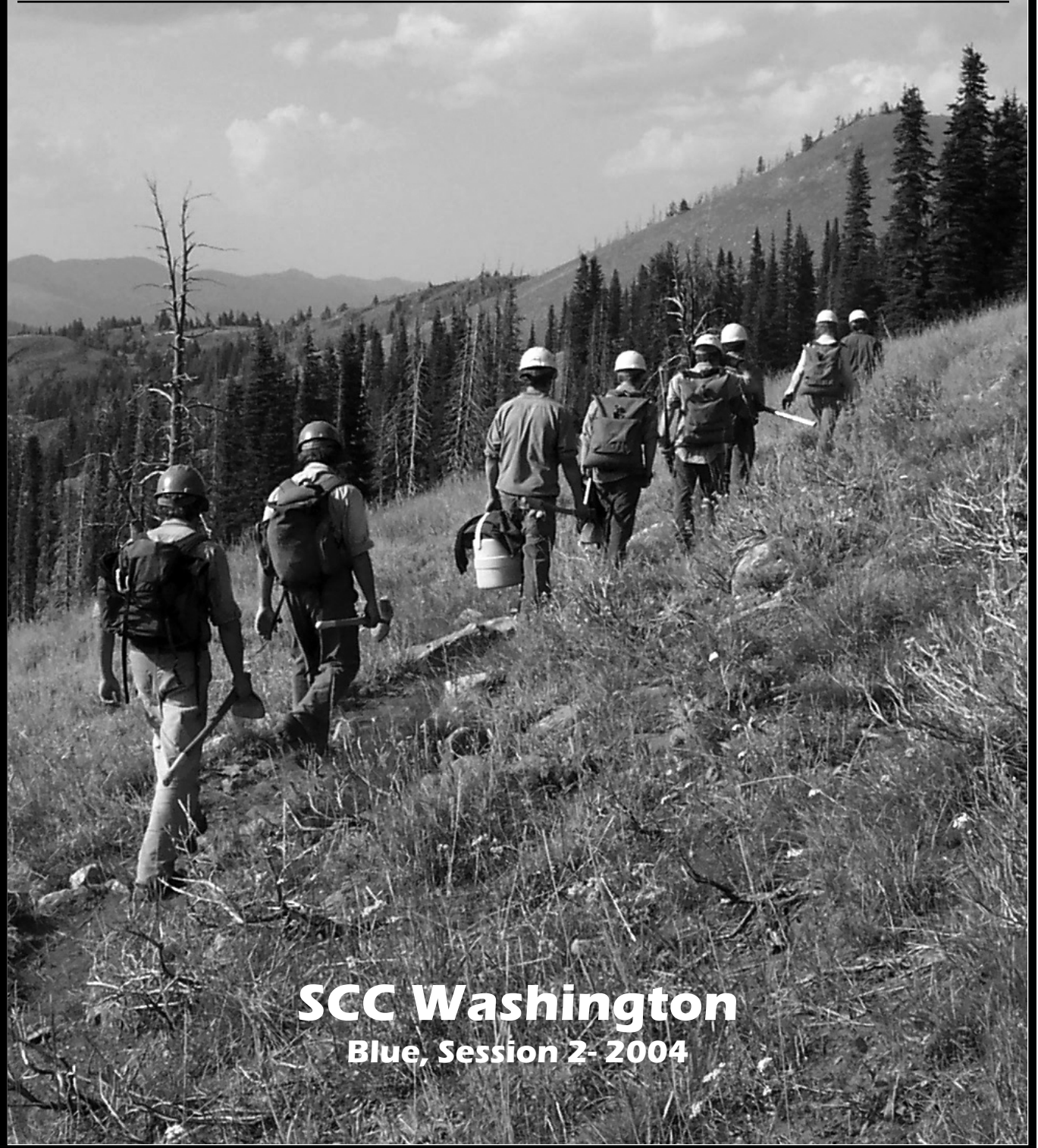




Crew Journal



SCC Washington
Blue, Session 2- 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: Ochoco National Forest
Ranger District: Prineville
Project Name- Ochoco Weeds

