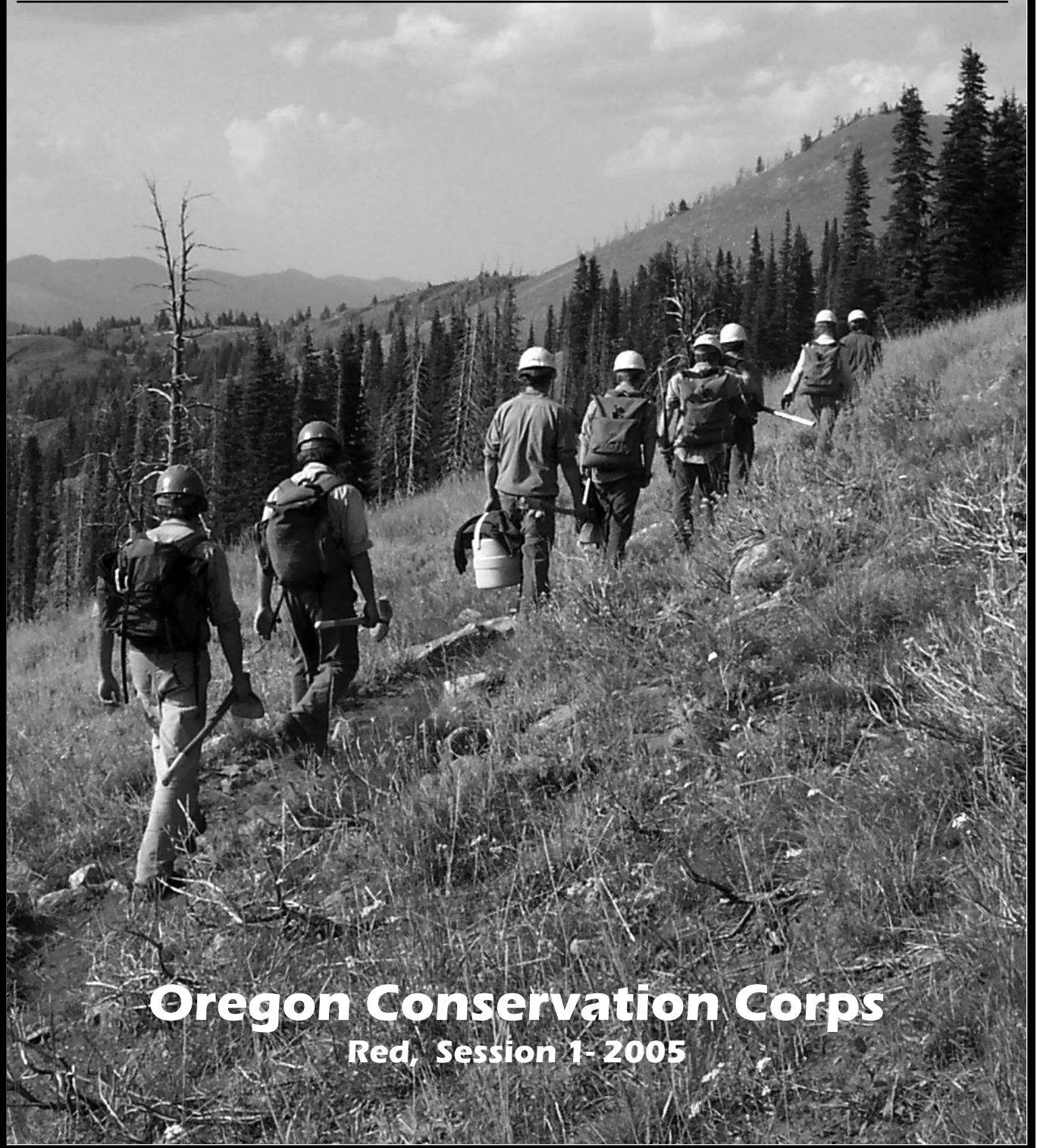




Crew Journal



Oregon Conservation Corps
Red, 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe Waksmundski
Program Manager



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

Week 1: Date June 18-25

Sunday: So far we've set up camp and are at last getting used to everything, we've had some funny experiences. Such as, getting a rope and water bottle stuck in a tree, that was very hard to get out. The tent was also pretty difficult to put up. We have just got our first chore and we seem to be doing really well.

Monday: Hey, today we got up early, ate granola with yogurt and set off for the days work. It started a bit slow as people became accustomed to the tools, but it picked up speed as the day went on. Poison oak proliferated throughout, falling from trees onto your face, or just sneaking its way into every crevice. So, dead tired after a hard days work we took off for the freezing cold swimming hole and got our shoes soaking wet and unusable, while our boots are still covered in oak! Well, it was refreshing anyway. We're now making dinner and lunch, then bedtime. Yeehaw...Keenan T.

