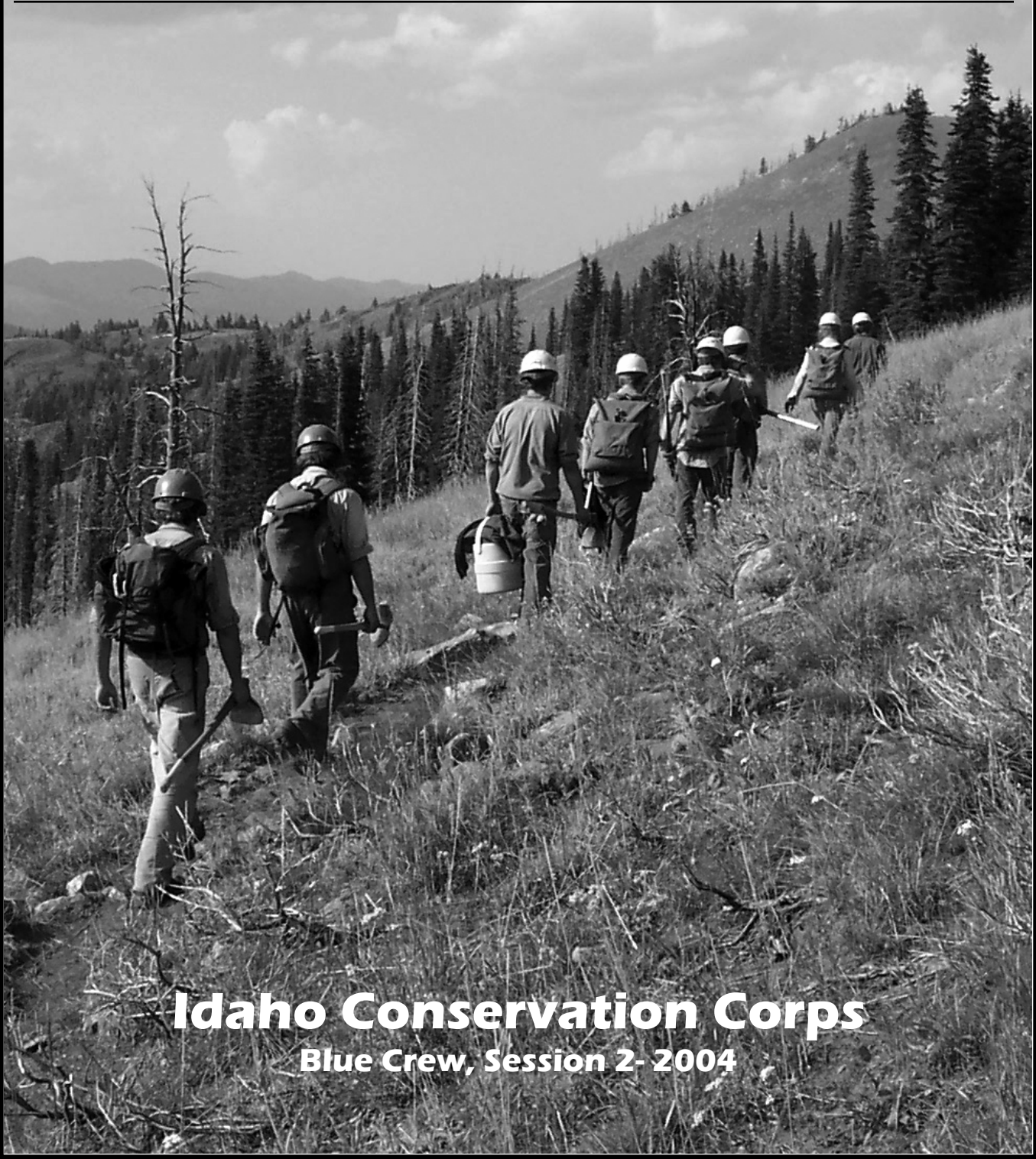




Crew Journal



Idaho Conservation Corps
Blue Crew, Session 2- 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: Sawtooth NF
Ranger District: Fairfield
Project Name: Paradise Trail Maintenance

Week 1: July 26, 2004

Monday: this weekend we had orientation. Saturday we arrived at about 12:30-12:00! We had an intro & got to know each other. Sunday we got up at 6:00 & left for our site. We then hiked 6 miles to the camp.

