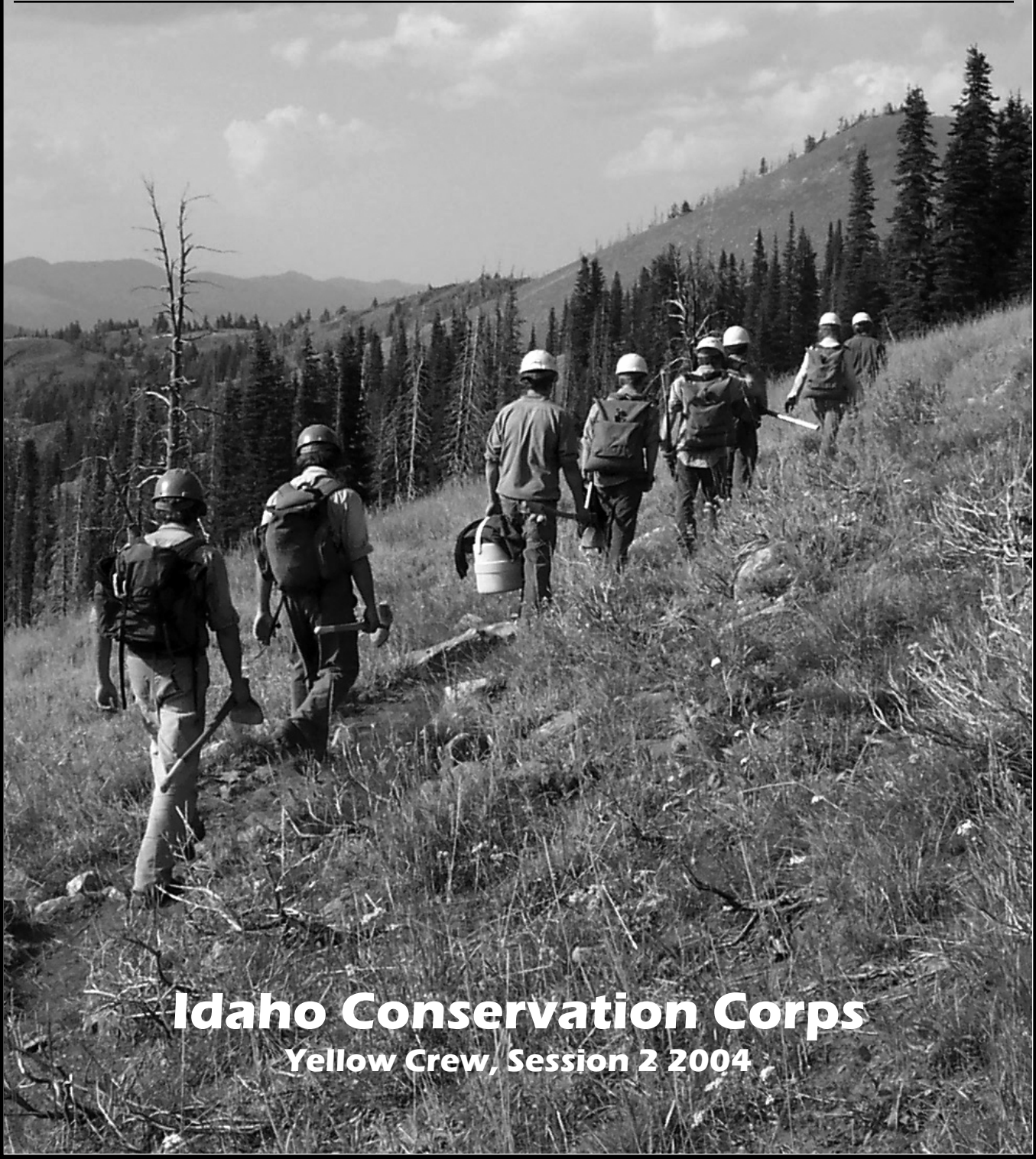




# Crew Journal



**Idaho Conservation Corps**  
Yellow 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: Salmon/Challis NF**  
**Ranger District: North Fork**  
**Project Name: Butts Creek Point Trail Maintenance**

Week 1: July 26, 2004

Monday: On Saturday, we were in the van for 4 to 6 hrs. to get to our campsite. We packed our stuff on the ferry so we could get it across the river. We unpacked and walked up to a cabin and set up our sleeping area did some SEED and ate dinner and did dishes and went to bed. Stephanie V.

