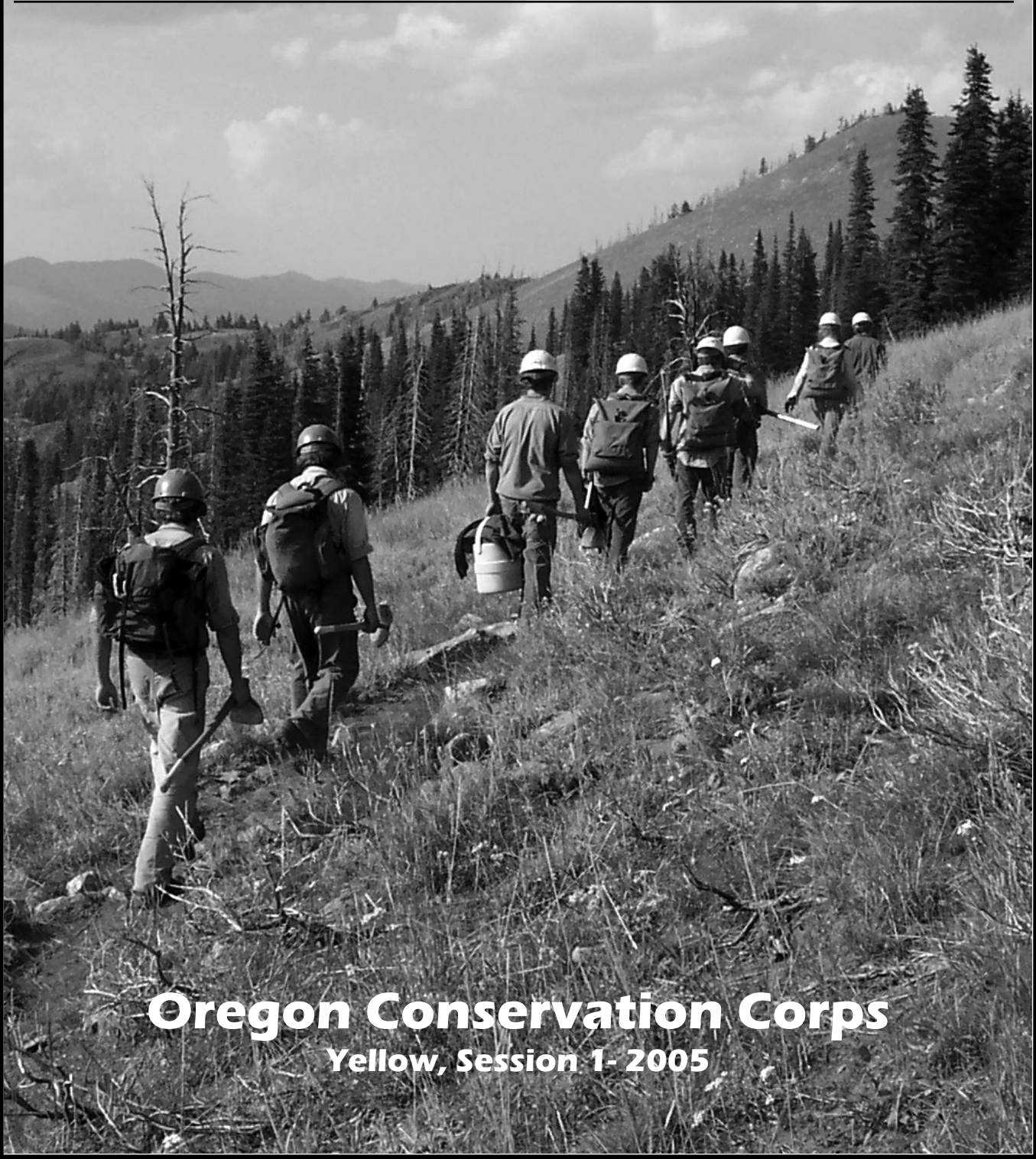




Crew Journal



Oregon Conservation Corps
Yellow, 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
Coos Bay BLM
Project Name- Dean Creek Restoration**

Week 1: June 18-25

Monday: We all just arrived and got oriented this last weekend. We got assigned to our crews, and headed out. That night after setting up camp we made a mound fire (as instructed by Bob) and listened to Mike's personal history followed by a short but rousing Kumbayaah...

