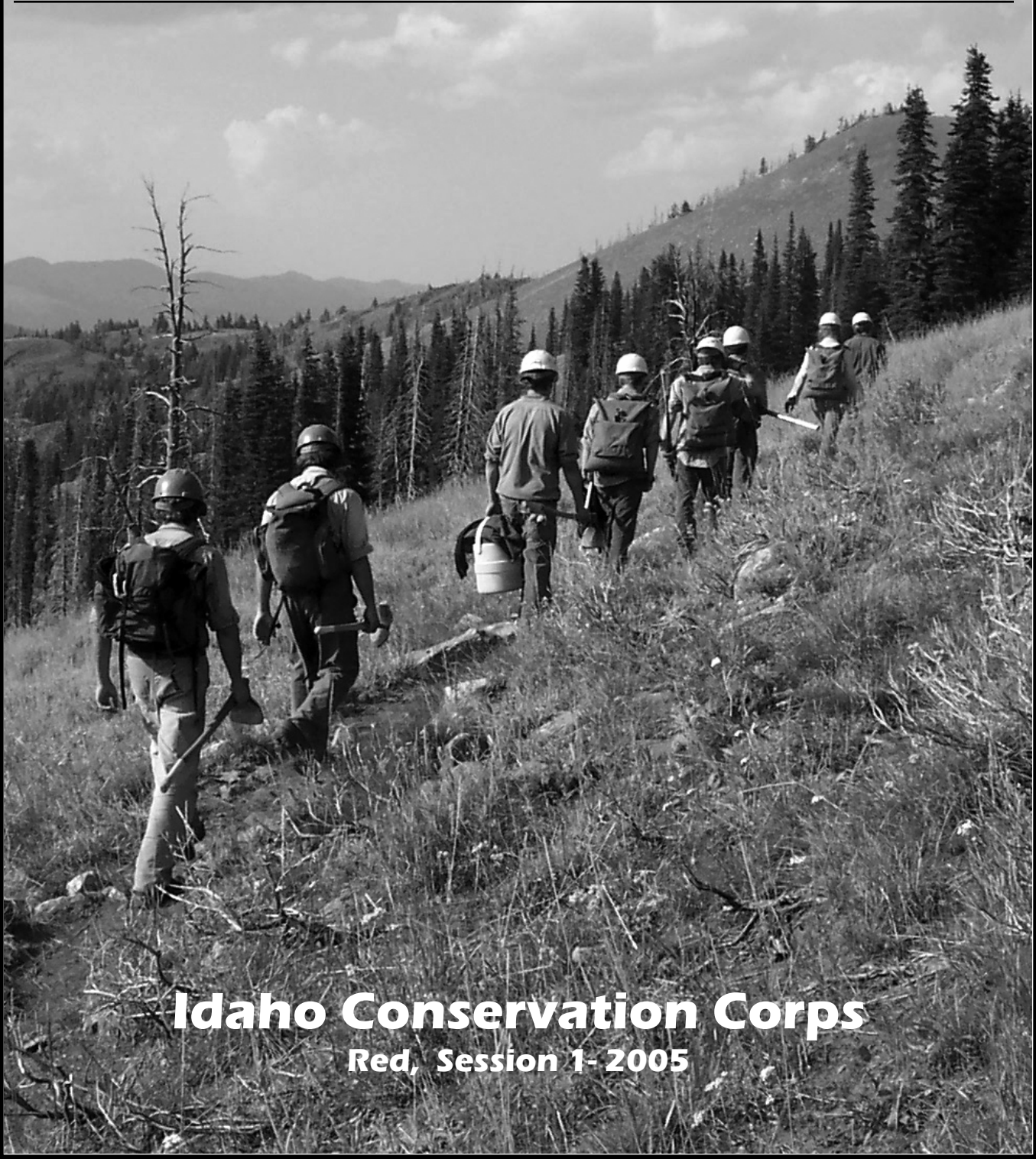




# Crew Journal



**Idaho Conservation Corps**  
Red, 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 initial 'R' and 'O'.

Ryan Ojerio  
Program Manager



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

**Week 1: June 20 – June 24, 2005**

Monday: We arrived at orientation, and had lots of “big fun!” On Sunday we got up and there was ice frost on the outside of all the tents. We packed up all the tents, then we were introduced to our teams. We are the RED Crew! We drove to eastern Washington... it took us 14 hours because we got lost. We spent the night in the Orange Crew’s camp because we followed the wrong directions. –Katie C.

Tuesday: This week’s project is digging trail. Batey-Bould is the name of the trail. We are currently in eastern Washington. We have been swinging tools and producing a beautiful trail. The trail, I would imagine, shall turn out to be very sexy trail indeed! –John J.