Tuesday: The project assigned to us this week is good old trail making. We are in the Fairfield district of the Sawtooth National Forest, about 6 miles from the trail head up in the hills. The trail we are making is completing the loop that a crew last session started. We are doing this to expand access to the incredible views of this area.

Wednesday: There has been much talk from the crew leaders and crew alike that it is our goal to finish our current project. (Maintaining and building hiking trails) Justin was told by a forest service member a few days before we arrived, that NYC wouldn't be able to do it by the end of this week. We have already made a large sum of progress. Joe P.

Thursday: This week, the blue crew learned a lot about hard work. We found out that digging through solid rock isn't the most entertaining in the world. Other things that were learned are pooping in the latrine is hard work, dinner is best not burned, and blisters that have dug all the way down to the meat don't feel too good. I am hopeful that next week things run smoother and easier. Brandon C.

Friday: This week the Blue-Unit started off with a 6 mile hike up in the Sawtooth National Forest. We set up camp at the elevation of 9,000 ft. and started working on a trail ½ mile away. The first day was probably hardest for most of us because we didn't know what to expect. The work was hard and slow at first, but every day it became easier and faster. We worked with a Forest Service crew all week and on Thursday we finished our trail project. We had to build several rock retaining walls and widen older parts of the trail along the way. Our first dinner was terrible. Someone wasn't stirring our soup and it got burnt. Our brave crew leader Justin and Swamper Brandon Connors nearly ate the whole thing themselves. Our dinners after that night were all edible much to our relief. Unfortunately 2 of our members are quitting today. Tim and Chris will be missed. I think that our unit has grown together extremely well over this first week we had a lot of fun and many laughs. I look forward to the coming weeks with my crew. Friday we started the hike back from camp to the trailhead. After the few steep uphill parts the rest was much easier than before, back at the van, we packed up our things and are now headed to the weekend site for new adventures. Brandon B.

Location: Craters of The Moon National Monument
Project Name: Craters of the Moon Trail Maintenance

Week 2: August 2, 2004

Monday: This weekend we drove to the weekend site, which took us a while because we got lost for a while. The next morning we went to Lake Red Fish. The Water was cold, but not freezing. Later we tried filming the hot springs, but it was too crowded. Later we went back to the site and had a lot of free time. The next day we went to our work site which is paradise compared to the last site. This job is repaving an asphalt trail. This will be interesting. Dan P.

Tuesday: This week we are at Crater of The Moon National Park. We are the first NYC crew ever to do this work-repairing asphalt trails in a national park. Our first day was a little frustrating for all of us because of equipment breaking but overall we worked hard, and the day went well. It's definitely going to be a rad 2 weeks. Taif G.

Wednesday: A large goal which has been widely discussed is to complete our current project before our employers expect us to. This must seem unusually similar to the last journal entries I did (me being Joe) but it is a good goal none the less. The project in question is... well, questionably unorthodox for NYC. Repair of asphalt trails in a national park (Craters of The Moon National Monument) Joe P.

Thursday: Well, our crew has learned an entire new skill set this week. I think only a few people have done asphalt repair before and NYC has never done asphalt before. So I could say that we have learned all the skills needed for asphalt re-surfacing which included spreading Gils mite and packing cold mix asphalt. We have also learned to really dislike Gils mite because it gets everywhere. Additionally we have learned that equipment breakdowns can be very frustrating because when that happens we can't get work done. Chris T.

Friday: The challenges that our crew faced this week were many, as were our accomplishments. The main challenge was that we did something completely new for NYC, which is re-

building asphalt trail in Craters of The Moon National Monument. Due to an extreme number of set backs we had to carry 34,000 lbs of asphalt by wheelbarrow in 2 days. We also had multiple tires going flat on the ATV we were using, along with running out of materials, and broken tools. The newest member of the crew has fit in great, but has gotten a little to close to some people for comfort. Earlier tonight we went to the Rams Horn restaurant with Daren who was working with us on the trail. Multiple members of the crew attempted to eat the everything burrito, which weighed 6 lbs. But Connors was the only member to be able to eat it all. And continuing the NYC tradition he licked his plate clean afterwards. Ryan K.

