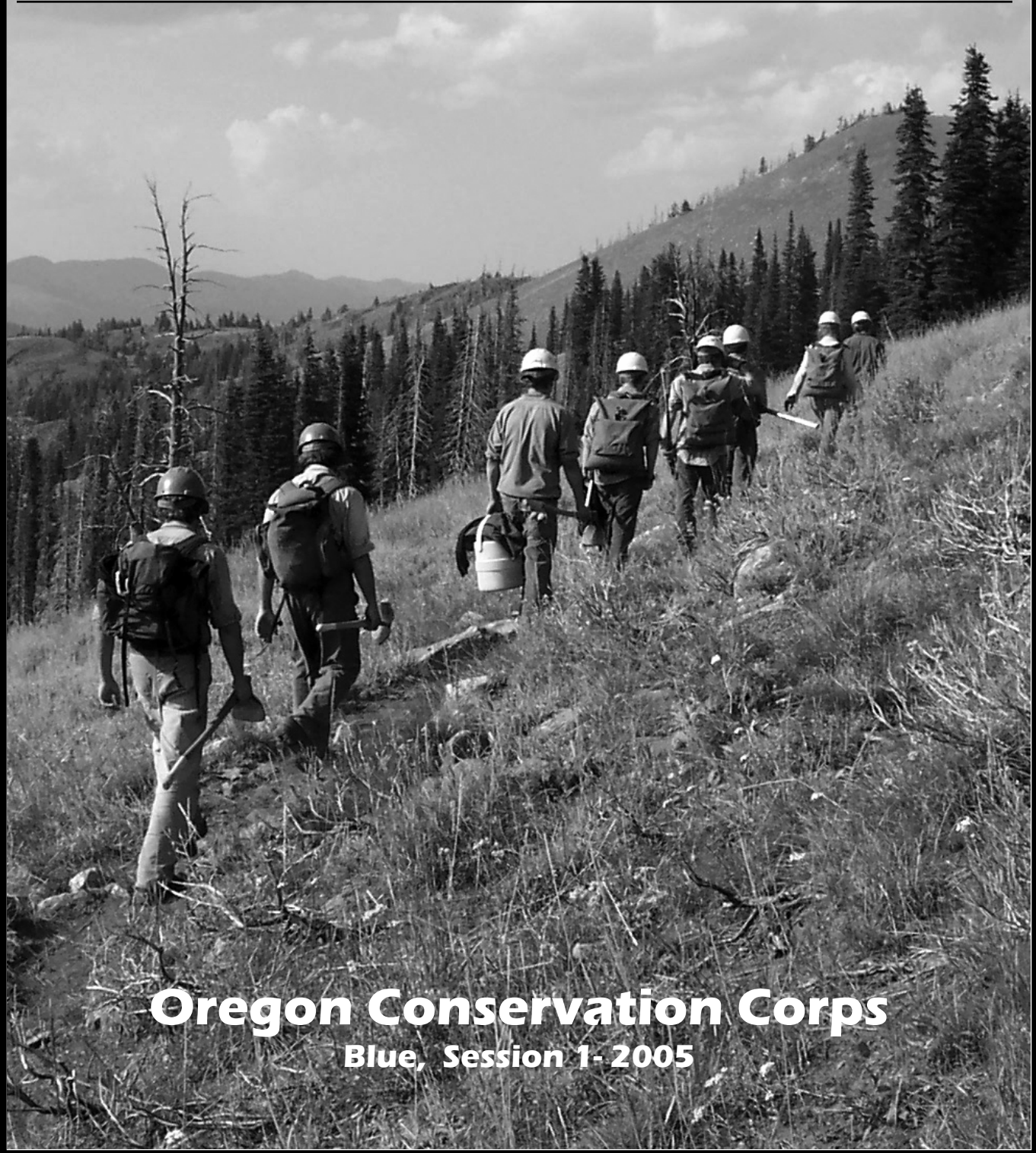




Crew Journal



Oregon Conservation Corps
Blue, Session 1- 2005



Dear NYC graduates,

It is time for reflection; the good, the bad, the highs, and the lows...part of your summer and indeed part of your life. From starting wide eyed and full of wonder to the last triumphant, "TOOL COUNT" these journals represent a five week slice of time in which; friends were made, skills were gained, and trails were built. Look back with pride and honor at the memories which may have slipped away over the past few months. Enjoy the tired and sometimes strange musings of a session spent with the Northwest Youth Corps as you relax back in the world of porcelain and pizza.

