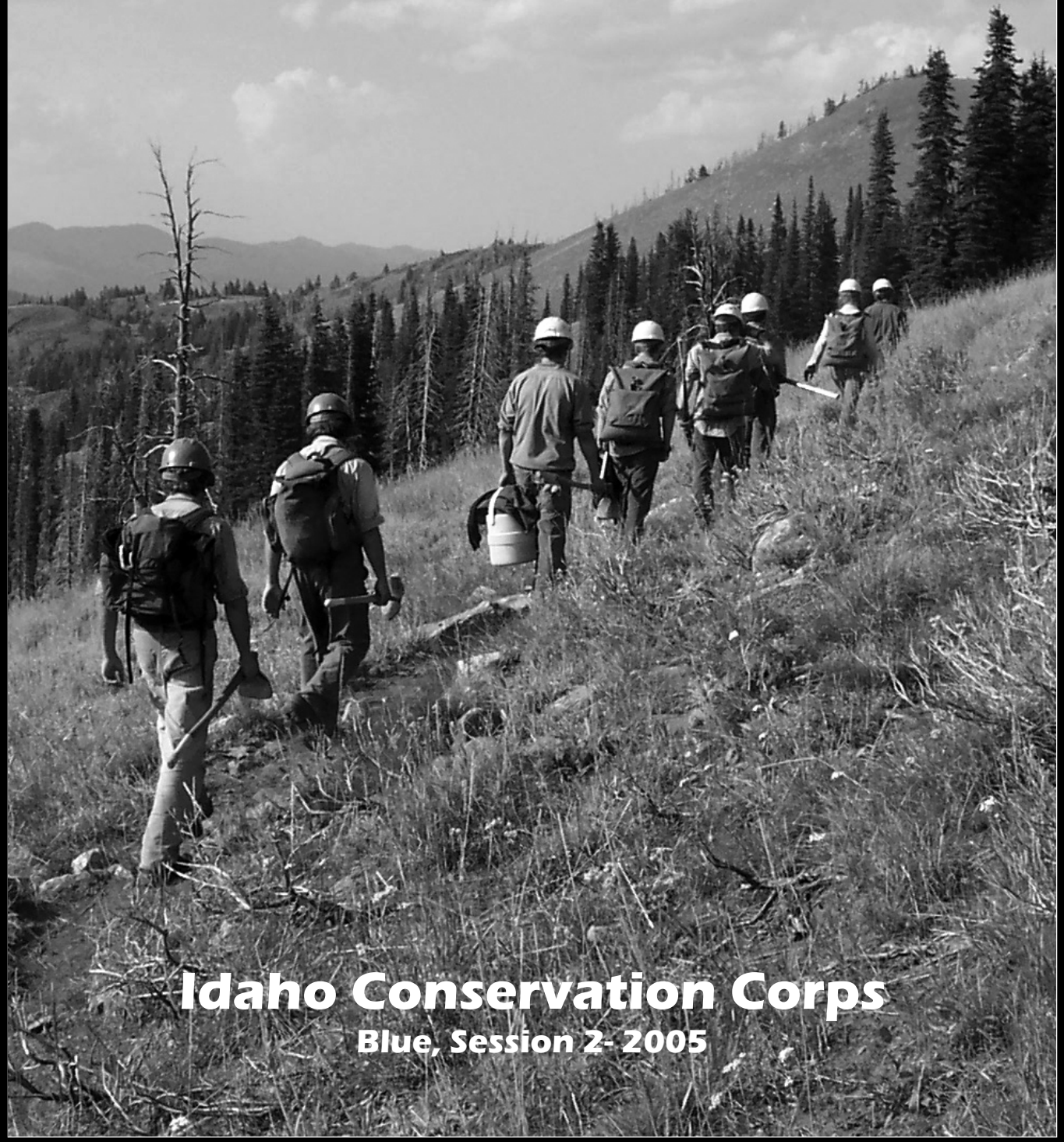




Crew Journal



Idaho Conservation Corps
Blue, Session 2- 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'.

Ryan Ojerio
Program Manager



**National Forest- Sawtooth
Ranger District- Fairfield
Project Name- Paradise Trail Reconstruction**

Week 1: July 31 – August 6

Monday: Today we finally started to get some more rules in on how we start off the day and took a hike to our work site. Sunday, we finished our hike to our base camp and set up the site. Saturday, we took a very long drive up to the Sawtooth Mountains. Once we finished the drive, we situated our packs and took a very long 4 mile trip and didn't even finish it. –Travis K-L

Tuesday: We are in the Sawtooth National Forest. We are about four miles backcountry. We started working on rerouting a trail. We are doing this because it makes the trail easier for people to walk on and ride dirt-bikes on. We are also going to cover the old trail with brush, rocks, and trees. –Debra M.