Location: Craters of the Moon National Monument

Project Name: Craters of the Moon National Monument Trail Maintenance.

Week 3: August 9, 2004

Monday: We tried to go swimming multiple times to no avail all the spots that were recommended to us were inadequate and were all very far away. So we spent a lot of Saturday driving. Sunday we went to a good swimming spot and swam for a while then to the discouragement of the majority of the crew we went for a short hike.

Tuesday: This week, the blue unit is once again laying asphalt in the Craters of the Moon National Park. Today we moved most of a 27 ton pile of asphalt. People were running wheel barrows all day. We almost finished the Indian Cave Trail; we are about 150 ft. from the "Y." We will definitely kill the pile tomorrow and our contact says that he can only afford one more load of asphalt and that is it. So there for the poor crew next week is going to have to sweep gravel for a whole week. HA HA HA!!!! Blue unit rules! We are the best crew in Idaho we are so good we are working on the Moon, (the Craters that is!). We are doing this project because the people of the world need to see what volcanoes can do, and also because the trail was falling apart. So until next time, peace out! Brandon "Polar Bear" C.

Wednesday: Our crew's main goal this week is to get done with all the asphalt. Especially right after a 10 hour day we all are very tired of moving, spreading, seeing and being covered in asphalt. So, none of us really want to see asphalt again. We also would like to not get any one injured this week because that would be bad. Justin, I am sure would like to avoid popping any ATV tires. I don't know if you could call it a goal but we all are looking forward to a shower and the weekend. Chris T.

Thursday: We started to weep rock in the morning and the asphalt arrived and we started to move asphalt and begin to lay asphalt. We got behind on spreading the asphalt. We learned that dehydration is a bad thing. Because Brandon fell in a hole (small one) with his wheel barrow. Written by: Matthew W. Edited by: Brandon/Justin

Friday: the challenge that our crew faced this week was finishing the pavement on the trail. Of course we reached our goal because we're Blue unit and we're hardcore. As a result we our contact Daren bought us a bunch of pizza and Justin is going to buy us ice cream. So we are done with this challenge and are waiting for our next one so we can go beyond what our contact thinks we can do. Because we are hard core, we are all getting along with our newest member

Matt. And we have gotten Chris to open up to us, but sadly he is leaving us for a different crew, so hopefully our next rover will be able to tolerate us. Okay you all our work this week we did for the children of Africa. Ryan K.

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

Week 4: August 16, 2004

Monday: This week we are outside of Stanley again. For our rec. trip we went swimming at Red Fish Lake and then visited a hot spring. We ended up cooking dinner for the other crews and parents. We then DJ'd the NYC dance. On Sunday we drove for around 2 hours and then spent the next couple of hours hiking 9 miles into the back country while we had our food horse packed in. Ryan K.

Tuesday: This week we are in the notorious Frank Church Wilderness. On the walk in, 9miles, ominous rain clouds hovered above our heads. We didn't know it then, but it would rain pretty much straight for 2 days. Not that we really noticed; we are too busy busting our butts to impress our contacts. The work is pretty cool. Lots of rock work to do, just the thing Idaho tour is famous for. Some of us had some problems with some frustrating retaining walls, but all is well that ends well. Taif G.

Wednesday: Our goal for the nest two weeks is to do 8 miles of trail maintenance. The maintenance includes lots of rock walls, rock water bars, loping, rock removal, etc. we really want to get it all done, but it seems as though the project is haunted. Everything is going wrong! But we are living through it. The life is rough but every day we end up at camp eating dinner so it's all good. Hopefully we can meet all of our goals I think we can; maybe we can get rehired out here again someday. "Polar Bear" a.k.a. Brandon C.

Thursday: A lot of us learned how to use a crosscut saw for the first time. It's relatively simple and easy. We also learned that logs are freaking heavy. We built a turnpike (hence the use of the crosscut). And we had to haul four big logs into place. To top it off, Justin couldn't make up his mind and we ended up moving the logs more than once. Joe P.