Tuesday: This week we are clearing fields of thistle and blackberries. At the top of the thistle are pokey balls that had to be picked off and put into garbage bags so they don't spread. We also have to repair and make new drainage ditches in these fields. We are doing this so the elk have a nice place to chill when needed. Right now we are near Reedsport, OR Tyler is sexy....Nick G.

Wednesday: Our goals for the week, um, no comment, maybe to make our contact almost mess himself with happiness at our progress. Everything's sweet so far. Everybody's cool like Pulp Fiction :-). Were trying to finish our chores in 13 minutes to go to the beach hopefully. Kelly's amazing and she might give us some more minutes to finish. I can't wait to see what's next week! P.S. I beat up a bear!... Tyler S.

Thursday: Today we finished 2 spots with blackberries. We are going to swim today. We all worked hard, especially me. I did a lot of work and didn't complain. Kelly was impressed along with Matt. I saw a cub on the way to the van. It was very cool. Kelly is the best!!! Mike F.

Friday: One of the main challenges of the week was to stay focused on the task at hand. We also had to persecute many mosquito's for their biting habits. Our accomplishments included the genocide of thistles and the utter decimation of blackberries. Indubitably, the positivity of our attitudes remained at an apex despite tedious jobs and affectionate insects.

Siskiyou Nat. Forest
Gold Beach Ranger District
Project Name- Rogue River Trail #1160

Week 2: Date June 27- July 2

Monday: After the first weekend site our crew had to hike for upwards of 23 hours carrying all our gear to get to camp on the Rouge River trail. Then this morning we hiked back with tools to start work maintaining the trail. The hike has gotten shorter each time we have done it which comes to three as I'm writing this.....Faye T.

Tuesday: We are in Southwestern Oregon on the Rogue River trail. We are redefining the trail, cutting down blackberry and other weeds that come within 3 feet of the trail and Katie is cutting down poison oak. We also brush off duff. We hiked 3.8 miles to our campsite because we are backcountry. We hike many miles to work and from (work) everyday. Our stoves are broken and we had to go in to town to call Matt, so we could only work 4 hours. But, Kelly bought us ice cream sandwiches....Mary M.

Wednesday: Our goals, in my mind, should be to focus on the task and get as much done as we can. We should also try to keep our PMA (positive mental attitude) up and avoid fighting....Justin P.

Thursday: This week we learned how to work together as a team even when the situation was not ideal. We also discovered that you can live without a camp stove and that not even poison oak, mosquito's and sore feet can keep some peoples spirits down. We learned how to maintain trails and hang a bear hang.....Chelsea

Friday: Once again we battled against black berries and thistle but this time poison oak and huckleberry joined the fray. Indubitably we dominated, although we may have battle scars. Poison oak exacted revenge in the form of severe itching on Tyler and Nick. We pillaged and cleared seven miles of trail, hiking at least that for every day going uphill both ways.....Chelsea

Oregon Parks and Rec. Department
Cape Blanco State Park
Project Name- Floras Lake Trails

Week 3: Date July 3- July 9

Monday: Our crew stayed at the weekend site at Cave Junction (Southern Oregon) with the rest of the groups. On Saturday, we went on recreational trips. The trip I went on visited the Burl Gallery and the Redwood Forest in Northern California. Once we returned, we then had dinner and then we had a crazy drum circle. Then, Sunday we set out for our new destination....Cody T.

Tuesday: This week we are at Cape Blanco State Park. We are working on Floras Lake Trails at the Oregon coast. Today we had to make a turnpike because we had to move the trail away from the ocean. We made a new trail.....Mike F

Wednesday: Our goals for the week include building a trail re-route, a turnpike and brushing the rest of the trail. We are also attempting to speed up our mornings and get to work on time....Chelsea I.

Thursday: We learned what a turnpike was and how to build one. We learned that taking the bark off a tree fights against rotting. We learned the importance of team work, especially on fire line for sand from the beach....Mary M.

Friday: Yellow Crew, (dominate!) What a week, we have fought off bears, small Polynesian children, some trail, Tyler held back an avalanche saving the crew, and oh yeah, built a turnpike. It was some of our first times building a turnpike, with 2 humungus logs, I carried one practically by myself. I just put on some face cream. Were now on a vision to get "squishys." We made some good food this week with Citrus dogs, Tyler's extravaganza, Some taters, and we're in the van, 2 more weeks to go, then we all leave, :-(- I wrote this in a skirt, Nick loves Mary!....Tyler

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

Week 4: Date July 10th-July 16th

Monday: We camped on a mountain. Cold. Windy. Mildly amusing. We had a contest between crews. Orange won because Alex knows more trivia than God. Saw Redwoods on the Rec. trip. Did a fashion show Saturday night. Tyler wore the same skirt for three days. Sexy, sexy...Nathan M.

