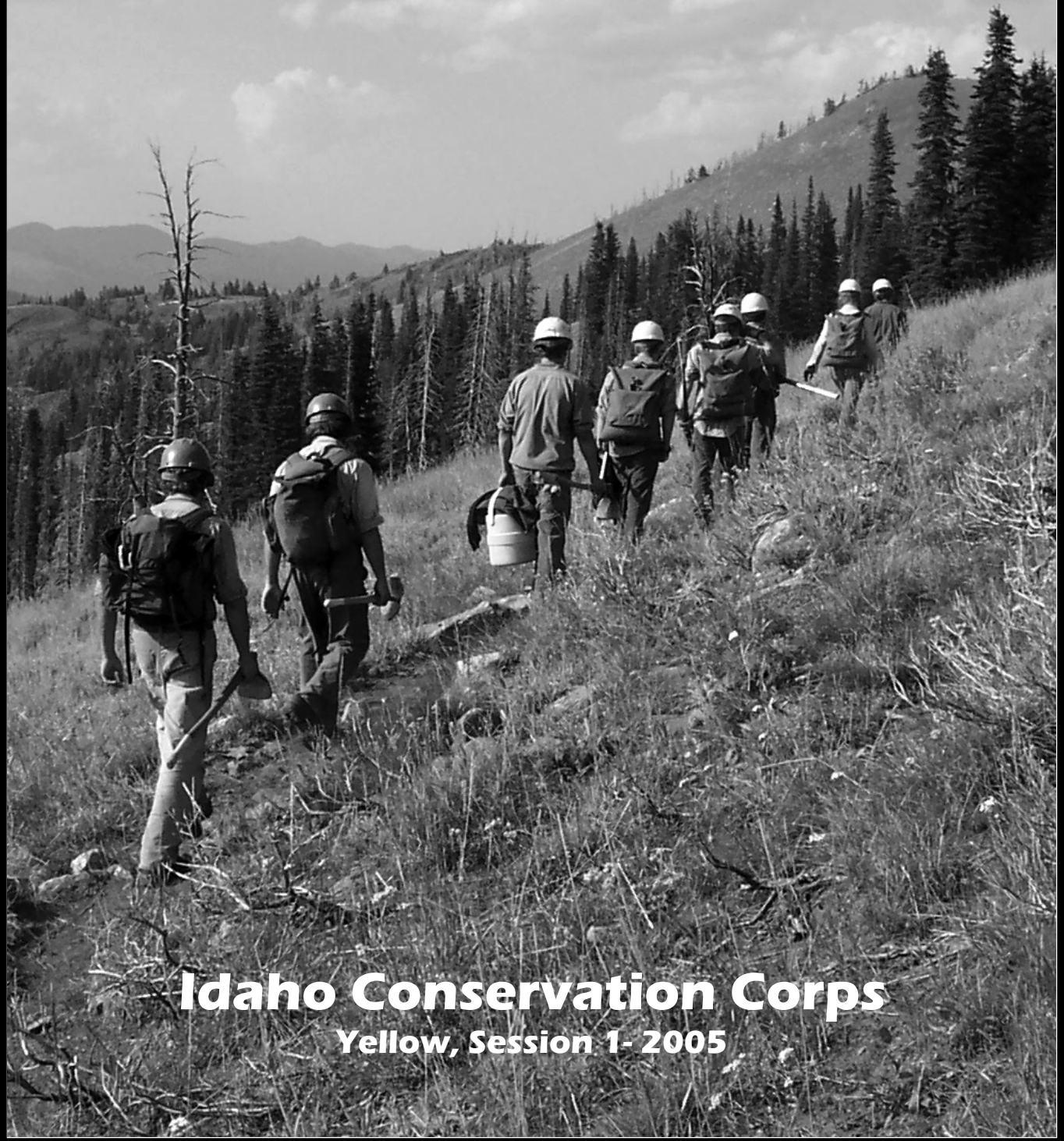




Crew Journal



Idaho Conservation Corps
Yellow, 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: Salmon River Ranger District
Project Name: Adam's Camp Fuels Reduction

Week 1: June 20 – June 24, 2005

Monday: Our crew actually didn't meet until Sunday morning, when we met one another. I believe it was the long (only 4 hours) drive to our site. In the van, we talked about music and the "smell of Singapore." Music seems to be our great uniting factor. Today Tessa joined our family and now we are complete. We've already done a few Big Funs which have brought us closer together. I'm sure that by the end of this week we'll be like twelve peas in a pod! It's sad to know we'll lose two of our team but nice to know we'll gain two more. –Clarissa A.

