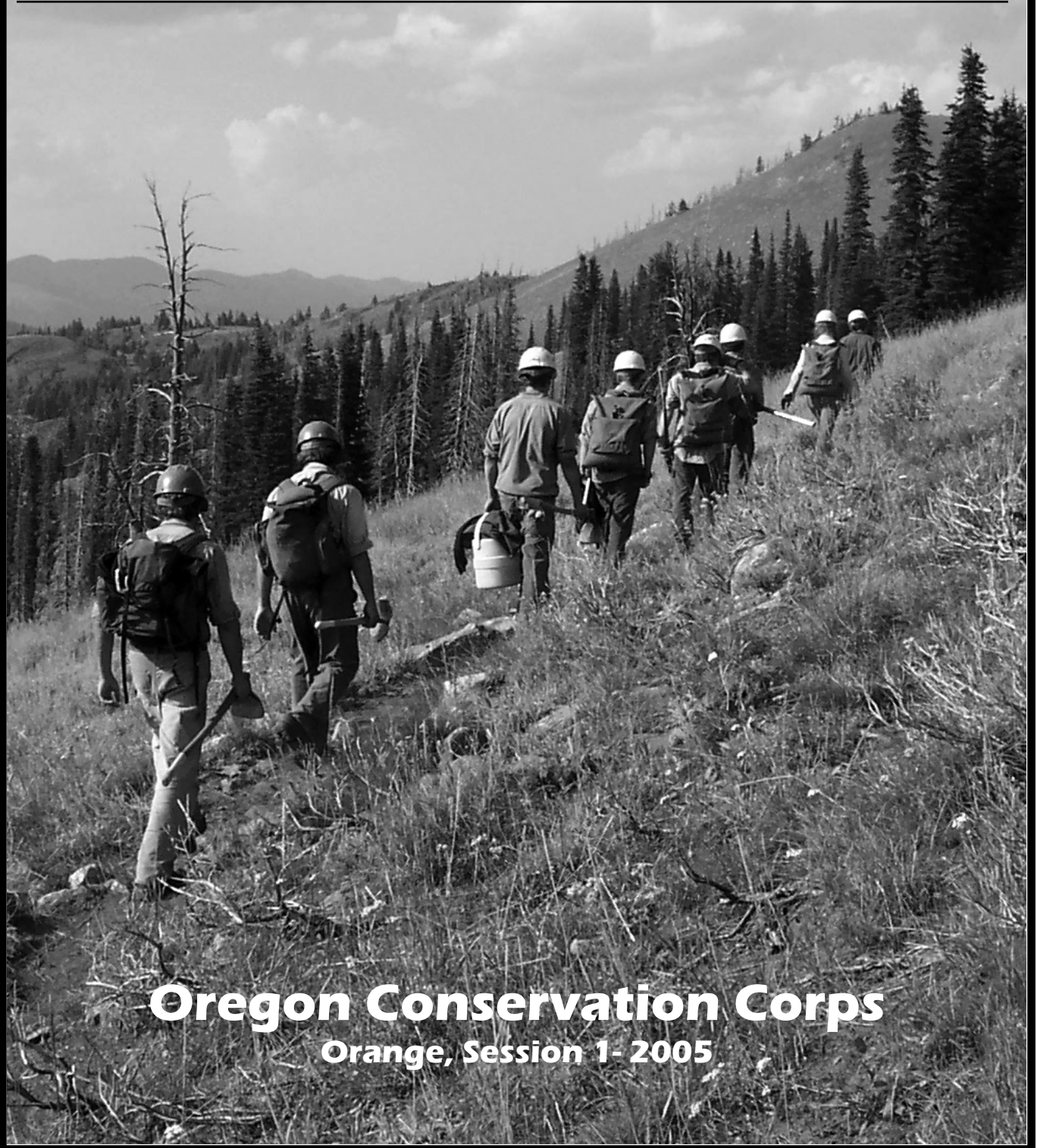




# Crew Journal



**Oregon Conservation Corps**  
Orange, 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 red ink that reads "Joe Waks".