Wednesday: Our goals for the week are to finish the trail we began at the beginning of the week. Another was to become closer with our fellow crew members. Another goal for the week was for each person to focus and concentrate on accountability. Accountability means more than just working when you're supposed to be working. It also means paying close attention to your crewmembers' feelings and safety. –Andrea G.

Thursday: The Blue Crew learned what a cut-bank is. We also learned how to install drains in the trail, to make the water run down the mountain instead of staying in one place. The Blue Group learned how to move big rocks in a safe way so that no one would get hurt. The Blue Crew also learned how to cook well and eat all of their food. –Levi D.

Friday: Our crew is amazing! This week was full of so many challenges, from backpacking 4 miles to getting to work every day and doing a great job. We've learned to cook and do many different chores. We've connected like such close friends, it's amazing we've only known each other one week! We're all so strong physically and mentally, but it's easy when you have so many great people to lean on. One of my favorite sayings is "If you think you can or can't you're right," and with this crew, you can do anything!

Every day is a physical struggle; digging, chopping, and hiking 1 ½ miles to work isn't easy, but singing and joking on the trail, relaxing in mountain fields, and talking and joking at dinner makes the days go by fast. We've gotten so far this week, and we're going to do even better next week! –Gwynne R.

National Forest: Sawtooth
Ranger District: Fairfield
Project Name: Paradise Trail Reconstruction

Week 2: August 7 – August 13

Monday: On Saturday Blue Crew just took a chill day and hung around camp. We woke up around 10:30, ate breakfast, and took some personal time. In the middle of the day Gabe, our crew leader, showed us a sweet way to make a fire. Also we cleaned up camp and made it really clean. At night we had a really good dinner and we did a PH. On Sunday we had a 6-hour work day to get ahead. –Div

Tuesday: Blue Crew is doing a trail reroute this week, because the old trail is too steep. We are in the Sawtooth Mountains. Mostly this week we have been digging up roots and moving brush so we can finish our reroute. We are almost done with the reroute, but we still need to finish grooming the trail and making the cut-bank look nice. –Matt

Wednesday: Our goal for the week was to get the trails done. We wanted them to look really nice. We also wanted to cover the old trails with brush. It was really a difficult trail to dig because there were a lot of rocks, roots, and stumps. –Debra Ann M.

Thursday: We learned how to read maps, how to build a fire in the rain, and some more rules. At the end (on the hike out) we learned that the easiest way to hike is downhill. We also learned about barometers and weather. We learned about the waterways on the Sawtooths. –Travis K-L

Friday: The crew's main challenge this week was overcoming mental debilitation. By this point in our NYC career many have received certain injuries. Just knowing the end of the week was so close, but knowing we still had yet another day to go, was difficult. Personally there was a break down in visualization of the victory because the physical pain of injuries among other issues were ever present. Another issue seemed to be overcoming negative persuasion. Outside of just being plum discouraged a negative fog settled over the work site and then excused itself upon return to camp. There was definitely a demand to keep up the work ethic with the week and a promising weekend yet ahead. Therefore you could say the struggle existed on the part of the strong and the weak for different reasons, however, both physically challenged and physically endowed emerged with a renewed sense of completion.

Our accomplishments were several. Our main accomplishment is that the Blue team successfully completed another trail in the rugged mountains of the Sawtooth National Forest. Another accomplishment of our crew this week is we all finished this week together. There were several who either by truth or joke said "I'm going home." Yet this did not happen.

I suppose the key to our success is perseverance and endurance. As long as we can continue doing this, everything else will fall into place. I personally am already starting to feel my way and see where I stand in our newly created hierarchy/society. We, I believe, are beginning to grow in respect and consideration for each other. This is a very important component for our group/crew. Without this, proper function would be difficult. –Margaret G.

National Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Ranger District: Sandpoint
Project Name: Blacktail Lake Trail Puncheon Construction

Week 3: Date Aug. 14th-20th

Monday: Blue crew met up with the rest of Idaho 2 in McCall for the only weekend site this season. We were the first ones there and set up a bomb camp. We all split up and went on different rec. trips. On Sunday we had an 8 hour drive to our next spot. On Monday we had a 3 and a half mile hike in which was pretty easy. After the hike we set up camp and chilled...Div

Tuesday: Our project for these two weeks is to build bridges, 4 puncheon. The Blue crew is camped near sand point. It was about a 3 1/2 mile hike to the camp site. We are building puncheon and 1 bridge for the forest department. The Blue crew is doing it cause we want to and cause we are getting paid to do it...Levi

Wednesday: [Describe your crews challenges and accomplishments this week] Stay dry, build all the puncheon, build one bridge, no fights between the people in the blue crew, To survive without freezing, Eat all of the dinner food at dinner time and no left-overs, work hard regardless of injuries and the whole Blue crew wakes up at the right time to go to work in the morning....Levi

Thursday: Our crew learned how to communicate effectively and to minimize any un-necessary disturbances among member on the work site and at home. I believe our crew has learned to work in sync as a body functioning. Although many had minor injuries the crew members stepped in to help the team work to a maximum potential...Margaret

Friday: [Describe your crews challenges and accomplishments this week] Build a board walk, building in the rain for 3 days, building in the mud, walking without slipping, trying to get the crew to drink enough water, building a fire with wet wood and building a bear hang. [Accomplishments], Finishing board walk in three days, getting drainage canals to stay firm, getting everyone ready to go to work before 7 a.m., and building a bear hang...Andrea

National Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Ranger District: Sandpoint
Project Name: Blacktail Lake Trail Puncheon Construction

Week 4: Date Aug 21st-27th

Monday: Our crew made huckle berry pancakes and had a big fun. During the big fun we played a wide variety of games from Big Booty to hacky sack. We also did a plant identification SEED. During this SEED we spotted various plants around our campsite. We learned which were fatally poisonous and which were edible....Andrea

Tuesday: Mike made us breakfast burritos then we went to work for a few hours to build approaches for the puncheon we made. We had two barrow pits going at one time and Mike took Riley to Red crew. Debora and I had broken packs and mine was jabbing my back...Jessica

Wednesday: This week Idaho hated us! It rained on us 3 days, including the hike out, which was today. It was wet and cold and miserable. Except when it was finally sunny, its so pretty! The lake was gorgeous! Work was pretty cool, we did about 400 ft. of punch-in (beautiful) in a week! For today and tomorrow we're doing another 100ft. It was a pretty slow start, we had to re-measure sills again and again. But we finally got it straight and I believe we'll get it done tomorrow! After, we'll go to town which will be wonderful! Showers, laundry, and store stop, Yay!!!....Gwynne

Thursday: This week we learned how to build punch-ins, we learned that Northern Idaho has very unpredictable weather. Also we (or us guys) learned that it is hard to get up in the morning. I also learned that there is such a thing as 5 Charlie horses at 1 time, ouch! That is about all of it for now. Tune in next week for the next daily journal...Travis

Friday: Some of our challenges this week were harder than others. We had to be sure not to lose or break any tools. Also work hard and fast. It was also hard to stay on task while working in the barrow pit because after awhile we had to dig so many for all the different approaches. We also had some challenges with the rain. People got cold and wet and it brought peoples enthusiasm down. It made it hard to get up in the morning because nobody likes leaving completely warm and comfortable to put on wet cloths and boots.

Our accomplishments consisted of not breaking any tools. Learning a lot more about each other and becoming closer. The big accomplishment though was the 500 feet of puncheon we built and the nine approaches that we did in 2 weeks...Matt

National Forest: Salmon/Challis
Ranger District: Middle Fork
Project Name: Pistol Lake Turnpikes

Week 5: Date Aug 29th -Sept. 2nd

Monday: On Thursday we drove out and we washed dour clothes in Sandpoint. That night we pulled over in a state park and slept under the stars. On Friday we drove into McCall and took showers at the Smoke Jumpers base. Saturday we went on our rec-trips. I wet with Buckwheat and we dug a hole on the beach and we buried Div in it and gave him the body of a mermaid... Jessica W.

Tuesday: Currently my crew and I are working in the the rugged wilderness of the Frank Church. We are rapidly building and reconstructing turnpikes. This is a very interesting project... Margaret G.

Wednesday: This week we plan to get all of our jobs done. We also plan to learn about nature and our ecosystems. Some more of our goals are to finish ASAP. Other than that we just want to finish all of our hours. This is just one from me so ...Peace out!

Thursday: Our crew learned a lot this week. We learned about turnpikes and what they are. We learned that rock turnpikes need a lot of rocks. We also learned that certain insects can do a lot of damage. The contact also told us the history of the Frank Church. We also learned what talus slopes are. A couple of people learned how to use the cross-cut saw...Debra Ann M.