Hopefully these journals will bring out the confidence in each of you to tackle the next challenge in your life. Have a great off-season and never forget the wonderful taste of PB & J.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joe Waks'.

Joe Waksmundski
Program Manager



**Bureau Land Management
Oregon BLM
Project Name- Blue Ridge Trail**

Week 1: Date June 18-25

Monday: All the crewmembers met at Elijah Bristow Park where we were lectured about tents and stoves and rules and tools and fecal impaction. Sunday morning blue crew began with high drama as Cole won us the dopey award for leaving Jenessa's helmet under the van seat (!!!) and Raine was first put on what we all know to be the wrong crew. Stephanie is our rover for the week. Finally, we drove to our campsite near the Blue Ridge trail and set up camp....Zoe

Tuesday: We are at Coos Bay having a great time. We are making turnpikes because bikers make holes and make it look very ugly and lots of water stays in the holes. We cut down a big tree with a Pulaski, it was very hard. Someone went outside and we all went to the pond. We are on the Blue Ridge Trail....FiFi

Wednesday: (Our Crews Goals for the week) to finish the turnpikes on the trail and to get to our weekend site safely and to impress Bob our contact....Justin

Thursday: Some stuff we learned this week was to work as a single unit and how to settle our differences. We learned how to properly handle our tools and how to bandage our blisters. We learned how to make and improve trails and how to make turnpikes....Raine

Friday: The biggest challenge for our crew was just the fact that this was our first week. We had to figure everything out and just get to know everybody on our crew. At least waking up wasn't that bad, because we were getting up at 6-6:15 all week so it wasn't that early. When it gets down to it we had an awesome week and were looking forward to 4 more....Ross B.

**Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg BLM
Project Name- Roseburg Pruning**

Week 2: Date June 27-July 2

Monday: When we arrived at the weekend site we unloaded our stuff and had the rest of the day off. That night we had pasta. Then, the next morning on Saturday we went on a recreation trip. Then when we came back we found our tent blown down. Later that night we made dinner for everyone, and everyone loved it. Then after dinner we got in a circle and discussed our difficulties with our project. The next morning we had breakfast and left....Raine H.

Tuesday: My crew is having a good time in Roseburg. We are pruning like crazy. We are pruning so we can have more trees....Fifi

Wednesday: Our goals for this week are major! We plan to work all of our hours pruning. Also on top of that we plan to overcome Red crews 18 ½ acres, by doing at least 20...One thing happened today though, we pruned the wrong area! I think that we can pull through though and accomplish our goals.

We will beat Red crews 18 ½ acres and we will be done with all our hours. Oh and on top of all that safety comes first!...Ashley B.

Thursday: This week we learned many things. The first was about the water cycle...fascinating! Another thing was clouds, another wonderful thing to learn about. We also learned about reading maps which is always a good thing to learn. But the most important thing that I learned was the fact that Scott is not allergic to poison oak! Yay!...Ross B.

Friday: Some of the challenges of this week included poison oak (we are crossing our fingers no one has it so far), doing the same thing everyday, and using crappy watches and alarms to wake ourselves up. Further, for lots of us not spicing up our language with certain words \$*#%\$ #@\$*!

On a happier note, people seem to be getting along pretty well and coping with problems. Life is good. We are clean and well fed and everyone is still here and we know a lot about rocks and blue crew rocks. Sweet nectar!...Zoe

Rouge River National Forest
Ashland Ranger District
Project Name- Brown Mtn. Horse Trail

Week 3: Date July 3rd – July 9th

Monday: This weekend most of us saw our mommy's and daddy's. We saw Orange crew for the first time. We had lots and lots of food to eat and we played football. I had a good time putting our values in a rock. Blue Crew Rocks!...FiFi

Tuesday: We are at Fish Lake building some new trail! Today the crew took turns being mules. (we were tied to wheel barrels to get them up hill). While half of us were playing mules the other half was blazing away through dirt, logs, grass and sun making some brand spankin new trail. Blue Crew!...Ross B.

