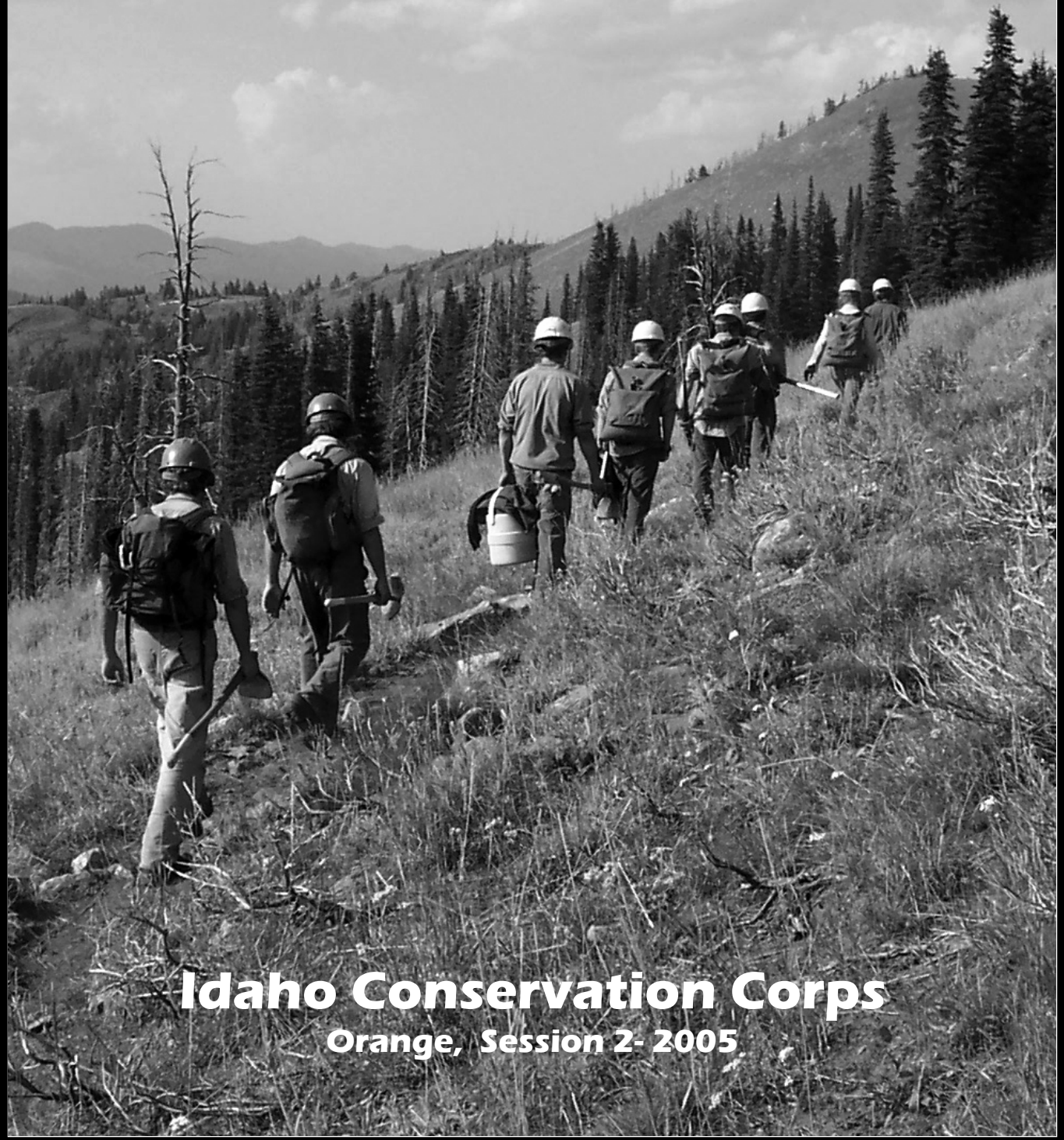




Crew Journal



Idaho Conservation Corps
Orange, 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'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R'.

Ryan Ojerio
Program Manager



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

Week 1: July 31 – August 6

Monday: We hiked into our camp site. Then we set up camp and filled our water from the fresh spring. It was very cold and refreshing. After that we put our hard hats on and headed out to our site. We worked as a team to dig a switchback. It started to hail when we were almost done. After we got done with the switchback we walked home to finish setting up camp. Then we ate dinner and it was great. After that we all went to our tent and had a long good rest. –Kyle S.

