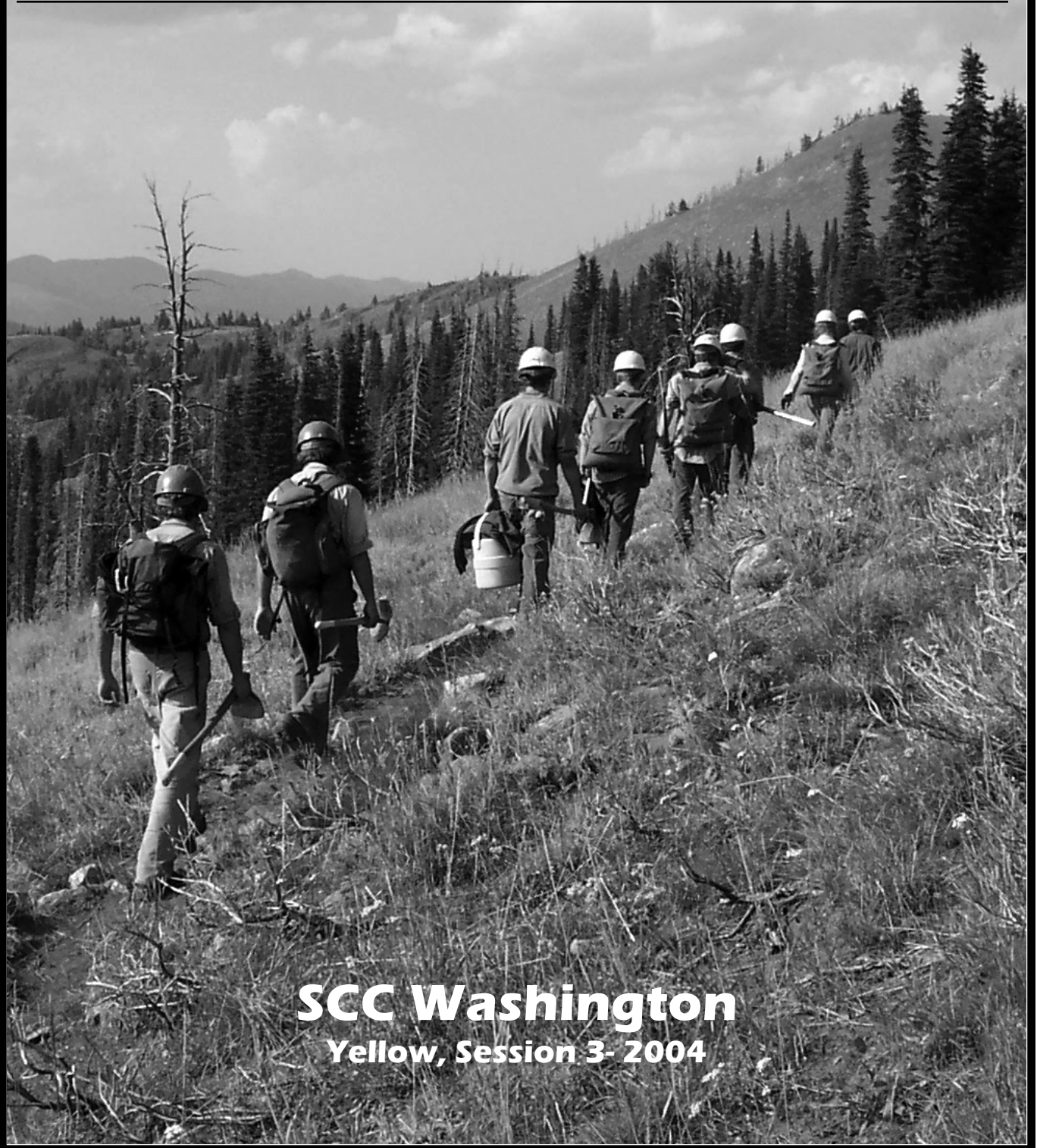




Crew Journal



SCC Washington
Yellow, Session 3- 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-Horning Feed Orchard
Ranger District
Project Name-**

Week 1: Date

Monday: We met each other for the first time, then we stayed at the NYC center. The next day we determined our crews and left for our first destinations.