Tuesday: Our awesome breakfast people this morning made eggs and veggies and toasted bagels. Happy, happy, happy, breakfast. For work we busted out some awesome pruning. The sound of sawing is still ringing in my ears. It's a beautiful day. We swam in our goose-bump causing creek and theorized on the best way to keep warm. I'm wearing all my layers, sitting here in camp, and it's still a little chilly. I'm looking forward to a campfire and our warm beds tonight. I have to go make hummus now. Bye-Bye....Jani R.

Wednesday: This week the goal of red crew “the inferno-group” is to prune and clear-out 19 acres. The group wants to work 1 more 7 hour day this week and a 4 ½ hour day. Our other goals are to follow safety procedures avoid getting poison oak (We are surrounded by it.) So we will continue to work towards our goal. “Peanut”....Caitlin S.

Thursday: This morning we woke up to lots of hot pancakes! We started work a little late, but it was the best day so far. We connected the two pieces of work we were doing together by lunch and completed our goal to reach the latrine just in time. When, at the end we were out of energy, Sean revived us by doing the “Yeti dance.” After tool count was called, no one stopped working, they just kept sawing. Once again, to rid ourselves of what poison oak we could, we went swimming. Today, however, the sun was out and we all actually wanted to go. We discovered a really deep water hole and spent a long time in the water. Some of us went up to the road, but the ones in the water started clapping and convinced two of the five to go running back into the water. After that we spent an amazing time laying on the road/bridge over the water. Though the poison oak is showing up more and more on all but two people, today was definitely the best day so far!..Leslie M.

Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay BLM
Project Name- Hunter Creek ACEC

Week 2: Date June 27-July 2

Monday: This week the red crew and Stephanie, our rover, set our for two weeks in the backcountry. Failing to get all of our food in the bear hang, some of the crew took half of it back while the rest stayed and did chores. The next two weeks red team is working on restoring meadows. Since we only had one chainsaw Sean was on that while the rest of us de-limbed and made huge 7 foot burn piles. The first day went well with our lack of experience so far....Leslie M.

Tuesday: This week we’re restoring meadows. We trim bushes and cut trees, put them into burn piles that are 7x7x7. The smaller trees are being cut down to eliminate ladder fuels. The meadows are being overgrown because of lack of fire..... “peanut”...Caitlin S

Wednesday: This week our goal is to complete meadow one. There are fifty burn piles in meadow one. The work has been hard and the weather has been hot. The good thing is that we got to go swimming today. The lake was nice and the water was warm and felt good after a hard days work. At this point the outlook for completing the goal is good. If we can pull together and work hard for the rest of the week we will complete our goal...Brian G.

Thursday: This week was long. The project seemed to keep daunt. Backcountry is a chore, a pain, and not only that, I have never seen so many stars, which is the reason I stay. The pond is great. It is the only shower I have gotten in almost 2 weeks. The lake is populated by thousands, yea I mean, thousands of slimy, gross, awesome salamanders, desert lizards and coolest of all the great indigenous scorpion. Those massive pinchers, allow, just awe. I have also begotten this great skill of actually having fun when I am carrying 70-80 pounds of weight for 2 freaking awesome miles. This is awesome, let’s just end it at that.....Jordan L

Friday: Today we woke everyone up around 6:00 and left within 20 minutes which is a new accomplishment. Me and Cody got some water, added the iodine and went to join the fun with Pulaski's and saws. And then after a short day, (Shawn worked extra for us) we went swimming or rested at camp. We did a SEED on anger management and rocks, igneous and sedimentary and what not. Now we're making dinner with all the weeks scraps. Later tonight we're doing a night hike then beddy-by. Store stop and clinic tomorrow! Woohoo!....

Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay BLM
Project Name- Hunter Creek ACEC

Week 3: Date July 3 – July 9

Monday: The red crew is in the middle of a two week project, so we did not have to pack up and go to the weekend site. Friday night many of the crew ventured into the dark forest for a gorgeous night hike. On the way up, a bear looking suspiciously like Keenan frightened a few of the red crew, but Keenan redeemed himself when he led the group through the pitch black trail without a flashlight. Saturday we hiked to the van for a trip into town, stopping at DQ, the clinic for poison oak and Brian's sprained hand as well as the beach and the supermarket. Sunday we spent a relaxing day at the pond, catching scorpions and reading Frankenstein. All in all it was a great weekend, though we got quickly back into the swing of things with an 8 1/2 hour work day today.