Wednesday: Our goals for the week are to make the trail back to the campsite and to finish barking the trail. We want to make at least 2,000 feet in one day and considering we got 1,600 feet with 1 of the crew working on something else for half of the day I think that we could get well over 2,000 feet with everyone working on it all day. I think that we could finish the 2nd project pretty fast. I think that we could work harder on being more consistent on our work....Raine H.

Thursday: This week was interesting. We learned so many new things. One of my favorite things was learning to dig new trail. That was the main thing we learned anyway...it was so awesome taking just a huge stretch of grass, dirt, dead fallen logs and making it all into something people can use for years to come. Also some crew members got a chance to portray an ox...they had fun being tied to wheel barrels pulling loads of bark up this huge hill to cover the rest of the path....Ashley B.

Friday: This whole week was filled with so many challenges. I believe that our major challenge was learning to build new trail and work in a bump line. Although it was a challenge we worked through it and now we are pros. Another challenge would also be moving massive loads of bark up this major hill. (It was totally 90 degrees!) Our oxen and pushers came through though and finished it all before this week was over. (Great Job Guys!)

Our accomplishments were mainly made from our challenges. We finished about 7,000 ft. of

new trail and that was major because this was our first time doing new trail. The last main accomplishment we did/completed was moving several barrels of that bark up that 90 degree angle slope...It was awesome and we did such an awesome job even when we were tired, in pain, frustrated and hot. We can pull through anything!...Ashley B.

Rouge River National Forest
Ashland Ranger District
Project Name-Brown Mtn. Horse Trail

Week 4: Date July 10-July16th

Monday: We went on this big trail then we came home and ate dinner. The next day we played football my team won. We went home ate dinner and went to bed....Justin

Tuesday: This week we are building “Brown Mountain Trail” which is puzzling because there is not much of a mountain. The section we are currently working on is used by horses so along with digging the trail we are also popping lots of rocks and adding rotting log to the trail...Zoe

Wednesday: Our crews goals for this week are somewhat simple. We plan to complete the project Orange crew started plus we plan to work on others as well. So far we have completed the new trail back to camp and are currently “QC” ing where rocks are. Also we have done a few short and simple bark jobs. That is about all we have for goals this week. Hopefully next week shall be just as exciting!...Ashley B.

Thursday: Things we have learned this week are how to apply and interview for jobs during SEED....Anonymous

Friday: We needed to finish the trail this week we still needed to do some “QC”ing and some more rock pulling. We also needed to finish some more barking at this one spot and some personal goals for this week was to communicate better and to stop winning and to beat are expectations....Jenessa E.

Curry County Parks and Rec. Department
Lobster Creek Park
Lobster Creek Trail

Week 5: Date July 17th-July 23rd

Monday: We participated in the NYC Olympics! Boy did we try hard but never quite. Won 1st place, however it was totally awesome that Sam drank so much water that he felt sick!! Yuck. Oh Cole our crew leader had a day off, we missed him too much....Ross

Tuesday: We are at this weird camp. I think it may be haunted. We are preparing trail and camp for a wedding. I love weddings, I hope thy invite us. We are next to a river, I haven't seen any lobsters, but I'll start looking under trees and rocks...Sam

Wednesday: We are finishing up the session. Our goal is to remain a functioning crew and come into a performing stage. Also my personal goal is to get that “certain someone” to notice me. I helped them do all their chores and started to wink at them but they thought I had a bug in my eye...Justin

Thursday: We learned that Joe is actually named Fred. I don't know why he changed it. I like the name Fred. I once had a box turtle named Fred Jones, but I called him “shot.” I wonder if I called him shot if he would mind. Shot Waksmundski...Fifi

Friday: We made it! No more school, no more books, no more teachers, dirty looks. We finished. We made up a story about a boy and his dog. The dog wakes up one night and runs away from home. While upon the lamb he joins a carnival as a bearded lady; but every person stiffes the dog of his pay once he finds out the dog is a dog. Well the dog takes the circus to court, and it goes all the way to the supreme court. But it is split down the middle and the outcome splits America apart. Civil unrest! Now N. Korea sees this unrest and attacks the eastern sea board. All because of a run away dog...Ashley

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

The most challenging day at NYC was the first week with the big concrete and brick and this last week with the bridge, that was the challenging day...

