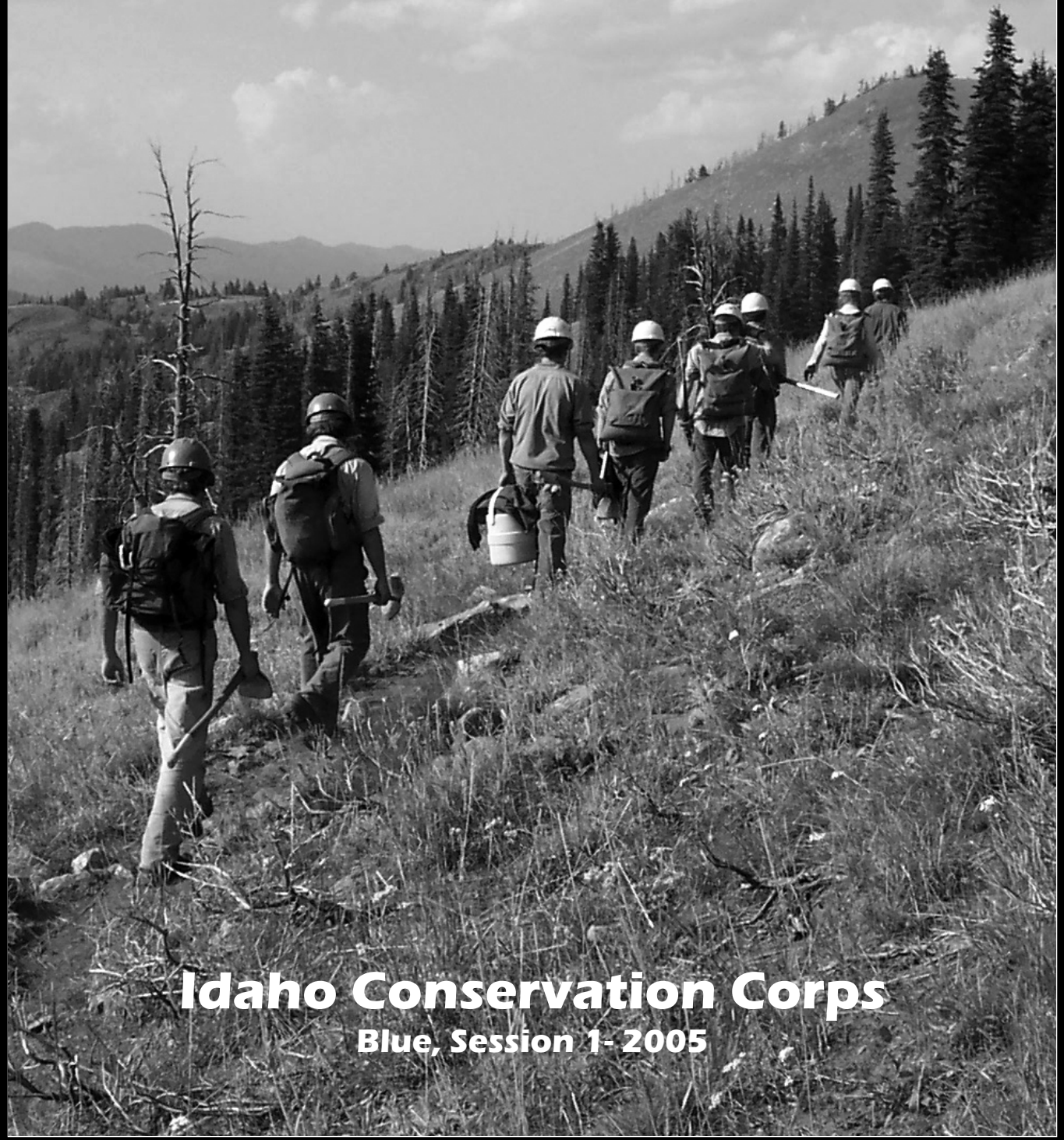




Crew Journal



Idaho Conservation Corps
Blue, Session 1- 2005



Dear NYC graduates,

It is human nature that as time goes by, memories fade and our perception of history changes. Tall tales grow taller, and in the retelling details are lost and added. In your hands is a written record of your crew's trials and tribulations during the summer of 2005. It is a testimony of your successes, challenges, experiences both good and bad as well as some that were weird and wacky. As you sit back in the comfort of your home and relive some of those memories I encourage you to add your own notes on how you felt, what you saw and what you did.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Ojerio'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Ryan Ojerio
Program Manager