Tuesday: Today we woke up at 5:45 to get an early start on our project. We walked about 5 miles round trip to our site. We had to reroute 2 trails, build a bridge, and dig drainage ditches. It was a long walk home. The hike home was mostly up-hill so we were all really tired. Once in camp we sharpened pulaskis, cooked dinner, and made our lunch for the next day. Dinner was very good and we all are going to have a good sleep tonight. –Kyle S.

Wednesday: This week our goals were to work 455 hours, build a 15-foot 3-stringer bridge, approx. 2000 feet of trail re-route, and install a lot of water bars. Our crew became a lot closer while working together and being more of a team. –Taylor N.

Thursday: This week we learned to work together, dig trail, build bridges, and make water bars. We learned to get together and work through our group problems. We learned to do the chores and make shotgun and dinner. –Todd C.

Friday: This week our crew has accomplished building one bridge, forty six water bars, and one thousand six hundred feet of new trail. Not to mention the couple mile hike in and out of camp to work. Some challenges encountered were the heat during work and the rain on our personal gear back at camp. One of the reroutes was exceptionally difficult because of the extremely thick duff caused by mass amounts of grass and plants. Something challenging was getting the seals to the bridge level and straight with each other. Also there are always the basics like the sump hole, the latrine, and everyday chores at camp. There were other small things like trimming branches back off the trail to make it a clearer walk and clearing logs and branches off the trail too. Last but not least there was a heavily improved switchback busted out for more room to turn around on to prevent people from cutting down and not using the trail. –Brian M.

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

Week 2: August 7 – August 13

Monday: Our crew this weekend had loads of fun. We were just outside of Riggins on a sandy beach with a beautiful river. Taylor, one of our crewmembers, had hurt his upper back while doing back-flips. One the way to the hospital we lost Todd, one of our crewmembers, who had to quit because of homesickness. But as a crew and as a team we're going to pull through this and have fun. –Brandon

Tuesday: This week we are north of Sandpoint. We are up in bear country. Our site is three miles from our camp. We are building a puncheon. We are planning on building 350 ft of puncheon. We are all now working together as a team and everything is going well. Everyone is tired but we are all working through it together. This team is having the most fun out of all four. We love what we accomplish. – Kyle S.

Wednesday: While we have been working on this bridge emotions have changed quickly and constantly. There have been moments of anger, despair, and elation. One of our main goals is to have a strong feeling of team/crew unity. Also we have to make sure that all the chores after work are taken care of quickly. One of the things that we also have to make sure of is that all smoke breaks are taken back at camp and the butts are disposed of properly. Probably the most important goal that we have this week is finishing the puncheon. We are very close to having met all these goals. Cock-a-doodle!! – Jack L.

Thursday: This week my crew learned how to build a puncheon. We built this puncheon in about 4 days. We learned how to use tanakas and sledgehammers. In SEED we learned how the rock cycle works, and the three kinds of rocks. Also in SEED we learned how to read a map. We also learned a lot more in SEED and about each other. –Joel E.

Friday: Today was a day of constant travel, which involved the entire crew, a moderately powerful van, and a consistent stream of noxious bodily gases. The major challenge of the day was the furious competition to acquire a prime seat in the van, and the following blood-fest to defend said seat. We pelted each other with various food particles and toxic smells, all while striving to prevent our crew leader

from losing control of the vehicle. Our stop at the YMCA was an exercise and lesson in the human body and harmless nudity. Most of the crew refused to shower as a group, having grown accustomed to the private showering facilities of their homes, but eventually chose to clean themselves of the possibly self-aware dirt and rock in their hair and ears. We eventually arrived to the animal-instinct celebration of the crew gatherings. –Aleksey B.

National Forest: Payette
Ranger District: McCall
Project Name: Bear Pete Trail Relocation

Week 3: Date: Aug 14th-20th

Monday: We drove from parents weekend in McCall to our camp. It was not far from McCall so we did not have a very long drive. We got to our campsite and started to unpack everything. Setting up tents were not really a challenge because the ground was a very soft and flat. We started to make lunch and dinner. It was great. The dinner was amazing. We had spaghetti. We were all very full and jolly. I felt more at home eating that dinner. We built a brand new trail today. We built about 1,000 ft...Kyle

Tuesday: This week our crew (The OC) came to the Payette National Forrest to build a mile and a half of trail. So far we have 1770 ft. done which meant we are somewhat behind we are building this new trail. Hikers, motorcycle riders and nature lovers can have new and exciting ways to enjoy the out door....Taylor

Wednesday: Our crews goals for this week is trying to complete a mile in a week but our crew is slack-ing. But just again we'll have to work through it again.

