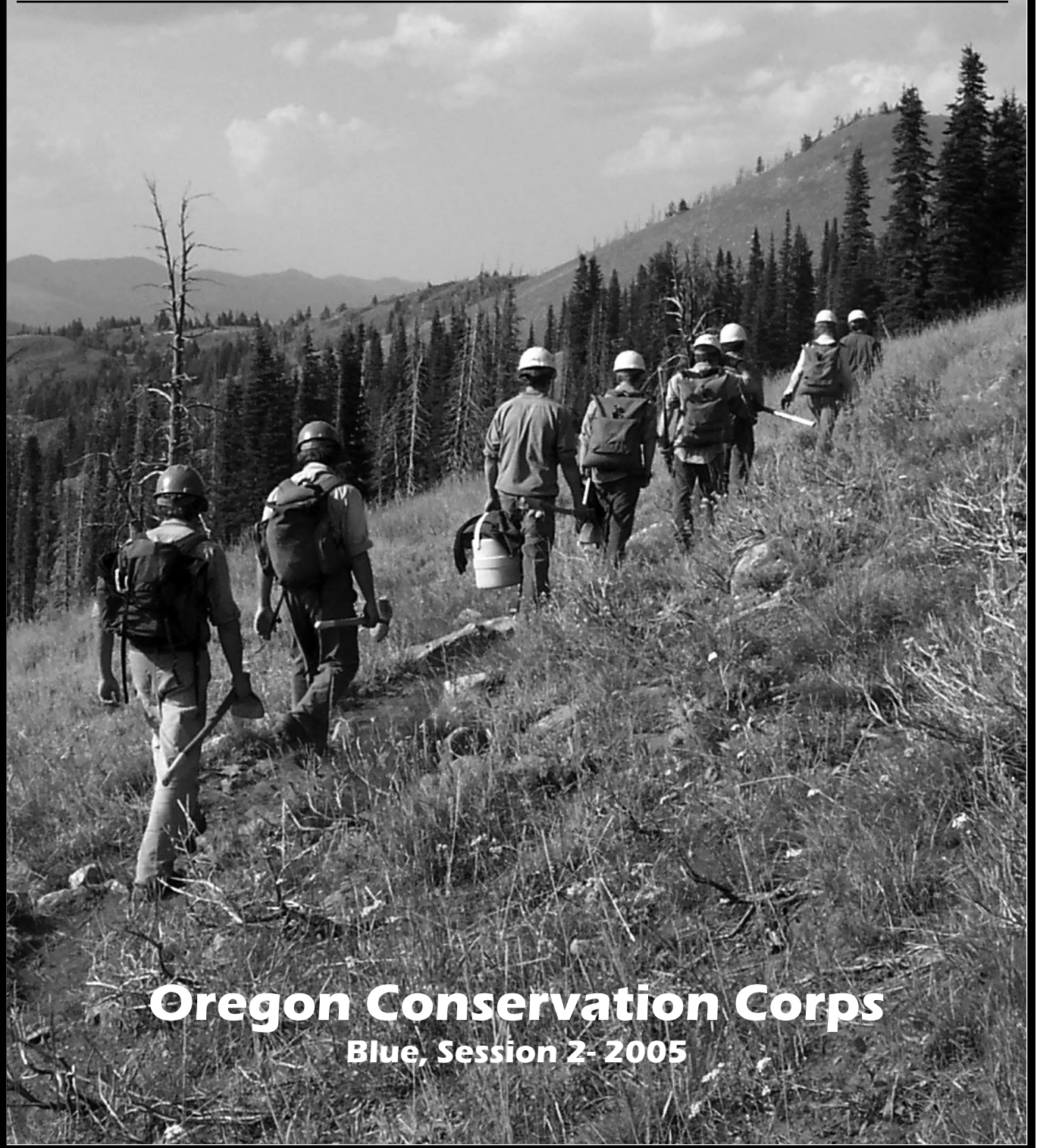




# Crew Journal



**Oregon Conservation Corps**  
**Blue, Session 2- 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



**National Park Service  
Crater Lake National Park  
Project Name- Crater Lake PCT**

**Week 1: July 31 – August 6**

Monday: We packed our stuff, drove to Crater Lake, hiked three miles to our site, and set up camp. We then were like, “Dudes, we need water!” So we all packed that crazy water back from civilization. Man that was crazy stuff right there. Oh! There was this sweet orientation too! Then we slept! –Shawn F.