**National Forest: Nez Perce National Forest
Ranger District: Red River Ranger District
Project Name- Nez Perce Fuels Reduction**

Week 1: June 20 – June 24, 2005

Monday: Over the weekend our crew wasn't a real crew. About Sunday we got in a crew and it was awesome. Blue Crew rules! We mostly played games over the weekend and explained the rules. After that we got in a circle and showed our lives to everyone. –Tory B., 6/20/05

Tuesday: This week we are slash piling to protect the forest and people's homes and lives. We are doing it to prevent large fires that burn hundreds of thousands of acres of land because humans started fighting fires back in the day about 100 years ago and it disrupted the natural process, so we have to fix it. We are in Idaho. –Bianca K., 6/21/05

Wednesday: It is important to our crew to become closer together this week as we slash pile. We feel that if we become a cohesive unit well before we eventually go backcountry, things will go much more smoothly. We are growing closer and more comfortable together every day. It is also important to us to complete our assignment in a timely manner, and to be proud of the quality of our slash-piles. To accomplish this, we hope to work hard all week, efficiently and as a team. We would like to meet or beat our own expectations as to the number of piles we can complete. Most of all, however, we would like to

enjoy ourselves and work hard. –Brendan F.

Thursday: The Blue Crew learned how to build slash piles. Some members didn't even know how to build slash piles. We learned how to fully hydrate ourselves and to work with sawyers when they were felling trees all around us. We learned about diversity throughout the world and how not to be exclusive.

–Blaine P.

Friday: With this week being Blue Crew's first, every day has been a learning experience. As a crew, we have been confronted with unexpected obstacles. Most of them were a result of a "fiery van breakdown." Although being "vanless" first seemed like a detriment to the Blue Crew, it turned out to help gain unity as a crew. Unity is definitely a great accomplishment.

The work itself that the Blue Crew accomplished was also good. I felt like we piled far beyond the expected amount. Our worksite was full of slash, and after the Blue Crew was done with an area, the ground was clear and the piles were done correctly. Even though slash piling is repetitive and long, the Blue Crew persevered for 8 hours, and the fact that we could easily see our progress was rewarding.

At camp after work, chores were done, with dinner as the focus. Every day, Monday through Friday, the food was good. No matter what was served, it always turned out well. Also, leftovers were not seen as options, and they didn't happen. This excludes an applesauce incident that is to be forgotten. With good food and no leftovers, the dinners were outstanding accomplishments.

Through unity, hard work, and good food, the challenges presented have led to accomplishments for a great crew. –Jason S.

National Forest: Nez Perce National Forest
Ranger District: Slate Creek Ranger District
Project Name: Silvers Station Fence Reconstruction

Week 2: June 27 – July 1, 2005

Monday: Friday, we all went to a weekend campsite called the Rodeo Grande. Our crew spent time with the other crews. Saturday everyone split up into groups to do a recreational trip, then we had some free time with the other kids. We had a big fun too. Sunday we all met together in our groups again and we found out what we were doing and where we were going. We left for Nez Perce National Forest. –Damian W.

Tuesday: This week the Blue Crew is working in the Nez Perce National Forest. We are working on a barbed wire fence to separate horses and cattle. On Monday, Blue Crew tore down the old barbed wire fence. Today we worked on putting a brand new one up. We also worked on Rock Baskets to make the fence sturdier. Tomorrow we will be finishing the fence and starting a new project. –Sueann M.

Wednesday: Our goals as a crew for the week are to tear down old fences, and also to put a new one up by strengthening barbed wire and attaching it to all the posts, clean up the area around the fences, and secure old posts so it can be stable. We also will be using team unity to get the job done. –Jessica J.

