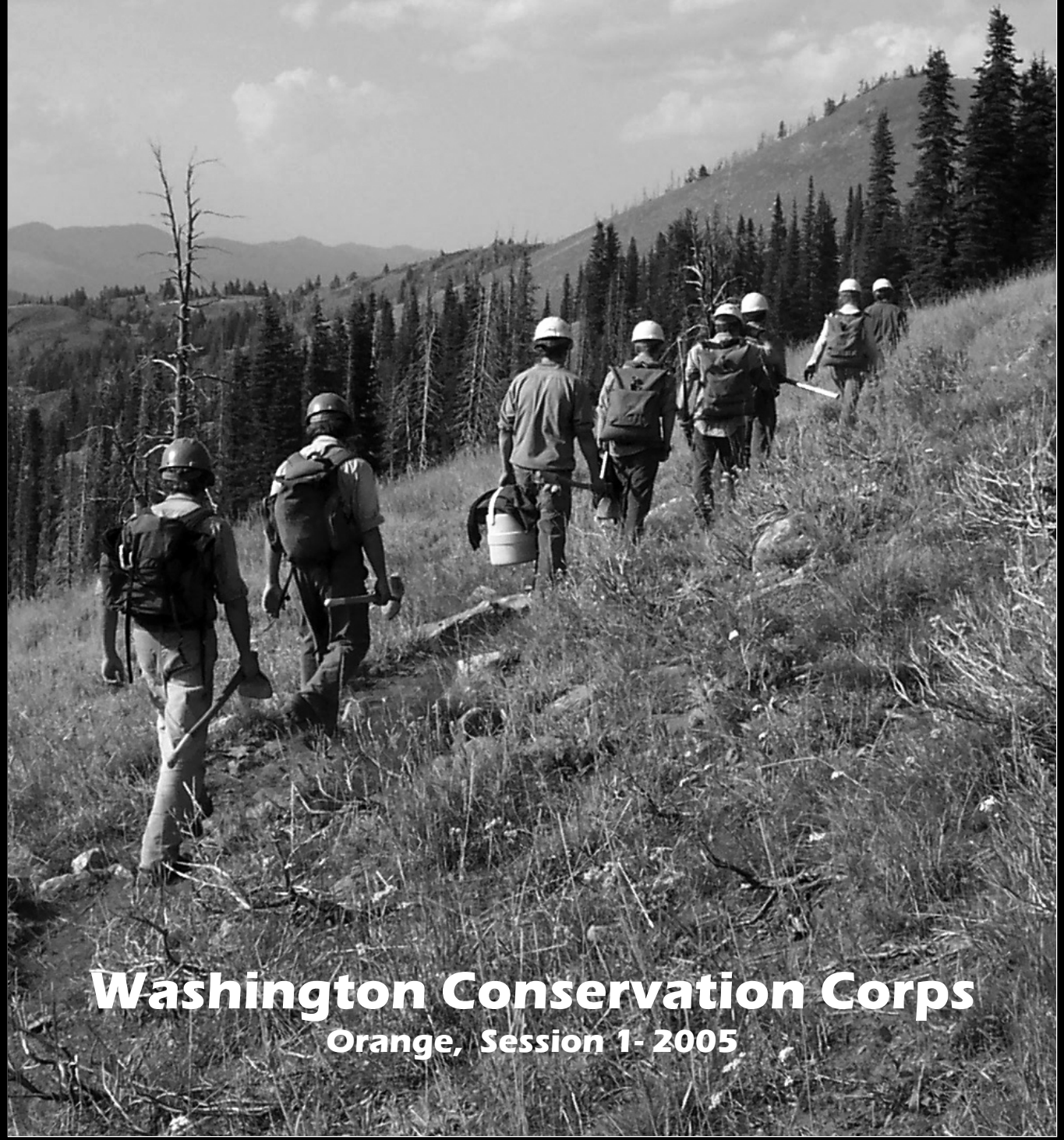




Crew Journal



Washington Conservation Corps
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,

Billy!

Billy Scrafford
Program Manager
a.k.a. "Office Geek"



**Salem BLM National Forest
Ranger District
Project Name- Horning Seed Orchard**

Week 1: June 12-June 18

Sunday: Today was the first day we got with our crew. We set up camp and made a list of rules. The crew seems to get along pretty good, there haven't been any problems between anyone yet and hopefully it stays that way. Today has been a pretty easy day but tomorrow we're going to start working. It was kind of frustrating trying to get to camp but once we got in there, there were no more problems. It kind of sucks that we can't have a fire, because it doesn't really feel like camping without one.

Cory E.