Tuesday: We are in the Pumice Flats Wilderness Area about 7 miles from Crater Lake. We are deconstructing trail because a crew put in some new trail last year. Trail deconstruction consists of planting trees, destroying berm, throwing logs across/around the trail, etc. Maintaining trail is also part of the contract. The contact came by on Thursday and commented favorably. –Paul B.

Wednesday: This week the goals for the crew were to go to Crater Lake and look around off a rock 75 feet above the water on Friday. We also went hiking for 23 miles, and with 20 of those miles we all had about 75 lbs on our backs. We also wanted to complete the job to the required quality.

Thursday: We learned that when you mess with wildlife it comes for you, like the Pandora moths will fly at you and shoot nasty venom at you, and mosquitoes are very deadly. Our camp was invaded by mysterious bugs that sucked our blood and were buzzing around us, but it was a very good experience...

–Drew

Friday: This week we had many challenges. First of all, we had to hike three miles with food and tools just to get to our campsite. We were also short two crew members, so we had to work 9 hour days for most of the week. One thing I am very proud of though is the amount of work we got done in just one week. Our sponsor congratulated us on our work and I believe she was even surprised at the amount of work we got done. –John J.

**Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
Weaverville Ranger District  
Project Name- Scott Mtn. Restoration**

**Week 2: August 7 – 13**

Monday: This weekend we had two crews at the weekend site. We played a big game of capture the flag in a huge rock and gravel quarry. Then on Sunday we started our five-hour drive from Crater Lake to Northern California. When we stopped to fill up in Medford, a chipmunk hopped out of our engine and then hid back in the car. –Drew R.

Tuesday: This week Scott Mountain in California is where we're working and busting out the Blue Crew madness. Our job is to replace the Pacific Crest Trail signs and do some trail work. We're fixed on fixing up the trail for people who love to hike because this trail goes from Mexico to Canada. –Cody

Wednesday: Our goals this week include finishing all of the water drains on Scott Mountain, putting all the re-assurance markers into the trail, brushing about 3 miles of trail, and finishing our work in the 1.2 miles of trail that we are supposed to clear. If all of this gets finished, we will continue our work on the trail opposite the road from our camp. –Sam N.

Thursday: [Describe what your crew learned this week:] ...that grown men from Washington DC do cry; that it is important to give accurate directions to your woodsboss to our worksite or else he will get lost 6 hours and then give you the eye!; that there are old, crazy, lonely men in the world—specifically, next to our campsite—but once you get past the rancor, grizzled beard, and googly eyes, they are really friendly. –Cole

Friday: Our crew's challenges this week took patience, teamwork, and perseverance to overcome. Each day we had to get everyone up at five and get ourselves to the jobsite on time. We were also faced with the challenge of a 7-mile hike everyday with our water and tools. We had a lot of goals to meet.

Being the second week, our greatest challenge as a crew was tolerance and bonding. We're learning to cope with each other so that we can stay a well-oiled functioning machine of a team.

Our accomplishments this week have been putting aside some differences and becoming more open with each other, brother-to-brother. We also successfully impressed key representatives who came to observe our kickin' work and interview us.

By far the greatest satisfactory accomplishment for us as a crew is the individual growth of each member to contribute to the group. WE ROCK! –Shawn F.

**Fremont National Forest  
Lakeview Ranger District  
Project Name- Fremont NRT #14**

**Week 3: August 14 – 20**

Monday: Oh man! This weekend was awesome! Thursday night we took down the tents and slept under the stars. But the sweetness didn't end there, no sir! We then woke up at 4am under the stars and drove to the bottom of our site where the loggers park. We then stumbled a mile and a half in the darkness to the most incredible site of Northern California. We stood atop Scott Mt. in the Trinity Alps and witnessed the glorious sunrise over the mammoth Mt. Shasta! The view was stupendous! The hills below you coming to life with the light of the world. It gave us all an appreciation for life. How miniscule we all are as individuals in nature! All the splendors in the world couldn't amount to that majestic window in time.

The drive to the weekend site was a long one, but man it was worth it. We got to be reunited with the rest of the crews and we all set up our tents.