Thursday: This week, our crew learned the importance of dry clothes and proper rain gear when working in moist climates. We had a good hike to work up a number of steep hills, which taught us important lessons in the art of proper foot care. Though a number of our crew members suffered painful blisters, nobody complained and morale for the week was generally high. Also, the rigorous hikes to work built calluses in soft areas of our feet and made us stronger. We also learned a lot about repairing and build-

ing fence, such as how to handle barbed wire and stretch it. Overall, this week was a challenging but empowering trial for our team. –Brendan F.

Friday: Some of the crew's challenges were not enough pliers for everyone to take a pair, so we worked in pairs. We also ran out of staples to use on the fence, so we made our own with wire. We also cut sections off old telephone wire to wrap the poles because the original wire was too weak to hold the wire. Some of our accomplishments were that we finished our fence and then repaired the fence that they needed repaired. –Darcy S.

National Forest: Colville National Forest
Ranger District: Sullivan Lake Ranger District
Project Name: Batey-Bould Trail Project

Week 3: July 4 – July 8, 2005

Monday: This weekend our crew took down camp before we went to work. We got done at 11:30. We all loaded up in the van. We stopped to do laundry and took showers. When we got to the weekend site we unloaded. We waited for the other crews. We went to bed, and then Saturday we had rec. trips. We had a talent show and Saturday circle, we went to bed that night, and got packed. –Jessica J.

Tuesday: Our project this week is the hardest we've had yet; we are building some new trail. We are in Washington State building a dirt bike trail, moving huge rocks, and finally using some real tools. The work is strenuous and we all work and wonder when the next break is, but even though our bodies ache it still feels good at the end of the day when we walk on the new trail we've built. –Bianca K.

Wednesday: Being as we are building trail this week, our goals consist mainly of distances we'd like to build of trail. The trail project on which we are working is about ¾ of a mile, and we project a finishing time some time tomorrow. Tomorrow, the crew will be allowed to work with a BLP crew that wants some experience working with a stellar crew like ourselves. We will tell them our jokes and riddles, and our goal is to impress them and teach them. Another of our goals for this week is to leave the section we work in top condition, relative to the amount of trail we dig in one week. Also, we hope to learn efficient tool skills and work as hard as we can on this project, so that we can be proud of what we have accomplished. –Brendan F.

Thursday: This week the Blue Crew learned a lot. Not only did we learn how to build trail, but we also learned how to use the tools. The tools that we used are as follows: Hazel Hoe, Pulaski, McCloud, Rock Bars, Pick Mattocks, the Chainsaw, Loppers, Hog Hoes, and PURE MUSCLE!! All of the Blue Crew is enjoying building this trail, and is very enthusiastic about finishing. Aside from the physical things we've learned this week, we've also learned more about each other and our new crew leader Ericka—who by the way is totally awesome! I believe I speak for the entire Blue Crew when I say “We can't wait until our next project and we learn a lot more.” –Sueann M.

Friday: Our crew's accomplishments were finishing a trail—not just finishing a trail, but finishing a bike trail, one day early. I think everybody accomplished a lot this week. Not just physically, but mentally as well. The Blue Crew not only finished early but put in extra time and effort to finish. Some of the crew's challenges were getting along, moving boulders, cutting roots, trees, limbs, and shrubs, and moving dirt, tools, water, and ourselves. We got past all those challenges without a problem, for the most part. Another challenge was getting help to finish our trail. They helped us a lot. We didn't have much to finish, but with their help we got done a lot quicker. Just this week shows that our crew has really come together as one and gotten stronger. –Tory B.

Project Sponsor: Oregon Parks and Recreation
Location: Sumpter Valley Dredge State Park
Project Name: Sumpter Valley Dredge Sign Construction

Week 4: July 11 – July 15, 2005

Monday: Saturday, we arrived to the weekend site fairly late, so we did some things Saturday morning rather than Friday. Saturday morning after dishes were completed, we circled up, and commenced rec trips. Erika and Aaron went with one group, and Kate and Lonnie went with another. We went to the library, a store stop, and one group went to a museum. Food resupply was done that night. Sunday: Because resupply was done, we were able to sleep in, yet camp was packed quickly. Then we headed off. –Jason S.