Monday: Today was our first day of work. We started at 7:00am. Our job was to weed the newest field. The rain was no ally of ours. As Brian, Forrest and I were weeding, we discovered a mouse burrow. Later we discovered that the mother took the mice away. Work was strenuous and I threw out my back. I think the crew is bonding very well. This morning Adam and I made pancakes. Mitch ate 20 pancakes.

Jeff W.

Tuesday: Today we did more weeding. The work was easier today because we spent most of the time doing quality control but we spent too much time doing it and ended up working longer just to pull out the larger weeds and clearing the path. We're done with weeding and we're starting a new project tomorrow. It didn't rain on us today at all which is good because it looked like it was going to this morning.

Cory E.

Wednesday: Today we got up earlier than everyone but I liked it and we had a nice day with little things to do. And we are finally out of the field. Every one at camp are finally starting to mesh. Everyone is working together. I think our goal of the week is to be done early with things.

Calder K.

Thursday: Today we went back up to the nursery and potted new plants for a few hours. Then we weeded a little and potted some more. A few of us moved plants and/or built gate-wire thingy's to put more plants in. Tomorrow we will work a little and head off to the weekend camp. We're all ready to buy some pop and candy, and stop work for a couple days.

Adam C.

Friday: Our Accomplishments for the week are we potted 1,272 plants. We also weeded a field of native grass that wasn't very aggressive, causing other plants to overtake the native grass. We also weeded a nursery for trees. Another accomplishment was making it through the week without throwing up from eating too much food. We're meshing pretty well. Paul, Mitch and Forrest seem to work very hard and push everybody else. We get along well and have fun making haircuts like the quad walk. We got Adam to talk more than he had.

Josh B.

National Forest or area that the work took place
Ranger District
Project Name- Wright Meadow Trail

Week 2: June 19th-25th

Monday: Our crew went up to the Silver Creek falls. All the crews got together and went on Rec. trips. It was fun. Later we played capture the flag and black team won by default. The dinner which was some turkey chicken stew which was totally righteous. After that bed time was good. Mike G. moved Pauls name and slept with Jeff!!! Thanks, good Bye!!!...Mitch K.

Tuesday: We are near Mt. St. Helens. We are refurbishing the trail. The trail is used by motorcycles hence forth ruts. It was rutted from humans and water going down the trail. There are also huge berms on the side affecting the draining for the trail. It seems more like we're building the trail than refurbishing....Josh B.

Wednesday: Our crew's goal for this job is to do 1 mile of trail work. And set all our hours and finish all projects and do not call Nils little Nils cause he does not like that and to get Adam to be more active and involved. To not say any more mom jokes, and for Nils to not suck his toes.....Calder K.

Thursday: I think that our crew had learned that people need to start to take better care of their personal hygiene and our team and crew had a very good experience with working with Fink who is a very productive and good, fast worker who had pushed us the whole time, to not slack off...Michael G.

Friday: One of our crew's challenges was to learn how to use our new tools. Another challenge was to refurbish one mile of trail. Today we awoke to blueberry pancakes and brownie mix. I ended up eating too much mix. Our crew blasted 5,249 feet at the end. We then went to the camp site. There we were supposed to but no one but evil doers showed up until 8:00 p.m. and then we had to relocate. We reached our new site at about 9:45, set up camp and (went) good night.....Jeff W.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Salem BLM
Ranger District
Project Name- Table Rock Wilderness**

Week 3: June 26th – July 2nd

Monday: This weekend we had parent day on Saturday. We had a fashion show. Dinner was pretty good but it was poorly planned, and there were too many people and not enough seating or food, so it took forever to eat. We also went on rec. trips.

Tuesday: We are in the Table Rock wilderness near Salem. We are rebuilding trail and cutting brush. By doing this we are making the trails more readily accessible and safer for hikers.

Wednesday: One of our biggest goals as a team for this week is to start respecting people and not criticizing people for their religion, race, etc. One of our other team goals is to make it up to the look-out tower without slacking and messing around. Yesterday Fink came before first brake and was sawing off all of the access stumps and trees in the way of the trail. He also was pushing us and helping us to try to achieve our goals....Michael G.

Thursday: This week we all learned about a hard days pay. Also, the fact that if you can stick through the bad, good will come out of it. For example, on Monday and Tuesday it was rainy and miserable, yet Wednesday and Thursday it was sunny and enjoyable. We also learned about the fundamentals of a team, how we all work, sweat and function on the good days and the bad. Except for Cory who just can't seem to get over it, and is quitting. We learned about the quitting process also....Nils J.

