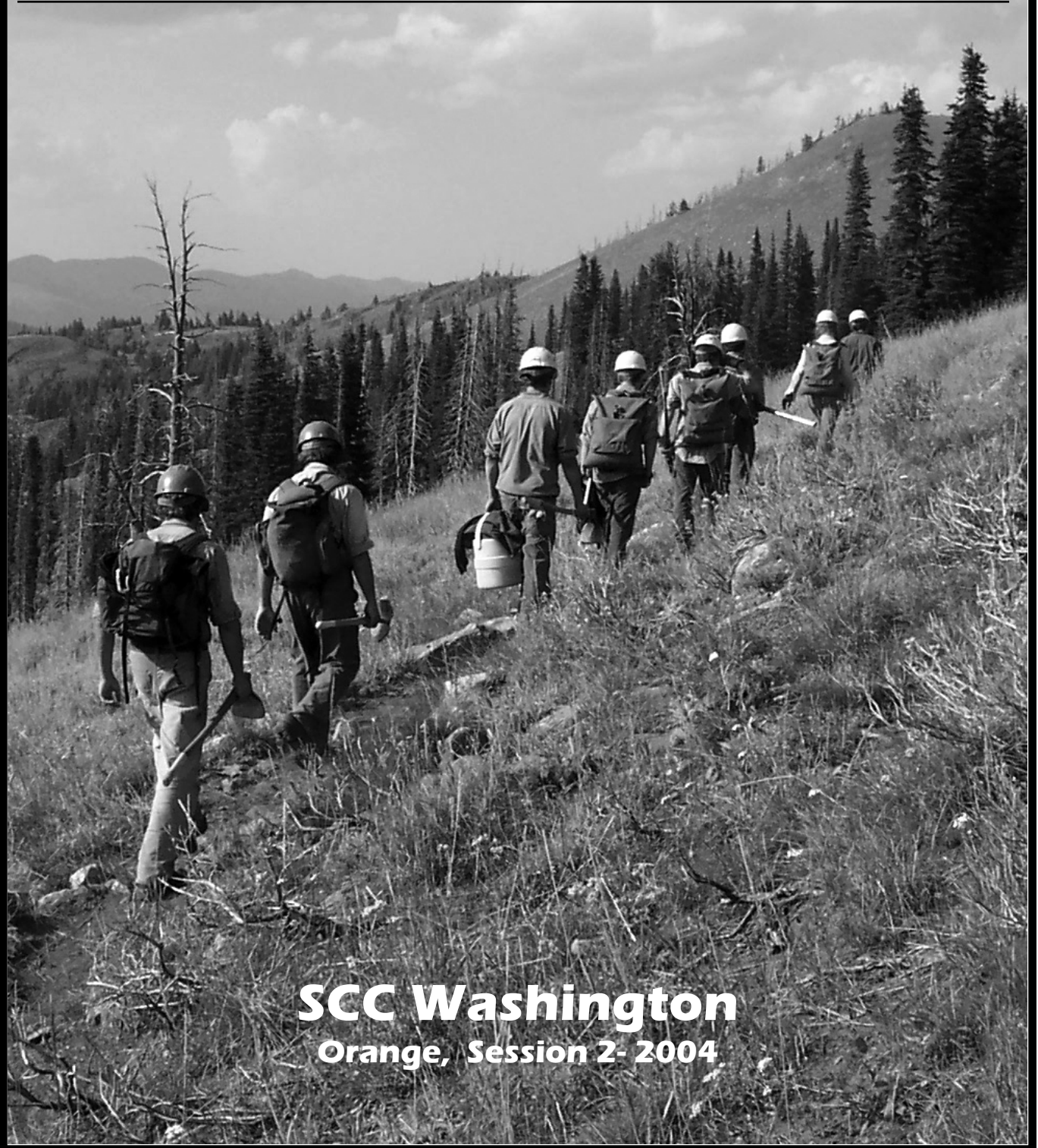




# Crew Journal



**SCC Washington**  
**Orange, 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**  
**Ranger District: Paulina**  
**Project Name- Ochoco Weeds**

Week 1: Date

Monday: This weekend was spent undergoing NYC orientation and settling into our camp. Orientation began at 1:00 at NYC headquarters in Eugene. Topics covered included vehicle maintenance, camp sanitation, backcountry cooking, tent setup, and a variety of other areas we will need to be knowledgeable about during the next six weeks. We departed fairly early the next morning, Sunday, so as to reach Ochoco National Forest by nightfall. The drive, while smellier and lengthier than anticipated, did end safely. Tasks such as tent set-up, dinner preparations, and firewood gathering were undertaken. The night ended with a most enjoyable fire. James G.

