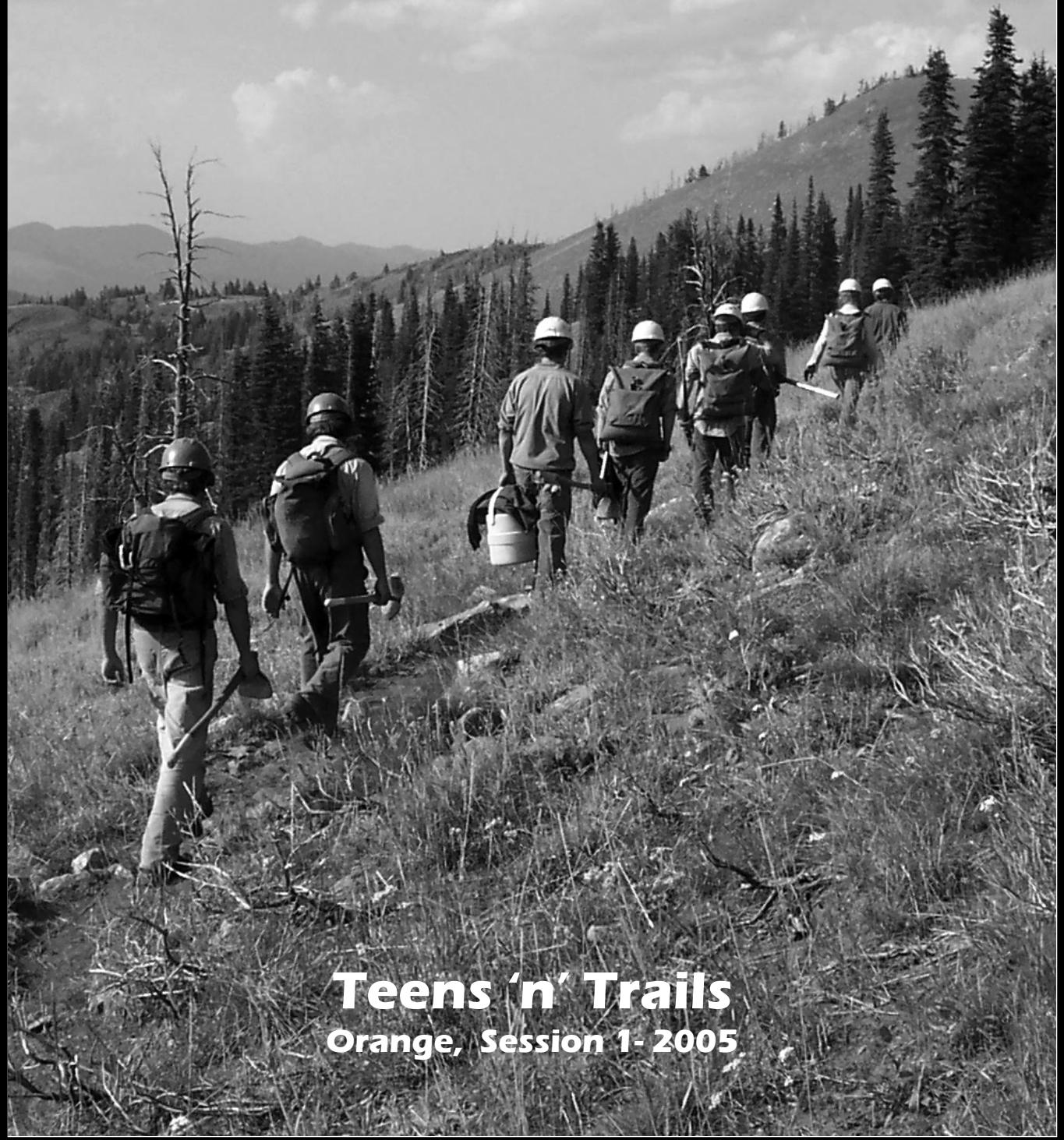




# *Crew Journal*



**Teens 'n' Trails**  
**Orange, Session 1- 2005**



Dear NYC graduates,

It is human nature that as time goes by, memories fade and our perception of history changes. Tall tales grow taller, and in the retelling details are lost and added. In your hands is a written record of your crew's trials and tribulations during the summer of 2005. It is a testimony of your successes, challenges, experiences both good and bad as well as some that were weird and wacky. As you sit back in the comfort of your home and relive some of those memories I encourage you to add your own notes on how you felt, what you saw and what you did.