Tuesday: We went back for our second day of slash pile mayhem and it was a riot in the jungle, what with the new tar paper and the sawyers having made new slash in old places and whatnot, mmhmm. "Curiosity salted the snail" –Tanner, so that's why we don't go exploring too much. Also we're tired, but not too tired for massive fun. –Sol

Wednesday: We have been working hard on slash piles. We have also made new friendships while working. To create and develop these friendships while working we sing songs, play games and still continue to work hard. We have also created crew jokes and noises. It is a new game or surprise. We hope that we continue with this success. “Manamana!” “A-ahhhh-ah!”
-Jessalynn B.

Thursday: Hmmm, what have we learned this week? Well, we started off the week with a close-knit group which, through manual labor, got along. Also I learned that if you bang on pots to wake up your crew in the morning, you may also wake up a crew that is camping near you, ie, the Blue Crew. Sweet sweet sweet. Whoo-hoo- 4 hours left! –Evan

Friday: Well, it’s Friday, and I think it’s safe to say we are all happy to be done slash piling. The fire fighters we were working for said we did an excellent job and gave me Gatorade. We were all (well I was) grateful for the short day. Oh yeah—Nathan made some sweet lemon pie that we had for breakfast. Um, then we packed up and left. Laundry was fun. We all enjoyed subway at the town stop and loaded up on candy. Um, I’m done now so I will draw a picture: [picture of Subway, and Yellow Crew giving a thumbs-up] –Nainoa

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

Week 2: June 27 – July 1, 2005

Monday: Today was our first day at our new site. The normal—it has to rain some. The work is a lot harder and not as repetitive as slash piling. We did a lot of team work pulling rocks up hills and getting them out of their holes. Later during the day people were starting to get wet and muddy. Then at the end of the day, Stoney decided to throw mud because he had heard about a previous mud fight. Then almost everybody started to throw mud. Then there was mud-wrestling. Then a cold bath later at the camp. –Tanner

Tuesday: Our project this week was to demolish an old puncheon and replace it with a rock turnpike. We were stationed in the Colville National Forest. The other project was to make about .6 miles’ worth of trail. We were making this new trail for the motorcyclists. –Nathan C.

Wednesday: Today we began work on our second project for the week: creating 0.6 miles of trail. We made good progress and with a little luck we will finish it tomorrow or Friday. The best part about today was that it didn’t rain the entire time we were working. Anyway we had a good day and used a lot of teamwork to accomplish our goals. We even managed to clear 20 flags of trail in 20 minutes. P.S. (Now that I read the prompt)—our goals are to finish the project by Friday and our short-term goal was to do the 20 minute/20 flag bit.

Thursday: This week we learned a lot about many different trail-building things. For example, we learned about how to make a killer turnpike and build wicked trails. It was sweet. Now we are a super tight-knit group of friends and we have learned a lot about ourselves and the people we work with. –Evan

Friday: This week started off okay. We were all hyped up over our awesome spirit from the weekend and excited about our new assignment. Unfortunately, when Monday dawned with damp buckets of water, our zeal was lost. This was a challenge since none of us wanted to be brought down and inevitably, it lasted through Tuesday. Wednesday brought us a little sunshine, but it wasn't until Thursday that we were psyched up again. All in all, this week we made a turnpike in two days and point-six miles of trail in two days as well. I'm proud of us since we tuckered through despite Mother Nature. P.S.: Always be prepared!
–Clarissa Abidog

National Forest: Payette National Forest
Ranger District: Krassle Ranger District
Project Name: Monumental Creek Trail Maintenance

Week 3: July 4 – July 9, 2005

Monday: We were told that we were going backcountry, but we ended up being able to drive straight in and not having to backpack at all! We got two new rovers, Sully and Ashley! We arrived, set up camp, and our contact had a conversation with us. Today we woke up and started working on the trailhead, actually kind of mindlessly, until Stoney cleared it up and took us on a hike and showed us exactly what we were doing. We are definitely going to have fun!
–Jessalynn

