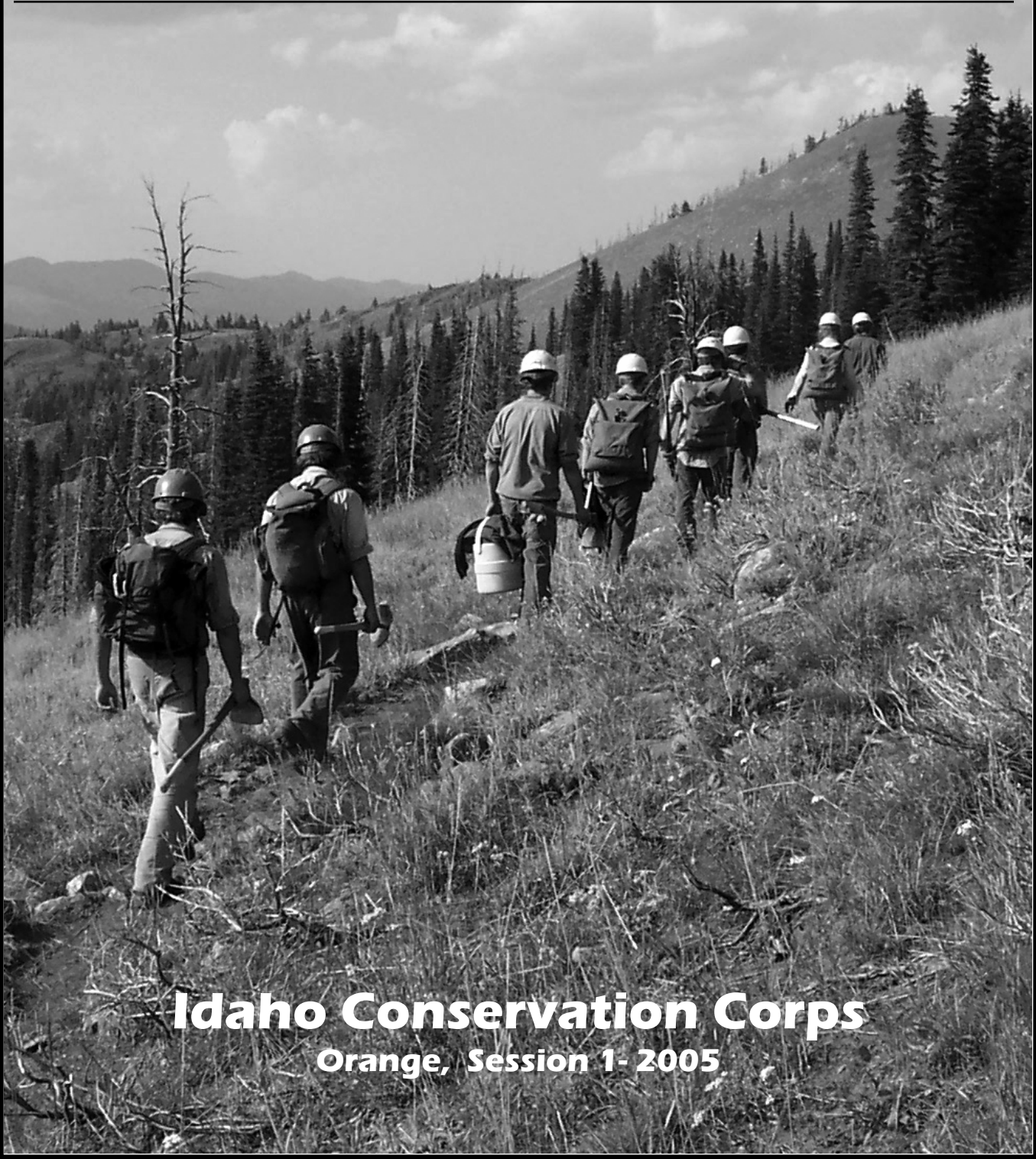




Crew Journal



Idaho Conservation Corps
Orange, 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 large, stylized 'R' and 'O'.

Ryan Ojerio
Program Manager



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

Week 1: June 20 – June 24, 2005

Monday: We met each other, had an awesomely long road trip from (basically) Lowman, ID to outside Colville, WA. It was awesome. I'm a returner and I've had three different crews. This one clicked and fell into place instantly. It's great. We busted out a rotting old bridge before lunch today, Rob chain-sawed some trees, we peeled 'em, hauled 'em down to where we'll be building the new bridge, and redirected the stream (which meant major mud!). We got a ton of work done, and we had fun doing it. We have an awesome project—rebuilding a bridge! And a great crew that just clicked. It's going to be an awesome, wild five weeks, and we'll all be here at the end to clipper our initials into Rob's hair (or something of the sort!). –Jamethiel C.