Friday: The challenge Friday was to live up to or surpass the effort we'd made Thursday and to complete the trail all the way up to the lookout. After work we went and did laundry in Molalla at the same Laundromat as week one. We went to a swimming pool for showers, which was very funny since most of us had never taken gang showers. The locker room from hell stole my watch, and that sucked. After Molalla we went up to Blue's camp and had dinner up there and played Mafia. When we came back we all went in our tents and stayed up late talking...Paul R.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Salem BLM
Ranger District
Project Name- Table Rock Wilderness**

Week 4: July 3rd - July 9th

Monday: This weekend we got rid of a crew member and we had gang showers for the first time, and we didn't have to move camp so we had rec. trips on Saturday and Sunday. We went and sat by a stream and let time pass. The next day we went again and Josh caught some little fish and Fletch left and went to the other group....Calder K.

Tuesday: We are up in table rock building, refurbishing and reconstructing some trail from Pechuck lookout to the end of high ridge trail. We were brushing for most of the day and at the end of the day we were refurbishing rooster rock trail. We were doing this because blue crew is helping us out on our hours so we are helping them on part of their trail.....Michael G.

Wednesday: Our goals for this week are to complete the re-route, max our hours and work our hardest. We have nearly completed the first goal and are trying our best to complete the other two. I believe everybody is working hard to fulfill our hours.

Thursday: Our crew learned that if we want water we must immediately after work go ½ mile to the water hole. We also learned how to chisel a mountain into trail. I think the most important thing we learned is that if you can spill tomato sauce and water on a crew leader in 15 seconds and be innocent, then you are something special. I learned not to run into non-rotted snags and that vine maple is the devil. We also learned to think and ask before doing. Paul has a new sound of a dying deer and we learned that big critters like it....Jeff W.

Friday: We blew through the re route with ease, and all that was left was to start from the top of the ridge and work down. We were all anxious to leave the site and worked at keeping each other motivated, and not to start slacking during the last two hours. I don't know how much total trail we did in the 3 weeks, but I'm going to guess around 2 (miles), maybe more. Things got a little hectic Thursday night, and tempers rose, but all was quickly restored to normal once we all started working, since you're too busy to complain, and once we left, since we were all glad to get out of there. Hopefully we get out of Oregon (specifically Molalla) this next week, and hopefully we get another podium without walls! We can't wait to get past the weekend and start a new project, since none of us have any money for rec. trips (or) store stops, phones, or laundry (and we're all too stingy to take it out of our checks!) I really hope we get some crazy retaining wall or a Silva culture job, since we're already too good at digging trail!....Paul R.

National Forest or area that the work took place: L & C National Historic Monument
Ranger District: NPS
Project Name-Fort To Sea

Week 5: Date: June 11th-June 18th

Monday: The Rec. trip on the weekend found us sleeping on the rocks of the week 3 rec site after a glorious lunch at Muchas Gracias. It rained pretty hard on us Saturday night, and we all slept really well for once. We'd been wide awake for almost an hour when the crew leaders finally got around to a wake-up call and we all had plenty of energy for taking down the weekend site. Sunday circle was the best we'd ever had since we learned we'd never return to Molalla again! We hit the road and gladly never looked back!...Paul R.

Tuesday: The project this week is building trail on a farm next to a coast guard house. We are in Seaside, a town not far from where two of our members live. We are building trail so people can hike to the beach. All in all this trail is a fun experiment to test our skills. Goodbye...

Wednesday: I think that one of our biggest goals this week is to finish all of our hours because someone decided they had to be a quitter. One of our other goals is to as a crew not fight or argue so much. People should also not criticize other people for what religion or race they believe or choose to believe in. Everyone is a good person inside...Michael G.

Thursday: In our many exciting SEEDs that we had on the beach. We learned about drugs and the way man affects the world. On the worksite we learned the pleasures of digging in cow pies. We are also about to learn about how bad TRIO really is. From what Jay says it's the devil but he doesn't like vesper either so that shows how much he knows...Forrest

Friday: Our crew accomplished many goals that span back weeks. Although we were not stuck on a definitive project we worked as hard as we could and finished the projects we received. We strained ourselves to finish the last project where we carried gravel down a steep hill. I believe we only needed to accomplish one goal: work our hardest. This goal we reached.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Oregon St. Park Ecola
Ranger District
Project Name- Indian Beach

Week 6: Date: July 17th-July 23rd

Monday: It was our last weekend site and everyone was glad for it. Here were some sweet rec. trips to a reenactment of a WWII battle. Our site was at a beach site that we stayed at the whole week for work so it was nice that we didn't have to move camp. We were super lucky because we had almost a week at the Oregon coast without rain....Forest

Tuesday: We are on the Indian Beach Trail building some turn pikes, stairs etc. Me and Jay also built a crib, which is support beams put under the trail to stop the trail from mud slides and things like that. Tomorrow's my Birthday and I'll be 17. wah wah wah who cares....Michael G.

