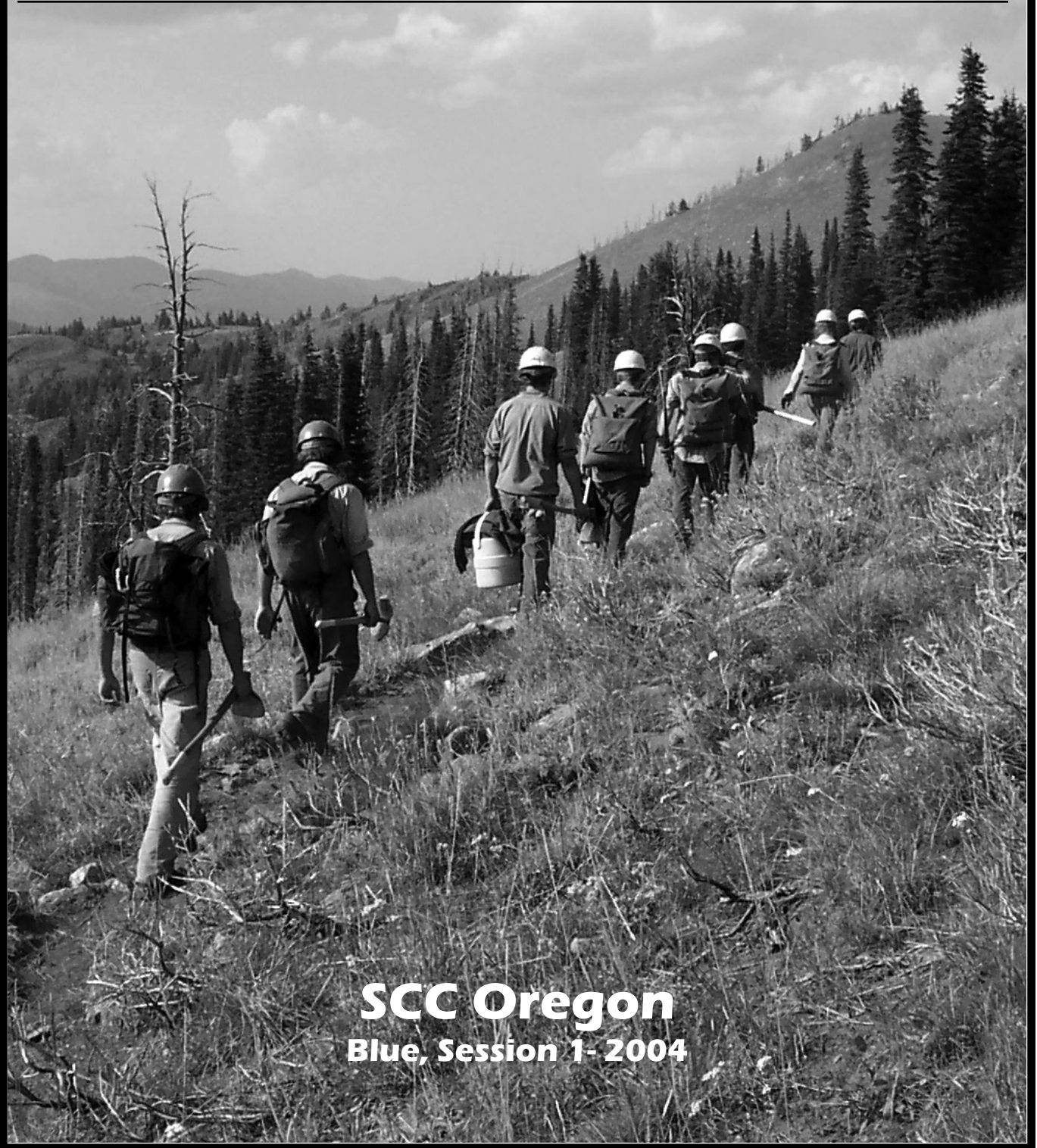




Crew Journal



SCC Oregon
Blue, 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 grand-kids. 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 an all 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,

Joe Waksmundski
Program Manager

National Forest or area that the work took place: Willamette NF
Ranger District: Middle Fork RD
Project Name- Hardesty Mt. Trails

Week 1: Date

Sunday, June 13th. Today our crews were assigned. I kind of knew one kid that was in the new crew. We work well together, so far.

