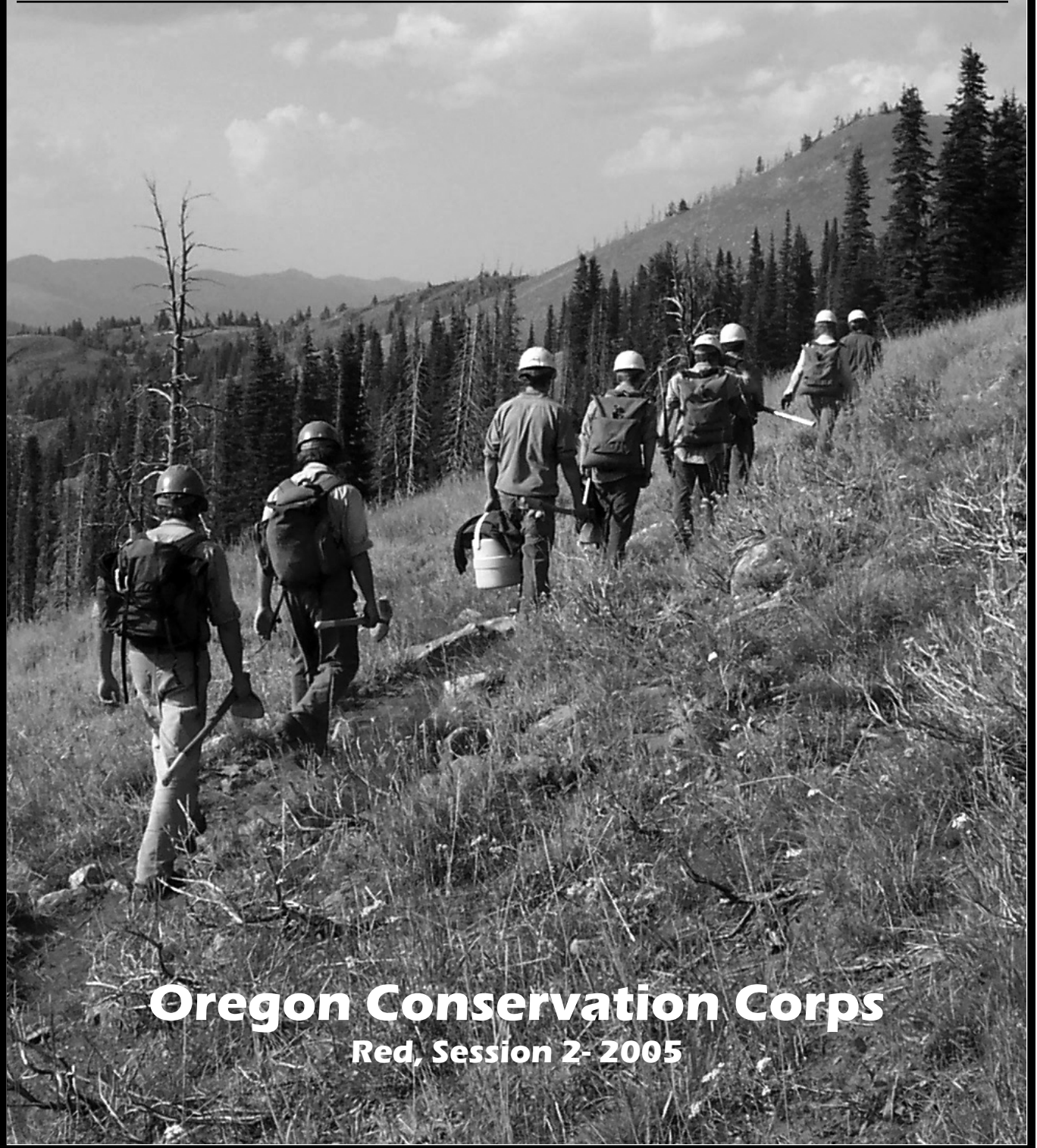




# Crew Journal



**Oregon Conservation Corps**  
Red, 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 dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Waks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Joe Waksmundski  
Program Manager



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

**Week 1: July 31 – August 6**

Monday: We got to know each other, and on Sunday we set up our tents and did chores, and then went swimming. –Neal D.

Tuesday: [Describe your project this week; where are you, what are you doing, why?] Repairing and maintaining North Umpqua trail. Brushing, digging drains/French rock drains/drain dips, getting rocks, did about one mile of trail. –Jim S.

