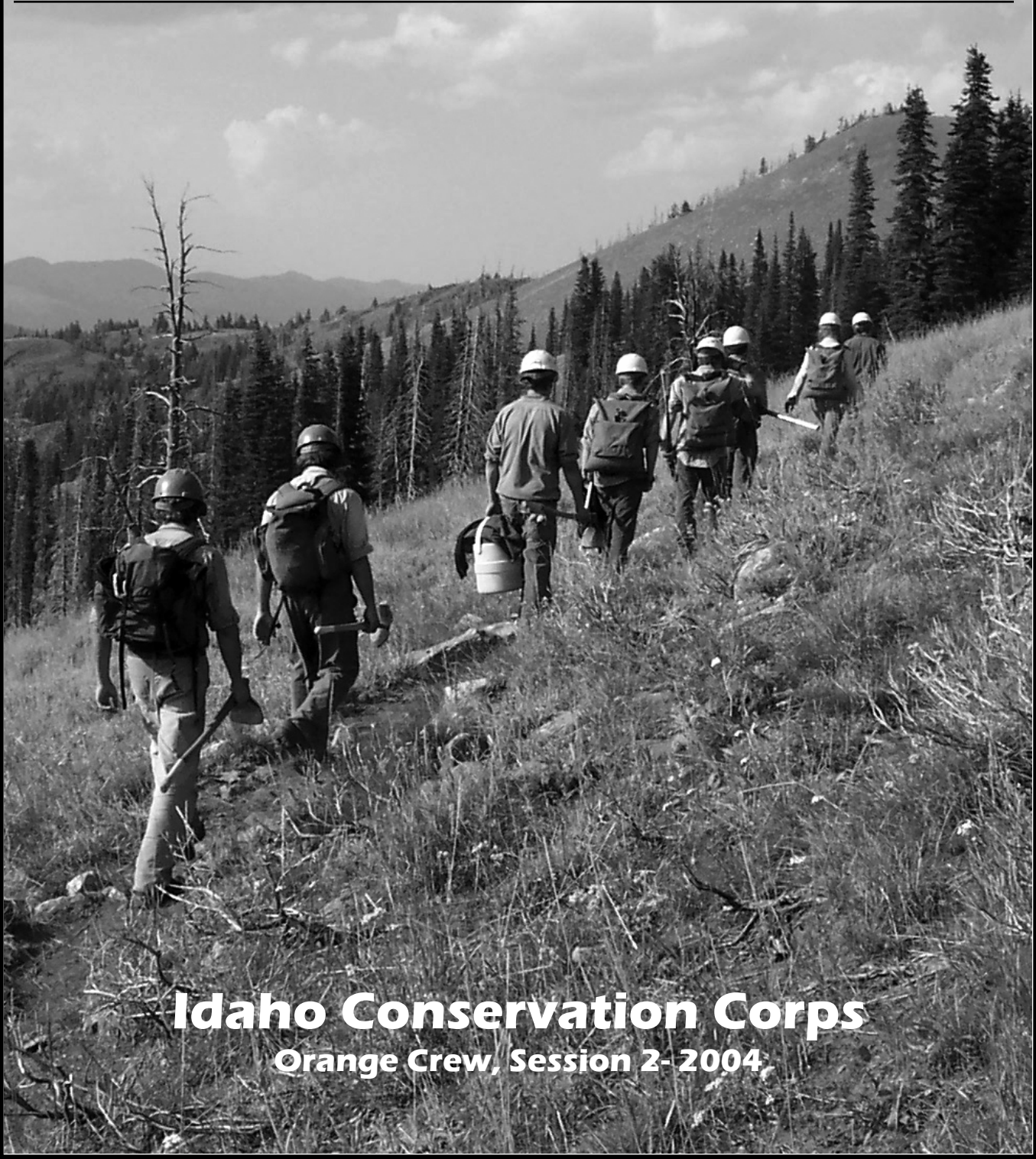




# Crew Journal



**Idaho Conservation Corps**  
**Orange 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: Payette NF**  
**Ranger District: McCall**  
**Project Name: Ruby Meadow Trail Maintenance**

Week 1: July 26, 2004

Monday: Today was our first day at work. Yesterday we hiked five miles into the backcountry. Some people complained a lot about the commute. I tried my best not to complain and I stopped twice so now I have two of the worst blisters I have ever seen. Ivan says that if I put orange juice on them twice a day and wear only my boot liners they should clear up in a few days. Our first day of work was real hard. Evan R.