As you embark on your next adventure, whatever it may be, remember the things you did here. Remember the challenges you faced and that nothing is impossible. All you need is a fistful of gorp, a PB&J and some good friends in your bump line. Make it happen!

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Ojerio'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Ryan Ojerio  
Program Manager



**Project Location: Eugene BLM**  
**Project Name: Clay Creek Rec. Area Trails Maintenance**

**Week 1: June 19 – June 24, 2005**

Monday: On Saturday morning, we all showed up knowing maybe 2 or 3 other people, hoping that we'd end up in the same group, but knowing that we wouldn't. I think that sleeping that first night with those people you want to be with makes it even harder to leave them Sunday morning. On Sunday after our relatively short car ride to Clay Creek, we did chores, ate spaghetti, did a hilarious activity which launched me on top of Shelsie, and of course the other nightly regulars. The thing that made the day best was wanting to make Shelsie have a good birthday. –Kendra H.

Tuesday: This week we are working on a trail and getting it cleaned up so people do not make their own trail and mess up the nice woods. This trail is a pretty good hike; there are good spots to see the water and wild life. We get to learn how to use new tools and work out truly hard problems. Today we moved a big log but we all worked together and got it to the right place. – Spencer B.

Wednesday: Our goals are to finish the trail that we started, and to build some retaining walls with the logs that we cut out of the way. Tomorrow we are going to work really hard to finish the rest of the trail so on Friday we can finish the retaining wall. And we want to become better friends than we already are, to learn about the environment, to have as much fun as possible, and experience the countryside that a lot of people don't know about. On Friday we hope to finish everything that we started so we can feel like we have accomplished something that we might not think that we might have without this program. –Amanda P.

Thursday: This week we learned many new things. We learned how to tie new knots. We also learned how to do all the different parts of the trail and how to do it well. We learned how to cook camp food and to improvise for anything that we usually use. We also learned to get used to all the strange and interesting smells of camping. We learned about how to set up camp and take it down using our new-found knot-tying skills. A special discovery of ours was the ability to work really hard and complete our goals and the ability to overcome all our challenges with flying colors. –Cal B.

Friday: The first week is never easy for a crew. You're thrown together with eleven other strangers and with no idea what to expect for the weeks to come. You experience new places, situations, and ideas, you learn how to do tasks ranging from digging trail to cooking dinner for twelve. You also discover muscles you never knew you had. This week, Orange Crew faced many new challenges and we tackled them head-on. Even though we were picking up tools for the first time, we learned how to use them and dig some pretty sweet trail. We made it around the entire loop by Thursday and had 5 hours on Friday to perfect some rough spots and put in our second retaining wall of the week. Some people struggled a bit in the beginning, but we're shaping up to be an amazing work-force. Back at camp, the crew's biggest challenge has been fighting our cravings for different foods. Some people are having a difficult time adjusting to new, healthier diets, and it will be interesting to see how we did this weekend with our will-power (or lack there-of). All in all, I'm extremely impressed with Orange Crew so far, and I look forward to the next 3 weeks. Hopefully we'll keep up our good work and intensity. –Jean W.

**National Forest: Siskiyou NF**  
**Ranger District: Gold Beach**  
**Project Name: Gold Beach Noxious Weed Eradication**

**Week 2: June 27 – July 1, 2005**

Monday: This weekend all the crews got together near Diamond Lake. We all set up camp late at night. The next day we all went on rec trips; all the crews split up. There were two trips headed to Crater Lake, one to a swimming lake, and another on a hike. The next day we packed up camp and went on a long grueling car ride. Oh, we also lost Tim and got Teresa. –Jeremy S.

Tuesday: This week we are pulling weeds to keep the animals from starving and we are taking out the non-native plants that don't fit our habitat. We are staying at a National Forest Ranger Station. We are here to save the animals and to save their habitat. –Shelsie F.

Wednesday: Our goals are that we will get the jobs done, and we won't fight at all, and we won't get p-oak as bad as Jeremy or Brent. And that we'll find the golf balls and not have injuries, and that we'll make it through the whole week. –Alex S.