When we were hauling the concrete brick it was hard work. My arms got all bruised and I was in a lot of pain. This last week when we did the bridge I also was in a lot of pain. I could not go up the hill very well and when I heard that we had to work an extra hour I started to cry. And to top it off this is hard for me too because parts of my day were not so hard and I blocked because it was not fun but parts were so long that was hard for me. This is plenty writing for anybody...now let her stop this heinousness!

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

I think that my over all favorite experience with NYC this time will have to be the best site yet- a little kids summer camp and we have had the best swimming hole ever. The water is clean and clear and it feels so good when you first get in. The best part is the fact that there are no sharp rocks on the bottom so that makes things even better. On top of all that we have the best project yet. We get to fix up all the trails around here. We get to make a bridge (thought it's only 3 and a half feet long.)

My Second favorite experience was the Olympics. Even though we lost 3rd place out of 3 teams I still had a great time! I got to hike 3 miles with 45 pounds on my back (with the bruise to prove it) and got to do the long distance run after that. Over all though it kicked my behind!

The fact that my crew leader has an ipod! No more country and bad DJ's on the radio. We have good music everyday we go in the van and he even has Nirvana for my listening enjoyment. iPods kick butt!...Ross B.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing I will always remember is the food. Some days it was good, other days not so good. Sometimes the food was pretty dank. Sometimes the food was a little rank. I also will remember going to bed early at night, then waking up way too early for Safety circle to do a stretch of street fight.

The work was awesome, though sometimes time warped it slow. Then other times, time flew by and there was no slow-mo.

The actual work was excruciating but the reward is what I'm anticipating. Chores are chores and weren't much fun, but it is great compared to working in the hot sun. Free time is sweet, we usually play Texas Hold'em. This work ain't nothing is what I told'em. For lunch each day there is PB & J. Zoe would rather eat hay 'cuz she says "No Way!"

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will sometimes be more patient.
Probably I will say sweet nectar, catywampus, heinous and bump.
I will critique trail everywhere I go.
I will always wear open toed shoes.
I'll try to be more open minded about dealing with new people.
When I get to sleep past five I will appreciate it.
I'll be more optimistic.
From now on I will never eat cream of mushroom soup or drink vesper.
I will enjoy Thursday, by far the best day of the week.
I will think of Raine when I eat smarties.
The penguin song might get stuck in my head.
I'll have more respect for people who can make sleepy grumpy people fired up, because it is nearly impossible.
When at all possible, I'll try to get to pretty outside places and I'll drag someone who thinks they won't like it along with me.
Finally, I will always remember that Blue is the most excellent color.

At NYC I Learned...

During my session at NYC I learned a variety of things. I learned everything from what tools we would be using, how to build trails and bridges, different environmental things and also I learned how to deal with 11 other people for 5 weeks.
I think that my personal favorite was dealing with 11 people for 5 weeks. I believe that we have gone through the stages of a relationship. We have definitely had our good and bad times. Also we have had those times where everyone wants to do their own thing.
The good times were mainly in the beginning. Everyone wanted to impress everyone. We all also weren't too sure about one another so we were in a mood that was sort of weird. Some

were right at home, but it took others some time to pull through.

Ooh now the bad times...the bad times were pretty bad, but mainly were just arguments. That might have not been the best thing but it happened. We always worked through it, though.

Through the good and the bad we all pulled through. All of Blue Crew! Each and every one of us made it! Even though we at times wanted to just walk away and go home, we stayed and pulled through. Go Blue crew... we rock!!