Wednesday: Our goals include pushing ourselves to our highest limits, to show our personal best, and hopefully to finish the trail we have been working on. Our main goal of course is to be as safe as possible. With the help of our individual safety buddies, which our crew leader has assigned us to, I would imagine that we will achieve this important goal! –John J.

Thursday: This week our crew learned the value of pushing ourselves. Both newcomers and returners have surprised themselves by their ability to overcome obstacles, work harder than they thought they could, and have a fun and joyful time doing so. This week has been a very exciting and wonderful experience for everyone. –John J.

Friday: Friday we worked four hours. We did not get the whole trail done like we wanted to. We didn't get the trail done because there were big rocks all over and that slowed us down a lot. There were also a lot of roots. Even though we did not get the trail done we knew that we worked hard and did a good job. We are lucky that another NYC crew will get to go back to where we were and finish our trail. When the trail is finished it will be a nice one for the motorcycles to drive on. –Debra M.

**National Forest: Nez Perce National Forest**  
**Ranger District: Salmon River Ranger District**  
**Project Name: Adams Camp Fuels Reduction**

**Week 2: June 27 – July 1, 2005**

Sunday: Our crew split up into 4 groups along with all the other crews. We went to the Nez Perce Museum. Other crews went to the beach, train trestles, and Indian petroglyphs. Then we went to a burger joint where the burgers are a foot wide! So far it has been really fun. –Zach M.

Monday: We are in the Nez Perce Forest and we are making slash piles with our bare hands and eating food. We have fun in forests; slash piles are fun. And for dinner we are making hamburgers and potatoes. Bye! –Eben H.

Tuesday: Our crew goal is to make 200 slash piles, but we're happy with riding the butts of the sawyers to get more work done. Another goal is to get all the likes and dislikes out in the open and settled before we head to the backcountry. That's all I really know for goals. –Chris M.

Wednesday: Today was Hump Day. The day went by pretty quick; we had quite a bit of slash piling to do, but all of us pulled our weight and we got a lot of the piles done. Crew leaders are making dinner tonight, so that's a special treat for us. But I think everyone had a good day today. –Bill W.

Thursday: This week our biggest challenge was definitely the weather. Everyone was cold and wet, but us being the Red Crew, we kept a positive attitude and made it through. That also could be considered our best accomplishment. Another accomplishment was working through our differences. Unfortunately we weren't instantly best friends in our crew, but we've worked through our differences, thank God! –Sarah T.

**National Forest: Idaho Panhandle National Forest**  
**Ranger District: Priest Lake Ranger District**  
**Project Name: Navigation Trail Maintenance**

**Week 3: July 4 – July 8, 2005**

Monday: This past weekend all the crews met at McComas Junction near Grangeville, ID. It was a nice spot in the woods that was full of cow poo. We spent the night there, and then on Saturday morning everybody took off for rec trips. Some people went down to the Clearwater River and just hung out at a park for a few hours and went swimming. Others went to some other nice spots nearby. After we got back from rec trips, parents came to visit. Then after that, we had a talent show. The parents left. Then on Sunday everybody went to their new work sites. –Mark T.

Tuesday: The project that we are doing this week is turnpikes and boardwalks. We are in Priest Lake at Plowboy Campgrounds. We are building boardwalks and turnpikes for hikers so they may have a more comfortable hiking experience within the Priest Lake area. –Debra M.

Friday: This week we built a turnpike. A turnpike is a raised trail supported by logs and rock. To prime the trail for the turnpike we made sure to scrape off all the organic material which is necessary to build a stable non-sloughing trail. It was super boring! We dug trenches to lay logs in, then felled and peeled cedars and notched them together to make a frame. Lying in the logs was tough because you have to make it pretty, yet functional. Then it started to rain so filling in the log frame with dirt was nearly impossible. It seemed like we had more mud on us than we put on the trail, but other than that we had a pretty nice week! –Katie C.

**National Forest: Idaho Panhandle National Forest**  
**Ranger District: Priest Lake Ranger District**  
**Project Name: Navigation Trail Maintenance**

**Week 4: July 11 – July 15, 2005**

Wednesday: This week our crew has started a few new projects. We started a couple of boardwalks and we're almost done with one of them. We are also working on a couple of new turnpikes. Also our crew's goal is to finish our projects before graduation. I think our crew is capable if we work hard and put in some long days but in the end it will be worth it. –Bill W.

Thursday: This week we learned how to make boardwalks. We finished one today and started the second one. We also learned that it is really hard to keep water out of the sills, water starts seeping into them. We also learned that turnpikes need a lot of dirt to fill them. –Debra M.