Joe Waksmundski  
Program Manager



**Rogue River National Forest  
Ashland Ranger District  
Project Name- Brown Mountain Horse Trail**

**Week 1: June 18-25**

Monday: Today Dan got up at 5:30 to fix breakfast. Everyone was awakened at 6:00 to a breakfast of oatmeal. We got up and ate then, we did the safety circle before leaving for work. We started on the wrong end of the trail but the contact showed up to show us where to work. We got to work and soon got more used to the tools. At break and lunch we switched jobs. Later in the afternoon many people hurt from the first day of work. Then we came back and did chores... Michael T.

Tuesday: We are building a horse riding trail that is part snow mobile trail. We are in the Rouge River National Forest in southern Oregon. We have been building new trail through lava rocks. The trail goes uphill and downhill, so the wheel barrel loads are strenuous. Rotting logs on the side of the trail are being chopped up for covering the trail up with a nice layer... Jana Hershberger

Wednesday: Our crews goal for the week is to try and reach 4 miles by the end so far we only have probably about 1 mile at the most. So far we are all working really hard to try and reach our Goal by the end. Personally I don't think that we will really do it because we have a lot of work left and it is not easy work. But we will by the end of the two weeks. If everyone keeps working as hard as we are then everything will work out fine. Crystal B.

Thursday: Our crew, now affectionately know as "OC" (Orange Crew) has learned scores of knowledge through our nightly enlightening lessons with SEED. SEED has taught us about practical camping practices and that judging people before getting to know them is "un cool" but more significantly than that, all members of OC have gained valuable trail building knowledge. The forest service contacts are very helpful and informative, and have helped us to better use our tools and to make excellent trails. Crew leaders same....Daniel S.

Friday: Our crew had challenges in several aspects this week. As a group, we were forced to cooperate and make everybody's time at NYC more pleasant. As a crew of trail builders, we quickly had to learn the ins and outs of carving up trail. More importantly we accomplished our first of hopefully many safe weeks. Unfortunately, several of our crew members fell victim to injury and wear. With the occasional crew member unable to work or complete certain tasks, the remainder of "the orange squad" had to make up for lost time. Though grudgingly, we successfully completed all of our hours. All members gained an understanding of how trying and sometimes tedious the NYC experience can be. Through mutual agony and enjoyment, I suspect a productive 4 weeks to follow. A team is forming most definitely. But, for now, we all happily await the weekend....Daniel S.

**Rogue River Natinal Forest**  
**Ashland Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Brown Mtn. Trail**

**Week 2: Date June 27<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Monday: This weekend we spent away from the other crews. We had two whole days off and spent them swimming and hiking. Saturday we made a trip into town for laundry and then swam in Lake of the Woods. On Sunday we hiked in the Sky Lakes wilderness area of the Pacific Crest Trail. It was some of the crew's first time hiking but everyone had a good time. Then we swam in another lake in this area of many lakes: Four Mile Lake

Tuesday: This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of a two week project building a horse trail through lava fields on Brown Mountain, a pretty recent (10,000 years old) Volcanic explosion. We are sledge hammering through rocks and wheel barrowing rock and bark mulch up and down hills to solidify the trail for horses. The work is hard and our appetites are growing by the day. Our project site is beautiful with a clear view of Mt. Mc Laughlin from the trail.

Wednesday: The Orange crew is working on becoming more of a family instead of a group of individuals. We all come from different backgrounds which is a barrier we will work on breaking down. Our project is tough, but our crew is tougher. We will work on pushing each other to sing (songs) such as Jungle Fever, Clarence Carter, and the great on hit wonders of the world....Dan S.

Thursday: We learned that working eight hours a day is not always easy. We pulled through by helping each other out when times our tough. We learned that living together can be even tougher than the work aspect, but also can be a lot of fun...Go Orange Crew...Mike T.

Friday: Week Two! This week we gave our forearms-our rock climbing muscles!- a work out with a whole ton of wheel barrowing. We did some puzzle work, fitting rocks together to form a trail up and down the mountains lava. Hmm...people have finally started singing, though we have yet to get Dustin Simmonds and Dustin Hunter to bust out into song \*Sniffle\*. At least we have another three weeks to work on them. We weren't sure we were going to make it through the difficult section of trail by the end of the week, but we did it, in one victorious push of a day. It was FABULOUS to walk over the trail after work on Friday, to see what we accomplished....Emily W.