Tuesday: The second day of work. We are in the mountain of McCall. We finished the turnpikes finally around 12:00 p.m. After that we took apart a wooden bridge, but that didn't take but 20 minutes. Ivan cut down trees so the crew could start on the new trail. The forest ranger Gary came out to help Ivan clear the trees. After finishing everything else we had to do and about the last of the day, the whole crew lined up and started clearing the trail. We started from where half of the crew and Ivan left off and made our way up.

So overall we finished everything that we started yesterday. Ripped out a bridge and started the trail. There wasn't as much complaining today as there was yesterday. The crew is

working hard and having fun at the same time. No tools have been lost, and the crew is working well with each other.

Three hikers came through and told us how well we were doing and that everything looked good. They also told us that they appreciate the work we were doing. We also saw a motorcyclist going through the trail; he gave us a thumbs up and went on his way.

After work the crew sat in the camp and did their cores. While chores the crew teased Ivan about having kids. We were all saying how he was going to make his kids pound rocks and work like we are by the age of 3 years old. It was pretty funny; we all laughed. Well that was the day of the orange crew. Kate A.

Wednesday: Today our crewleader Ivan's alarm clock didn't wake us up in time to leave by first light. We got to sleep in an extra hour and a half. We started our first trail experience: we dug 300 feet of new trail. We came upon two weasels. They were really cool. I think our crew was worn out pretty bad. We all worked hard and did not complain. Last night Thomas hiked in to help us make trail. Tonight we are going to build a bridge.

Thursday: on 7/29/04 two of our crewmembers went with our crewleader, Ivan, to start building on our third turnpike while the rest of the crew went with our rover, Chris, to finish the trail and to build the bridge. We finished both the trail and the bridge around twelve. Once finished, we went to join Ivan and the other crewmembers at the third turnpike. Once there we went on helping to build the turnpike. We only got the stringers put in and the rocks before our work day was over. Also in the morning Elizabeth and Thomas left.

Friday: This week our crew completed one large turnpike, two smaller turnpikes, a bridge, and a 300 ft. long reroute. Our challenges included our ten or so hour day with nine (or nueve in Spanish) workers. This was when we had to build a turnpike over a swamp.

Just about 15 or so minutes ago we picked up a guy named Reid. He likes a bunch of bands I have never heard of. Also when we picked him up we saw Thomas eating a roasted chicken dinner.

But now we are on the road again and Ivan threatened to eat anybody who talked on the ride and if we told him that we loved him he would eat us alive. I love Ivan! I'm out. Brad is cool (said by Brad P.) Evan R.

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

Week 2: August 2, 2004

Monday: On Sunday our crew hiked around nine and a half miles. Though we didn't have to carry the food, we did have to carry most everything else, because horses carried the food in. It took us around seven hours to get to our campsite. We hurried with putting tents up and food away in the bear hang once we go there. Once the camp was set up it was dark so we all settled down for the night.

Ivan let the crew sleep in later than normal on Monday because of how tired everyone was from the hike. Once up, we got ready, did safety circle, and went off to work. We hiked

back away before starting clearing up the portion of the trail that we were supposed to.  
Gipse C.

Tuesday: Today the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August sucked big time. Most of the crew including myself slacked off a lot. Ivan and Marie were mad that we weren't working very hard, but I don't blame them for it. I'm still trying to get used to working around and with Marie, so I'm not all happy about her and Chris switching like that. But soon I will get used to her. She seems pretty cool from what I've seen of her.

Anyways, we didn't get all that much accomplished today. It's really hot and by working by the river just makes things worse because everybody wants to play in the water, which sounds good right about now.

Today wasn't a horrible day but it wasn't a great day; don't really know the word for today. Kate A.

Wednesday: Our weekly goal this week is to complete 11 miles of trail maintenance. We have completed about a mile maybe. We (me, Mike & Brad) trimmed along the trail. We cut back the brushy woody plants. We need to finish a ½ a miles of throwing rocks and we need to build 10 total structures of water drains. We need to have 3 of the water drains before Friday. We also need to have the trail completely "groomed" cleaned of brush by Friday also. Amber W.

Thursday: This week the crew learned how to build water bars and check dams. We also learned to never ever put pasta in water before it is boiling. We learned that Ivan cannot stand prunes, and what the symptoms of giardia are. Evan R.

Friday: The orange crew faced a few big challenges this week. It all started on Sunday with a 9 and ½ mile hike into the Frank Church Wilderness. It felt much longer to most of us, but braving steep and treacherous trail, with huge packs and new boot blisters, we all survived . . . barely.

We were faced with a daunting task, the removal of loose rock from a talus slope (a mountain of loose rock). We rolled them, threw them, raked them, broke them . . .

Our other task was to "murder the vegetables" growing into the trail. Let's just say there were 5 billion vegetables when we went in and two green things were left standing. Our crew is getting used to the idea of iodine, dehydrated foods, poor hygiene, hot and dirty days, and all of the smells it is causing. Even R.