Tuesday: This week the Blue Crew is working in Sumpter on a sign for the Sumpter Valley Dredge. We are working on continuing the sculpting that the Orange Crew started last week. The Blue Crew is planning on finishing the sign by the end of the week. It has been very hot out these past two days, but Blue has been keeping it together. I cannot wait to see the finished product and to see what's in store for us next week. –Sueann M.

Wednesday: Our crew's goal for the week is to finish the sign we are making out of rock and mortar. The plan is to work together and be as efficient as possible, while also making sure everybody learns and understands every aspect of the job. Our goal is also to do the best we can do in making the rock wall look as professionally done as possible. Our overall goal for the week is to better work on our communication skills as we work and to make things smoother. –Bianca K.

Thursday: This week's endeavor is a mental and a physical challenge for our crew. It is teaching us a lot about masonry, such as the correct consistency of mortar and the correct amount of ingredients to add. It has also taught us about rock types, and which ones are more suitable for wall construction or sign mounting construction. The main rock types we are dealing with are granite, which is the type of rock that we want to use, and vermiculite, which is a flaky stone that we are excluding from our construction. We have also learned to fit rocks together using mortar. It was also new for us to work with a crane, which was fun. –Brendan F.

Friday: The challenges that the Blue Crew faced this week were getting the right mixture for the mortar, stacking rocks on top of each other without ever letting the rocks touch, making sure cracks never developed within the mortar, picking the right rocks to go in the right places, getting the sign completed before the end of the week, keeping properly hydrated, and making sure our camp stays nice. Our accomplishments this week are completing the sign on time, and everything else I listed above, we persevered through and accomplished it. –Blaine P.

National Forest: Payette National Forest
Ranger District: McCall Ranger District
Project Name: Rapid River Trail Area Maintenance

Week 5: July 18 – July 22, 2005

Monday: This weekend our crew's van broke down on Friday and we hung out on the side of the road playing games and waiting for help. We finally received help and we had to find a campsite for the night. The next morning, we packed up and headed towards the town of McCall to hang by the water. Then we went to the basketball courts and played basketball. –Bianca K.

Tuesday: This week Blue Crew has traveled to McCall, Idaho to build more trail and a puncheon. We have almost finished the trail, but tomorrow we are going to finish fixing it up. Also tomorrow we are starting to build a puncheon. The work site is not far from the puncheon we are tearing down and replacing, so we don't have a very long walk. Blue Crew is very excited to finish this session with a puncheon because it's something new and fun. –Sueann M.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for this week are to finish the re-routes and finish the puncheon. We already finished 3 re-routes, and we're on our 4th one and working on the puncheon right now. The puncheon is going well; we got the big logs in and leveled it. We are going to try to get it completely done. The trails look AWESOME. I don't know about the fourth one, because I was building the puncheon, but I'm sure it's looking good too. –Jessica J.

Thursday: We learned many new things. Most of them had to do with the puncheon. We also learned a LOT about drainage. This includes water bars and drain dips. –Jason S.

Friday: Our crew's challenges this week were to build some trail reroutes and also a puncheon bridge. The contact gave us plenty of work to do and we worked very long days. We completed all of the re-routes. The last one was the most difficult because of the tough grass that made our tools bounce off the ground instead of penetrating it. We did not finish the bridge in time and had to stay longer to finally complete it. Blue Crew always gets the job done. –Bianca K.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was the last day because your body and mind are ready for a good few days off. Darcy S.

The most challenging day for me would probably have been the first day because I didn't know anyone and I still didn't know what I was getting myself into. Damian W.

The most challenging day of NYC was the hike up to the fencing project, because it was uphill. It got easy after a while. That was my most challenging time at NYC. Jessica J.

My most challenging day was probably the day we went up Blister Hill to the fencing project. Sueann M.

My most challenging day at NYC was when I felt out of energy and unmotivated and we were working on the rock sign in the hot sun. Bianca K.

My most challenging day at NYC was probably during the second week, as the uphill hike to the fencing project was troublesome. Brendan F.

My most challenging day at NYC was probably on the Tuesday of Week 5. I was completely beat by the first tool count, so the rest of the day building trail was tough. Jason S.

My most challenging day was when I got low on salt and energy. I felt sick and didn't want to do anything. The good thing was it was on a weekend so I didn't miss work and the bad thing was it was on a weekend so I didn't get to do anything that day. I'm glad Gabe gave me some magic powder that helped a lot, haha. Tory B.