Tuesday: This week Orange Crew is building a log bridge across a creek and today we had to move some 1-ton logs for the siding of it. We weren't able to move them very far so we hired 5 members of Red Crew to help us, and we were able to set them next to the site. The forest service brought some of their new trail makers to watch and see how professionals work. –Jeremiah M.

Wednesday: Our goals for this week are to finish our bridge. We have come a long way in three days. We took out the bridge, dug trenches for sills, cut down trees, skinned and moved giant logs up and down the rocky and woody forest terrain. So, at this point, our goal is to gather more rocks and finish our masterpiece (or soon to be) of a bridge. –Joseph P.

Thursday: This week our crew learned how to pull together and work as a team, at the campsite we get everything done when needed and on time. At the work site we learned cooperation and communication, like when we moved those huge trees with not that many people, and because of proper communication, no one was injured. –Kayleigh K.

Friday: Well, we worked over 500 hours, but we got the bridge done—everything except the bull rails and we worked about 6 hours on Friday and pulled into WC at 10pm at night. This week was an awesome week. This crew really came together, and we all work well together. Our biggest challenge this week (I think) had nothing to do with us as a crew, but the messed up bridge planking, and moving two 2-ton logs up a really BIG hill. But we got the bridge done!
-Jamethiel C.

National Forest: Nez Perce
Ranger District: Salmon River Ranger District
Project Name: Adam's Camp Fuels Reduction

Week 2: June 27 – July 1, 2005

Monday: Our crew did many things this weekend, while at the same time did not do very many things. We went on rec trips; some of us went and climbed giant hills and walked on train tracks. Others went to the beach and buried each other up to the neck in the sand. Besides rec trips (which we did on Saturday afternoon), we slept a lot and played some fun games. All in all, our weekend was restful, fun, and very missed. –Joseph P.

Tuesday: This week we are building slash piles near Grangeville. We are trying to get at least two hundred done in five days. It's been raining for two days and the whole crew is soggy. We built a fire last night and it was cool but after work today we got out of the rain at a forest service house and built a fire in the wood stove. The rain is miserable, but overall I'd say the week is going well. –Bobbie W.

Wednesday: Our goals for this week's project were to stay as dry as possible but it didn't really work at all because it poured rain. We also wanted to play capture the flag as many times as we could after work. Having a fire was also high on the goal list for the week. I guess that we did want to get all our hours and stay safe too, but that was really an afterthought. –Brian V.

Thursday: [Describe what your crew learned this week.] How to slash pile. How to play CTF and win. How to get dry when it's pouring outside. Today we went to Slate Lake, and Greg, Damian, Brian, Bacon, Joe, and Jeremiah jumped into the ice cold lake, which was hilarious to watch. On the way back, some photographers took pictures of Damian and Brian doing snow angels, so they'll be put in a book, which is awesome. In a few, we'll be going over to RC's camp for dinner. BTW, it stopped raining! - Jamethiel C.

Friday: The challenges this week for our crew were to stay dry and to stack the piles correctly. We attempted to stay dry but were not very successful. It rained pretty much all day Monday, all day Tuesday, and all day Wednesday. We did however stack the piles correctly. We even had to go back and fix or correct some of the other piles that were already done. We basically accomplished the pile stacking part but as I said it was very difficult to stay dry. –Damian W.

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

Week 3: July 4 – July 8, 2005

Monday: This weekend, Orange Crew was first into camp, first to set up, as well as first to leave to our work site. Also Saturday night we made sub sandwiches and we kind of helped the staff get everything done. Other than that we just kicked back and rested. We were just outside of Grangeville, ID. – Jeremiah M.

Tuesday: We have an awesome project this week. We are building a huge rock sign for the Sumpter Valley Dredge/RR, among other things. Monday, our sponsor, Karen, gave us a great tour of the dredge and park. Today, we got the first layer of rock set and mortared. We are right in the middle of downtown historic Sumpter, OR, which equals a high profile job, which is pretty cool. We are camped right by a lake, which is awesome. –Jamethiel C.

Wednesday: My crew's goal for this week is to lay as much rock and mortar as possible. We have already laid 2 layers of stone, but much more is needed. We hope to at least get to the three feet mark, but as much as possible is (perhaps) more realistic. Now that we have more mortar mix, we can move faster. All in all the entire process is slow and tedious but the reward at the end is beyond compare. – Joe P.