Friday: Lets start with the challenges this week shall we? One of our challenges was retrieving big boulders. Another was trying to wake up us guys. Also our hikes in and back out. Our hike began about a mile up and then about a mile and a half down hill on nothing but switchbacks. Then just reverse that going on our hike out. The first work day we had to dig in rocky soil and worst of all they were big rocks and we needed small rocks. Now for our accomplishments all we did was finish our turnpikes and hours and that's it for all I know..

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

The two mile hike from the Frank Church to the van when my feet were killing me...Debra

When we were moving big rocks to make turn pikes. I was really exhausted afterwards, especially the hike to and from work, I was ready to just pass out...Travis K.

When we were building puncheons in the rain. It was really cold and wet. The rain also made it very hard to level the sills...Div

The first day of back country cause it was hard for me cause I'm from the city. I was not used to hiking or working like we did that day...Levi

Wednesday week 5. I was so homesick and cold. I was so ready to quit. I'm glad I didn't...Jessi W.

Thursday week 5. I was homesick and I didn't want to get up...Matt

The day I thought I couldn't participate in NYC anymore because of the physical challenges. It was a pivotal moment for me because I had to decide whether this was for me or not. Once I decided I was going to stay regardless I learned to take everything in stride one day at a time and then one step at a time...Margaret

During the first two weeks. While digging a drainage for our first trail I got frustrated. Everyone was unsatisfied with how I did it and told me to do it differently then the guy before him told me...Andrea

My first hike. 21/2 miles straight uphill, it was my very first hike with a heavy backpack and it was really difficult for me. It took me about five hours, which I never would have even made if it wasn't for my crew leader Gabe, who kept me going...Gwynne

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Working hard, building puncheons, trail and turnpikes. Also getting to work in the Frank Church Wilderness...Debra

Building the trails, making puncheons and personal histories...Travis

The trails, they contributed to the group intimacy level and unwinding at the end of the work day, also completing hikes...Margaret

When me and Gabe were attacked by 300 or so sheep, moving the huge rocks and roots on the trail and making puncheons...Div

When we started to work on brand new trail. Also when we built puncheons and then the turn pike...Levi

I liked calling Gabe grandpa Gabe, building puncheon and building trail...Jessi

I like haning out with new people, building puncheons and hiking to all of our camps...Matt

Sitting around the fire at dinner. Joking around on days off and hanging out in sleeping bags talking on days off...Andrea

Sitting around the dinner campfire and joking with my friends. They were also building the puncheons which wee difficult for me, and made me very proud when I finished. My last favorite experience was hiking to the top of a mountain and being able to see for miles all wilderness in all directions...Gwynne

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

My crew. I will remember how great they were and how hard they worked...Debra

My crew, there is no way I will forget them...Travis

The last turn pike that we made because it was a challenge...David

The first day we worked on puncheons cause it was so muddy and it was a rainy day...Levi

The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness and when I worked there...Jessi

How hard the first hike was but I did it and would do it again...Matt

I wanted to quit at some point. I decided not to and I am better for giving myself the opportunity to accomplish something...Margaret

The dinners when everything didn't matter, we all just got along...Andrea

My crew. They were my friends and for five weeks my family. I'll never forget them...Gwynne

From Now On I Will Always...

Work hard. I will treat people with respect...Debra

Be a better person to work with and along...Travis

No longer stand by and be told what to do. I will take the initiative to find out what needs to be done...
Div

Work hard and respect other people and take time to see where they are from and their feelings about
stuff...Levi

Appreciate the wild and love how beautiful and serene it is...Jessi

Appreciate those who build trails and other facilities for us to use...Matt

Think of the people I met at NYC; and I will also always recognize the work that goes into a trail when I
walk on it...Margaret

Be bored! NYC always has you doing something. Home will be boring...Andrea

I will always push myself harder. I really have no limits as long as I believe I can...Gwynne

At NYC I Learned...

That it is really fun to cook. I also learned that I love to work and live in the mountains...Debra

To be an effective leader, a hard worker and how to push myself as hard and fast as I can...David

I learned how to live in the woods for five weeks and stay alive and fend for myself...Levi

I learned how to build puncheon, rock turnpikes and how to sharpen Pulaski's...Jessica

I learned how to sharpen Pulaski's, put up a bear hang and cook with wisper lite stoves...Matt

I learned I have the ability to overcome physical hardship through mental determination not to fail...
Margaret

How to be dependable, get along with everyone and work to my full extent...Andrea

I learned to cook. I learned to push my limits to get that much stronger. I also learned to enjoy my time
and savor the peace of the wilderness...Gwynne