Tuesday: Our project was removal of noxious weeds. We had 27 bags full of plants. We are doing this because it takes over all the other plants "bullies". We are in the Paulina Ochoco National Forest. This was not real fun so next week I hope we get some better stuff. Stephen L.

Wednesday: What up everybody? It's the peak of the week. So far we have pulled these crummy weeds over and over day in day out. We are getting much quicker at getting each area



clear better and faster. Our crew is chill and a bunch of hicks that have nodded will to get 'er done and have done just that. Now we are awaiting the weekend to chill with the other crews. Until then we keep trucking. Peace out from orange for another day under our belt. Stan O.

Thursday: Basically what we learned about each other was our dislikes and likes. And just a little about our home lives and hobbies and now I know about a lot of different music groups. And I learned that NYC is a really good program if you want to work hard. Ben O.

Friday: The fine lads of Orange Crew (hooah!) have completed a week rife with both challenge and accomplishment. Perhaps the greatest challenge was the mind-numbing monotony of pulling hounds tongue weeds. Just when you were convinced that not one more of the nefarious invaders could possibly exist in all of Ochoco National Forest, a new patch would be spotted.

Just as the weeds posed the greatest challenge, their subjugation may well have been the crew's greatest accomplishment. It took huge amounts of dedication, integrity and willpower to do it, but do it the fine lads did.

Frequently cold and unpleasant weather were another issue the crew had to overcome. Warmth and sun were fleeting and intermittent, forcing NYC personnel to doff and don raingear many times a day. Hail and sleet were also present.

This challenge was conquered by the wearing of many layers, roaring campfires, and hot drinks. Although it had a devastating detrimental effect on some crewmembers, everybody

stuck things out in the hopes conditions would improve. This was a major accomplishment in and of itself.

With all these experiences under the crew's collective belt, it ventures forth into the unknown once again. What will the coming week bring? Not one lad knows. All that is certain is that the crew has come far. James G.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Ochoco**  
**Ranger District: Paulina**  
**Project Name- Ochoco Trails**

Week 2: Date

Monday: This weekend was a time to relax but still was crazy. Everyone was mostly happy to see each other's crew, but blue crew lost a teammate due to an eye injury. Otherwise it was a bit laidback, I said a bit. At our weekend campsite due to our location, we all were camped in a field of doo doo! Yuk! Anyway I still think it should have been a bit longer.—Eli D.

Tuesday: This week, we're doing trail repair in the Ochoco Nat. Forest outside of the Mud Springs campground. It's a little wack because we're working further backcountry than the backcountry group, but whatever. We'll have bragging/complaining rights at the weekend site. It is pretty fantabulous to walk back over tail we busted butt on.—Davidson S.



Wednesday: This week, our goals were to move the 80 or so logs down the trail to make curbs for the trail. We hiked a minimal of 8 miles round trip to work per day. We ran short of water almost every day, usually sending Stephen to get water for us. Our main goal was to survive the bad Apple, Hikes, “Suck a fish”—Mike M.

Thursday: We learned that we can hike farther than we ever could. We hiked hella every day which was long and tiresome. But we feel good about it. We learned mostly that we were in pretty bad shape—well, most of us. We grew closer this week than last week. We learned what a 10-hour day really was. I am tired but feel good about how this crew did with what we had. Stephen L.

Friday: Well, it’s Friday and the blisters are subsiding. The dirt stains on our bodies say it all, hard work was done here! We’re on our way to showers and laundry but the only thing I can think about is the hard friggin’ hike we had daily, not to mention how full of milk my stomach is! But the curb logs are set, the drain ditches are looking good, and all in all the trail looks great through dehydrated eyes but anything worth doing is worth doing messed up! Other than that I’m sad to say we lost a mate and have to get used to the idea that this is hard work. So good night New York, I feel like puking.—Dirty D.

**National Forest or area that the work took place:**  
**Ranger District**  
**Project Name-**

Week 3: Date

Monday: Today we’re in backcountry. It was a pretty relaxed day. Dirty and Stone went to meet the contact. The rest of us started at 9 am. We fixed tread until first break then we did brushing and rerouted a trail for the rest of the time we worked.

Me, Mike, Ben and Davidson hiked almost to the trailhead removing crap from within five feet of the trail. Jim, Stephen and Mouse had loppers. Oos and Chief were doing sawing with a saw and a mid-reach. A few people used the crosscut to cut two trees and then we hiked back to camp. Kyle

Tuesday: We’re camping three miles backcountry next to Mill Creek, still in Ochoco Nat. Forest. It’s beastly hot for us while we fix tread, crosscut logs, big frickin’ logs, with sticks this big, re-routing trail and smell bad. Today we did the dumbest reroute for lazy hikers and stupid horses but tomorrow we get to buck 30-40 fatty logs, so yay. Davidson

Wednesday: Our goals were to make our contact happy with NYC again. We wanted to finish our projects and move on to extra stuff. We have finished most of our projects well and it looks like we will finish up tomorrow. This is an easy and fun week. It is flying by and we get closer every day. Today we split the crew and ½ went to cut logs that lay across the trail and ½ went to finish a curb log. Stephen L.