Week 1: Date

Monday: Day 1 of our expedition. We are outside of Prineville, OR in Ochoco National Forest. Work on noxious weeds begins bright and early tomorrow. Camp chores are under way, with the cooks under our recently erected kitchen tarp. Our first attempt was a failure, but the tarp is now fully functional. It is sunny, raw but we were wearing raingear only minutes ago, and we may yet need it again. I think we are all excited for tomorrow and ready to get to work. Chris

Monday: Today was long and wet. We weeded all day, and when that was done we weeded some more. It rained for the greater part of the day, and when it wasn't raining we were looking for lost crew members. And after work we were greeted with a hailstorm. But all in all it was a great day. Chelsea P.

Tuesday: We are removing the noxious weed Hounds tongue, working in Ochoco National Forest. We are also removing some mullein and thistle. The weed takes over large areas and outcompetes other native plants and it is also toxic for cattle. Taif

Wednesday: Today we killed some weeds like scar face killed the cockroaches. It was not that wet today until the end, also it's colder than a . . . Brian B

Thursday: We awoke to a scrumptious peach cobbler. It provided enough energy for us to aggressively wack all those terrible weeds for a good two hours. However, in order to make our strenuous haul up the fire line we needed more food. We refueled then heaved and hoed up the hill with the weeds to find the van dead. We reveled in the extra time to relax while Pat came to the rescue. Eventually we found our worksite but couldn't find much hounds tongue. After lunch we howled like a hound as we found PLENTY of hounds tongue. Time flew and work was enjoyable thanks to the perfect weather.

Friday: Our challenges this week were the awful and cold weather we had for the first couple days, aching blisters, extensive quality control in large patches, losing a crewmember to injury, physical and mental duress, soreness and smelliness. Bonding as a crew, clearing 230 acres of hounds tongue, accepting difficulties and limitations and striving for more, cooking an amazing range of delicious meals and getting to know each other. Jim

National Forest or area that the work took place: Umatilla
Ranger District: John Day
Project Name- John Day River Trail Maintenance

Week 2: Date

Monday: This weekend we had a wild and crazy time. We washed all of our stinking clothes and detoured at the hospital for our dear friend Forrest. Sadly he had to leave us. Coal and Scotty stole his place and we drove to the weekend site. We had some amazing recreational field trips. My group went into a big field and sat! whoohoo! Finally we made lots of ?? And packed up for our backcountry adventure.—Amy & Chelsea

Tuesday: Our project for this week is to do some trail maintenance. We prune, we brush, and we lop. We are in the John Day wilderness. We are doing this because we need to make the horse trails more accessible.—Amy & Chelsea

Wednesday: This week we are in the backcountry of the north fork of the John Day River. Our goal is to clear the brush and obstructions from the North Fork River Trail 3022. There are many small conifers lining the trail that prevent passage and many fallen logs as well. Trail construction has been minimal but is necessary from time to time. We will try to finish the remaining mile and a half or so of our project over the next day and a half. Hump day wood.—Chris

Thursday: This week our crew learned that perseverance and dedication ultimately pays off. That isn't limited to money. We discovered that long term goals got shorter in time and distance. We started on a mission of a three-mile hike and worked our tails off by clearing the trail. By the end of today we had (less crewmembers by our side, but) a tremendous victory in our minds. We finished the trail with little remaining for QC for tomorrow morning. I believe

that everyone including myself, feel that we have surpassed obstacles and achieved goals. It's a triumph. We are blue crew! We can do anything!--??

Friday: This week proved to be extremely challenging. We brushed and bucked almost four miles of trail this week. We had a couple members suffer from the heat, which eventually caused us to lose two crewmembers this week. The rest of the crew picked up and worked like a hurricane during the second half of the week. We bucked logs, moved downed trees, cleared numerous young conifers, and improved many feet of damaged trail. Our team pulled together and made great strides, a testament to our passion towards wilderness, ecology, trail maintenance and high personal standards of excellence.—Blue Crew

National Forest or area that the work took place: Wenatchee
Ranger District: Leavenworth
Project Name- Cady Creek Trail Maintenance

Week 3: Date

Monday: The majority of this weekend was spent driving. We had an excellent stop in Pendleton and picked up an "I-Rock" for the van ride. There was also a lengthy Wal-Mart store stop and a very liberating river crossing. We passed through a charming Bavarian village and saw many tiled roofs sheltered by snow-capped peaks and ornate McDonald's signs.
Chris/Topher S.