Chase J.

Tuesday: Today we continued our project in the woods. We found some Robin Eggs and a dead baby bird. I know we are doing this for good but I can not help but think of the birds and their nests we are ruining. WE are basically done with that section of the orchards. Kayla L.

Wednesday: nothing (not submitted yet from the field?)

Thursday: nothing (not submitted yet from the field?)

Friday: This was our first week together as a crew. We are getting along pretty well. We've had some challenges-one girl decided to quit after two days, but we talked it through and hot only

did she stay, but showed renewed dedication to the crew. We talked in SEED last night about diversity and how each of us adds something special to the group, which really is true. For instance, Sam is the experienced one. She's gone through two NYC sessions before, including BLP. Daryn is definitely the joker; he can always make us laugh, even while we are doing hard work. We are having fun, too. Like, yesterday, when we all used our free time to give Drew a Mohawk. Our task this week was to work at Tree Seed Orchard, doing weeding and pruning. It was tough but we got it done. Today, on our last day at the Orchard we accomplished a lot in the four hours we had. WE started a new section and finished the entire place. Later, one of our crew leaders told us that our contract, Mike, only expected us to finish half. I think our crew is off to a good start. Sarah D.

National Forest or area that the work took place
Ranger District
Project Name- Indian Beach Trail

Week 2: Date

Monday: Today on Monday we worked on the Indian Beach Trail. We cut banks to widen the trail, we hauled boards, poles and re-bars up the trail, we started working on the fence to keep people from falling and a crew leader helped out a crew member who injured himself. On the weekend we set up camp, had dinner and then we went on a recreational trip to different places. We had fun. Dawn R.

Tuesday: We are doing trail restoration and building stairs at the Indian Beach. When we were hauling boards Airy happened to hurt her back. Now she has to go home for a week. It rained and one crewmember, Chase, got drenched.

Wednesday: Today's work was pretty easy. Some people started a drainage dip, some did culverts, and the rest did stairs. Our goal for this week is finishing the stairs and starting on the other stairs.

Thursday: Today our crew started out the day hauling lumber down the path. Patience and believing in one's self show their importance during this task. Communicating is so important for our crew to be doing. We lugged some more lumber, then commenced to working on our trenches, culverts, switchbacks, to finishing the retaining wall and working on the stairs. Our crew continues to strive towards being as efficient as we can in the amount of time we have.
Georgia U.

Friday: This week we built a lot of things on a trail. We covered up social trails, built culverts and dug ditches, made cut banks and hauled logs up and down the trail. Monday was really challenging because we hauled a lot of lumber up the trail. We also hauled supplies for the stairs. Airyanne hurt her back while hauling. She was out for the rest of the week! Airy left Thursday. Today we had to work 7 ½ hours to make up Airy's hours and to finish our projects. It was really windy and rainy today, and after work, we came back to camp to find that the girls' tent was completely blown over and a pole was bent. This week was really fun because it was so challenging. The weekend site is at our campsite. Kayla L.

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

Week 3: Date

Monday: On Monday we started hiking our 7 miles to our campsite near Big Heart Lake. What we did on the weekend was have the red crew over. We helped set up tents and get the dinner tarp set up. One thing that the tent for yellow crew girls got blown over about 3-4 times and we had a pole leg bent so bad that we couldn't use it. As I said we hiked until we camped at Copper Lake and then got up at 4am to finish our long hike. Dawn R.

Tuesday: We are back country we woke up at 4:00 O'clock and hiked to our campsite then we worked for six hours then set up camp then ate and went to sleep. Chase J.