Tuesday: Tuesday. That means Wednesday is on the morrow. Which means Hump Day of Hump Week. Sweet! So today we began trail construction, it was chill. We moved rocks, and made a rock wall that is pretty pimp. A lot of us left stuff around camp so as a lesson Stoney has us do random silly things to get our stuff returned. I tried to get my stuff back by chopping through a gnarly log in 10 minutes. I failed. So I had to do the talent show as well. It was sweet. 'End. –Nainoa

Wednesday: This week seems to be the cracking down and taking responsibility week, so that is what we will try to do. It means not leaving schwag around the camp, getting ourselves up early enough, and taking charge of calling tool counts at the right times. We will also try to get as much trail done as possible of course; maybe we will get the first two bypasses finished. A reward might be getting to do 24-hour solos on the weekend, which is exciting. Trail spice, rock and roll! –Solomon

Thursday: What our crew is learning to do this week is how to be an independent crew that does not rely upon the leaders. We are learning how to take charge and get the chores and work done on time. We are more than halfway through the session. There are only 9 full work days left. Yipee! –Nathan

Friday: Today was the hottest day to work but the crew worked to get the job done, carrying rock all day with buckets or by hand back and forth, up and down the trail, clearing brush to cover the old trail and pushing over a fallen-over tree. At the end of a hard work day we cooled off in the creek. –Nick Sinsel

Saturday: Today we had an adventure! We searched high and low (not really) for some non-existent hot springs. Even though we didn't find them, we listened to good music in the car and stopped at this cute summer town where some angry looking girl smiled at all our NYC boys. Hehe. She had a cute dog that was like a people-magnet.

It started to rain after we got out into the car/van. You know what that meant? Wet solos! (good fun!) Shelters were built in less than two hours! All in all, it was our best Saturday yet! Toodles – ABI

National Forest: Payette National Forest
Ranger District: Krassle Ranger District
Project Name: Monumental Creek Trail Maintenance

Week 4: July 10 – July 15, 2005

Sunday: So, most of today was spent out on our solos. It was a very relaxing day. The rain turned on and off ever so often. At 6 o'clock we showed up back here at base camp. We had a silent, but awesomely energized, dinner. Afterward we had cinnamon rolls. Yummy. After dinner we sat around telling each other about the past 24 hours. It was an all-around good day. Yellow crew rocks. –Nathan

Monday: We got a lot of work done. The trail is looking beautiful for still not having the full dirt. It has been a little quieter than usual during work, but overall it's good. –Tanner

Tuesday: The morning was pretty slow, but work picked up in the afternoon. Political conversations abounded and Evan and Nick were our time-keepers. Looking forward to new parts of the trail.

Wednesday: Beating the heat. The heat is making everyone icky and sticky; thus everyone is crabby. But it's okay, because we'll get over it. The hump is over with and we WILL pick up! This week, other than our energy, we are focused on finishing the trails in time for the mules. I think we'll do it, no... I KNOW we'll do it. In the meantime, we await sight or word from Michael. Good luck Yellow! –Clarissa

Thursday: It was a great day. Work went really fast. Also, Michael came today. Everybody had been waiting for mail. Today the mail came. Everyone was excited. Work was fun though. We had to move a lot of big rocks which I like to do. Also monkeys are really cool. I have donuts. If ponies could fly, that would be awesome. –Tanner Richter

National Forest: Payette National Forest
Ranger District: Krassle Ranger District
Project Name: Monumental Creek Trail Maintenance

Week 5: July 18 – July 22, 2005

Monday: Friday we didn't have to work, so we got to sleep in! Yay! So we packed up the van and went to Yellow Pine! We made a store stop there; then ventured to Keewah Meadows and Indian Creek trailhead. We loaded up backpacks and started on our 7-mile backpacking trip. It took us about 4 hours to get down to a campsite! We got there and set up camp. Stoney made us gado-gado and a yummy salad! Mmmm, yummy. After that we went to bed and slept off the hike. Saturday we woke up and got to the hot springs. Unfortunately the hot springs were puny, so we built them up and made little hot tubs. We had a lot of fun; including an algae fight. Sully and Kate also took their days off so it was just the crew and Stoney chillin' like villains except having more fun cuz we were doing good and wholesome stuff like algae fights. Yay! Fun! –Jessalynn

Wednesday: The final week is almost over and it is hard to believe, the time has gone so fast. To beat the heat the crew has been splitting up the work day in order to take a siesta during the middle of the afternoon. Some of the corps members don't like the idea, but I think the cooler working conditions are better. Michael will be visiting tomorrow and the crew is looking forward to Mail.