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

Week 3: August 9, 2004

Monday: Monday was a lot of fun. We threw rocks and made trail. That night SEED was so much fun. After SEEDs, we ate bread. I learned so much in SEED. Dinner was good. NYC is so much fun and I would encourage anyone to do it. Brad P.

Tuesday: Tuesday I was on lopping crew. I was with Marie, Tyler and Gipse in the Frank Church Wilderness of No Return. We lopped about 1,500 feet of woody brush. That night I made banana nut bread. Everyone liked my bread the best. Other than the blueberry muffin bread Tyler made. That day was pretty boring other than our bread. Amber W.

Wednesday: Thomas finally made it out to our campground and brought mail. We worked an eight hour day. Finally we finished all the talus slopes; then moved on. On the way to the next project we saw a neat old cabin. Then we found out our final project was on another talus slope. Kate A.

Thursday: We worked on trail today about 8 hours. Three of us stayed back a little ways and wopped 30-50 ft. After we got back from work we pack most of our stuff to hike out the next day. We packed up the tents and took down the kitchen tarp. We had to sleep outside. We played capture the flag and mafia. We finally got Marie to play with us. We had to get dishes done in 15 minutes or less. We got them done in about 20 minutes but she still played. Mafia was a fun game Ivan taught us how to play. Debra M.

Friday: Friday we hiked out after working for 3 ½ hrs. Thomas came out the night before to see how we were doing on our project. The hike out was pretty difficult. Within the first 3 miles we climbed 1 medium switchback and 1 huge switchback on a talus slope. The whole crew only stopped to have 1 relatively long break, then there were some mini water breaks. We only took 6 hrs. to hike out which was pretty good since it took us 8 ½ hours to hike in. When we got back to the van everyone had a huge sense of accomplishment about them. The major plus was that there were packages waiting for us at the van. ☺ Kristi C.

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

Week 4: August 16, 2004

Monday: On Thursday we hiked out about 11 miles and it only took about 5-6 hours. We were originally planning on taking two days to hike out but we decided to do it in one so we could do what we wanted to on Friday. On Saturday we went swimming in Red Fish Lake and we also went to a hot spring. And on Sunday we went to Craters of the Moon. That is all. Evan R.

Tuesday: On Tuesday we awoke early and went straight to work. In the early hours of the day, before it got too hot, we wheeled wheelbarrows full of rock to the parking lot. I'm not totally sure how many miles we walked with those wheelbarrows. When it got too hot and the asphalt got too mushy, we started just sweeping the rocks off into piles. Gipse C.

Wednesday: Today we swept a lot of rocks. Daren brought us a radio so we could listen to music while we work. We went to Beauty Cave and Boy Scout Cave. Kate A.

Thursday: We ran all the carbon seal and finished all the carbon seal. The radio was left in the rain so it broke. We finished sweeping rock. Kate A.

Friday: Today we went on a tour of Arco Cave. It was super cool. We went up into the tunnel for a long time and it was awesome!!! The caver we got was real nice and very informative. We saw one real neat spider that had no eyes. Evan R.

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

Week 5: August 23, 2004

Monday: We packed out on Saturday and arrived in Stanley to camp for a day to get to our next worksite on Sunday. On Sunday we arrived at Frank church Wilderness. We met Amanda and she took us to our campsite. We set up camp, did SEED and then went to sleep. Thomas came out while most of us were asleep. Debra M.

Tuesday: Tuesday we work up and almost everyone got soaked that night. We met Amanda and she showed us where we were working. Four of us went to build water bars while the rest dug trail. We got the trail done but not the water bars. When we got done working for the day we packed up camp and went to our next campsite. That day Thomas gave us our mail then we went to bed. Debra M.

Wednesday: A terrific and rather awful downpour of rain and sleet ran our crew off of the project site today. It was a chilling surprise when the rain decided to drop down in a fast freezing form. Our water bar project was being flooded by the downpour, and we struggled on. But when it is a snowball-fight-in-August lunch break, we bailed out faster than you can say "oh sleet!" Ivan N.

Thursday: Today's weather was a much more forgiving variety of basic rain. We were very happy to be able to work in the non-freezing temperatures. Although the crew was entirely present today (we have been battling random illnesses) our crew was unable to complete everything (so close!). Tomorrow we will frost the proverbial cake to completion and walk out wicked proud! Hooray for GRADUATION! Ivan N.

Friday: Our crew fiercely overcame kicking rocks off of trail and digging up rocks. It was so hardcore. It was hard and challenging. My crew was tired or work and living. We made a new trail and pushed dirt. It was madly intense. Evan R.