Wednesday: Wednesday was our first day this week after getting off to a rocky start to our 2 week back country expedition. Today is hump day for the entire session. We finished off yesterday's project and moved on to the new ones we did the same type of stuff Rock check dams and Rock water bars and a nice set of stairs. To pass the time we made "Questions" one of them was if you could eat only 1 thing for the rest of your life with no ill effects what would it be? Naturally I said "a butter scotch dipped waffle come large, for a for 1.95 with Washington tax of course." After we got off work we actually got to swim in the beautiful lake it was positively splendid! Drew G.

Thursday: The day started out with the usual half-conscious breakfast and quick darting off the latrine. The sun was bright. And the waterfall near our campsite was raging. Working all day on water bars and stubborn check dams left the crew eager to swim later. After almost unmasking all the dirt from our bodies we got onto chores and finally sat down to eat dinner. Our bodies were tired, our eyes were getting sleepy, and all the while we still had no T.P. Crew members slumbered under the stars while the beautiful water fall continued its own journey. The following statement is true, the prior statement is false. Feet are for taking you places. Georgia U.

Friday: Our crew has accomplished a lot and I am glad that we are together. The crew has made check dams, steps, and other things. I think that the crew has become really close and I hope that we all can become like a family before we end this session. Some challenges that have come up are staying motivated and determined to finish the job. But we have conquered those challenges and I also believe that we together as a crew can accomplish a lot in the next two weeks. We have worked really hard and we can finish this session with a good word. We (as a crew) have come a long way from the first week and we have learned a lot. Hopefully we will remember what we have learned and put it to good use lets hope NYC will change the way people look at trails and forestry. We don't do this for the money we do this for the gratitude and we hope that people will recognize what we've done and appreciate it and want to help us out. We love what we do and we want people to want to help us out. If people helped us out then our forests and trails would look better and more people would walk on them more and like it. So to wrap this up, our crew has done a lot and I'm thankful to be on the yellow crew. Dawn R.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Alpine Lake Wilderness
Ranger District: Skykomish
Project Name- West Fork Foss Trail maintenance

Week 4: Date

Monday: Saturday we woke up early and hiked out, with empty packs, 7 miles to resupply. Then that same day we hiked back to camp with full packs, made dinner, had SEED and went to sleep. Sunday we had a full day off! It was great. I woke up at 8:00 am and went and sat by the waterfall. We did have some chores though like digging the latrine, making dinner, shotgun and work prep. Monday we woke up all tired and got to work around 6:00 am and worked all day. Kayla L.

Tuesday: My crew and I are building check dams, water bars, obliterating social trails, and lopping the overgrowth. Oh yeah we've been building steps and stairs out of rocks too! We are stationed for two weeks in Alpine Lakes Wilderness. We are maintaining the trail for other hikers. Kayla L.

Wednesday: This week our crew's goals were to finish our trail work near Big heart Lake in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness region of Washington and to push ourselves harder and make improvements since we're nearing the end of the session. The work we're doing on the trail here includes building lots of check dams and stairs, installing water bars, and doing some lopping. On Sunday evening we discussed how the crew has been functioning and what is good and what we need to change. We made the decision to make these last two weeks the best weeks of the session. Sarah D.

Thursday: Our crew learned how to make a check dam, a water bar and how much hard work it is to work on a trail and to fix it the proper way. Our crew learned how important it is to keep chores up and running and that to get water when you are in the backcountry and putting iodine in the water so we don't get sick and that is what I have learned out here. Nick C.

Friday: Today we got up really early, at like 5:10 and got our bags and pads onto our packs. We then "commenced" to working for 4 hours. After that we journeyed on our 7-mile adventure to hike to that all too good looking van. It was hard, but we're determined. We did it although we were tired and our feet are aching. 7 miles downhill isn't too grand for the knees, however, we conquered the mountain.