Monday: Our first mission was to help maintain a trail's status near Lowell. The drive was less than an hour to the forest, but we couldn't find the trailhead. We looked for the trail for 6-7 hours. The first dose of work was OK, using Pulaskis and saws. At the end of the day we had: 3 injuries and some trail. Tomorrow will be better. Sam J.

Monday, Monday, Monday. June 14th 2004. Today was our first "real" work day. We are doing trail maintenance on the Lost Creek Trail. The job requires the widening of a very, very narrow trail. Of course, the first day work exhausted us all. Guys like Ken and Sam, though, worked their butts off. I was constantly bumped by the two. Our next dose of work is probably going to be even more exhausting. Josh P.

Today "Tuesday" we started early. It was oatmeal, with raisins, brown sugar on top and hot chocolate, in all sizes cups, bowls, and Nalgenes. 17 sandwiches made it through two breaks and the jelly and peanut butter oozed out the edges and into each other, the gorp was next. We shared the Ritz and the grahams. Sadly second was without any food and as a result we forgot to drink our water. . The iodized water and last night's beans made for a friendly work environment with plenty of bathroom talk. He prefers moss, I prefer sticks and he's storing for emergencies (lichen in his pack). A mad rush to the river for the water to be iodized and we are making dinner, your mom should be here. Laurie V.

Wednesday: This week our crew is trying to get most of the trail done and do a good job at cutting the topline and the hinge. We are also bushing and clearing away a lot of the duff. Eben H.

Thursday: Blisters, heat, sweat, sore muscles. This week my crew learned that though the work is hard, the payoff will be good. With soda pop wishes and chocolate dreams, the weekend is rapidly approaching. Hooray for birthdays! Hooray for the coincidental weekend celebrations. Kristin K.

Friday: This week was a challenging start for all. We started out on a rough note- getting lost, which put us behind in all areas. It was a challenge to play catch up but eventually we accomplished what we needed too. The work was hard for all members and very tiring, but slowly & surly every one's muscles and minds got around everything. We accomplished over 2 miles of trail with a lot of trail maintenance, switch backs and climbing turns overall it was an amazing start, the crew has accomplished getting to know each other and creating a comfort ability factor. Cheryl B.

Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg BLM
Project Name- North Bank Habitat Area Evasive Weed Removal

Week 2: Date: June 21st

Monday: Monday, day 21st of June, the summer solstice, etc. Ahhh... We currently are in recovery from our crew's first fall- dehydration- session. I'm still laughing from the low agua. We plan to beat the heat by getting up earlier and (hopefully) chillier. "Time to Chillax, and little bit for singing , To remember the Lorax!" Thank you sun for a chaotic mind... Josh P.

Tuesday: OK. So sitting in the van Lauren and Kris decided that we are all candidates for mental asylums. We are in the Van taking us away. But since I'm on journal I got to write about it. I am the psycho killer that finally snapped and has to play Tetris constantly as a sedative, Josh has multiple personalities. Lauren had a rift of hysteria brought on by excessive use of sarcasm. Etc. etc. Etc. In short we are all mad. Maia L.

Wednesday: We all got more sleep. A dump truck driver helped us fix our van. We got a mint and then we went to work and we got a lot of work done and we had our family drive for a phone call for the can that is a peace. We came back and we got to our work we had to do and we ate now we are here sitting down and I am reading this. Then we are going to bed and we will plan on not eating food for the weekend.

Thursday: This week is going by a lot faster than I think we all expected. The cooler weather has been doing its job. The van is out of the whack due to faulty transmission or something of the sort. As a result of this there has been quite a bit of excess walking. Despite the fact that everybody is tired, I can't think of a single person who complained. Tomorrow is Friday & we are all thankful. It gives a whole other level of meaning to the phrase TGIF. Kristy K.

Friday: Friday, Friday, Friday. Our crew was up early. We were happy to get the evil scotch broom out. Sam was very sarcastic and quite loud. Josh was making jokes that we don't get, but we laughed anyways. I got sick Wednesday but I'm trying to be a good worker I think the crew wants me here, so I'm staying. Cheryl was saying that this would be bad if we had to do the scotch broom another week. On the other hand got poison oak and weren't happy. This week was fun in a way but sucked in another. Ken

Willamette National Forest
Detroit Ranger District
B & B complex PCT maintenance

Week 3: Date: June 28th

Monday: This weekend our crew took showers and washed our clothes. When we got to the weekend site we organized all the food bins and the coolers I think, then the next day we all went on rec. trips. Eben H.