Tuesday: After a hard day of van prepping and packing blue crew made its way into Washington State on Sunday afternoon. Upon arrival we discovered our lovely new home, equipped with a man-made toilet, fire-ring, and plenty of green foliage. Our project for the week was to do trail maintenance along Cady Creek in Wenatchee National Forest of Leavenworth. Monday morning was difficult, as is the beginning of any new project, but by evening blue kicked it into 3rd gear. That night we spent relaxing by the fire and getting to know more about our good buddy Jim. --Samantha

(no date) This morning's wakeup call was a late 6:00, but was not quite late enough. Many yawns and thoughts of warm sleeping bags accompanied Blue's work day. But not all faith has been lost as 4900 feet of trail were covered in our 8 ½ hour day.

Wednesday: Our goals this week are to welcome our new members and help them to learn the NYC lifestyle. We also aimed to improve the trail by brushing and reconstructing. Another goal that we have is to learn more about our crewmembers as we are doing PHS every night.
GO BLUE CREW! –Chelsea P.

Thursday: We learned SO much this week it's insane. We learned that we are a trail making machine, well-oiled and ready to go. We also learned that we can accept new crewmembers. No problem! Andrew, Billy and Brian taught us an incredible amount of new trail maintenance procedures such as drainage ditches, tread repairs, drainage dips and stream fjords. –Amy C.

Friday: This week our challenge for Blue crew was our hard work in the festering burning sunlight. It was also hard for the crew to accept the new crewmembers for the week including myself and two others. One of the worst was to endure Andrew without his coffee for this wonderful short day, this Friday and having to handle his strong annoying anger that we don't know if he is joking or serious. But our accomplishments were to build the dam-like water things and with the whole time Andrew leading the construction. Also we hope that our wonderful cutting of the maple and alder bushes with the work to our sponsor. The end. Christian



National Forest or area that the work took place: Wenatchee
Ranger District: Wenatchee
Project Name- Cady Creek Trail Maintenance

Week 4: Date

Monday: This weekend we soloed in the woods for a few hours. Most of us greatly appreciated the time given to think, write, reflect, and chillax. Sunday morning we went on a steep hike up to a summit. It was difficult but well worth the pain. The view was gorgeous. We spent hours admiring and appreciating the view. The end. –Samantha

Tuesday: This week our project was to improve trails in the Wenatchee Wilderness area. So far we have built water bars, tread and river fords. This week we are also letting corpsmembers be crewleaders. So far we have been under the reign of Amy the Quiet, Jim the Terrible, Chris the Moderate to Fairly Good. Max owns. The project's main goal other than building trail is making Rusty, our half-grizzly, half-man, contact happy. –Jim

Wednesday: This week our crew's goals are spectacular and different. Sam's goal was not to kill Andrew. Ty's goals were to learn the ABC's. Andrew's goals are to make beautiful tread and make Gold Bond go on a date with him. Jim's goals were to roll in the beautiful flowers of the summer. Chelsey's goals are to make people happy. All in all, all our goals are to benefit everyone around us and end out happy. –Max

Thursday: Our crew learned that Coco Mix is a vital and very important substance when we are all mad as heck. On a more important note we have learned how to build trails and do some important things in damming and making trails with tons of water into a dry and good place to be. ALSO we learned the hard parts of life by allowing our good friend Martin (the mouse) to die in the bottom of the box. End. Chris