Saturday was an awesome day because Blue Crew rocked all the other crews' socks off! After losing the orange race we made a come-from-behind win with our sheer masculine strength in the peanut butter pit. We mounted each others' backs and won that race with the determination like no other!  
**BLUE CREW!**

Sunday morning, we packed up our things, got in the van, and drove off to Southeastern Oregon to face our next challenge, my Blue Crew sign taped firmly in the back window, enveloped in flame, symbolizing how untouchable the Blue Crew truly is. –Shawn F.

Tuesday: Okay, this week we are in the Fremont National Forest and are working to accomplish a three and a half mile trail restoration. On Monday we got about a mile of that done, and today (Tuesday) we got about a mile and a half, which leaves us with about a mile to go, but we will most likely do more than just the three and a half. –Matthew S

Wednesday: The crew's goal for this week is to reach our 3-mile marker of tread. In two days we got 2 miles done and I know we will get it done. We will also work on getting closer together and achieving more team unity. –Andrew R.

Thursday: [Describe what your crew learned this week:] That it is hard to be a leader of an all-guys crew; trying to balance all the details and responsibilities can be difficult. Trying to remember everything while tending to the individual needs of 10 people, while having enough energy for oneself is almost impossible. Good luck and good job to the real crew leaders. –Sam N.

Friday: This week our crew had many challenges and accomplishments. Our challenges consisted of getting trail maintenance done before the deadline. Our accomplishments came when we finished two days before the deadline. We felt a tremendous sense of pride as a group when we did that. –John J.

**Umpqua National Forest**  
**Ranger District- North Umpqua Ranger District**  
**Project Name- North Umpqua Trail #1414**

**Week 4: August 21 – 27**

Monday: This weekend we had a talent show and whooped butt with our little Pulaski song and dance. On our rec. trip we all saw the coolest tree houses at *It's A Burl* in Cave Junction. There was a lot of awesome art stuff made out of wood. We had a dutchie cook-off with all the other crews. We came in second but the judge was wrong, we really won. J –Cody M.

Tuesday: [Describe your project this week. Where are you, what are you doing, why?] Clearing brush, removing water bars, digging drainages, and making trail improvements. Umpqua National [Forest], OR. Trail maintenance. –Patrick D.

Wednesday: At the weekend site our crew pretty much agreed on a few goals:

1. Motivate each other and stay motivated.
2. Be respectful to everyone on the crew.

Be responsible for yourself and the effects your responsibilities have on others.

The unspoken goal is to form closer bonds as a crew. –Shawn F.

Thursday: This week was our first encounter with poison oak, the nefarious scourge of the Umpqua National Forest. No one has gotten any yet, rashes that is, except Thomas rubbed a bunch all over his arm today as a “science experiment.” We’ll see. Our contact also has some interesting requests, I think he’s a minimalist. He wants really gradual drainage dips, because lots of bicyclists use the trail. We saw some today. They were camped up by Horseshoe Bend, we saw them last night. –Paul B.

Friday: We have had challenges this week. Our challenges are hard. We moved a boat from the van to the river. We also went across the river in the boat. We learned about teamwork. Teamwork is GOOD! We had FUN! We also had the challenges of hiking. Hiking is hard! I do not like hiking! Hiking is hard! –John J.

**Winema National Forest**  
**Chemult Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Miller Lake Trail**

**Week 5: August 28 – September 3**

Monday: This weekend our crew met up with the Red Crew at the weekend site. Our crew made dinner Friday night. The Red Crew was late and our crew decided to get out of bed and help them unpack their trailer. The next day our crew went on some fabulous rec. trips. –John J.

Tuesday: This week we are at Miller Lake doing some trail maintenance. We are also rebuilding a crib wall, sanding park-benches, and graveling certain parts of the trail that are very watery and muddy. All of these projects will help with the general appearance of the campground and make for more fun hikes. –Sam N.

Wednesday: This week our goals are to complete as much trail maintenance as possible, and keep up the working spirit of NYC. We also hope to sand some benches and finish or repair any more crib walls that we come across. –Sam N.

Thursday: Our crew learned that if we work hard enough and strong enough, we can produce bomb sexy trail and also be able to catch little fuzzy rodents and eat them for dinner.

Friday: This week our crew faced many challenges. One of our challenges was getting along with certain members of the crew. Thanks to the patience and the respect of the crew, we were all able to talk with the individual and resolve problems. Our accomplishments this week included a great amount of trail maintenance completed. Our sponsor was very pleased with our work. –John J.