Tuesday: We cut up a tree and then we cleaned a trail. We are at Butts Creek. We will be leaving for camp on Wednesday. We are cleaning a trail and I don't know why we do it because they tell us and it's very hot. Reese K.

Wednesday: On Wednesday we hiked 8 or 9 miles straight up this huge mountain. One person had a problem up the trail and half of the crewmembers peed blood. It was terrible. We didn't make it to the top but we stayed the night at the lookout and Tim came to the rescue with food. We got to sleep in. Justin Bollinger

Thursday: Today we hiked to our new base camp. After setting up at our new campsite, we

had breakfast at about 12:00 p.m. (noon) and went to work. While working we ate lunch at about 3 p.m. and continued working and then went to sleep. Today was a totally backward day!  
Josh A.

Friday: Today, we sawed logs, made water bars, lifted and threw rocks, and we got a good hike in, walking to and from the worksite. We went through various challenges, such as trying to stay standing up, despite extreme exhaustion and digging drainages with unmovable rocks blocking the way. Many of the accomplishments we made were piling tools for a tool count, creating better water bars, moving logs and large rocks off of the trail. I feel that the biggest accomplishment we made was learning to work together and become closer to one another. We had a great hike back to camp afterwards and a hard day's work. Matt L.

**National Forest: Salmon/Challis NF**  
**Ranger District: North Fork**  
**Project Name: Butts Creek Point Trail Maintenance**

Week 2: August 2, 2004

Monday: On Saturday, we hiked to a lake and enjoyed the hot sunlight on the beach. Some went for a swim in the ice-cold water. Afterwards, we returned to camp and carried on with our business by doing chores. On Sunday, we hiked to work in beautiful sunshine. We cleaned and made more water bars. Later, we took a break during an amazing thunderstorm. We continued on with our work after the storm ended. Matt L.

Tuesday: This week our projects included making water bars and fixing them, and clearing paths on Butts Creek Point. Between lightning storms, hail storms and rain storms, we worked on cutting trees and digging and cutting trees and more digging. Hiking back we encountered more weather hazards, but managed to get down in a reasonable amount of time.

Wednesday: Today was our final day before the hike back to the van! It was also nice because we only had to hike about 1 or 2 miles to the worksite instead of the 5 miles we've been doing the past week. Our group split up into two—Matt and Mary Sue went with Quincy and Bill while the rest of us went with Tim. Quincy's group cut logs across the trail while we did basic trail cleanup and reshaping. At the end of the day we met up along the trail and hiked back to camp using a "short-cut." The short-cut certainly was shorter, however, it went straight up the hill: no switchbacks. Once everyone was back at camp we started on chores. It's always interesting making dinner with all the odds and ends that are left over. We ended up having noodles with a curry peanut butter sauce with bacon TVP and shrimp! What a concoction! Anyway, the plans for the rest of the evening include listening to Justin's life story and preparing to hike down tomorrow. Sarah M.

Thursday: We woke up late because I didn't wake up at the sound of the alarm so we all got an extra 2 hours sleep! NICE! We eventually hiked down-hill and then took a well-deserved swim in the river thanks to Tim H.

Friday: Today we got up at 7:30ish, ate breakfast of bagels and peanut butter. Loaded our gear on the tractor's trailer and it took it down to the beach where we then loaded it on the boat. The boat then took it to the other side of the river where we then finally loaded it in the van.

Around 10ish we left the dock where we went to a campground to take showers then we did laundry and bought different things. Then we had lunch, then we left and got to the weekend site where we set up camp and waited for the Red crew. Rebecca C.

**National Fores: Payette NF**

**Ranger District: New Meadows**

**Project Name: Yellowjacket Creek Trail Maintenance**

Week 3: August 9, 2004

Monday: We got up early this morning and prepared for work by eating breakfast and having safety circle. Then we walked about a mile and a half and went to work. We worked on building a trail and brushing. Then at about 4, we stopped and went back to camp to change, wash up in the creek, and start in on our chores. Rebecca C.

Tuesday: The project that we are doing this week is in the front country at Yellow Jacket Creek Trail. We will be digging trail (switchbacks) and covering old trail. We are digging in new trail because the trail that existed was too steep. Stephanie V.

Wednesday: Our goal was to dig a new trail. We nearly accomplished our goal, but the hot sun and much exhaustion slowed everybody. We were not able to accomplish our goal for the day, but we did finish the trail the next day after much rest and a good night's sleep. The accomplishment of our goal lifted our spirits as we continued to work on our next project. Matt L.