Wednesday: We finished most of the North Umpqua. We meditated as a group. Our goal for the week was to get most of the trail done. We also did stuff in our SEED books about being prejudiced and talked about people's feelings towards certain things. –Nikki E.

Thursday: We learned about fire safety, we learned to brush trail, we learned to clear rocks from trails. We also learned to make water dips in the trail. We learned about discrimination. Oh, we also learned to live in camp and we learned to dig sump and latrine holes. –Mika L.

Friday: The challenges this week were working as hard as we could during the first week, such as throwing rocks to make a rock trail, moving a really heavy bench about ½ mile, working in the heat and working with one another for a long time since we have to live with each other. For many people walking down the long endless trails seemed quite hard but we all managed to come together and wait for some of the slowest people to catch up. We have accomplished a bunch of stuff, like moving the bench, the potta-potty, finishing and completing trenches. We came together as a group and I believe that's one of the biggest challenges and accomplishments. –Carolyn R.

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

**Week 2: August 7 – 13**

Monday: I've seen the bluest water, in Crater Lake. I saw a jade slice around its shores. I pretended to be a savage, chasing another tribe and sneaking around for this relic of theirs; a flag or something like that. The people were brown and black, ready for war. I hiked 3 miles with a heavy burden on my back. Heavy. War. Flag. Savage. Lake. Blue. That sums it up backwards. –Daniel H.

Tuesday: This morning we finished making drains and put pine needles on the side of the trail. Everyone's faces were filthy with dirt from digging the drains. Nikki and Jordan won the contest for the dirtiest faces. When we were finished with that we went up the trail a ways and took out huge boulders. We cut down tree stumps that were in the way of the new trail we were building. When Nikki yelled "tool count," everyone couldn't stop working. –Janelle B.

Wednesday: My possibility for our crew's goal is to try and finish the trail. Not only is our crew trying to accomplish the trail, but they are trying to finish all our hours as fast as we can. Even though we started work late we still wanted to keep going. I'm sure our crew just wants to complete the week (backcountry). We are anxious to find out what the next challenge may be. –Carolyn R.

Friday: This morning we packed up and headed out of the backcountry. The backpacks weren't as heavy because on Thursday we pigged out on most of the food in the backpacks so we wouldn't have to pack it all out. Dani and Jordan chugged down the blackberry jelly. And we all enjoyed a pack of lemon flavored cookies, and anything else we could find to satisfy our hunger, after a hard day's work.

Thursday we moved huge boulders that were blocking the trails. It was funny because the rocks were small when we first noticed them. Later after we dug for a while, these boulders would be huge and it took four or five people to move these huge rocks.

Jim, Carolyn, and Carson did cross-cutting on stumps that were sticking out blocking the trail. At the end of the day on Thursday we all got some dirt and filled in holes along the trail where we dug out and cut out tree stumps. This week overall was full of accomplishments. It was different in the backcountry but very fun and well worth it. –Janelle B.

**Klamath National Forest**  
**Scott River Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Sky High Basin/Lovers' Camp TH**

**Week 3: August 14 – 20**

Monday: Our crew did relay races Saturday night. On Sunday our crew had to wake up early to leave for California. We all hiked about 6 miles. It was rough but we all did it. The rest of the evening we did chores and shortly after we went to bed. –Carolyn R.

Tuesday: We completed drainages and did some brushing along the trail. Once we got to our site everyone wanted to stay two weeks because our surroundings were so nice. –Janelle B.

Wednesday: We started work on camp sites, hauled dirt to horse holes, finished drainages, found dirt for horse holes by creek under overturned root balls, plus lots of rock to first fill it in—smashed them to fill better with sledge. Reworked campsites—evened out, removed rocks, made fire pits smaller, also ran out of work. –James S.

Thursday: In my personal state of mind, I couldn't tell you all the things we learned. Not only did each of us do different projects, we all have done several minor to massive projects. Within one project that I have done alone (out of many), I learned so much. Sean Tamarisk (our crew leader) not only taught me how to build a high-quality drainage dip, he taught what the purpose of a drainage dip is. Out of one certain drainage dip I learned techniques that would not only improve the shape of the drainage but improve the time it was built in. I also learned that the many things you can learn from one project are common sense when you live on the trail. In other words, if you can live in more than one area you will learn things that seem hard, but in time, it's just more common sense. Like I said, there are so many things you learn, I couldn't tell you everything, but I can tell you this: new experience is worth the work. –Carson McQ.