Tuesday: This week our crew is busting out some awesome brush piles, we've had some massively huge logs to clean up there. Olivia and Leslie have been our engineers and Stephanie has been our log carrying team captain. It's awesome! Today alone we finished sixteen or seventeen brush piles. Go Red Crew!! And then today after work, Leslie gave me a Mohawk. I haven't seen it yet but now I am super speedy and streamline. This weekend we're going to dye my hair purple I hope. Other people like Matt, Keenan and Cody have promised their hair to the Mohawk madness. I love Red Crew!...Jani R.

Wednesday: Our goal for this week is to finish meadow one. We have been experimenting with leadership this week, having a new pair of leaders each day. Johnny and Brian got it started nicely on Monday. Jani and Cody got the crews fired up with friendly battle of the sexes yesterday seeing who could build the most piles. Today was Leslie and Jordan's turn and tomorrow Keenan and I will blow the crew away with our awesome leadership skills. Another one of our goals for the week is to leave early Friday so we can get our first showers of the session. I'm sure with the dynamic duo of Kaitlin and Matt we will accomplish our goal. Yay red crew!...Olivia

Thursday: This week we learned many new things such as forest succession and rocks. Today we completed 13 piles in 6 hours and 45 min. Earlier this week a mouse scared the crap out of me. My entire tent freaked out to. We have an amazing rover and wish she could stay with us for the rest of the session. There is not much else to say...Bye....Johnny

Friday: Our biggest challenge was getting our goal accomplished of finishing meadow number one. We didn't finish but we worked really hard and we were able to get 84 burn piles done!

We also had a challenge working in the sun and the heat. We were sweating so much but at least we had a swimming hole to cool off in! We also had the challenge of eating white sauce and noodles with different seasonings all week. We also were challenged to start work early in the morning to avoid the heat. It was really hard to wake up before the sun came up but Stephanie's harmonica playing helped us get out of our sleeping bags (mostly to make her stop playing!!)

OPRD

Humbug Mtn. State Park

Project Name- Sister's Rock Trail Construction

Week 4: Date July 10th-July 16th

Sunday:

Ever On

Ever on the sea rages

Stealing from the shores

Wearing down to little bits

The very sands of time

We can trace our history

To the ocean of our birth

That which carries life

And yet steals it away.

So goes this endless circle.

The pulsating soul of the earth

The blood of the stones

The bed of the ancients

This final frontier: the unconquerable

....We woke up, packed up, got gas and then set up camp on the coast for our new job building brand new trail. Stuffed onions for dinner and then we finished all our chores. Yay! A fine day!....Kennan T.

Monday: This week we are right on the coast building brand new trail. We have a somewhat small project to a view point overlooking the ocean. The first day we already have about a third of the trail already done. After work, we went to this amazing cave where the ocean was coming into it and splashing over the rocks. Our first day of ever making trail was awesome and we are excited to keep building trail....Leslie

Tuesday: This week we finished our trail to the great cave, but sadly we were unable to see it. A few people actually crossed our trail while we built it. At least it's being put to use. We also saw our next project. 'Ahh Humbug,' no seriously we have to conquer black berry and ivy to reveal a 40 or so year old fish hatchery. The beautiful day was topped off more so with a nice half hour nap in the shade, What a day it has been. Sun shining, blue skies and a nap....Jordan L

Wednesday: We ate granola with raspberry yogurt this morning and left 5 minutes early to our work site at the Humbug State Park where we are uncovering a 60 some year old fish hatchery which may or may not be used. After 9 hours of threshing at the ivy we (have) nearly completed the project. Later today we'll be eating at the beach and visiting the awesome cave in one of the sisters; sounds awesome. Another eventful day at NYC...Keenan T.

Thursday: This week was great. We completed our second project today and are starting our third. We will get lots of stickers. We also have a river right next to where we work so some of our crew members can fish. This is the best work site ever. We also have a new addition to the crew named Bones. He is white with beady eyes and his arm hanging by a few threads. Jani stitched Bones back together...Brian G.

Friday: Well, basically Tuesday was one of the most awesome days of the session. We finished the "turnpike" project, i.e hauling ground, in a few hours, when the contact had thought it would take two days!! It was a tough project, and I think we all staggered a couple of times, but we made it. Everyone was incredibly motivated and enthusiastic and in the zone and it was great to watch everyone cheering each other on.

Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay BLM
Project Name- Floras Lake

Week 5: Date July 17th-July 23rd

Monday: Today we begin work in one of the most beautiful spots in Oregon, we worked at Flora's Lake, on a narrow strip of land between the lake and the ocean populated by noxious European beach grass. We began by brushing bushes along a trail. We ate lots of berries. It was good...Sean

Tuesday: Today we worked really hard and got a lot done. Matt was also there to help. Our work site is really cool. During our breaks we can watch the kite surfers do cool tricks and I can fish...Brian G.