Thursday: Being in front country this week, rather than the backcountry we were in the first two weeks, lent for a very different experience. We had much more time after work for group bonding. We learned a great deal about how to get along and how to work through our problems. For SEED on Thursday we did several problem-solving games which required group cooperation. One of them had us all holding up a pot full of water with our feet. On our first try, we had communication problems and 4 people ended up getting soaked! It was an adventure but we managed to overcome our initial difficulties and succeed in completing the activity! Sarah M.

Friday: This week our crew was making switchbacks on a trail up north of McCall, Idaho. We did a lot of rerouting on the trail and we finished all of the work that we were supposed to. I think that one big achievement that we accomplished was we worked hard together and finished the trail. We were getting up early and working hard. We would come home dirty and rinse off in the cold creek. Then it would be chore time and we would all do our chores. After that we would do SEED and then it was off to bed and start in the morning again. Friday we woke up, went to work then came back to break camp and head to the weekend site. That is basically an overview of our week number 3. MarySue R.

**National Forest: Payette NF**  
**Ranger District: New Meadows**  
**Project Name: Rapid River Trail Maintenance**

Week 4: August 16, 2004

Monday: This weekend, all of the crews gathered together at one campsite and many corpsmembers received visits from their parents. Those who were visited by their mom and dad hung out with them for the day on Saturday. Everybody else went on recreational trips with some of the crewleaders and rovers. Overall, it was a blast. Matt L.

Tuesday: This week we are in trailhead to the Rapid Ridge Trail. We hiked 8 miles uphill. We also cleared brush from the trail to make room for the horses. We are hiking up so that we can build trail and bridges. Erin N.

Wednesday: Today we hiked down a STEEP trail 4 miles further into the wilderness. We arrived at our campsite around noon, dropped our stuff, and headed to work. We had to fix and clean up a reroute. We worked until 6 PM (and everyone was starving!) when we hustled back to camp where Chris had made dinner: pasta with cheese sauce! Mmmm . . . and we had so much leftover cheese sauce that we dipped bagels in it like soft pretzels! It's amazing how many different ways you can eat bagels! Sarah M.

Thursday: Today we finished the reroute and headed back up to our camp yesterday. Overall it was pretty boring. I am sick and tired of eating bagels. Josh A.

Friday: We faced the challenge of rocks today. We had to smooth out a trail that consisted of rocks. We were picking up rocks and either throwing them off of the trail or setting them down on the trail. We worked individually and/or together throwing rocks in bags or buckets and pouring them out on the rocky trail. We had to bust out the rock bar many times to pull out huge boulders buried in the ground. We caught glimpses of hamster-like animals called pikas. They were screaming at us quite a bit. We accomplished our goal by smoothing out the trail with the rocks we collected. Another fine day of work finished. Matt L.

**National Forest: Payette NF**  
**Ranger District: New Meadows**  
**Project Name: Rapid River Trail Maintenance**

Week 5: August 23, 2004

Monday: This last weekend we hiked 6 miles down on Saturday and on Sunday some of us worked on a bridge and the rest of us hiked to the trailhead and set up camp. After that we played spoons. Mary Sue R.

Tuesday: Today we hiked over to our site and built bridges and cleared trail so that horses and hikers could pass through safely. Adam B.

Wednesday: Our goal was to build 4 bridges that we were assigned to, work hard and tough it out through the last week of this program.  
Stephanie V.

Thursday: We got up early and hiked to our work sites and were broken into two groups. Each group worked on a different bridge. Before lunch the group working on the furthest bridge came to help us on our bridge because they weren't needed on their bridge. So we finished the bridges, hiked back to camp and everyone was totally happy that it was our last day of work! Rebecca C.

Friday: Our crew's challenges this week were to survive a flood that lasted for 4 days and the freezing cold. Our accomplishments were we hiked 12 miles in the rain and mud; we dealt with working, moving and setting up camp over and over and over again. Another challenge we went through this week is learning to live in wet clothes, tents and sleeping bags. We also survived a bear encounter. Justin B.

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

My most challenging day at NYC was the last day of work. Many reasons why it was the most challenging include lack of work, corpsmembers with lack of initiative, and blistered feet. There was hardly any work to be done to keep anybody busy. The work that was provided required a little bit of teamwork, but most of the corpsmembers felt they didn't want to work which made the situation a little more difficult. My feet were heavily blistered from top to bottom, making things more difficult. However, toward the end, the corpsmembers began to work a little more, taking off the heavy workload, which eased my feet a little bit. It was the most challenging day for me, but I got through it okay. Matt L.