Friday: I woke up a few times during the night and I saw the moon. It was as bright as it is during dusk. We all slept outside. Then I rose from my slumber and worked for an hour. Then I walked to the trail-head. Now we're in the van. The radio is causing a war. Ah, the agony of country. The challenges were those of ease. We got used to easiness this week. It is hard to switch out of the underachieving mode. –Daniel H.

**Fremont National Forest**  
**Paisley Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Fremont NRT**

**Week 4: August 21 – 27**

Monday: This weekend our crew drove from California to Cave Junction. On the way we stopped for pizza! We got to the weekend site just in time for dinner and bed. The next day we had rec. trips. I got to go to the Redwoods and It's A Burl. Then to finish the weekend we drove to our next week's work-site. –Phoebe

Tuesday: Our crew is at Fremont [National Forest] and we are rebuilding trails that were ruined by the fire in 2002. The process we are doing this by is by re-doing trails, pulling out rocks, and chopping

down tress that are in the way of the trail. –Carolyn R.

Wednesday: The crew’s goals for this week would be that we work all of our hours and also that nobody gets hurt. Some other goals would be that we all get along and we don’t argue with each other and/or get on each other’s nerves. Those would be our goals for this week. –Nikki E.

Thursday: We learned how to be leaders through trial and error. It has been “leader of the day” week. Everyone now understands how hard it is to fill Sean’s/Rover’s shoes. I have learned how hard it is for 9 to 5 blue collar workers because I’ve done this for 4 weeks and I’m very tired of it. It’s super hard to continue with a giant clock in my head. Canvas is key to memory. –Daniel H.

Friday: My crew’s challenge was not in written form but impressed on our minds with the words “How far can we go? How far can we each lead?” Our crew’s challenge was 2 ¾ miles of pure reconstruction. With all of our force, we pushed like knights! Scorching sun, endless desert, bulging rocks... were shattered with our presence. Our accomplishment was our own pain and suffering for more strength. Before us lies the newest tribulations; a flat tire; ill-fitting wrenches; crazy men with chickens; and too much food. We did Yellow Crew’s hours out of the kindness of our hearts, or at least I think so. I’ve learned about Wendy’s methods. Apparently Red Crew will rock you. –Carson M and Daniel H

**Rogue River National Forest**  
**Prospect Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Upper Rogue River Trail**

**Week 5: August 28-September 3**

[MIA]

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

My most challenging day was hiking the first time backcountry. Carolyn R.

My most challenging day I have had to endure so far in this journey of wildness was when we had Cory Sundance Bockstiegel as a rover. He wouldn’t stop yelling. Sarah N.

The challenges were many, but the most challenging day was when I had no bathroom, only a latrine. I was in the Pumice Flats area and there were no leaves that would suffice my needs. I had monkey butt and I was so grumpy I wanted to quit. Danny H.

The most challenging day would be when our crew was in California. During work I had a horrible stomach ache but I stuck it out the best I could, and I did. Janelle B.

The first days were the most challenging, betting upon time, and the physical work was hard, especially with cramps, not used to the work. James S.

My most challenging day was when I was in Cali and my leg was so stiff from falling on it on Tuesday. Nikki E.

I think that my most challenging day was when we had to hike up a mountain 6 miles up. Neal D.

The most challenging day at NYC was the first backpacking trip when we walked 3 miles with like 60 pounds. It was hard but it got me in shape. Jordan.

The most challenging day for me was my first full day with my crew, because everyone was already close and I was trying to get to know everyone. Phoebe W.

My most challenging day was the day that I challenged myself more than I ever have in my life. I had packed my backpack up to about 75 pounds, then held two yellow-tops, one in each hand, adding another 30 pounds. When we first started I had fallen to the back of the pack. I had realized I hadn't made more than 1/3 of a mile before I had to take a break. But I convinced myself that if I could do this 3 mile hike with all this weight, I could do much more than I ever could. I completed the hike with everything. It took every ounce of energy. I couldn't even complete my chore for the night, my team and friends completed it for me. I thanked them. Carson M.

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

My three favorite NYC experiences were the 2<sup>nd</sup> backcountry week, the 4<sup>th</sup> week, and making drainages. Carolyn R.

My favorite experiences would be when everyone was having a good time laughing and making funny noises, and when everyone would be singing to a song that everyone knew and liked.

My three favorite experiences were the first rec. trip with Blue Crew; it was fun... and the first week doing a French drain, and the van rides to the sites have been fun. James S.