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

My most challenging day at NYC was Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Our day started like any other, getting up at 5:00 for an early 6:00 start. Things started to get hard the moment Blue Crew left their warm, comfortable sleeping bags and ate breakfast. We were all shocked at the extremely low temperatures that met us outside. But for some of our crewmembers, even seven layers was not enough to keep our body heat contained. The work morning started out in a deadly silence during our 1 ½ mile hike into the working area. Conversations slowly started up as we formed a fireline to fill a giant pit with dirt. After we finished with the dirt, everyone's hand and feet suddenly felt as if they had been plunged into the arctic region of the ocean: so cold it burned. After some much-needed enthusiasm from our NYC crew leaders, we started to pick up the pace, making a working (if slow) bump line. As the day progressed, the sun rose high enough into the sky to peek over the treetops, slowly thawing out our frozen bodies. At this time in the day, the work became easier, and in-depth conversations were made possible.

After lunchtime, the inside jokes of Blue Crew started to flow. With phrases like "I love rootbeer!" and "This is a challenge!" we were able to progress through the rest of the day, ending with a high-spirited 2-mile hike out. –Sam N.

My most challenging day at NYC wasn't at work or in the campground. On the fourth weekend I chose a hike up Mount Bailey. It was fun, just that day my calves hurt for the first up-hill part. Five miles uphill was definitely a challenge, and I really wanted to turn around. But I did it, in the back of the line. NYC has really made me want to challenge myself. I know I can gain confidence from pushing my limits. I also came up with a saying: "I would rather waste my energy than have it be wasted." I do want to come back to NYC next summer as a swamper, just for another half my summer to challenge myself. –Thomas S.

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

One of my favorite NYC experiences was at the orientation site when I met about 40 new people. I mean I didn't get to know them personally on the first day but it was kinda cool meeting that many people in one day.

An experience that I got to enjoy constantly was busting out with lightsabre wars with some of my crew members. By lightsabre I mean extending a pair of loppers or just simply using a stick and some sweet sound effects. I had some great times with that and it is pretty cool that nobody got hurt.

One experience that I really enjoyed was on the Monday of week 5. Another crew member and I offered our assistance for gravel hauling. We had a pretty good hike out with the wheel barrows and got to our “gravel pit.” We started shoveling gravel into the wheel barrows and started our way back up the trail with about a 70-lb load. It felt like hell and a half going up and down hills and the day was already over once we were a little more than three-fourths of the way back. We continued until we got to our destination; a damp part of the trail. We dumped our load and started back to camp. Once we got there I went into my tent and tried to sleep. Even though I was exhausted I felt like I could accomplish greater things once I was done. –Matthew S.

My three favorite NYC experiences:

1. The first cool experience I had was on a rec. trip when I got to see six different waterfalls. The part I loved was standing under some of them and washing off all the dirt.

2. My second favorite experiences was working on a trail with the Blue Crew and yelling at the top of my lungs. The Blue Crew rocked this session.

The third experience I liked was watching Matt Springer go crazy on the trail during the weekend. –Cody M.

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

The one thing I will always remember is all the friends I made in the process of going through NYC. The fun times we shared as a crew and everything else that has happened has just been awesome. So my one thing from NYC is all the friends that I got. –Drew

One thing I will always remember about this NYC session is the friends and all the cool places I got to see. I will remember all the cold rivers I got to swim in, all the trails I got to hike, and all the rest of the cool things I got to do. –Cody M.

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

From now on I will always cook dinner more often. NYC has taught me a lot about making dinner. I will always make excellent lunches too, because NYC’s lunches of PB and J are not my favorite. –John J.

From now on I will always give my best and nothing less. –Patrick D.

From now on I will be more patient with others. I will also pay more attention to what is really important. –Paul B.

From now on I will never place barriers on myself. Through NYC I discovered you truly can achieve anything you put your mind to. –Shawn Fedderson

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

At NYC, I learned how much iodine to put into 5 gallons of water, and how long it must sit out. I learned that although iodine water kills bacteria in water and makes it drinkable, it can be poisonous if drunk too soon.

I also learned that self-reliance is an extremely valuable skill to have, even when on a crew of 12 people. If each individual on the crew can have a sufficient amount of self-reliance, chores get done faster, we get more efficient work done, and people get along better.

Thirdly, I learned how to use what I have, without going to a store or getting more. I learned how to make wonderful dinners out of a scant amount of food on Thursday, or how to build up a campsite with only rope and tarps.

-Sam N.