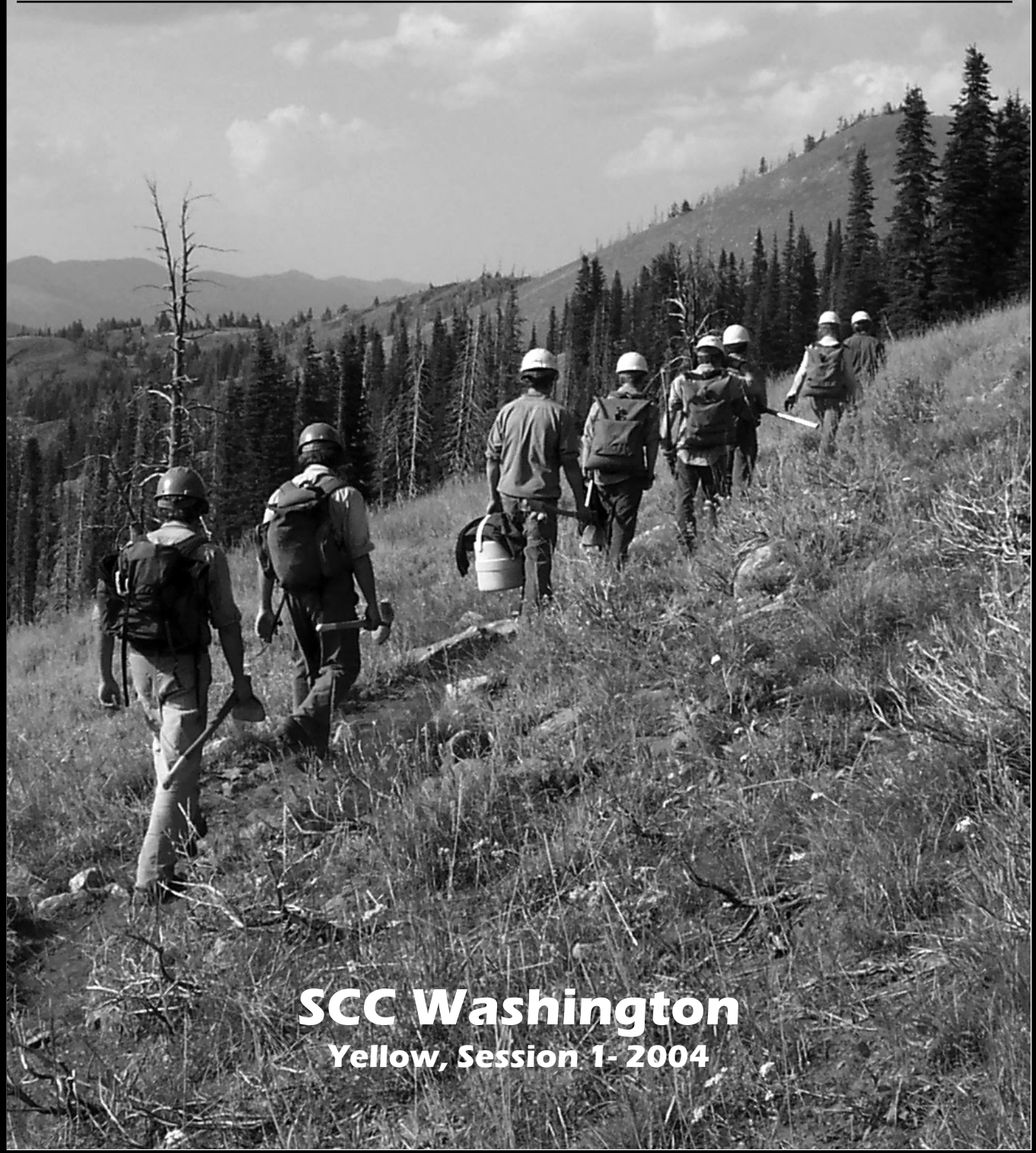




Crew Journal



SCC Washington
Yellow, Session 1- 2004



Hey Hey Hey! It's that time of year again. All the vans have been washed and vacuumed, all the tents have been patched, all the tools sharpened and put away, and we have finally caught up on all those short nights and long summer days of little rest and hard trail dawgin'! It's time once again to sit back, reflect on the season and start recounting the tales of adventure and hardship that you'll someday tell your grandkids. I hope this journal reminds you of the wicked hard days the awe inspiring vistas and the seemingly endless supply of pasta and trio-sauce. I hope that it takes you back to campfire stories and ice-cold creeks and that break in the rain that seemed like a holiday! We've typed out the scribbles lain down at the end of all those long days by worn out hands aching from swinging a tool and copied some of the dazzling images drawn up by the artists of the bunch. To anyone else who hasn't lived outside for over a month, done safety circle before dawn, done the push-up challenge, or chugged a gallon of vesper, these notes might not seem like much. But I hope that for those of you who know, that these entries can serve as a small key for 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 and good friends, great achievements 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,

Billy Scrafford



**National Forest or area that the work took place: Salem BLM
Ranger District
Project Name- Horning Seed Orchard**

Week 1: Date

Monday: After our crew came to our camp, we had to endure crazy hard rain while setting up stuff and had to huddle under our kitchen tarp to avoid the hail. During brief pauses in the storm, we'd race the 15-30 feet to our tents to do stuff. Heh. But we managed to make a luke-warm spaghetti to eat. Overall, we kept up the smiles and enjoyed each other. Lance

Tuesday: This week, our crew is just outside of Cotton, OR at the Horning Seed Orchard. Our mission is to build a fence around a native tree farm. So far we are doing well and working hard despite our lack of two workers and the never-ending rain showers. We are all soaked to the bone and cold but enjoying each others' presence and enduring a new experience at the same time.