My three favorite experiences would be getting to know the crew, taking out rocks, and making sticks. Nikki E.

One of them would have to be the first three days because we had to get to know everybody and gain their respect and to gain their trust. Neal D.

My three favorite experiences were when I put make-up on Jordan, when we went to Cali, and when I finished being backcountry. Sarah

...when Sarah put makeup on me, our first shower, and the rec. trip that was 10 miles. Jordan.

...when the cows destroyed our camp (the final insult), when we moved the house, and the joke about the lakes. DH.

My favorite times at NYC were in the girls' tent "but wrestling," and taking care of Nikki when she was hurt (the group really came together). Phoebe W.

My three favorite NYC experiences are times that I will remember. Two of them are awesome soccer games I had played my heart out in those games. The score at the beginning was 4 to 1. My teammate Jordan and I were losing. Jordan had gotten a little discouraged so I told him that the game wasn't over. Right then we started playing to an ability that was incomprehensible to us. By the end of the game the score was 6 to 6. The next I had gotten pretty sick (which makes it much better). The 3<sup>rd</sup> experiences was the 3 mile hike. Carson M.

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

One thing I will always remember is working together with people I didn't know. I will always remember the good laughs. Carolyn R.

One thing I will always remember are all the friends I made at NYC, and all the good times we had. Janelle B.

I will always remember the experiences I've had over the past weeks. Jim S.

One thing I will always remember will be the trails I worked on with the crew I was working with. Nikki E.

The thing that I remember about NYC is the Red Crew, since they were the best out of all 2 sessions. Neal D.

I will remember all the good times I had with my crew. Sarah N.

I will always remember the places I saw and the people I met. DH

I will always remember the wonderful people. Phoebe W.

One thing I will always remember were the good times playing soccer. Carson McQ.

I will always remember all the fun times we had together. Jordan.

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

From now on I will always check for bees' nests so I don't get stung that many times again. Carolyn R.

From now on I will always work harder towards my goals and try my best everyday. Janelle B.

I will be as positive as possible, and thoughtful—to have the best of times. James S.

From now on I will probably work more than I did before I came here and will learn to have more patience. Nikki E.

From now on I will try to be more respectful to others the first time I meet them. Neal D.

From now on I will always appreciate my running water and bed. Sarah.

I will always make something of my time. DH

From now on I will try to actually get to know people before I judge them. Phoebe W.

From now on I will always earn my respect. Carson M.

From now on I will always be more respectful to everyone. Jordan

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

I have learned quite a few things while working at NYC. A few of the many things I learned are how to work with people who you have never met before and you are expected to get along with for 5 weeks; it was really hard to accomplish at first since we seemed to have different lives, opinions, and differences. Another thing I learned during this process is to communicate and have a positive attitude because without that your crew won't have a good time, or they might and just be a little annoyed with you. The last thing that I would like to mention about what I learned is to make awesome drainages. I know that I learned how to make a drainage, but it wasn't as fun as making it with a team. Carolyn R.

I learned that I don't need the comforts of home to live happily. The first day I came to NYC I thought it was going to be tough, but every part that I thought was going to be hard wasn't that bad. I learned how to be a more social person, and how to live happily with people I've never met. My last thing I've learned is how to work hard, and make goals to work harder than the day before. Janelle B.

I learned to be more spontaneous, thoughtful, and to be able to deal with people for 5 weeks and still be on their good side. Jim S.

I learned to be more patient. Nikki E.

I think that I learned to be patient about more things in life. Also I learned how to build trails and fill in holes using rocks and dirt. Neal D.

...how to not shower and how to wake up early. Sarah N.

...how to suppress my feelings when they are too powerful. DH.

I learned tons from NYC. Some things I learned were that when you open up you have more fun; I learned to accept differences in others and life is better; another lesson I learned is when you're in a team like this, every moment counts because it's over way too soon. Phoebe W.

Over this 30 day experience I have learned more about myself than I thought I could. I've learned that I'm a good leader, at least everyone told me! I've learned that I'm a laid-back type, that I can push through. I learned that I like to influence and teach. I've learned that I learn pretty fast, and that I can learn just about anything I put my mind to. I've learned that if you want respect, you have to earn it. Even though some of my teammates don't exactly get along, I know they respect me. Carson M.

I learned how to socialize better, how to work in the outdoors, and random stuff about the outdoors. Jordan.