**Siskiyou National Forest**  
**Chetco Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Upper Chetco trail # 1168**

**Week 3: Date July 3<sup>rd</sup>-July 9<sup>th</sup>**

Monday: After completing our first project, showering and doing laundry, we arrived at our first weekend site. We set up camp, had a very informal dinner and later that night helped the Gold crew get settled in. Saturday morning we were awoken by the sounds of Corey playing the bongos. Then we had breakfast and received mail!! The beloved mail time was followed by the departure for the Saturday recreational trips. Trips included a hike up Mount Elijah, a trip to the Redwood National Forest and swimming. Upon our return we were given some free time while Gold crew made Saturday night dinner. Meanwhile, Dan got a very stylish Mohawk. Then, we had Saturday circle and burned all of our bad Karma in sticks and kept all of the good in rocks. Then, on Sunday we had breakfast, cleaned up camp and departed for our new project. That meant we had to prepare for our week in the back country. We hiked out a few miles in what proved to be a strenuous journey and finally arrived at our new campsite at night. We had an amazing dinner of bagels and cream cheese. It was the perfect ending to a great weekend....Maggie M.

Tuesday: Our project this week is maintenance of a 12 mile stretch on the Lower Rogue River trail. It involves a lot of lopping and hoeing to make the trail wider and more hike-able. On one part the trail had been totally washed away, we rebuilt it. Generally it is clear to see improvements form our work....Daniel S.

Wednesday: Our goal is to maintain or rebuild as much trail as possible. During the week we have been working as fast as possible. The section of trail that needs to be rebuilt is 3.8 miles from camp and is 23 1/2 feet. The creek and several springs washed part of the hill side away. Lots of the work is lopping or cutting down brush and limbs along the path. The path has been damaged from cattle and is in need of repair. In total there is 12 miles of trail....Michael T.

Thursday: Our crew learned the value of yellow tops, because our rover lost a 2 gallon yellow top over the ledge while we were hiking to work. We also learned how to identify and prevent poison oak. Thanks to our crew leader Marta, we know what Poison oak is and what all the kinds look like. We learned to compromise in the back country, for example, the stoves. We can't cook big meals because you can't heat up water very fast. I appreciated having this experience in the back country....Brandon M.

Friday: I think our biggest accomplishment is hiking up hill everyday with all of our tools and supplies, walking about 5 miles to and from. It wasn't easy for anyone of us. But working together we were able to finish everything that we needed to do. The work wasn't that hard, but after hiking every morning we are tired and if the work wasn't easy then we probably wouldn't be able to walk back to camp. But in the end I think we all worked very hard and have something to be proud of....Crystal B.

**Curry Co. Parks and Rec. Department**  
**Lobster Creek Park**  
**Lobster Creek Trails**

**Week 4: Date July 10<sup>th</sup>-July 16<sup>th</sup>**

Monday: Friday, we were the last crew to show up. Saturday we planned for a talent show, 80's trivia and Art. The rec. trip I was on went up to find out that our trail was blocked, so we went down to the beach and had a good time. Dustin and I did the art work, which was abstract oil pastel. Alex, Dan, Maggie, and Brandon did the trivia, Alex really pulled through for us. The talent show our crew did a dance with Alex on guitar. Gold did a fashion show, red did wrestling, handsprings, and flips all inter mixed....Michael T.

Tuesday: We are camped out at the Lobster Cree Campground for week 4 of our session. Nature has taken over the once visible trails, so our job is to maintain the trails leading through the area around the campground. By the end of the week the trails will be revived for future trail travelers...Jana H.

Wednesday: Our goal for the week is to finish all of our trail work that needs to be maintained. So far we our on top of everything we our doing great flying right through the trail it's looking great. I'm pretty sure by the end of the week we will have completed our goal and possibly even a little more. Our crew works awesome together so that's how I know we will....Crystal B.

Thursday: This week we had probably a total of 3 hours of SEED time just about how to get a job and the best ways to go about it. We learned about how to right a resume and what it would take to have a good interview. We practiced it with other crew members to see what we have to work on. Which is a lot....Crystal B.

Friday: We did not face any adversity in our Ritz of a camp site. We even finished our goal on Thursday! Our main difficulty was a little bout of storming that had been suppressed for a few weeks. Unfortunately this anger showed itself on the woke site. Hopefully O.C. will become mature enough to realize that this kind of behavior is not appropriate for a professional efficient work site. I can only hope that any future storming will not jeopardize the work place, take place only at camp and most importantly that it will not destroy our friendship. Oh yeah, we maintained a nature-trail. Lopping bushes, demolishing rocks and roots and clearing leaves off the trail....Alex S.