Thursday: I think the main thing the group learned this week was safety. We had to be more careful or a lot of people would have gotten hurt. We've also learned to be more comfortable around each other, and joke around a lot more and tell more about ourselves. –Lauren D.

Friday: Motivation seemed to be a large challenge for our crew this week. We were pulling French Broom on some pretty steep slopes, plus out in the hot sun for most of the workday. We put in a couple long days so that we could take off early one day and take a trip to the beach. I was impressed by my crew's steadfastness and determination this week despite the elements and the tediousness of pulling noxious weeds. I feel that another ongoing challenge we're facing is crew responsibility. We've been getting lazy and forgetting some responsibilities at work and at camp. My hope is that the crew will bounce back and have an amazing second half of the session. –Jean W.

**Project Location: Deschutes River State Park**

**Project Name: Deschutes River State Park Trail Maintenance**

**Week 3: July 4 – July 8, 2005**

Monday: This weekend, we went to the beach and went shopping and saw a lighthouse, and came back at 3:45. Parents came to the camp, we played a game, and went to sleep, woke up, and Sunday woke up at 7:00 to go to new worksites. –Charles N.

Tuesday: Our project this week is trail maintenance. We are working on a trail near the Columbia River. The place we are in is pretty hot and dry, and the fire hazard level is four. There are a couple of mini fires a long way away. We are just widening the trail and clearing brush for 6 miles of trail. –Lauren D.

Wednesday: The crew has many goals for this week. Our main one is to finish the high portion of the trail which is two miles long. It is very dusty and the crew's positive mental attitude is slipping. A secondary goal is to keep people from blowing up in each other's faces. Today's goal was to get to the one mile marker by lunch (a goal that we did not accomplish). Nevertheless, we got to the one mile marker by the end of the day and we got Doritos and Pepsi for it. – Cal B.

Thursday: We learned that wind and dust do not mix. We also learned a lot about each other, like what pushes our buttons. Also we learned how to hydrate ourselves in the extreme heat.

We learned Joe is a goofball but we all still love him. Also we learned how to read topographical maps. We learned how to cut straight top-line. –Jeremy S.

Friday: I feel like this week was one of the most challenging thus far this session, yet it was also the most rewarding. We bonded through hardship and drew motivation from challenge. Our project demanded early morning wake-ups and long days in the hot sun and blinding dust. We realized early on in the week that we would destroy ourselves and one another if we did not stay hydrated and happy. We sang songs, told jokes and stories, and figured out the solutions to several riddles and word games to keep our spirits high and our minds off of the job at hand. The week could have gone much worse had we not kept each other going.

Yet we still met with some conflict this week, and we learned how to express our emotions in a healthy manner and constructively deal with the situation. I feel that the discussions we had this week helped to clear the air and allowed us to be more open and honest with one another. I hope to continue those discussions into next week as we push through to the end of the session. We fought homesickness, physical illness, and Mother Nature, and Orange Crew is still solid and strong! –Jean W.

**Project Location: Roseburg BLM**

**Project Name: Northbank Ranch Habitat Restoration**

**Week 4: July 11 – July 15, 2005**

Monday: This weekend our crew drove into our weekend site after our long-awaited showers, store stop, and laundry. On Saturday we all split up into groups for rec trips. I was in Jason's group. We went rafting first which was awesome, we all had a lot of fun. Then we made a store stop and headed off on a so-called "hike." Back at camp we played a whole bunch of games and had lasagna for dinner. After dinner we all performed at the very first "NYC Idol." Yellow Crew took 1<sup>st</sup> place. Then we had Saturday Circle to end the day. Sunday we all headed to our new worksites! –Kendra H.

Tuesday: We are currently working at a site near the North Umpqua River. On our first day we were working right at our campsite, clearing blackberry bushes and scotch broom. Jess was there and we had a good time with her. On the second day, today, we drove a small distance to our next worksite. We were clearing out the milkweed thistles. Our workday was pretty easy and fun. –Lauren D.

Wednesday: We had many various goals this week. One of the main ones was to get home safe. Another is to complete all of our work. One of the main ones is to not blow up at each other and get fired with so few days left. These make up our main goals this week. –Cal B.

Thursday: This week we learned a lot more about each other. Jason taught us a lot about animals. Also we learned that pulling grass is an awesome job. –Jeremy S.