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

*My most challenging day at NYC was this last Monday when we were working on a huge water bar. It had rained the night before and everyone was drenched with water. Well I wasn't working fast enough or something and I got too cold to work. I got pulled off the clock and couldn't come back 'til Tuesday. Amber W.*

*My hardest day at NYC was the last Wednesday when it was so cold that I didn't want to work. My hands and the rest of my body were numb. It was hard to work. Katie A.*

*My most challenging day at work was the first day of work because the backs of my feet were raw from the hike in. Oh pain beyond pain! Evan R.*

*The most challenging day for me was the hike into the Frank Church. Brad P.*

*My most challenging NYC day was sweeping rocks. Evan R.*

*My most challenging day at NYC was when we hiked into the Frank church River of No Return Wilderness. Gipse C.*

*My most challenging day at NYC was the hiking in and out of the Frank Church Wilderness River of No Return! Mike B.*

*My most challenging day(s) at NYC was the hike in and out of Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Kristi C.*

*My most challenging day at NYC was the 11 mile hike in to Frank church River of No Return and the hike out. Debra M.*

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

*My 3 favorite experiences here were 1. When the first weekend site after we went on our rec trip we did baby shark (me and Deb) with the Blue crew. 2. On our Jamboree weekend we had a dance and me and Quincy danced. I loved her dancing. It was very fun and it cheered me up very much. Amber W.*

*My 3 favorite experiences at NYC were 1. Our first weekend site. 2. Playing "baby I love you" 3. The Jamboree. Katie A.*

*My three favorite experiences were playing guitar for the first time in 3 weeks, the hike into the Frank church and exploring a mile-long cave in craters. Evan R.*

*My first best experience was meeting my crew and leader. The second was the hike into the Frank church. The third is achieving satisfaction for what I have done. Brad P.*

*First, cooking, second, sleeping, third, working. Reid S.*

*My 3 favorite experiences at NYC this year was probably 1. Bonding with my incredibly cool crewleader! 2. Outswinging the woodsboss (Thomas)! 3. Meeting a lot of really cool people! Mike B.*

*My favorite experiences of NYC are meeting the new, interesting people, being out in the woods, and seeing the different wild animals. Gipse C.*

*My favorite experiences of NYC were 1. Making new friends; 2. Seeing new places; 3. Knowing I did something worthwhile for other people. Kristi C.*

*My three favorite NYC experiences would be 1. The hikes; 2. The work and 3. Would be the people. Debra M.*

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

*The one thing I will always remember is when Ivan said he was proud of me and that it was okay to cry. Amber W.*

*The one thing I will remember is how much fun I had during the 5 weeks with my crew. Kate A.*

*The thing I will remember most is that at NYC I found my summer job for the rest of high school. Evan R.*

*I will always remember everything about my trip. Brad P.*

*I will always remember Brad P. Reid S.*

*One thing I will always remember is the awesome people I met. Mike B.*

*One thing I will always remember is how fun and exciting it was. Gipse C.*

*I will always remember Gipse (and everyone else on our crew). And Ivan ☺  
Kristi C.*

*One thing I will always remember is the day Ivan gave me the nickname destroyer  
because I kept taking out roots, rocks, and stumps. Debra M.*

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

*From now on I will always cry when I want to whether or not I am around anyone  
just because I can. Amber W.*

*From now on I will always know I can work well with others. Kate A.*

*Working with NYC has taught me how to widen trails very well. Also I express  
myself better. Evan R.*

*I will always bring warmer clothes to Idaho. Brad P.*

*From now on I will always stick with computers. Reid S.*

*From now on I will always be more respectful of national forests and how they are  
greatly needed. Gipse C.*

*From now on I will understand how much work people do to keep up trails! Mike B.*

*From now on I will always look for the positive in everything. Kristi C.*

*From now on I will always work harder than usual and I will think more about for-  
ests and respect nature. Debra M.*

*At NYC I Learned...*

At NYC I learned how to build water bars, check dams/steps and turnpikes. Amber W.

At NYC I learned how to do trail work, work hard with others and how to use certain tools. Katie A.

At my first year in NYC I learned how to use many tools that I had never used before such as a Pulaski. Evan R.

I learned how to build trail. Brad P.

First, tools, second, tool names, third, setting up a camp. Reid S.

I learned how to make water dams, water bars, and turnpikes. Mike B.

At NYC I learned many things, from how hard it was to build a trail to how to build other structures. Also how to set up camps efficiently and neatly without leaving a trace. Gipse C.

At NYC I learned how to build a rock water bar; become an effective leader; and be part of a team. Kristi C.

At NYC I learned how to build trails, turnpikes and water bars. Debra M.