Tuesday: We are doing meadow restoration in the Southern coastal region of Oregon. We are cutting down Douglas fir to keep them from taking over the oak meadows unique to this region. We create burn piles for winter burning. We cut down some oak to give the stronger healthier oak a better chance at surviving...Mary M.

Wednesday: Today we finished a lot of burn piles. We all worked hard. Last night six of us went to a field where we can watch the sunset. We all need to get along and have high PMA every one needs to listen to our wonderful crew leaders Kelly and Cory. My goal is to have a positive attitude, not threaten people and listen to Kelly. So far I have been positive and had one problem but it wasn't big. My PMA is better than Nicks! Oh Boy am I enthusiastic...Mike E.

Thursday: This week we learned about safe and proper “burn pile” building. Felling and limbing trees and logistics for going backcountry for two weeks....Faye T.

Friday: This week our crew was challenged by the weather. On the hike into camp, while I was carrying my 200 pound backpack like a true GI it was raining and cold. Everything was wet but since I am the toughest crew member ever I rolled around in the wetness. Later on in the week, the sun came out and it was extremely hot. But I like extremely hot weather because, once again, I am a true gangsta..

This week our crew made 48 burn piles. That is why we are Gold crew. We also got to work with somebody who appeared to be Kevin Bacon. Another contact wore a girly pink hard hat. Gold Crew rocks....GO DAWGS...Nick G.

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

Week 5: Date: July 17th-July 23rd

Monday: Since we were on a two week backcountry trip, we did not go to the weekend site. Instead we hiked to a nice swimming pond with Cory. Kelly had her day off and we missed (her) so much. She’s such a great leader, but we didn’t hear the sounds of singing angels since she was away. The weekend was nice and relaxing and we played “Big Funs” like “Baby if you love me, give me a great big smile.”....Tyler

Tuesday: We are on the same project as last week, only we are in meadow one now. We have to finish what Red crew left. Our burn piles are much better than theirs however, theirs look like schwagg! We are going to beat their 84 burn piles for sure...Cody

Wednesday: Our goal is to make better burn piles than Red crews. We have made 69 piles so far and they are far prettier looking than the Red crew’s. Other goals include finishing up our session strong and everyone getting along and not threatening violence on anyone...because that’s just not cool...Nick

Thursday: We learned that it’s far more fun if you just laugh. Laughing makes the work go by so quickly and when you are pissed off and feel like punching someone...just LAUGH! Hysterical laughter until the tears roll down...Rosalyn.

Friday: We made 85 burn piles during the past two weeks, which is one more than Red crew. Additionally we had to rebuild some of their unsteady piles that had fallen over. After work on Thursday, we decided to hike out all the work tools to the van and pack the trailer to save us time Friday morning. The last thing we learned this week was Kelly’s age. Despite her maturity, wisdom and sense of leadership, she is only a young 22 (almost 23) year old spring chicken. She is not 26 like I thought. However, unlike most other spring chickens, Kelly is not killed and eaten because she is too damn cute. The cutest girl ever. We love you Kelly!!!...All of Gold Crew

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

On the second week, we had to hike into our camp by the Rogue River Trail. We were back-country and we had to hike in everything to set up camp. Food, pots and pans, tents and tarps and tools all had to be hiked in. Super heavy packs, blazing sun, steep trail, and poison oak all mixed together is what I call fun. The hike to camp seemed like it took forever and to make it worse I had one of the crappy back packs. After hiking about 100 feet my shoulders and neck started to go numb with pain. The 3.8 mile hike took about 2 and a half hours but after I thought I was not going to make it we arrived and it felt so good. Like the Dawgs winning the championship good....Nick G.

Day 1 because I didn't know anyone...Nathan M

Sunday of our 4th week. It was raining and I hadn't seen blue skies or sun in 4 days. Everything seemed to be going wrong. I was cold...Mary

Monday of our 4th week. I woke up and reached for my boots and the boot glue failed me, my boots were still without a sole....so I duct taped them and in the process I hit my nose pulling the tape so vigorously....Rosalyn

Backpacking in the rain with hardly any sleep the night before and falling within the first 500 ft. knowing I had 2 miles left to go.