Thursday: Most of the crew this week learned not all contacts are open arms to NYC. From most of the rumors I hear she had a bad NYC group come through or something like that. For

the most part everyone works together well. Today we split into two groups and worked and bonded together through the good and the bad. Eli D.

Friday: Well Monday me and Stone went for a nice morning hike to get the cross-cuts while the rest of the crew pruned then we worked on a reroute. Tuesday we all kicked knarly butt on a bunch of curb logs trying to get it done was immensely gratifying until Jordan came and screwed one up, but you can't tell him that because he's a woodsboss. Wednesday we split into two groups. I hike with the half going north. We crosscut all day. It was awesome to get to the top. Down below the contact was unimpressed to find that with one kick she had destroyed Jordan's work. Thursday we just finished the projects and fell asleep. Friday was nothing but hiking and busy work. Then we took free showers and did laundry. Hope to enjoy the rest of the weekend. I hear it's going to be fantastic. Dirty D.

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

Week 4: Date

Monday: We hiked out of the Wild Cat Campground trails in the Ochoco National Forest, then drove a super-duper long way to a truck stop on the Columbia River to have some ice cream! Yummy! Anyway, we made it to WA! Huzzah! Or in other words, Washington. We chilled at Lake Wenatchee and had time to swim and relax and see some honeys! So we ended up in Wenatchee National Forest, on the Buck Trail in backcountry, later and out, homies. Eli D.

Tuesday: We are making drainage dips and clearing trail. This week we are up Buck Creek Trail. And last but not least, we are doing this because this is our job and we get paid to do it. Oh ya Jordan is dumb. Ben O.

Wednesday: Our goals are to finish our projects on time. Tomorrow we will finish our projects and move on. I have had fun all week except my sleeping bag broke and it will be a long night. Our goals were also to prove what crew is da best and make our contacts happy. We have been



doing drain dips all week and we want to have more fun next week. So our goals were to finish projects, to prove we are da best crew and make our contacts happy. Stephen L.

Thursday: What up again from Stan with orange crew. Well our crew finished what the contacts had got up for us before our lunch break came. We then proceeded to do work beyond that point for quite a ways further. So in essence we learned orange crew is bomber and we prevailed once again. You are about to bring on the challenge when you'd like since we have yet to have one stop us. Stan O.

Friday: We packed camp and fixed drain dips we did the first day before we knew what we were doing. Then we started the hike out cutting back branches and doing dips on the way. We got to the van, unloaded the van and loaded the trailer. We did laundry and took showers then went to the weekend site. Kyle

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

Week 5: Date

Monday: This weekend was like most of the other weekends with the trips and the circles. It was July 4<sup>th</sup> on Sunday. The trips this week went to two lakes and one group went hiking. Mike

Tuesday: The project this week is brushing, fairly simple, trim, saw, and cut, all of the basics. We are in Glacier Pass where the weather is arm but muggy or humid. The awesome part is we hardly have to throw stuff off trail "so far". The problem is that snow falls and bends branches into the trail so we cut those branches to prevent this from happening. Later homeys. Eli D.

Wednesday: Our goal is to trim overhanging trees, so in other words we are weedwackers. Another goal is to stay dry and warm. Another goal is to keep track of our tools and not lose them. We also try to use P.M.A. all the time. Aloha! Scotty C.

Thursday: This week we learned about brushing with saws and loppers. Loppers are used for small branches and plants. Saws are used for limbs or trees bigger than a 1/2 inch or so. We also learned to take rain gear. So yeah, that's what we have learned so far. Later. Kyle

Friday: Our challenge was to stay focused and to work through cold in the morning and heat in the afternoon. It was long and boring days after Monday. By the end of the week we were starting to lose focus and getting careless. But it was easy work and was time consuming.

Our accomplishments were we got the job done and we averaged finishing at least 1 switchback every day. We had fun and worked hard. The worst part was not getting 12 hrs. of sleep. But this week went by very quickly. Stephen L.

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

Week 6: Date

Sunday: This weekend went by fast. Saturday we got up at 7 in the morning to get camp ready to move up the trail a couple of miles to be closer to the worksite. Then we hiked out to the van to do resupply for the next and final week. When we were doing resupply we met up with blue crew and ate lunch with them. After splitting up with blue crew we packed back to our first camp and packed it, and hiked to our next camp site which is six miles from the vans on the way in we had some rain but it stopped as we got to the camp. We set up camp and had a good dinner then went to bed. Sunday we slept in until ten and then we worked ten hours so we don't have to work next Friday. After the ten hours we wrote in our journals. Kyle

Monday: Our weekend started Saturday, hiking after breakfast, then we got to the van at about 10:30. We got our stuff loaded up and chilled for a while. The rest of Saturday was more hiking and more hiking because we made a new camp higher up to keep our hikes to work short. Sunday we worked and woke up at 9:30. We got to sleep in Oh yeah! Stephen L.