Wednesday: Well, let's see, theoretically our goal is to build a fence however, we're also working on getting to know each other. Since we will be spending the next six weeks together we need to all learn each other's way of life in order to get along easily. I know my personal goal is just to learn to accept my new "lifestyle" and I'm sure I'm not the only one. Yay yellow crew! Dawn I.

Thursday: Today we learned about the seed orchard and about the ways trees are grafted to make healthy starts to grow new trees. We learned about native plants and fences to keep them contained.

Thursday: We learned a number of things this weekend. As a crew we completed OSHA. In SEED we covered various topics all enveloping how to interact with people, from discrimination to anger and conflict resolution. At the beginning of the week we were slow and frigid to the camping scene. After today I can say with pride that we are now as a machine, each individual a cog in the process that fuels our successes. Though each piece varies in size and use, all are required to operate.

Billy and Devin visited us this week and I enjoyed their company. I think I can say the same for the rest of the crew. We cooked dinner. Near everybody was involved. It was nice. In reflection, I would say that spirits are strong, despite the minor and major setbacks in our work. Don't forget to wash your hands! Parker

Friday: This first week went by fast, even though the days dragged out kind of slow. Working under the guidance of the fearless Bob and Mike, our crew was able to get just enough done so that they didn't kick us out. All in all we did decent. Challenges, well it wasn't too challenging except that someone kept messing up the splicing. All in all it was a decent week work wise.
Alan

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Coos Bay BLM
Ranger District
Project Name- North Spit Restoration**

Week 2: Date

Monday: This weekend was very fun. Everybody met new people and went new places. We made dinner for everybody and enjoyed fun recreational trips. Many people from our crew went to a waterfall and others went to Crater Lake. We made store stops and enjoyed each other's company. Rada H.

Tuesday: We are on a beach pulling Scotch broom because they aren't native to this land. We used pulaskies and weed wrenches to pull out the Scotch broom-the plant takes over the soil making it hard for other plants to grow. Rada

Wednesday: Goals for the week: Search and destroy all the Scotch broom in the area which is a foreign plant that kind of took over the regular plants in the area. Alan W.

Thursday: We learned that teamwork was the best move for getting all the plants out. Our main tools were the Pulaskis and weed wrenches and our hands. Alan W.

Friday: Right from the get go myself and Justin had a verbal explosion. It was for the best however, we became fast friends. The ever constant rush was still holding us back from our full potential. We did manage to sweep the entire project area clean of Scotch broom, our most

hated adversary. I am loving my time out here. It is a mix of drama, hard work and the ever shifting perceptions and opinions of yellow crew. Every day is a new concept, a new area to strengthen against adversity. I don't believe anybody will leave here the same. Today we let go of our beloved rover Catie. I'll miss her as will everybody else L

We stink.—Tony P.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Oregon Parks and Rec.

Ranger District

Project Name- Oswald West State Park

Week 3: Date

Monday: This weekend we went to the beach. It was magnificent. We camped at Honeyman Park, a campground on the Oregon coast. On Saturday night we had a big circle around an enormous fire right by the ocean. It was a great end of our weekend. Then on Sunday morning our crewleader returned and it was back to work! Vanessa

Tuesday: Yellow crew's project for week 3 involves trail maintenance. We are basically just cutting back trails so that growth does not eventually overtake the trails. We are close to the coast on an airfield on Nehalem State Park. Alan W.

Wednesday: Our goal for this week was to widen the trails for the hikers by cutting back brush. Alan W.

Thursday: We learned to work together and that helped us work better when we were separated in half. Also we learned to use the midreach, a new tool for all of us. We suffered greatly without all of our food supplies but learned to make the best of what we had. Rada H.

Friday: I don't think I could possibly begin to explain ALL our challenges and accomplishments this week. But I'll try to narrow it down for y'all. So work wise I think we really worked our 100% up to our crewleader's expectations. Really. At camp I think everyone would agree with me when I say the tension really began to build up; working with that and trying to help each other and respect each other was a big challenge we had to work for this week among other things. Dawn

National Forest or area that the work took place: Gifford Pinchot NF
Ranger District: Mt. St. Helen's Natl. Volcanic Monument
Project Name- Wright Meadows

Week 4: Date

Monday: All of the crews met at the weekend site and the drama began immediately! Blue crew arrived at 2 am and woke us all up resulting in grouchy people the next day. But seriously: everyone went on rec trips around Mt. St. Helens. Afterwards, we ate dinner and presented our crew talents. Funny stuff man.