Now we sit . . . in Sultan, WA doing laundry. Subject to car fumes, drunk bums hitting on our crewleader and shower-deprived. Rather than the sweet comfort of the backcountry where the stars aren't faded from city lights and mice fill our kitchen with midnight mischief. Ah yes, it was great . . . and we did it. Samantha E.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Mt. Baker
Ranger District: Darrington
Project Name- Lost Creek Trail

Week 5: Date

Monday: Friday morning was a mass of last minute project touch-ups before our crew “commenced” to hiking down the mountain. The hike down definitely tested many crewmembers and once we reached the bottom, we were all exhausted but still functioning well. The weekend was great and our rec trip was geared to showering—was great. We hung out with Blue crew and found out we were heading to front country as our last week of work. Georgia U.

Tuesday: Our project is clearing the trail of brush and duff and redigging the ditches. We are at the Lost Creek Trail in Washington. We are doing this because in the winter there is a major flood on the trail and snow heavily pours on the trail and we are out there to fix that problem. Nick C.

Wednesday: Today was better than yesterday. The rain did little to deter us from a furious day of ravenous work. Today is our last Hump Day and as a crazy surprise we get to hang with Orange crew for dinner. Before that though, we were becoming very suspicious of one another for we were all assassins. First Sam murdered Daryn then afterwards during a quick “potty break” I took care of Nick. We are all looking forward to our visit with Orange crew. We haven’t seen them since Mt. St. Helens which right now seems so long ago!! ‘Til next time, adios! Drew G.

Thursday: Today was one of the best days because not only was it our last day but it didn’t rain until the end of the day so everyone stayed dry and that’s good. We also learned how to make a wood check step and we used cedar to make them. It was fun. I almost forgot: this morning we got donuts from our contact George, which was really nice of him. After work, we broke down camp and packed the trailer then we left to Mt. St. Helens. And we ended our last work week too! Hasta luego! Daryn C.

Friday: Today we arrived delirious and tired to a campsite at midnight thirty. We then proceeded to set up front country tents as Daryn swore he was the Dark Lord, calling everyone young padawans. After tent madness in the pitch black of the early morning on the sacred last Friday, we’ll spend as a crew, some passed out, and some ate ramen that reeked of bleach as Fox gave ramen proverbs and foretold inflatable ramen packets . . . “just add water”—we all needed to sleep. BAM

7 o’clock, 7 hours later and much needed sleep, we packed up the trailer and tents and prayed the van would make it to Cougar though on E then suddenly a quarter back down to an 8th of a tank we made it. We then (after fueling) had a DANK breakfast at a pancake place Mel paid for! THANKS PUPPY BEAR! Now we travel yonder to have BIG CLEAN! Samantha E.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC this session was the hike out of Big Heart: 7 miles; downhill; massive pack; injured knee . . . 'nuf said. Samantha E.

The second to last day of work. It was pouring, my feet were shriveled prunes and I smelled of pee. My head was spacey because of lack of water. Yep, motivation was running on empty but by the 2nd tool count I'd managed to hightail to the Shell Station and as much as I hesitate to say, "Get 'er done." Georgia U.

Well the most challenging day was hiking up to Big Heart Lake with a heavy pack on my back with my right knee wanting to give out and then me falling on my shin. It was hard to hike but I survived it. Dawn R.

My most challenging day at NYC was when we had to do the resupply for the back-country we had to go 14 miles in a Saturday. It was hard on the legs. Daryn C.

My most challenging day at NYC was the 7-mile hike to Big Heart. It was so hard but we got through it and the site was awesome when we go there. Nick C.

My most challenging as well as fulfilling day was during the second week at Ecola State Park hauling 2, 2 x 10s that were 8 feet long up the trail that was a steady grade straight up. It was so exhausting but the fact that I was passing people carrying them with assistance of another when I was able to stop it felt so good I was drenched in sweat and it was awesome!! Drew G.

My most challenging day was definitely the hike out of Big Heart Lake. We had really heavy packs and my feet and my shoulders hurt really badly. Kayla L.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

1. Weekend site with red crew; 2. Big Heart 7-mile backcountry hike; 3. The view from latrine at Big Heart: awww yeeeeayah! Sam E.