Wednesday: Our crew's goal for the week would be to finish the start and water bars. Also one of our goals is to not work on Friday. Grab all of our stuff is always a good idea. Finish big clean quickly, and that's all...

Thursday: We learned how to make a turnpike. We also learned that if the food boxes and coolers aren't maintained then it is a pain in the rear to clean in the end. We learned a good day's work with all of the strenuous lifting. We learned that good things will come to those who wait...Jeff Williams

Friday: We managed to do our hardest work yet; well, considering a number of us were sick. We had to do a lot of hours at the beginning of the week. We got up at 5 o'clock most days. Finally we were able to build some stuff. We built a turnpike about 20 ft. long. We also built a crib to stop the trail from falling in. I personally have been sick all week, but everyone has worked hard like I have, this is our last week and we are all pretty excited...

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was probably the first Monday. That was hard because on the first day we had to get up extra early for breakfast!! As we are no where near awake we had to pull weeds for 8 hours. It wasn't too hard but coming from cozy to uncharted area is a little hard. Also connecting with your crew members is very hard. All that and the rainy weed pulling sucked....Mitch K.

My most challenging time at NYC was the very first day of the first week. When we first started working it was so hard when we first started that I had no idea how I would survive the 6 weeks of work. The work was boring but it was easy then it slowly grew harder and harder....Josh B.

My most challenging day at NYC was the Monday of third week because it was rainy and miserable the whole day. But I got through it and the rest of the way was smooth sailing...Forest B.

Waking up at 4:30 after pulling a 9 with charge!.....Paul R.

Pulling weeds our first Friday in the field...Jeff J.

When we were working on a cow pasture and Julie was our rover. I was pushing my self as hard as I could while trying to finish the trail by 1:00 pm so as to impress the contact....Michael G.

When we had to work in the cold raining days....

When I was sick and had no energy and had to work...Nils

When I was sick for 4 days at the Indian beach trail...

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

One of my favorite experiences was the view of the ocean in the 6th week. Other favorites were getting to meet new cool people and making money...Forest B.

My first favorite NYC experience is our first day of building trail my second is when we finished our first trail. Then when we arm-wrestled and I won....Josh B.

One of the best experiences was working at the beach for two weeks with 1 day of fun...Paul R.

meeting everyone 2) our Pechuck look out point 3) finding out I'm new and unique....Jeff

Week 3 at the top of a lookout, at the end of the 4th week my dad visited me, Week 5 on the beach watching the sun go down...Michael G.

Seeing the lookout 2) meeting new friends 3) pushing my limits....

My best experiences are all at camp and (there are) too many to say....

Pechuck lookout week 3, old growth forest week4, the beach week 5 & 6....Nils J.

Learning about trail, seeing all the mountains from Pechuck lookout, working at the beach

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Hard work pays off. Always...Paul R

I will always remember the recipes and my friends...Jeff

Work hard, play later...Josh B.

The friends I met especially Mike G. and Paul R...Forrest B.

People will appreciate what you do...Michael G.

Hard work pays off not just you but the other people that will see your hard work....Calder K.

Friends food, lovely pulaskis and the west coast...

The experiences of being on an all guys crew...Nils J

Working in the rain

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will never waste my food!...Paul R.

I will always appreciate a clean bed and clean socks...Jess J.

I will always shower when possible...Josh B.

Work hard...Forrest B.

I will now always look back and appreciate what I have now because some are unfortunate...
Michael G.

Not take things for granted...Clader K.

From now on I will always work hard and play while I'm working...

I will appreciate the small comforts of life; running water, shower, bed etc...Nils J.

Play hard...Adam C.

At NYC I Learned...

The harder you work, the more fun you have. Also, although waking up at 4:30 is hard and annoying, it's worth it since you get off work before the heat of the day...Paul R

I have learned if you work together, you'll accomplish more; also I learned not to underestimate. Last, I learned good hygiene means a better time...

At NYC I learned a bunch of trail phrases like the "toe and hinge." I also learned how hard I could work...Josh B.

I learned many useful things at NYC. I was taught about all the parts of a trail and everything that goes with one...Forrest B.

About what people think of you after the trail's finished and working hard pays off...Michael G.

At NYC I learned about metal and how to live with different people and I learned to be my self...Calder K.

At NYC I learned that you can fart on command (but I'm not supposed to brag)...also that smallness isn't always bad...

During my duration at NYC I not only learned how to build trail and work hard; but I learned how to push my limits...Nils J.

I learned about the forest and trail work as well as responsibility...