Tuesday: We are near Mt. St. Helens, up in the middle of nowhere. We have been working very hard on a motorcycle trail and clearing the brush away from the trail. That's about it.

Wednesday: Our goal for the week is to keep up good with the PM? And have a good time during and after work. Justin

Thursday: We learned to work without supervision because we were split up into groups. We learned how trails are used as drainage for the mountain. 45 degrees is when the land is set. Duff is bad for the trail. Rada H.

Friday: This week our crew had lots of bucket brigades. It was hard. We also filled in lots of trail for motorcycles. It was very hot so we got dehydrated. But we worked hard and got a lot done.

National Forest or area that the work took place:
Ranger District
Project Name- Fort Clatsop Trails Natl. Memorial

Week 5: Date

Monday: This was a more relaxed weekend for the yellow crew. Staying at the same weekend site as the previous weekend, only this time around it was shared with only one other crew which was the red crew. For the rec trips I along with the majority of my crew went on a hike with red crew's leader Tyson. The other rec trip was at the ape caves. Iron chef was the big event which was won by the red crew. Tuna was the special ingredient. Alan W.

Tuesday: This week, yellow crew's project is to clear brush from a trailhead. Our trail is important because it gives tourists an opportunity to walk to the nearby exhibit instead of ride the buses. We are mainly tearing out blackberry bushes which sucks because we get several brutal scratches per day. But the weather is nice and our contact is great. Good times in week 5! Ashley B.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals this week come into play at work. We wanted to complete the required work early and then go farther than expected. We also had a crew meeting due to the disrespectful behavior of one another. So another goal was to start being more respectful to our crewmates. Ashley

Thursday: Let's see . . . this week our crew has learned about picking blackberry roots and still maintaining a positive mental attitude. This week one of our fellow crew members got fired and we all had to learn how to cope with that. Also this week we had a little meeting to try to solve our differences. We're all learning slowly how to respect each other in a manner that we are all still able to express ourselves. Dawn

Friday: The biggest challenge our crew had this week was getting along. We have been with the same people for 5 full weeks now but we seem to be getting a lot better with each other. On the other side, work this week was all about pulling blackberry vines out of the ground: not fun but we made it through! Matt

Week 6

Monday: Like every weekend, we met up with the other crews (this week minus red crew due to a 2-week backcountry project). Unfortunately, it rained lots lots . . . L But yeah we had the usual rec trips and store stops Ooh! This weekend we did the Olympics—even though yellow crew didn't win a gold it was still lots of fun. And I got to run with 5 gallons!!!! Woo! I loved it. J So anyhow we also got un-complained at (if that's the right term) by Devin—the big mean wood's boss ADA Mel's hunnybun. He told us we basically are the worst crew . . . for me it was like a huge slap in the face to wake up! Uh-huh. That's all for now. Dawn

Tuesday: Our project this week? Trail work. Exciting, backbreaking, thought provoking trail work. We're remaking a trail that has been swamped in by a creek. It is mostly rock and the most difficult work our crew has yet to face. Surprisingly, we are up to par with our goal, so I think and hear. Only time will tell if our crew has what it takes to complete our objectives. P.S. Devin rocks. Parker

Wednesday: It's our 6th week! Yay! We plan to go out with a BANG! This week our goals consist of working hard and consistently in order to prove that yellow crew doesn't suck. Cuz we don't. So far, we've been successful. Ashley B.

Thursday: this last week we all learned all about check dams, water bars, culverts, moving basalt monoliths for materials, and that chipmunks will bust into your shotgun for all your gorp and peebees. Our rover Simon learned the hard way not to stick your fingers between boulders. Lance B.

Friday: Since it was the last week everybody was anxious to get outta here and annoyed very easily, so our challenge was to get along. Being told that we were the weakest crew by Devin made us work harder this week and we managed to finish our project and even more than our contact wanted of us. Rada H.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

I don't think that there was any day that was more extreme than the other, but through it all my teammates pulled me along, whether they knew it or not. Parker

Yeah, I can't just point out one exact day. However I am going to say our last week working 10 hr. days all week with that nearly 2 mile hike—I thought I was going to die. Dawn

I don't think we ever had too hard of a work day although none of them were too easy, but not too hard. The only thing I thought was difficult was pulling black-berries that's because it was so boring. This session could have been a lot harder. Matt

I think this session was more of a day care more than a challenge but I had fun so I guess that's all that matters. I love NYC forever. Justin

Our last project and last week with a 2-mile uphill hike seemed endless at 6 am in the morning. Rada H.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My favorite time was working in Coos Bay at our beach campsite. Parker

Fav. Exp. Were: weekend sites, weekend sites, and weekend sites! Lance

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember the people, Friend and enemies, animosity and nostalgia will linger forever. Parker

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always consider the purpose for my job. Parker

At NYC I Learned...

At NYC I learned that I am subject to highs and lows that I can ride out and control. Parker

I learned all about cooking good food, getting good spots in the van, and how to hacky sac. Lance