My toughest day at NYC would have to be the first day with a new crew. Blaine P.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...building the bridge, packing backcountry, and the van rides to new work sites. Darcy S.

First of all I enjoyed all of the van rides. Second would be the weekend sites. Last but not least would be the rec. trips. Damian W.

My three favorite experiences at NYC were the fencing project—that was my favorite, then it was the rock sign because I never did that before, and last but not least it was the bridge. Jessica J.

I enjoyed the car trips, weekend sites, and building the bridge at our last project site. Sueann M.

My favorite experiences at NYC were pushing myself to work really hard, sleeping outside the tent to where you can see the stars, and sharing experiences with my crew. Bianca K.

I really enjoyed the van rides with my crew, and the rec trips as well. However, my favorite experience was definitely completing the sign in Sumpter, OR, because that is the project I am most proud of. Brendan F.

I liked the weekend sites/rec. trips a lot. That was always a relaxing time. I also enjoyed finishing the sign—it was very rewarding to see our progress. Dinnertime was also fun. Jason S.

One of my experiences was when I really got to know everyone. Another was when I really knew that I was helping the forest. The last was knowing I was really understanding the wild. Tory B.

My three favorite NYC experiences would have to be finally going backcountry, building the sign, and trail work. Blaine P.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing that I will always remember from NYC is the people. The experience of NYC isn't complete without them. Darcy S.

I will always remember my experiences camping, living in the woods, and always being dirty. Damian W.

I will always remember the people and all the fun things that we did. Jessica J.

I will always remember the jokes and riddles, and Big Funs. Sueann M.

I will always remember the cool people I met, the vast mountains and scenery, and being covered with dirt head to toe and feeling good about it. Bianca K.

I will always remember coming into town with my crew, dirty from a week of work, and getting a lot of odd looks. Brendan F.

I'll always remember our crew coming home from work and being dead tired. Sometimes everyone just fell asleep at once. We worked hard. Jason S.

I will always remember the hard work, the talks by the fire, the jokes, the short nights. I will always always remember NYC Blue Crew. Tory B.

I will always remember building the sign at Sumpter. I never realized how much hard work went into those. Blaine P.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always be sure to buy good filling good on long trips so I won't get hungry. And I will always contact my friends. Darcy S.

I will always be more respectable of the outdoors and people's differences, and be more appreciative of all of the things I have at home. Damian W.

From now on I will always respect the outdoors. I will also give people my advice. Jessica J.

From now on I will always like people for who they are and try not to judge people. I will also always have a lot of respect for the outdoors and nature itself. Sueann M.

From now on I will always take pride in the hard work that I do. Bianca K.

From now on I will always consider the work that went into the trails I hike and the signs I read. Brendan F.

I'll always have a greater appreciation for the things that I usually take for granted. I'll also have a greater respect for the environment/nature. Jason S.

From now on I will look at all things differently and respectfully. I will look at mountains, forests, and grasslands, and I will think of beauty, endless beauty. Tory B.

From now on I will always try my hardest. Blaine P.

At NYC I Learned...

...how to tell different trees apart, along with knot tying, and how to go three weeks with only five dollars. Darcy S.

I learned to open up to people and live my life fuller. Also I learned how to do different labor jobs and environmental things. Damian W.

Three things I learned at NYC are that I could live in the wilderness, also I learned a lot about the outside. I loved learning about different projects. Jessica J.

I learned how to put up a tent, live without junk food, and also how to live with people I've never met before. Sueann M.

I learned what real physical work is like over long hours, I learned new knots and what they are used for, and I also learned that it's fun to be yourself. Bianca K.

At NYC I learned a lot of things about physical labor and skills that have to do with tools and the projects we completed. However, perhaps the most interesting things I learned were about myself. Brendan F.

I learned many valuable things at NYC—I learned skills on the job and tool use. I also found I could push myself to a higher level than before. NYC was a great learning experience. Jason S.

I learned many different things. One of those was to respect everything around you, we want it to last. Another was that there is no I in team. Things don't last forever! Tory B.

I learned a lot more about self control, working harder, and living outdoors. Blaine P.