Wednesday: Today we finished driftwood piling in about one day which stoked him even more. After that he took us on a long hike (that was paid) and we did some trail maintenance.....Johnny

Thursday: Yes! Basically the last day with only 2 1/2 hours of work left to do on Friday. We're cutting blackberries! Fun stuff. After dinner we'll start packing up the stuff in preparations of the 5 hour drive tomorrow to the weekend site. To say I'm excited would be the supreme understatement of the day. Anywho, tonight we're supposedly sleeping outside together in a circle if it doesn't rain. Woohoo! Last journal entry! And it's all mine!....Keenan T.

P.S. Thunder is booming as I write. I'm not so sure about that sleeping outside thing.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was probably when I finally got tired at the end from not sleeping enough. Though it was not the most difficult work it was challenging to get through with very little sleep...Leslie

Hmm, the most challenging thing at NYC would have to be getting up everyday knowing there's a full days work ahead of me....Keenan T.

The most challenging day was when I get to work sleeping...Matt P.

I was never challenged enough to say but I still had fun....John R.

My biggest challenge was having good communication and being sick the first three weeks....Caitlin S. "peanut"

Getting Up in the mornings...Cody M

The most challenging day was when we were (in the) backcountry and I woke up cold and wet and had to put on wet pants, wet socks and my boots which puddles were forming on the outside.

My most challenging moment was lifting big logs in the meadows and getting a long with people I don't like.

My most challenging moment was during the first week when I felt really unsure of myself and what I was doing....Jani R.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My three favorite experience probably were building our beautiful trail to the cave on the coast; making our awesome turnpike in half a day; and hanging out with everyone at our last weekend site...Leslie

My three favorite moments at NYC were finishing projects quickly, the meadows "pile compacting" and the ocean cave we found...Caitlin S. "Peanut"

My three favorite moments were taking Ross's shoe and running with it. The whole blue crew chased me down and two other red crew members helped me. He never got his shoe back...
Matt P.

Piling, Graveling and pruning....Johnny R.

Pruning, graveling, and piling...Cody M.

Pruning, graveling and piling....Brian G.

Building the cave trail. Sleeping on downed firs and sleeping (I love sleeping)...Love

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember the people. All of us together, working together, living together everyday. There is nothing quite like this awesome group and never will be again. And I will never forget that...Leslie

The sneaky fishing hole (brains)...Keenan

I will always remember the crew members and the fun we had together! "peanut"...Caitlin S.

I will always remember the time when a small mouse jumped into our tent and the boys all ran out.

I will always remember Cody...Johnny R.

My Crew, Red crew...Matt P.

I will always remember Cody's ADHD because we have the greatest time "foofin off," I will also always remember Stephanie Rover because she is the coolest!!...Love

I will always remember Cody's beat boxing because he taught me how...Brian G.

I will always remember cart wheels on the beach, the rock-tastic views, the modified-turnpike thingy that we finished in half a day and the glorious food anxiety...Jani R.

From Now On I Will Always...

I will always remember the experiences I have had here and learn from them. I will also have a great appreciation for trails that I see from now on. I have changed in some ways forever and still changing from this experience...Leslie

...Prefer Nature wipe over toilet paper...Keenan

I will always remember Red Crew!!

I will always remember an eight hour talk with Oliver and my new-found brother Cody....Johnny R.

I will always remember my Red crew brother Johnny....Cody M

I will never forget Leslie who always had a smile on all the time.

Be a “tree in the meadow” and Red Crew all the way...Love

Be able to control my anger....Brian G.

Remember that I have valuable things to say. Also, I'll remember that I have to be patient with others...Jani R.

At NYC I Learned...

At NYC I learned how to get along with everyone even when I didn't want to. I learned how to really work hard and have fun doing it. I also learned how to make awesome trail...Leslie

I learned how to (better) tolerate constant company and how to deal with it. I learned some work ethic and etc... Keenan

I've learned how to tie a whole bunch of knots, how to be a better crew member and I've learned how to work with people and their problems...Cody M.

At NYC I learned how to work better with crewmembers and how to “leave no trace”...Caitlin S. “Peanut”

To cooperate with others...Johnny R.

I learned how to get up at 5:45 A.M.....Matt P.

From my NYC experience (I learned) that I know can deal with my anger better and I learned how to get along with people I don't like. I also learned how to use the many different trail building tools....Brian G.

I learned a better sense of patience and communication. The number one thing I learned was keeping the peace even with those I would rather not talk to...Love