The most challenging day for me was the 8 miles hike up the mountain on our third day. I was out of shape and had 2 huge blisters. Erin N.

The most difficult days for me were early on in the session, when I had not yet gotten used to waking up at 6 a.m. to go to work. This was very difficult for me. Josh A.

The most difficult day for me was the third day of the session because I was way out of shape and we had to hike 8 miles up the side of a mountain. Mary Sue R.

The most difficult day for me was at the start of the fifth week. It had poured the day before and everything was still soaked. Having to put on cold, wet jeans, socks, gloves and a work shirt was very difficult! Sarah M.

The most challenging day at NYC would be the day we had to hike 8 miles (I think) straight up in our first week. That was really tough! Rebecca C.

The most challenging day for me is where we hiked up to Rapid Ridge. It was cold, we didn't know how much further to go, everyone was dehydrated, people were seeing things and I threw up twice and they were still pushing us to go another 4 or 5 miles. Justin B.

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

Parent night, orientation, and first day of work. Matt L.

The weekend when parents came and we had a dance party. The second to last day because everyone is so happy. The first day when I got to meet everyone. Erin N.

Parent night, the last day of work (knowing we made it) and the first day. Josh A.

Parents weekend, when we got finished with the first two weeks because for me it was like since we got through them we could finish out the other three weeks no problem, and the very last day of work! Rebecca C.

Parent's night, hanging out with friends, and the last day of work. Mary Sue R.

The day we left, our last day, and the day before that. They were the best. Adam B.

*One Thing I Will Always Remember...*

I will always remember when MS and I saw a black bear down by the creek on the way back to camp. Then it ran about ten feet in front of us when someone on the other side of the creek startled it. It was a rather unique experience!

Rebecca C.

The coyotes howling in the night. It was one of the most interesting sounds I've ever heard. Matt L.

I will always remember when Justin and I saw a black bear down by the creek on the way back to camp. Then it ran about ten feet in front of these girls when we scared it across the creek. It was quite the unique experience, y'all! Adam B.

Becoming great friends with Stephanie. The trust we developed and all the things we overcame. Erin N.

How hard it is to keep warm after being drenched and waking up at 6. Josh A.

When we were working at Butts Creek and Bill, Adam and I were cutting logs and we had just finished one and a log fell and almost hit me. Stephanie V.

I will always remember when Becca and I were watching a bear and then it ran in front of us. Mary Sue R.

I will always remember playing spoons with our crew and how I laughed so hard my sides were hurting! Sarah M.

I will always remember when Adam and I saw a black bear down by the creek on the way back to camp. Then it ran about ten feet in front of these girls after we scared it across the creek. It was a unique experience. Justin B.

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

Have a job and not complain about the work because this was incredibly hard and I made it. Erin N.

Exercise and physically work hard enough to stay in shape. Matt L.

Try to stay in shape so that if I ever do this sort of thing again it won't be so hard for me. Rebecca C.

From now on I will not complain about walking for a mile or two. Mary Sue R.

From now on I will know how to recommend NYC to my friends and let them in on how it really is. Adam B.

From now on I will never complain about hiking a couple of miles and getting up early. Josh A.

From now on I will not complain about getting wet from the rain or just being cold in general! Sarah M.

Appreciate the hard-working people and the work they have done for us, and this program and what it's done for me. Stephanie V.

Eat as much as I can. Sleep a lot. Appreciate music more than what I did. Justin B.

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

Three things I have learned through NYC were the fact that I can hike 12 miles without dying, I can work in a team, and I can get stuff done. Mary Sue R.

3 things that I have learned from my NYC experience are that water is a limited resource, that I can lift big logs, and I can work well in a group. Adam B.

How to do trail maintenance, how to get over my difference with others, and a pretty good work ethic. Erin N.



I learned how to work hard, how to respect others, and how to be efficient.  
Matt L.

How to push myself to the limit, how to live with 11 other people for 5 weeks and still remain friends, and how to build a bridge. Sarah M.

Three things I learned at NYC are teamwork, cooperation, and trust. Josh A.

I learned how to dig trail, how to work more in a group than individually, and how to play spoons! Rebecca C.

How to push myself to my full ability, new job skills and how to work hard.  
Stephanie V.

I learned that food is precious, sleep is precious, and stores and sidewalks shouldn't be taken for granted. Justin B.