Tuesday: Ohhh... Listen to the drops of hail on your head, since today was a rainy day. We hiked really far and then we got really wet. Jason said it would last 10 minutes but it didn't. and our drainage dips? They are Kaput. Sooo, rejoice tomorrow for the Hump of all hump days. Josh P.

Wednesday: This week we want for Ken not Bart, he wants his SMILE and shoveling powers. We are in need of outstanding and satisfying drainage dips, by the way, check your dam. We would like to advise a balanced food sharing- that means four cookies and too much gorp for Lauren. The camp we have is lovely and staying would be a privilege. Last night Eben scored his own goals in Frisbee it was Nick who helped him to achieve them. Lauren V.

Thursday: The crew learned how to make outstanding drainage dips & damns. The woodsboss Nick gave us a very stern lecture on "hardcore, bomber" drainage dips. We're working on the PCT, & have endured really hot weather, random mega hail storms, & camping by a gazillion mosquitoes. Crew also learned how to build a fire, & about knots, & succession & logging techniques. Some people also learned about foot treatment. Bag Baum works well, so do dry boots. I also learned about sick people, Ken's sick. Sam J.

Friday: Come one come all to the festivities of clean clothes & clean bodies! Another week has gone by. Hump week as a matter of fact. And with BC just around the corner, The Air is filled with excitement & anticipation. So crack open the canned foods, get some rest, be prepared to gain 50 plus pounds, because back country, here comes the blue crew invasion. Kris K.

**National Forest: Willamette
Ranger District Detroit RD
Project Name- B&B complex PCT maintenance**

Week 4: Date: July 5th

Monday: Hell! That's what I think Sunday was like with the mosquitoes and the heavy loads of backpacks. We found our camp site. The crew ran with the last ounce of energy to the site to take off the bags and changed into shorts and shoes and ran to the lake ASAP. Ken

Tuesday: We again find ourselves on the PCT. We still have to accompany mosquitoes, this time in even greater numbers. We are all getting a little fed up with constant bites to buzzing whines in our ears. There are less drainage dips this time, but is made up for in the many necessary rocks & log retaining walls. I have stolen Carter's sweatshirt and I am not giving it back. Maia L.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for the week are getting to the snow and busting up some trail and doing a good job. I went to go and get water and I carried a blue jug and I fell 4 or 5 times that day. That day Ken Bean quit and Jason (rover) had to go back and take him to the bus station in Bend. He While he was gone we busted up some trail. That day also I didn't drink enough water it was cold that day everybody went insane and crazy my body was really cold and me and Chris cut a log drum. Eben H.

Thursday: Today we split up and Eben fell two more times. We cut 13 or so trees and some of us ate a lot of cookies. When we had our brake at the top of the mountain we were very hungry at lunch. We ate some then we went back to work and we had worked a little longer then brake came once again we all sat and we talked. Then we all went and worked for sometime we got off work and we had something great for dinner then we talked about our talent show thing.
Chris C.

Friday: This past week the crew had to deal with numerous challenges; like having a member quit, nasty weather, and oh yeah mosquitoes. On Sunday the crew had to backpack all of our tools, clothes, kitchen stuff, and food to our site. It was a 2 ½ mile hike in. Many people were exhausted & relieved to learn that our camp site was right next to a lake. Unfortunately, there was a bagillion “mossies”

Work was fun with lots of bucking. That is a bagging term used to describe cutting a log in numerous pieces with a 6 ft. cross cut. Very fun. On Thursday, Ken quit. Um, it wasn't a sudden decision. He had been talking about it since the first weekend. More room in the boys' tent. The week flew by & on Friday everyone was feeling good about the completed work & looking forward to seeing other crews. The mighty crew has put together a week by week diddy for the talent, which is based completely on inside jokes, it'll be good. Sam J.

National Forest: Fremont
Ranger District Paisley
Project Name- Cache Cabin Trail

Week 5: Date: July 11th

Monday: Ohhh... WEEKEND SITE was quick (and we had fun at the TALENT Show). So we set up camp at an unsustainable place, and work on Monday was really, really lethargic (thought I was going to say “hard” didn't you?). 9 ½ hours isn't good for your hair and viva la Tom and his bro Bob!!! Josh P.