Friday: The first challenge that we faced this week was the hike in. But it wasn't that bad due to the fact that we got our food horse packed in for us. One other challenge that we faced was the insane hike to and from work each day which took at least an hour and half each way. This drained the crew very very much. We also had multiple retaining walls and rock water bars to build. The challenge of the beginning of the week was the bear hangs broke multiple times. Often many times a day. But our biggest challenge of the week was the log turnpike that we could never seem to make progress on. Our accomplishments included surviving a very grueling week of back country without breaking. We also were able to complete a number of water bars, and walls. We were also able to hike so far every day and still work. A different accomplishment that we had was today we hiked about 4 miles with giant packs. One week to go and we are happy about that. Ryan K.

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

Week 5: August 23, 2004

Monday: This weekend was restful. Saturday morning we slept in, and Justin cooked us some grubbin breakfast (eggs & English muffins). We went swimming and found out the reasoning behind NYC swimming regulations those rules are there for good reasons. We worked Sunday, almost finishing the turnpike as a group of us finished other projects down the trail. Some of us are stoked that there are 2 ½ work days left. Taif G.

Tuesday: We are doing trail maintenance, much like last week. However this week we will be doing actual trail cutting this week so will be back to having bump lines of people working on widening the bench. We also have several stream crossings to armor/ford and some trees to cut out. We are on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in the Frank Church Wilderness. Chris T.

Wednesday: Blue crew has every intention of finishing trail maintenance up to the point of our campsite. (Doing so will get our stuff packed out on horse back). We've already made a large sum of progress and it is glaringly apparent that we will more than exceed the boundaries of our goal. Our crew has almost always finished all of our projects thus far with small insignificant exceptions. Joe P.

Thursday: Today we got up around 6:45 and were off to work by 7:20 we hiked for 1 hour 30 min. When we got to the work site we started to work on the culvert and that was our goal for the day is to finish it. We ended not getting it finished but now we got all the logs down and almost in. when work was over Justin and Matt stayed there to finish the water project. Cam C.

Friday: Our main challenge this week was the rain. We accomplished over a mile of trail maintenance. It was wet every day but we still had fun & got the work done. The main challenge accomplishment was all the work. Daniel H.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

The day it rained for 2 weeks.

The first day was. Brandon C.

The hardest day. Daniel H.

That one day. Cam C.

The last day on the turnpike when I stopped caring about everything. Ryan K.

The first day. Daniel P.

When I got the crew the first day we worked. Chris T.

A day in which every one was cranky & complaining.

The first day. It was a lot harder that I'd expected the work. Joe P.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Going swimming with my crew working & the weekends and Making new friend to look at a trail when we are done with it. I have a lot of respect for that. Cam C.

Making some really great friends, swimming at Red Fish or outside of Ketchum and sitting around the fire with everyone after a hard days work. Ryan K.

Soaking in the hot springs, sleep, getting back to the van after hiking all morning. Brandon C.

Work, sleep, and van rides. Dan P.

Listening to music, swimming and sleeping. Chris T.

The scenery, playing games, swimming. Joe P.

Soaking in hot springs after a 10 mile a day hikes. Listening to personal histories. Eating a burrito with seasoned veggies, beans, cheese and grinded tortillas.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

All the fun I had with my new family. Daniel H.

How much fun we can have when being away from everything. Cam C.

The amount of work it takes to dig trail, and to always use them from now on. Ryan K.

All the work my crew did together and fun we had. Brandon C.

How different people can be made into a group. Chris T.

People operate in communities for common goals setting aside selfishness, and that is human nature. Ty

The indescribable view. Joe P.

From Now On I Will Always...

Lick my bowl after meals. Ryan K.

Use showers with a passion. Dan P.

Stay on hiking trails. Chris T.

Reject materialism, propaganda, and hatred. Ty

Lick my bowl and/or plate. Joe P.

At NYC I Learned...

How to build rock walls, cut down trees, and play fantasy. Brandon C.

How to work, to play, & to respect our environment.

How to keep pushing my self more and more and how we can adapt to people and work. Cam C.

I learned how to work when I thought I was too tired, to make friends with people I normally wouldn't, and how to chug yellow tops. Ryan K.

I learned to work hard, appreciate life, and get along with others. Brandon B.

I learned to work hard build rock walls and cutting down trees. Dan P.

To work hard really hard, hate wet sleeping bag, and how to cut trail. Chris T.

Improved rock wall ability not even noticing rain anymore. The dynamics of an all guy crew (attitude different) Ty

I learned how to work with asphalt and people at the same time. I also learned how to successfully land a job through SEED.