Thursday: This week my crew learned how to safely work with mortar, and power equipment, like the mixer and rotator. I also believe we learned a lesson on pushing people past their limits, because we were making someone upset. But once we realized what we were doing our attitudes changed and I think things have been better. I think learning a lesson on compassion is a huge lesson to learn. – Kayleigh K.

Friday: Our crew had a few challenges this week, one of which was hauling rock. That was hot and heavy work. Another was mortaring the rocks; this was hard because mixing the mortar was really bad for everyone who was doing it. But we got in the Baker City Newspaper so I guess none of that matters. I liked this last week—it was very intellectually challenging, but it was good. –Bacon

Location: Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area
Project Name: Seven Devils Fence Reconstruction

Week 4: July 11 – July 15, 2005

Monday: We met with just Blue Crew between LeGrande and Pendleton, OR, in the Umitilla NF. We went to the Pendleton Library, Wal-Mart, and we ate lunch at a park by the round-up grounds. Circle was fast, with only two crews there. Our drive from LeGrande, OR, to our campsite in the Hells Canyon National Rec. Area, near Riggins, ID, was about 6 hours. –Jamethiel C.

Tuesday: Our project is to tear down some old fence, and rebuild it. We are tearing down an old barbed wire fence and replacing it with an electric fence. We are at Hells Canyon Seven Devils. We are at an elevation of about 8,000 feet. We are rolling up barbed wire onto old posts. We are doing this because the fence is old and needs replacing and because there are horses and mules and donkeys living in a big field and this fence keeps them in. –Joe P.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals are simple yet effective. We need to demolish all the old fence on this mountainside, wrap up all the barbed wire, take down the fence posts, and stack all the above things in neat piles in accessible areas by cars. Our other goal is to have no injuries once or ever. Barbed wire is dangerous and we need to be safe. Third goal is to have so much fun that we don't want to go home, oh and to learn from our rovers before they leave, like becoming a pirate from Aaron. –Greg W.

Thursday: Our crew learned many new things this week. The main thing that we learned this week is that it is very hard to work at high altitudes. Even the easiest of work down low is made difficult by the low oxygen. We also learned that drinking lots of water is very important. If you don't drink a lot of water you will get dehydrated. –Damian W.

Friday: This week we had many challenges. One of the biggest was that the work was so repetitive. Winding barbed wire for eight hours got a little old, but we did sing and talk a lot to keep us going. Another challenge was the whole fence was on a very steep hill, which we had to hike a few times every day. One of our other challenges was the heat, it has been very difficult to drink enough water. The challenges this week, though tough, have been balanced by the beautiful mountains and the lake that surrounds us. It's also great to know that we have ripped down over two miles of fence in four days. –Bobbie W.

Location: Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area
Project Name: Seven Devils Fence Reconstruction

Week 5: July 18 – July 22, 2005

Monday: This weekend we slept in every day. On Saturday we did laundry in Riggins, then we went to Zims hot springs and we got really long showers and swam. It was awesome. Then we went to McCall and we ate a whole lot of pizza; it was really good. On Sunday we got up at 10:00am, ate breakfast, went to the fish hatchery, and did a SEED. Then we went to Bench Park and mostly everyone went swimming in the river and some people stayed in the park and relaxed. It was a very good weekend. –Kayleigh K.

Tuesday: We are in the same place again—Seven Devils, Hells Canyon, NRA near Riggins, ID. We are finishing up the fence, today we piled slash in the campground that Rob chain sawed, and built and placed a lot of rock jacks. We are also going to the lake to wash our raingear later today. Mostly, we are just doing a lot of little projects this last week. –Jamethiel C.

Wednesday: Our goal this week was to get finished all the little projects that were left over, like cutting down the trees in the campground and clearing them all up, finishing the last little bit of wire we had to roll up as well as painting the cabins. We got everything we needed to done, so we accomplished our goal. –Kayleigh K.

Thursday: We learned that if we work our butts off in the usual Orange Crush way, we really impress sponsors to a) rehire other NYC crews, and b) Earl, our contact, bought us inch-thick New York steaks! Oh yeah baby! On a more serious note, we learned how to build rock jacks. We also learned that brown paint looks like chocolate. Today was both happily and sadly the last day of work for Orange Crew. It was an awesome day, and we completed all of our projects. Way to go, OC! -Jamethiel C.