1. Falling in a stream at Mt. St. Helen's weekend site and being able to laugh at myself. 2. Trudging up and down 28 miles worth of mountain. 3. The places we went to. Georgia U.

1. Dinner with the orange crew; 2. View from our campsite at Big Heart; 3. Van rides to the weekend sites. Dawn R.

1. Sleeping after lots of work. 2. Eating creative food ideas. 3. Checkdowns and must I say more. Daryn C.

1. Getting to Big Heart Lake it was awesome. 2. Doing the van rides. 3. Finding out what is for dinner. Nick C.

1. The transition process (weekend site, finding out next week's site). 2. Swimming in Big Heart Lake, the Pacific Ocean and Wenatchee Lake. 3. Hanging out with all the unique people. Drew G.

1. The first weekend site. 2. Arriving at Big Heart Lake. 3. Meeting with orange crew for dinner the last week. Kayla L.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember mine and Sarah's plot to steal the van keys, escape the downpour, put the heater on and blast through our insanity "Nothin's gonna change my world" by the Beatles. Even if we were told to get out MUHAHAHA! The power and drive of warmth. Sam E.

The day my crew worked at Ecola and we hauled lumber up the Indian trail. Our rover Cala was with me and helped me get myself up that trail. Thank you Cala if I don't get a chance to talk to you. Georgia U.

Something I will miss is how we hauled lumber up and down the Indian trail, swimming at Big Heart and Chase saying "Hallo, my name is Raul, I'm very, very sneaky." I will also miss Catie Vissoe and my awesome yellow crew. Dawn R.

One thing I will remember is the iodine farts and the iodine is good for you after 30 minutes in the water with only 8 drops a gallon. Daryn C.

The things I will always remember are my fellow crewmates and how much I had fun with them. Nick C.

One thing that shall forever remain engraved among the entrails of my brain will be the drive we were all able to master from our drained persons whenever we need that extra little umph oh and that Daryn is a tree. It's OK buddy! Drew G.

One thing I will always remember is the friends I have made and the things I've achieved. Kayla L.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always hike, work hard, practice 'Leave no trace', and have a blast. Sam E.

Practice LNT anywhere I am, work past the point of exhaustion, occasionally be under the influence of dehydration and be ready for every minute and what may come from a good laugh and a smile. Georgia U.

I will always appreciate how much work goes into reconstructing trails and I will practice LNT when I go camping with my family. And I will always stay hydrated and try not to get loopy and psychotic. Yea! Dawn R.

From now on I will appreciate more about the forest and the trails within them and that social trails are a no no; he he he. Daryn C.

Not go on social trail and if I see that a trail needs to be fixed I'll try to fix it. Nick C.

From this point on I have decided that I will always strive to achieve what I know is within my respective grasp and never give up ever! Drew G.

From now on I will always push myself as hard as I can in every situation. Kayla L.

At NYC I Learned...

I learned tolerance, patience, and the power of knowledge. I also learned that my crewleader has machine guns as Daryn would say, and I and Kayla have BUNS of SHTEAL! And Airy begins each sentence with "right OK" We love you Airy! Sam E.

The body is a temple in which our minds try to rule. Life is not a quest for happiness, rather it is a trail which can be experienced and up to the traveler as to what is gotten from it. As long as there is an understanding, there is flexibility. Georgia U.

I learned how to find my inner strength, determination and my motivation to keep going. I also learned to work with a large group of people. Airy we missed you and we love you! Dawn R.

3 things I learned were that crewleaders can have some gatling guns for arms, phecal matter IS good and iodine water can make you do amazing feats. Daryn C.

I learned how hard it is to work cuz here at NYC it is hard. I also learned how to leave without a trace. Nick C.

At NYC I learned that everything can be thought of in the term "Mind over matter" when you throw yourself at something relentlessly it will get done. Not once did I admit defeat the entire session. Drew G.

At NYC I learned that I can push myself beyond what I think I'm capable of. Kayla L.