**Siskiyou National Forest  
Gold Beach Ranger District  
Project Name- Siskiyou Weeds**

**Week 5: Date July 17<sup>th</sup>-July23rd**

Monday: After an amusing day of work on Friday, which involved a scavenger hunt/"trash war," we set off for the weekend site. After some mild confusion and frustration an alternate campsite was determined and we were re-united with the red and blue crews. Saturday morning was routine as we received our weekly mail and departed on our respective recreational trips. Between hikes, trips to the coast, and swimming a lot of fun was had. Upon our arrival back to camp the Olympics began, and orange crew prepared dinner. Red crew came through with the backpacking victory and then we feasted on taco salad, potatoes, and fruit. Then, the relay commenced. The O.C. came away with an unlikely victory, overcoming our own doubts. Saturday circle was pretty sentimental as we discussed what we would miss about NYC. Then, the chubby bunny contest was won by Brian and the red crew. After an eventful day we were sent to bed and awoke Sunday morning with a race to pack up camp. Again, Orange crew pulled away with the win. The last event of the Olympics was the water chugging contest, which would secure our overall victory. With major contributions from Dustin and others and a great finish from our new rover, Katie, we came out on top yet again. Soon it was time to leave and we made our short journey to our new campsite. Our Sunday observation was done on the beach where we were able to relax, reflect and swim in the ocean. After a long and successful weekend, the Orange crew is ready for our last week of work!...Maggie M.

Tuesday: Well, from what I've heard we are going to be bouncing around this week. Today we went on an hour drive to the trail which led to the work site and this trail was steep and long as well. We went with three others, Kyle and two others to show us what needed to be done. Anyway we sweated for seven hours while pulling out gorse. All of it was relatively small but we worked and pulled the whole day and finished the area for the rest of the week we will be working along the beach taking out much bigger gorse with weird tools called vacumes. I look forward to tomorrow and hope it's not as hot as it was today...Dustin S.

Wednesday: As we finish up the fifth and last week at NYC, we find ourselves encamped about 35 minutes southeast of Brookings. We drive to Harris Beach, which is in Brookings each day to battle the invading gorse.

Thursday: I have accomplished just getting through the week. I'm so close to being home that I wish I could be there right now. This week seemed like it took forever but if I think about it, it went by so fast. I'm proud I made it and now I'm leaving....Crystal B.

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

My most challenging day at NYC was the first Monday. I was not only getting used to living the NYC lifestyle, I was also getting used to working 8 hours of very hard work....John H.

My most challenging day was the first Monday of the third week because we had so much hiking to do and I thought that I was not going to make it through the whole week Backcountry... Crystal B.

Hauling a wheelbarrow full of cinders on my first full day of work was the most physically and mentally challenging day of the trip. My body ached and I was scared for the coming days....Daniel S.

My most challenging day at NYC was the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of work when we did wheel barrowing up the mountain. I felt like I couldn't breath. Now that time has passed everything is better...Cierston S.

From now on I will always cherish any short times I will have in the wilderness. I will also remember how I have always been able to find the good in anyone, no matter how different they are from me.....Alex S.

My most challenging day at NYC was the hike out into the backcountry. The hardest aspect of the hike was keeping a positive attitude and remembering that we were all suffering together. The packs we were carrying were each bearing weight for the whole crew.) While it was the most challenging it was also the most rewarding day.....Maggy M

The first day was the most challenging day for me. The work was hard, I did not get enough sleep at all. Hauling cinders up the hill was probably the hardest part....M.T.

My most challenging day at NYC was the backpacking day at Back country because I was sweating bullets and I was already sore for the hike, plus joe's bags are crappy. LOL....Dustin S.

My most challenging day was in the car going to the fourth weekend sites. We drove 1 hour and 40 minutes to the site from there we got lost by driving by it. We were lost for 6 hours. Dustin H.

My most challenging day was coming here....Brandon M.

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

Number 1 Justin Making fun of Brandon all night. Number 2 meeting new friends. Number 3 Me and Dan went to find ice cream at a lake park. We ran 500 yards away to get it...Dustin H.

1.Van rides 2. Swimming 3. Back country...Jana H.