Friday: Today was one of our short work days, but even though it was short we got a lot of work done. Most of our crew was fire-lining dirt for our turnpikes, while the other people in our crew were pounding in nails for our boardwalks. I think our crew did really well and worked hard for our shorter day of work. I think our crew will be able to finish our projects by the end of our next week, the way we are working. –Bill W.

**National Forest: Idaho Panhandle National Forest**  
**Ranger District: Priest Lake Ranger District**  
**Project Name: Navigation Trail Maintenance**

**Week 5: July 18 – July 22, 2005**

Monday: This weekend we had a lot of store stops. We went swimming and we played "capture the flag." We got some ice cream, and everyone got to call their parents. We watched a very informative DVD on Priest River at the camp host's. A little bit of laundry, too. –Zach Miller

Tuesday: This week we are in Priest Lake, Idaho, building puncheon and boardwalk, because it will allow hikers and bicyclists easier access to Priest Lake... and will make it more convenient for them. –John Jones

Wednesday: Our goal for the week was to finish the boardwalks; we had 2 of them and then we had to do over 300 feet of turnpike and that was fun but the boardwalks were more fun I thought. –Eben Hamlin

Thursday: Our crew learned how hard we could all work this week. We had a lot of turnpike to finish up and we were able to get it all done. We also learned how to work better as a crew in the last week, which helped us finish everything we needed. –Mark Tripepi

Friday: This week we were working hard every day to get our project done. We finished everything... 335 feet of turnpike, and 48 feet of puncheon. This morning we woke up at an overlook above Lewiston and drove to Whoop 'em up, and made it here on time. –Chris Meade

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

My most challenging day was today, 7/19/05. I carried buckets of dirt to fill a puncheon. John J.

I think my most challenging day was filling in a puncheon on the date of 7/19/05. Bill W.

...trying to bond with teammates, on the first day. Zach M.

...the first hump day of the first week. Chris M.

The very first day. Sarah T.

The first day trying to meet people. Mark T.

My most challenging day was the last week because we were trying our hardest to get everything done. Debra M.

The most challenging day for me was the first day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week because I didn't have a PMA. Katie C.

...the first day, because I didn't want to work. Eben.

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

My first was building a puncheon. My second was eating burritos after a hard day's work. My third was working on boardwalk. John J.

...backcountry, bonding with friends, working hard. Bill W.

...backcountry, work, cooking my own food. Zach M.

...all the oranges. Eating dessert. Store stops. Chris M.

...backcountry, store stops, free time. Mark T.

My three favorite NYC experiences would have to be the work, getting to work overtime a lot, and getting along with everyone, including my crew leader and rovers. Debra M.

Three of my favorite experiences were the different projects, staying next to a lake in the backcountry, and the new diverse vocabulary. Katie C.

...the hard work, the people, and definitely free time. Sarah T.

They were the 3 weeks backcountry and the last day and when we are going to get our checks. Eben.

***One Thing I Will Always Remember...***

...is how NYC has gotten me in better shape. John J.

The good times around the camp fire. Bill W.

I will always remember the bugbites. Zach M.

The 24 hour job with only 8 hours of pay. Chris M.

The very, very, very hard work. Mark T.

The one thing I will always remember is everything and everyone. But most of all is the encouragement from my crew leader. Debra M.

I will remember what we accomplished, the conflicts we had, what iodine does to your digestion. Katie C.

The people and how close I can get to people in 5 weeks. Sarah T.

The people here, and going home. Eben.

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

From now on I will always appreciate more than what I take for granted. John J.

I will always appreciate things more. Bill W.

...appreciate my maid. Zach M.

I will always appreciate indoor plumbing. Chris M.

...appreciate what I have. Mark T.

From now on I will always appreciate all the work that the Forest Service does. Debra M.

From now on I will always remember that no matter whether I like someone or not, they too are cool in their way. Katie C.

...remain true to myself. Sarah T.

...respect other things like a bed or a shower. Eben.

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

...how to push myself harder, how to cook better, how to build puncheon and boardwalk. John J.

I learned how to work as a team and overcome obstacles. Bill W.

I learned how to work like a man. Zach M.

I learned how to tie knots. Chris M.

...how to cook better while camping, tie more knots, and work better with others. Mark T.

At NYC I learned how to push myself, I learned that I love the work that we do, and I learned how to cook. Debra M.

I learned that being stubborn can both help and hinder. Katie C.

I learned what work really is. Sarah.

At NYC I learned what a hermaphrodite is. Eben.