Tuesday: Orange Crew is at Boulder Creek Trail. We are pruning and brushing. It's not too bad, but at the same time it is boring as heck. The sun beats down every day at about 90 degrees, so it feels great to get back camp. Thanks & Peace & out. Stan O.

Wednesday: This week we're trying real hard to get the hell out of Dodge early. We've already busted out Friday's four hours and we've planned to hike back the first two miles to our old camp, to allow for late sleeping on Friday. We're also trying to make it to Boulder Pass which rumor has it has the dankest views of dank views. Oh, and to make it through the week without killing each other. Davidson S.

Thursday: Our crew learned this week it gets hot in the afternoon. We also learned that getting up at 4 am is not so bad. We learned to slow down water water. Our crew learned don't use 4 packs of pasta. Scotty C.

Friday: Well the week was hard because it was nothing but brushing. But I do believe we became closer in all the ruckus. Enough about that though. Friday was awesome! 1 am I'm awakened by an urge to urinate. While doing so, I'm startled by a stick cracking not but 7 ft. from where I'm standing. I quickly run to my sleeping bag to find my lighter, the only source of light coming to my mind. I can't quite see right where I was so I grab a shovel that happened to be in arms reach. I approach the noise with a certainty I was in for a ride I'd never forget. I finally get close enough to see then "God damn it, it's that damn deer again!" We fought with that thing 'til 5 in the morning. Long story short it finally left us. Then me, Mike and Ben hiked with a two-hour head start and rocked out in the van while packing. We also got to see this gorgeous woman jogging by. Two weeks back just made it all the better. Peace and love, tata, Dirty D.

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

My worst day at NYC was pretty much the whole first week: doing tedious work in crappy weather sucked—Davidson

First 10-mile hike in mud springs. Stephen L.

My most challenging day was a week the second week when we had to hike 5 miles to work. Mike M.

Every day. Ben O.

Working on my B-Day. Stan O.

Sundays are my most challenging day. Scotty C.

Thursday during my 2 week was a challenge because we hiked in and out 5 miles both ways in and out of work for week 2. Eli D.

Working the 2<sup>nd</sup> week. With the hike and the heat. Kyle

... Was the second to last Saturday when I ran out of tobacco. Danny G.

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

Getting all our work done, goofing around with the other crews, sleeping.  
Davidson

Three NYC experiences were the hard work, the interesting people, and the great views from the top. Kyle

Seeing Ben chase those bulls out of the road, it was awesome. Also chasing off the dam deer out of camp from 1 am to 5 am. And the final Friday, rocking out in the van with all I wanted. Danny G.

Graduation, my check, going home. Stan O.

People, check, vacation. Ben O.

Meeting new people, making friends and the work. Mike

*One Thing I Will Always Remember...*

Awesome views of Buck Pass. Davidson

To go to Lake Wenatchee was awesome swimming! Eli D.

The good times with friends and the smell of rain in the trees. Stan O.

The one thing I will remember is all the fun we had after work and at weekends.  
Ben O.

All the friends I met. Mike

I will always remember my friends and the views. Kyle

Davidson and Stoney! Danny G.

Orange crew. Scotty C.

To see awesome views. Eli

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

Do my best to preserve the environment. Davidson

Preserve the environment. Scotty C.

I'm always going to turn off the lights. Eli D.

I will always dig a cat hole in the woods from now on. Ben O.

I will always be true to myself and to my word. Kyle

Stake down my tent! Hahaha. Danny G.

Yeah, I second Danny being smacked in the head, so yes stake your tent first off.  
Stan O.

Drink plenty of water! Eli

The hikes. Mike

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

Anything is possible, sweat smells great, there is no better rewards than Mandill's and sleep. Davidson

I learned @ NYC your limits can be pushed. Hounds tongue is a really crappy thing to deal with and that this is my home out here. The city is all good but out here is where it's at. Stan O.

At NYC I learned how to work in a group and learned how to control my anger. I also learned how much hiking I can do. Mike

I learned at NYC that the harder you work, the more you're proud of it when it's done. Kyle

I learned you can start early in the morning so you don't have to work in the heat.  
Scotty C.

It's not about the rules, it's about what the woodsboss wants. Danny G.

I learned that the boss fucks up, too; people are dumb; and that work can be fun.  
Ben O.

To always dig a cat hole. Eli