My most challenging day at NYC isn't some work day but more of dealing with a certain person on our crew and managing to finish the day without a horrible end.....Tyler S.

During week four would have been my most challenging time. I had one especially bad day during this time. We were working an 8 and a half hour day and it was at least 90 degrees outside. I felt like I hadn't worked hard enough so I worked myself as hard as I could and this broke me down mentally and physically. But Chelsea talked to me and was able to calm me down so I could go back to work at a good working pace...Cody T.

Fourth week just learning how to build burn piles and everyone was sort of in a bad mood...

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Three of my favorite NYC experiences were when Nick and I were making shadow puppets. Another memory would be when we didn't get a weekly madness and we were upset so Kelly secretly sent Emily out to get guacamole, I ate almost the entire bowl. Everyone was so fat it was great, Mixed with the iodine and avocado. Latrine trips were fun also. One memory I'll always remember is when working at Cape Blanco, Joe Wax almost turned me into a pancake by dropping a huge log were I was standing. I've never moved so fast. Thanks Joe!! P.S. a new memory, today's the first day Rosalyn didn't beat me with her belt, just joking, or am I?.....Tyler S. "Mr. Perfect" "Captain"

I learned how to poop in the woods, make burn piles, and take long van rides...Mike F.

Going insane at work, learning how to use a latrine and sharing tips, laughing at dang dang-Mary and talking before bed when Cory and Nick thought I love gator rides, laughing at dang-dang while he was sick, Marley in the morning, good mornings and good nights, Mike hitting things w/ sticks, Cody always picking flowers, Rosalyn's boots, the crazies (rock lady) fashion show, giving nick a bulldog pillow, Nathan's rice, dang-dang singing, dang-dang looking like a "Chimo" Tasmanian toe tap, dang-dang jumping on cars after being told several times not to. Cody looking fabulous and flamboyant, bruised hips after hiking, electric avenue, ranger Rick's huge forearms, uncontrollable gas, strobe light.

The scenery, the friendships and the memories...Cody T.

The talks at night, the songs throughout the work day (other than Nate) and listening to people day dream aloud...Rosalyn B.

Friends, Matt, "um guys....No"....Nathan M.

My crew, my crew, my crew....Faye T.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Is the friends I have made...Nathan M

Kelly carrying twice as much as everybody else in her pack...Nick G.

The people I have met and the things we have done together...Chelsea I

Our latrines being carved out into peoples initials...Cody T.

When our contacts lent us a very good axe and I got it so sharp that Kelly gave me a smile instead of saying good job...Tyler S.

"um, guys...no"- KOA manager...Justin P.

Long van rides....Faye T.

All of the strange songs crew members made up...Rosalyn B.

Laughing, singing at work, relaxing car rides....Mary

Never under estimate the power of hard working youth...Kelly

The harder you work, the better you feel...Cory

I will always remember Nick being funny and causing my PMA...Mike

I will always remember how great my crew made me feel, as well as my “weekend outfit” my work boots, black skirt, pink top... Tyler’s captain hat...Kelly

From Now On I Will Always...

Leave no trace...Nathan M.

Help out more...Nick G.

Forever push myself...Tyler S.

Try to laugh at everything...Justin P.

Dance like a monkey...Faye T.

Laugh until I cry...Rosalyn

Appreciate everything a million times more, and I will laugh more...Mary

Appreciate everything I have and laugh about everything I don’t...Chelsea I.

Make sure I have a 45 degree angle on cutbacks when making a trail...Cody T.

Say “awesome” when things are tough...Kelly

Work twice as hard as I can...Mike

At NYC I Learned...

To find the best in everyone...Faye

To not get mad at everything and to make friends...Mike

How to build a turnpike....Nathan M.

Responsibility, self-control, decision making....Nick G.

How to work on a team and to be more self confident....Chelsea I.

How to work with a team of ten on helping maintain a clean environment...Cody T.

That no matter how many different people you put together, amazing things will always hap-

pen...Tyler S.

Who I am and just what I could do with some communications....Justin P.

How to find the best in people, how to find joy in helping out others, and finding things to laugh about...Mary

I learned to find the positive in people and how to make a frustrating situation one to laugh at. Things always look better with a smile on your face...Kelly

That I don't need as much as I thought I did and I should appreciate what I have...Rosalyn B.