Tuesday: Today a forest service complained to our camp. It was sheltered at first, but he was only there to make noted on the camp because it was condemned. A guy named Bert (I wonder if his camera is named Ernie) has come to film us for a NYC orientation video. I really don't like being filmed. I am exhausted and very glad it is the last week. I am now going to take a nap. Maia L.

Wednesday: Today we jumped around on the trail a lot. We almost did one half mile yesterday. We might have come close to a mile today. Kris got lost and she ended up on the first part of the trail we did. Then we had a nice little work time until we and no more flagging tape so we turned back and watched Sheryl-Ray use the chain saw and when she started to freak out about Sammy and Nick got lost, or that's what we think. Chris C.

Thursday: This week my crew learned how to construct a trail. We learned that trail construction is not a lot more difficult than trail maintenance. I learned that my crew and I can come together and I can come together and pump out some trail. WE also learned about shelters and tarps during seeds. Naomi G.

Friday: the crew accomplished an amazing last week overall. They were challenged physically & mentally on the work site and in the community every one was exhausted but continued to push their limits far. We were challenged and we persevered. We accomplished five weeks of amazing times and hard-work. We came through and had one of our best weeks yet. We accomplished overall long days, hot weather, frustration and lots to get done at camp. We had the best nights Thursday-swimming, eating and sleeping under the stars. My crew made me proud and I believe they will overcome challenges & accomplish things in life with a new light & perspective after NYC. Cheryl B.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

The very first day at NYC... Chris C.

The first day of our scotch broom project. Maia L.

When I was tired, I didn't feel as though time was passing. Lauren V.

The 4th day of week 4 lots of moving logs. Sam J.

The scotch broom week I was depressed. Eben H. AKA "The Wheez"

The first of our scotch broom project. Naomi G.

Day one of the scotch broom. Kris K.

Friday of the fourth week. I was sooo burnt out. Plus ken quit.
Josh P. "God-King over all men"

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

First is using the Pulaski, second is using the crosscut and last is just being here...
Chris C.

Making apple sauce pancakes, working in the hail, and riding in the van listening to classic rock. Maia L.

My Saturday rec trip snow-ball fight, roasting marsh=mellows over a fire, and our mandatory nap in the backcountry. Lauren V.

The weekend ultimate games, bucking logs with a 2 man saw, and meeting some awesome people. Sam J.

Meeting every one, weekend sites, buying food. Eben H.

My three favorite experiences at NYC were bucking logs at PCT, eating dinner around the camp fire, and nap time in the backcountry. Naomi G.

Running back to camp in a hail storm, meeting very cool people, cooking. Kris K.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Is all of the people I have worked with. Chris C.

How much I dislike scotch broom & mosquitoes. Maia L.

The other crew members. Lauren V.

My crew leader. Sam J.

How my crew leader mountain bikes and does cool stuff. Eben H. AKA "The Wheez"

The members of my crew and my crew leader. Naomi G.

The people I met. Kris K.

One word: Aye or maybe YM... Josh P., of the Angel-Blade clan.

Is pump out some trail, move that tool and the best group leader that ever worked at NYC. Rick S.

From Now On I Will Always...

Look at the trails I am on... Chris C.

Be nice to people I see working on trails. Maia L.

Bring tampons with me Lauren V.

Saver my toilet time. Sam J.

Look at trail!!! Eben H. AKA "The Wheez"

Look at the tread. Hinge, and cut banks of trails. Naomi G.

Notice more about my surroundings. Kris K.

Believe in the Power of the Almighty hazel. Josh P. Toucher of tools.

How a special leader helped me make it through a month of hard work. Rick S.

At NYC I Learned...

How to maintain trails... Chris C.

How to dig drainage dips, use a crosscut, and make a hinge. Maia L.

How to use a Pulaski, about invasive species, and what a key is. Lauren V.

To be frugal, get along with a cast of characters, and doing things that I don't like. Sam J.

How to maintain trail. Eben H. AKA "The Wheez"

How to live and get along with 9 of my peers. I also learned how to use a cross-cut. Naomi G.

Getting along with all different types of people, being away from home, living more independently. Kris K.

How to tolerate stupid jokes, to use abbreviations, and how to make peace with the secretary general of NYC. Josh P., "the only truth"

My strength my weakness in mental physical and emotional being. Rick S.