Thursday: In my opinion our crew learned that no matter how good we think we are we still have to apply ourselves or we're just like the other crews. The crew has to start being more disciplined and stop screwin around on the job or the O.C. will never live up to there potential.

Friday: Our crews challenges this week are to finish digging out tree stumps and keep working on trail. Two of our crewmembers quit last night. Our crew is now down to nine people including rovers and the crew leader. We are going to have to work much more to accomplish our goals for the coming weeks because of a lack of crew members. My crew is feeling much better and more excited and motivated to do the work now. Since we only have nine people in our crew we are staying another week at the camp-site we are at now and then going to loon lake for back country for the finishing week of the session. Everyone is seaming to enjoy NYC and having a great time. People are stepping up each day. We are all pushing each other to the limit. The O.C. is getting along a lot better and it has jump started the enthusiasm and effort that everyone has no. We are all very proud of what we had done and what we will do. The crew is seeing things in a whole new perspective and we are all growing each day...Kyle

National Forest: Payette
Ranger District: McCall
Project Name: Bear Pete Trail Relocation

Week 4: Date: 21st-27th

Monday: Today was our first day of continuing the second week of the 2 ½ mile trail project , of which we took over for red crew, due to our crew shortage. We succeeded at stumping, removing the remaining few wooden menaces from the previous weeks trail. We began digging trail once again and despite the decreased labor potential due to the lesser amount of workers, we managed to pull off a statistically average amount of trail....Aleksey

Tuesday: We are still working on the trail we worked on last week. We are a few yards from the saddle of the hill. On the way up there was much duff. It was a complicated task, getting the duff out. On the saddle are many rocks. The saddle is basically rocks. Once we reach the other side the trail digging will be easier. There is only a short ways to go on digging the trail after we get passed the saddle...Kyle

Wednesday: There is only one goal that is directly related to our work. We have to get as much trail done as we can. Even though we want to get as much finished trail as we can, we also want to be as efficient as possible and make sure that we leave no shoddy trail behind. I have no doubts that we will accomplish that. Another goal that we have to keep in mind is being civil to one another. We have one-and-a-half weeks left together and we need to make sure that we all help pull each other through this. Of course, the most mundane goal is making sure we keep the pulaskis sharp...Jack

Thursday: This week we have learned a couple of things. First we learned that it's hard to get a mile and a half without a full crew. Secondly we came back to camp today and all our garbage was strung out and coolers flipped over. So in that case we need to put garbage on top of the van...Brandon

Friday: This week our crew faced many challenges. One of the many was we're down two crew members. This made it a lot more difficult to work. Another challenge was we were faced with massive amount of bear grass. We also had many rocks and boulders obscuring our path. Then at the end of the week we were harassed numerous time by a hungry bear, which got into the trash spilling it everywhere. Some of our accomplishments were we busted out approximately 6000 feet of trail and managed to stick together and work our hardest even after we had lost two members...Joel

National Forest: Payette
Ranger District: McCall
Project Name: Loon Lake Trails Maintenance

Week 5: Date: Aug 28th-Sept. 3rd

Monday: Our weekend consisted of a short recreational stint along side of NYC's blue crew. Having arrived first, we were entrusted with the responsibility of bum rushing Blue Crew's NYC-issued van, properly painted white and splattered with NYC-issued decals, in a calming shade of dark blue. After having set up our tents we scraped together a plentiful meal of the beans and vegetables, like all of Mexico rolled up into one compact over...Aleksey

Tuesday: Currently, we are building and refurbishing bridges for quick moving bikers, tattooed with skin clad corporate logs. We were provided with the pleasure of destroying a bridge, thus limiting their precious mobility. We grinned as they were forced to ride clumsily through the meadow, but they mocked us with their bikes, bikes that could take us very far...Aleksey

Wednesday: Once again our main goal of the week was to survive. Since it is the last week we are making sure not to get injured. Also we want to make sure not to be at anyone's throat. We also want to make sure to end on a high note. We have bridges and re-routes to take care of and we need to make sure to do it. Also some of us need to make sure that our tents are clean...Jack

Thursday: We furthered our knowledge in bridges and trails. Some branches fall when trying to put bear hangs up....Brandon