Friday: Our crew's challenges this week have been rolling barbed wire, building, moving, and putting in rock jacks. We have also painted, taken down fence, hauled barbed wire and metal posts, we've pretty much done everything that there was to be done. Our accomplishments have had no limit, we've taken down over 2 miles of fence, painted a cabin... All in all this session of Northwest Youth Corps has been one of the greatest ever, we've lost no pictures, completed all of our projects, completed all of our hours and had a lot of fun doing it. Friendships were made, hardships were endured, journeys were taken, but in the end, we all pulled through and made it. A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. NYC is that step. -Joseph P.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

...slash piling, second week, it rained for three straight days. Slash piling is mind-numbing, and rain and cold is miserable. Jamethiel C.

My most challenging day was when my heel was killing me and even though every step hurt I worked through the pain. Kayleigh K.

My most challenging day was not stating my bee safety concern and putting my hand into a hornets' nest. Jeremiah M.

My most challenging day was the second or third day of the first week when I thought to myself, "Why am I here?" That day I was not feeling very enthusiastic about getting up early and working. But now I know I was wrong, very wrong. Joseph P.

My worst day was the first and second day just because I just didn't want to be here. Bobbie W.

Personally, I loved every day. Nothing was too challenging. Bacon (Jay H.)

The hardest and really most fun day was packing rolls of barbed wire up a hill in the hot sun at 8,000 feet. Brian V.

My most challenging day was also carrying the wire rolls up the hill. Damian W.

My most challenging day was when I had to haul large reels of barbed wire up-hill at 8,000 feet. Greg W.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...The first, really LONG drive from Whoop 'Em Up to Colville, WA; getting our bridge finished; and the 4th Saturday, eating pizza at the Toll House in McCall, ID. Jamethiel C.

My three favorite experiences were the first shower we got because I wasn't used to not taking a shower for a week, completing our bridge in Colville because I felt a lot of pride after that, and this Saturday when we went to Zims hot springs and after when we gorged ourselves on pizza. Kayleigh K.

My three favorite experiences at NYC have been finishing the bridge, building the branch shelters, and finishing the slash piling. Joseph P.

My three best experiences were completing the bridge, working all the extra hours, and of course the pizza. Bobbie W.

My three: seeing the 7 Devils up close, touring a dredge, and swimming in cold water. Jeremiah M.

Eating a very questionably large amount of food (let alone pizza), hanging out with my crew, and our lake and river experiences. Bacon (Jay H.)

My 3 favorite experiences were finishing the bridge we built in Colville, riding in the van (road trips), and polar bearing in snowy mountain lakes. Greg W.

My 3 favorite times were working a 12 hour day, swimming in alpine lakes, and playing in snow banks up in the mountains. Brian V.

My favorite experiences were the 12 hour day swimming in the lakes and putting Bacon in the sand. Damian W.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...Capture the Flag, almost every night, thanks to Damian. Jamethiel C.

...Look, a distraction, or always look out for #1. Kayleigh K.

The people, the humor, and the food. Joseph P.

Capture the flag, obsessions, and "Damian, you're in trouble." Bobbie.

I will always remember the good food that we ate. Jeremiah M.

I will always remember the crazy conversations we have and the awesome times we had. Bacon (Jay H.)

I will always remember to never trust a pirate. Damian W.

I will always remember to conserve and appreciate everything. Greg W.

I will always remember to go to the wilderness to escape the rat race. Brian V.

From Now On I Will Always...

...Remember the important things, and laugh and smile a lot more often. Jamethiel C.

...Remember the camaraderie, how we came together as 10 strangers, and now we know each other, we'll help each other with all our problems and support each other through the hard days. Kayleigh K.

...value a hard day's work. Joseph P.

...appreciate the little things. Bobbie.

From now on I will always beware of bees and hate mosquitoes. Jeremiah.

I will always love NYC for all the fantastic experiences I have gleaned from it. Bacon (Jay).

I will always love in retrospect, never take things for granted, and to conserve. Greg W.

From now on I will always live life to the fullest. Damian W.

From now on I will sleep, eat, and live it up. Brian V.

At NYC I Learned...

...to endure cold and rain and boredom, to be patient with my crewmembers, and to just shake my head and laugh at some of the things my crew thinks up. Jamethiel C.

...to respect other people's opinions, and how to deal with people even when you're frustrated with them. Kayleigh K.

At NYC I have learned many things, new knots, new ways of cooking, and many new ways of looking at life and death. Joe P.

I learned to put up with people, that you got to drink lots of water, and always watch your footing. Bobbie.

At NYC I learned some about trees and that tents stink. Also, cedar bark is tasty. Jeremiah M.

I learned more SEED, that love is awesome, and B.S. is a great game. Bacon (Jay).

At NYC I learned that I will do a lot for a dollar, or a cheeseburger. Brian V.

I learned that pirate rules are meant to be lived by. Damian W.