Friday: We packed up and left for McCall yesterday. The first showers in 3 weeks were great. We had a pizza party in town and it was swell. Now off to the big clean!

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

Week 4, there was one day when we were working on the slice of trail behind camp. PMA was down and it was hard to keep working. But we got through it. Liz.

In our last week when we were all doing fill—it was hot and everyone was sick and getting annoyed with each other. But we managed to pull through and be happy. Noa.

When we were pulling rocks by ropes up hills to build a turnpike. Nathan.

It had to be when we were carrying big rocks for the turnpike. Tanner.

Working with rocks in the rain on the turnpike, I smashed my finger and was wet and unhappy. That, or the first day of bucketing fill. Nainoa explained it well. Solomon.

Last week was a lot of fill done. Got a lot done during the two 9-hour days with some fun time after. Nick.

Probably the first day of the second week. During this day we were working on a turnpike in a swamp and it rained. It was not fun. Evan.

My most challenging day was the day that Evan (poor guy) had to put up with hot, sweaty, unmotivated youths. Just trying to keep everyone happy and dealing with their hot tempers was really stressful. It was hard enough to deal with it myself. How hard was it for Evan? Clarissa.

My most challenging moment was trying to meet everyone the first day and catch up on already-formed inside jokes since I came late. Jessalynn.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Sol yelling “Sun sun sun!” through the pouring rain in week two. The SEED in week one where we formed a long line and then wrapped around each other. Relaxing at the weekend site. Liz.

Watching the moon set atop a ridgeline with Evan at our weekend backpacking trip. Solos. Running through Blue Crew’s camp watching Sol be a monkey. Noa.

When I found out that I was on Yellow Crew. When we stuffed ourselves full of food for ice cream. The last day of work. Nathan.

One was all the new places. Two was backpacking in the backcountry. Three was solo time—it was great. Tanner.

I liked to go on the duo (?) on our backpacking weekend and sleep on the top of a mountain. I liked when the whole crew would sing, and the last day of work and the town trip. Solomon.

Backpacking was fun but the end of backpacking was more fun. Nick.

Backpacking to the hot springs was sweet. Sol was pretty cool and funny, and I liked swimming. Evan.

My favorite experiences were (1) backpacking 6 miles in the heat, (2) getting to know everyone, and (3) finishing our last day of work (everyone was so excited!). The fact that I could actually finish the hike to and from the “hot springs” was amazing; but not as amazing as meeting 12 new and wonderful people. We’re like THIS! (crossed fingers here) Clarissa.

I had a lot of favorite moments, but my 3 favorite are: (1) The mudfight; it totally kicked butt! I looked like Sasquatch. (2) Meeting everybody the first day. (3) The hot springs. Jessa.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Listening to music on the van rides. Liz.

The amazing places. Noa.

The crew. Nathan.

The cool places. Tanner.

The community. Solomon.

Working as a family community. Nick.

The amazing views I have had when I hiked up tall stuff. Evan.

I will always remember the people. The people of my crew, the people of the towns, and the people that we served. Clarissa.

The great friendships and new perspectives. Jessa.

From Now On I Will Always...

...pack extra socks when I go hiking. Liz.

...appreciate the trails I walk on. Noa.

...pack lighter. Nathan.

...get dirty. Tanner.

...work out to feel good, like after a day of work. Solomon.

...pack less. Nick.

...shine my shoes. Evan.

From now on I will never, EVER drink river water without iodine. NO GIARDIA! Clarissa.

...like the outdoors and not worry about getting my hair dirty. Jessa.

At NYC I Learned...

(1) how to tie a trucker's hitch, (2) how to build a shelter, and (3) the effects of iodine on the digestive system. Liz.

...a sense of hard work; how to make some sweet trail; the importance of working together. Noa.

...how to have a lot of fun, how to lead, how to be a follower. Nathan.

I learned how to use a crosscut. Tanner.

...how to make trail, how to take another look at people, and how to be away from home for five weeks. Solomon.

I learned to work hard, have fun, and to build shelters. Nick.

I learned about a lot of cool things like hunting, fishing, and killing stuff. Evan.

I learned that in the end things always work out. Arguments and disagreement happen, then you get over it. Also, trail is hard work—fit for the best! AND, Stoney is the BEST LEADER! Clarissa.

I learned lots of new perspectives, how to survive 24 hours alone without getting eaten by a bear, and how to do the Jerry Springer. Jessa.