Friday: This crew has been through quite a bit over the past four weeks. They were thrown

together without any clue who they would be living and working with, and they had no idea what to expect about the program. Now, at the end of the session, I don't have ten individual crewmembers; I have a crew and a family. It was a challenge for some of us to open up to the others and share our hopes, fears, and dreams with strangers. But we're not strangers anymore, and I've seen everyone on the crew mature and become more sociable with one another. They're an amazing group and I'm going to miss them terribly once they drive away after graduation tomorrow. I hope they all take away some valuable lessons from their experience here, as well as some great memories. Thanks for an awesome session, everyone! –Jean W.

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

Waking up at 6:00 or 5:00 to cook. Charles N.

The 8-hour days. Spencer.

When the whole crew was in a cranky mood. Jeremy S.

When everyone was getting on everyone else's nerves, and something someone said about someone else made me snap and I started crying! Bummer. Kendra H.

My hardest day was when everyone was mad and upset and we were working an 8-hour day. Alex S.

My hardest day was when I was in a really bad mood and the crew only made it worse. Cal B.

The day when I got hot and tired and irritated, so I started snapping at people. Lauren D.

The times when we would get into fights, and waking up at 5:00 to 6:00 every morning. Amanda P.

My most challenging day at NYC was the day that my stomach was not feeling good. Shelsie F.

My most challenging days were probably when I got sick last week. Brent D.

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

Me time, seed pulling, and meeting new people. Spencer B.

When we got to share our personal experiences with each other, and having fun talking and joking not only on the job but in the van, and BSing in the tent... that was so much fun. Brent D.

New people, trail hiking, and food. Alex S.

The people, the drives, and the rovers. Jeremy S.

When I got to see Natashah after the end of my first week, during the second week when I couldn't stop laughing at dinner, and on the last Thursday morning I absolutely could not stop smiling. Kendra H.

I like the new people at NYC. Charles N.

Me time, seed pulling, being able to hang out with cool people. Cal B.

When the whole group broke out laughing, singing at work, and when we had ice cold soda.

The times when we would laugh our butts off, singing, and giving each other hugs. Amanda P.

The three things I like best about NYC are the rec trips, hangin' out with Orange Crew, and hangin' on 'til the end. Shelsie F.

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

Is that anything you do in a group, whether it's making dinner, cleaning camp, anything... it involves teamwork. Kendra H.

I will always remember the smiles on everyone's faces at 6am and wondering how the heck they are so happy. Jeremy S.

I will remember how a hard day of work feels and the exhaustion afterwards. Cal B.

I will remember the times when we were relaxed and happy and the times when we laughed so hard we couldn't breathe. Lauren D.

I will always remember the hard times as well as the good times and how much time it takes to do things. Amanda P.

I will always remember the fun times our crew had and I can't forget about Jean. Alex S.

Is all the people. Spencer.

Is all the people, and Jean. Charles N.

Is my crew, they were all unique in their own way. Brent D.

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

Appreciate the things I didn't have here at camp. I've learned while being here that I take a lot for granted and from now on I will try my hardest not to. Kendra H.

I will always appreciate nature and hard work and I will also appreciate all the little things I didn't appreciate before. Jeremy S.

I will always appreciate my ability to complete projects and the ability to work with other people. Cal B.

I will always be able to tell myself: "I can do better than this." Lauren D.

I will appreciate all the things that I thought weren't that important in life and the things I have that other people don't. Amanda P.

I will always appreciate all the simple and small things in life, because it's the small things that really make people happy. Shelsie F.

Appreciate sleeping in. Spencer B.

Appreciate plants more and other people, too. Alex S.

Like doing work. Charles N.

I will probably always lick my plate and wake up before 6 or 7. Brent D.

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

I have learned a lot, too much to even fit on this page probably. But a couple of things are tools, coping with people, helping people better, and to have fun with people I don't like. Brent D.

I have learned a lot in SEED. Charles N.

How to use all the tools. Spencer B.

At NYC I learned to get along, use tools, and eat some bad meals. Jeremy S.

A whole lot about nature, hard work, and others. Kendra H.

I learned about nature and how to meet new people. Alex S.

I learned to deal with people for extended periods, to use proper tool safety, and to cook on a propane stove.

I learned patience and participation and how to wake up at five in the morning.