Friday: Our crew's challenges and accomplishments included summiting Poe Mountain, living with each other in a functioning community, and finishing our project. We also learned to live peacefully as a simple tribe. Our knowledge and abilities of trail construction and maintenance were greatly expanded, as were our team skills and . . . stuff. Climbing to the top of Poe Mountain proved to be quite difficult. Yet, once we reached the top, all agreed it was well worth the struggle. All of these challenges helped us grow. We learned many new things that will help us in the future with NYC and in life in general.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Wenatchee
Ranger District: Leavenworth
Project Name- Indian Creek Trail

Week 5: Date

Monday: This weekend we went to the weekend site. It was a standard weekend site. Our crew set it up in a choice site. It was level with plenty of shade and a minimal amount of trees. Friday night a ton of people got Mohawks. I didn't. Our crew went to the local lake for our rec trip. There we gave more people Mohawks and swam. The end. Jim B.

Tuesday: Well we did a lot of lopping and brushing. We are four miles in Indian Creek trails. We are cutting the grass and all the trees we see or at least the ones that can hang on the trail. We are remaking the PCT for the people walking from Mexico. They are going all the way to Canada. The end. –Brian L.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals this week are to clean the trail by lopping and brushing. Also our goals are to stay happy, dry, full, and productive. I think that our goals are reachable. Chelsea P.

Thursday: This week there was an emphasis on quality control. This came into play with brushing, bumping tools, and even on the hike in. We are refining our A.C. skills in thought and practice as we also hone our sawing and lopping talents. Topher

Friday: This week of all weeks . . . we did much brushing and killing of the plans as usual—and ninjas. E then did a lot of mid-reaching and trail cleaning. A big focus was on quality control. That's what tomorrow or Sunday, or Monday. We accomplished 30 drainage dips in one day. They are all excellent and OK. Later. Max

Week 6: Date

Monday: This weekend we worked a small amount on Friday and then the guys soaked in their heavenly swimming hole while the girls froze. Saturday morning we hiked to meet orange crew and resupply. We gobbled down some grilled cheese sandwiches, relaxed, and hiked back leaving Brian behind. We did a few chores upon our return, ate dinner, and did Saturday circle. Sunday we slept in and worked a short 4 hours. Yeah for weekend!!!

Tuesday: It was the best of days; it was the worst of days. In the beginning there was cold; freezing cold. And then the work began. And the sun god said "Let there be horribly hellish heat" and there was. We worked and worked and worked some more. The path was rerouted and the roots, uprooted. After hours of beautiful trail creation, the exhausted, weary NYC workers returned to camp and then to the Fairy Hole for a refreshing dunk. And here I sit: writing . . . The end.

Wednesday: For most among our crew's goals this week is sanity. Second is patience. Brushing is wearing morale thin. But we are intent on making it through. After all, we are Blue crew. We also plan to finish our section of the PCT reroute, clearing a wide swath as we go and digging new tread if we are able. Our contact came out today and gave us the OK on our

work. He also lent us the opportunity to test our trail with his mules. Thanks Rusty's mules. Peace. Topher

Thursday: This week we learned that we hate mosquitoes, black flies and deer flies. We also learned that ninjas, sadly, don't live in Washington. That was a harsh lesson. Other than that we didn't really learn much. This is because we have been lopping and haven't had to learn any new skills. Jim Billeaux

Friday: Among our crew's challenges this week were dealing with bureaucratic bollocks, bugs, and a large reroute/trail rebuilding. Our reroute was weighed and measured by Rusty's mules and was found wanting. We cobbled it, then threw a layer of gravel and sand, followed by dirt. The day ended with a gruesome water fight and everyone was soaked. A good close to the session to be sure. Au revoir. How now brown cow? Topher the Magnificent

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was the very first day because I came in to the group in the middle of the session. It was hot and everybody was really irritable at the time, so it must have been the first day that was the hardest. It was not very cool cutting weeds and at the time it was the brushing. Yeah the brushing was not so cool. But I guess the people let me in the group. And my feet hurt. I had blisters the size of ? And my boots were not worked in and that day sucked. Brian L.