Friday: This week, the last of August, has been our last together and it has not failed to solidify itself into our collective memories. We are a small crew, but we have completed the work that was left for us with pride. Our bridges and trails will stand the test of time with only our energy and careful work to back them up. As a crew we have pulled together and become a unit, armed with pulaskis and long sleeve cotton work shirts. Though not as notorious as B.I.G, nor nearly as G as that unit, we are prepared to bust out trail as fast as Sean Paul bust out gibberish. Our hoes are hazels, our appearance rugged, and most of us will not run away from a fight without at least a pin prick or rug burn. We are like that rap artist that suddenly realized that songs about disrespecting women and gold chains don't sell; who finally found that special topic that touches deep and leaves you a little bit more broke. We are a crew of chipmunk-hatin gangstas. Amen....Aleksey

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

The most challenging day I've experienced at NYC was the first day of work during which we worked a meager 4 hours. However, these 4 hours stretched out for eons, and blisters took over my palms with great vigor. These first hours were the most mentally excruciating...Aleksey

My most challenging day at NYC was probably one of the days during the last week. This is because of the anticipation of going home and of my tired body that was tired of doing the most work of my entire life. If not that it would probably be the 4 mile hike on the first day of our back country camp site...Kyle

My most challenging day at NYC was this morning because of the immense cold that made me feel like I had frost bite all the way through the first half of the day until the sunlight hit us...
Brian

My most challenging day was the first day. I was not prepared and got huge blisters on the heels of my feet...Joel

My most challenging day at NYC was during the first week when I helped finish the bridge we were building and then had to hike three miles back to camp....Zack

My most challenging day was eagerly waking up in the cold cold mornings.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Considering that I had never been in the Northwest before NYC, I had never experienced the Northern wilderness and its scenic landscapes. Going along with the landscapes, I enjoyed sharing evenings with my crew on some high vantage point overlooking sunsets. Thirdly, I enjoyed the active and dynamic community that NYC allows me to experience...Aleksey

My first greatest experience was probably swimming in a river by McCall. My second was the beautiful scenery that the real forest has. My third favorite experience was watching Malle and Cap'n sing around the campfire and when Buckweat would sing to the awesomely beautiful sunset...Kyle

My first favorite experience was when I was sent back to camp to gather some tools and when I went back there was a bear raiding our food, I ran. My next favorite time was when I got a hand Massage in McCall. Last but not least I like when my crew mate yelled Baooow like ten times, it was absolutely great...Brian

My three favorite NYC experiences are when a crew members played football in the water. Another experience was when the crew would play caption no caption. The final experience is when we would chill...Joel

My three favorite moments include when we went swimming at Short's Bar. Campfires were always a great experience throughout these weeks. I also enjoyed walking around McCall and getting to know it really well...Jack

All the bridge sites and digging the trails...Brandon

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember the people that I encountered and worked with at NYC. The diversity of the crowd that this program draws has allowed me to come to respect and appreciate people of all types, and truly I will remember the friendships I have made here....Aleksey

The one thing that I will always remember are the friendships that I made and the hardships we overcame as a team....Kyle

I will always remember how many God forsaken chipmunks are in the forest...Brian

I will always remember my friends. I will also remember my fun...Joel

I will always remember the people I met at NYC....

I will always remember all the hard work I did and how close I came to my crewmates...Zach

I will always remember the great things I learned and the inside jokes...Brandon

I will always remember all the hard work I did and how close I came to my crew mates....Zack

I will always remember the great things I learned and the inside jokes...Brandon

From Now On I Will Always...

NYC has ingrained me with a sense of hard work, and from now on I will not shy away from stepping up to face a challenging task. I will always work to my fullest, achieving the full potential that myself and other see in me....Aleksey

I will always see the environment and Hiking trails in a whole new way. I will respect the hiking trails and the nature even more that I did before...Kyle

I will always appreciate home more that I ever have before and taco bell...Brian

I will always appreciate my house and family...Joel

I will always appreciate the luxuries that I have at home like running water and readily available food....Zack

From now on I will always remember to be courteous to my friends and work harder around the house and have fun...Brandon

At NYC I Learned...

NYC taught me to focus on important tasks, thus building and solidifying my work ethic. I also learned to process setting up camps and their various interior elements. NYC also taught me to have an open mind towards the environment and the importance of maintaining the health of our planet...NYC Alex

I learned that self discipline is a very good quality to have. Also, trails are more than just a trail but are walkways to a whole new, amazing, and beautiful natural world. I also learned that our environment still needs a lot of work and needs to be maintained much more...Kyle

I learned at NYC how to do lots of pushups, I also learned how to sleep on the ground pretty fairly and I learned to speak my mind. Brian May

I learned at NYC how to build trail and puncheon, also I learned a very good work ethic...Joel

At NYC I learned how to work hard, cook one-pot meals, and build bridges...Zack

At NYC I learned how to dig trail and build bridges...Brandon