Jumping in waves with guys, having long car rides, going to sleep after hard days work....Crystal B.

1.Swimming in the pacific (repeatedly) 2. Pleasant afternoon in the redwoods. 3. Singing on the trail like no one was around...Dan S.

1.Car Rides, (long) 2. New friends and finding out some live close. 3. Hiking (but not to much)....Cierston S.

1. Walking our trail after the first two weeks of trail building. 2. Swimming in the Pacific ocean with all my clothes on during our rec. trip (the only time I went swimming) 3. Having Stephanie as a rover...Maggie M

1. Winning the Olympics doing the math in approximately 30 seconds. 2. Pushing myself in the marathon both physically and mentally.  
3. Swimming...Michael T.

1. Swimming 2. doing 100 pushups in the Olympics 3. beating everyone in arm wrestling except Max...Dustin S.

1. quotes 2. Singing 3. The moment I realized that I really do know myself....Alex S.

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

Swimming in the ocean is one thing that I don't think I'll ever forget while being up here. Dustin S.

I will always remember how much work you can do in a group with a goal. I didn't dream you could get that much done...Dustin H.

I shall never forget the van rides. There were the conversation interpretations by Dan, the frustration over heat in the back seat after being "imprisoned" for more than a few minutes, the problems with being claustrophobic and others....Jenna H.

I will never forget the friends that I have made and all the fun that we had. It's so funny when the guys do something so dumb....Crystal

I will remember that when I woke up in the morning, I felt like an old man; my joints stiff and my back sore. It was the satisfying pain from working hard...Daniel S.

I won't forget the friends I have made, the experience with tools and also the mornings and how hard it was to get up...Cierston S.

I will always remember the amazing people I've met here and the difference they've made to this experience. This includes of course, Dean, Dwight, Gary, Danielle, Kyle, Jennifer and Ronnie...Maggie M.

I will always remember these people and places I worked as well as all the good times we had whether appropriate or not it was almost always funny....Michael T

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

From now on I will always be thankful for my TV and all the other electronics and extra crap I have in my room....Dustin S.

Keep working myself to stay in good and healthy shape. I think the exercise helped me and I will stay in good shape...Dustin H.

Because of experiencing NYC I will now appreciate the things I do have at home, and search for the story behind each person...Jana H.

Have faith that I will be able to do whatever I want and also to keep working really hard because I know that I can...

Remember this five week adventure, hope that all my crew mates are doing well in life and maintain the simple life that I lived at NYC...Dan S.

From now on I will always remember this experience so I will be some what different when I get home I will have more respect for things, have muscles, experience and lots more. I'm sure things will be different when I get home but I'm not sure how much. I can't wait to find out....Cierston S.

From now on I will live a healthier life and keep in contact with the crew I love...Michael T.

From now on I will always strive to meet more people who are different than me. I will never forget the wonderful friends I have made. Not even Alzheimer's or amnesia will block the memories.

From now on I'll appreciate each day for what it is. I'll be more comfortable with myself and my ability to adapt and I'll value every memory I've made here at NYC...Maggie M.

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

In the time I have been at NYC, I have learned how to live and work with people of many different backgrounds and personalities, use the resources I am given, and how to have PMA... Jana H.

That making Fires was not as hard as I thought it would be and how people have to work together in order to live with them for 5 weeks....Crystal B.

That group attitude will always have great moments, a better understanding of how to build trail and that everyone is similar in some respects...Dan S.

At NYC I learned that you can't always run from problems you get to learn all the names of the tools and I did. That hard work can go a long way and make it nice.....Cierstan S.

I've learned that "Bill Cosby" is an acceptable answer to any question. I've learned that there's a whole different world outside of my own life, and I've learned that in this world I can be capable of things I never thought I could, I can live simply, and I can appreciate every day, every opportunity, every disappointment and every person...Maggie M.

I learned a lot about myself and what my ethics are. I learned that I am a nice guy and I learned my limits both physically and mentally. I also learned how much work goes into trails...  
Michael T.

At NYC I learned to be a team player and I learned how to do more than I can write. But I also learned how to get along with people I may not always like...Dustin S.

I learned a lot about myself. I learned how much I can handle and my personal controls. I am also better dedicated toward my goals...Dustin H.

This year I finally achieved what I thought to be an impossible goal; I learned who Alex Skinner is and got to know him better than ever before...Alex S.