My most challenging day at NYC was probably when we had people quit. It bummed the rest of the crew out and we had to accept drastic changes in group dynamics. Our crew bonded though solemnly to be sure. We had to take the quitters to the bus station and left them fading away in our rearview mirrors as they climbed aboard their bus. They are never to be seen again in NYC. Chris S.

My most challenging day at NYC was the first night, because I had no clue what

was going to happen. I was SO used to my everyday, normal life at home that the change was shocking. The weirdest thing about the first day was having a bunch of adults I didn't know telling me what to do. The first day was quite an overwhelming one. Samantha

My most challenging moment at NYC was the first day.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My first favorite NYC experience was the first week. Right off the bat I was pushed to my physical and emotional limits. I felt alone and uncertain whether I could complete six weeks. However, after the first week, my crewmembers warm hearts ensured me that together we'd succeed. From that point I knew that this wouldn't be an easy six weeks but it would be possible.

My next favorite experience occurred the third week. For our rec trip my crew and I conquered Poe Peak. The hike was challenging yet the view once at the top was moving and well worth many times the hike. At the top my crew and my vision of how great this job really was, was refreshed.

My final favorite experience took place only yesterday. It was a grueling nine-hour last day. The heat would not subside. Brian's voice brought the final harmonious "tool count." "Thank goodness!" I thought. We rushed and counted the tools. Just then Brian scooped up a bucket full of water and splashed us all. That was it! The war was on! We all grabbed hard hats and more buckets and partook in the most refreshing water fight ever! -Amy C.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I ?? Food and the nights or the mornings it was so hard for me to get used to the vegetarian food but I got through. The nights were hard because it was so much fun just to stay up with folks to ? for a long time and know you have to wake up. That is another thing I would say is to wake up in the morning so freaking early and be forced to eat which usually never eat breakfast so it was hard to get used to it. That's it. Good luck and good day. Chris R.

'I will always remember what just happened 30 seconds ago . . . Our trailer detached itself from our 12 passenger motor vehicle on I84 in the beginning of our entrance into Oregon. I almost puked as our van began to jolt and the trailer decided to take a detour off the side of the interstate. Amazingly, the huge steel frame hit the guard rail, almost toppling over the side, and then regained its balance by spinning 180 in place. Our big blue trailer managed to stay on the shoulder, and the vehicles behind it were safely moving out of the path of danger. After the trailer's departure, our frightened NYC van was maneuvered smoothly to the side of the road by the suave and savvy Cole-man himself. All were safe; happy; healthy. Samantha S.

From Now On I Will Always...

Think about brushing and value the skills that I have learned. Be more responsible. Say oi! a lot more. Value the nature around me, and also value being home and living in a populated city that I love. I will also always respect nature a lot more. I have learned a lot during my 4 week experience. I know much more about the way water works at all times. The End. Max

At NYC I Learned...

At NYC I learned several lessons. They included lessons about bureaucracy. 1st I learned that even easy tasks take forever when bureaucracy is involved. An example of this is the bump line. The bump line is a crude attempt to reproduce a production line. The bump line concept however loses efficiency due to lack of participation in said line. Because bureaucracy created this line, bureaucracy can also be blamed for its loss in efficiency. No teenager tends to want to participate in anything if it is tightly regulated and mandatory.

2nd I learned that bureaucracy enforces the chain of command. Before a corpsmember can do anything they have to ask their crewleader. Before a crewleader can do anything they must ask their woodsboss. This keeps everyone in check and hinders any creativity. Alas I could go on and on about the bureaucratic crap that goes on at NYC. I would in fact but my hand is cramping so I will finish by saying that all I really learned at NYC is that the business world is full of bureaucratic shit. These lessons although harsh will help me deal with the loads of bureaucracy I will have to deal with as an adult. I will forever thank NYC

for teaching me this and opening my eyes to the harsh reality of the real world.
Jim B.

At NYC I learned how to participate in a community effectively as a peer leader. My job as a swamper was extremely difficult because I was never quite sure what role to take. However, I found it most effective to just encourage and motivate others as much as possible. And to always be willing to help others and help them learn too. I learned that when you are always concerned about other people are feeling to forget that you hurt too. Taif G.

