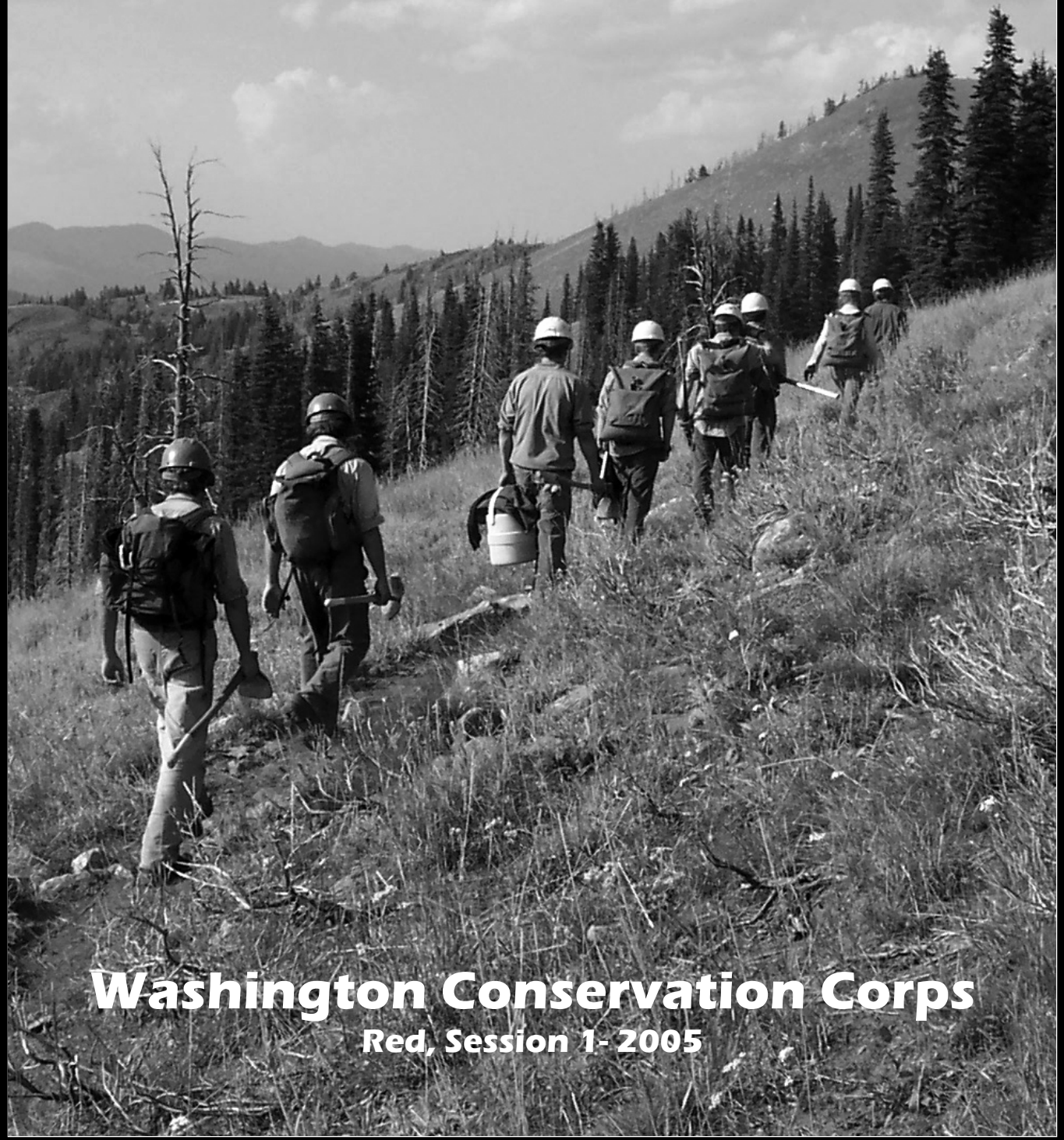




# *Crew Journal*



**Washington Conservation Corps**  
**Red, 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"



**Marion County Parks  
Ranger District  
Project Name- Niagara Park Trail**

**Week 1: June 12-June 17**

Sunday: We came from the NYC workshop place and came here to Niagara State Park. We set up the tents and the kitchen. We ate hamburgers and messed around on the rocks right by the river and then looked at a trail to see what we had to do.

Justin

Monday: Monday saw our crew buffing trails, filling holes, gravelling and building a bridge. Everyone was new to the proceedings, but all were willing to find the large rocks necessary to fixing a hole in the road. We put gravel down over old path, and sharpened the tread. The group also helped in putting together a bridge which had fallen apart. At the end of the day we made an entire box of ramen. There was too much and, Reeser and Sam ended up chugging the leftovers. We did our first SEED after that, and used our free time to play Mafia. Leo coined such phrases as “She’s a witch!,” “First we kill him, then we kill her!,” and “Reeser and Pen must die!”

Elizabeth A.

Tuesday: Used bags to finish the trail. We started graveling the roads. Cleared out picnic areas alongside the main road. Dan decided to try and cut a root that ended up being really big.

Dustin

Wednesday: Today we filled in potholes, cleared and graveled picnic areas. The days seem to drag on and at the same time are really short. Work is sorta tough. Clearing the area of vegetation 3 feet back on the trails was tiring after working hard since morning. Also a few of the crew dyed their hair red (including me). Every day we work together the closer we become.

Wayne

Thursday: Today we brushed a bunch on the road and filled in every pothole. We also spread gravel in several places. We named our wheelbarrow 'Wheelie McGee,' 'Betty Grable,' 'Squeaky,' 'Slave-o.' We named some other things like 'Superroot,' 'Darth Rock,' 'Luke Shovel,' and 'Pebble Me.' We chopped two picnic tables and made them firewood. This sums up our day.

Jennifer

**National Forest or area that the work took place Willamette  
Ranger District: Middle Fork  
Project Name- Deception Butte Trail**

**Week 2: June 19<sup>th</sup> – June 25<sup>th</sup>**

Monday: We split up into groups and did different things, did different kikes, went swimming. A couple groups went to a park and played football in the rain. It was really cool. Then we played capture the flag. When everyone got to camp (we) ate dinner and then had big circle time.....Justin R.

Tuesday: We are in Oakridge and we are building trails. We had to make it ourselves and there was nothing to start with. We had to cut a lot of big trees and we started to use a crosscut, which was fun. Oh yeah we are working on "Fitness Trail.".....Jennifer H.

Wednesday: Our crews goals for this week are clearing tons of trail, working harder and becoming more self sufficient! Remember what we wrote! Look at the back of the van. Work together better in a criticism free environment. Food was cooked with great efficiency with the help of Brian. We don't have (to) go through two gates to get water....Wayne B.

Thursday: We learned a lot more about digging trail and stuff. We also learned how to use a cross cut. Me and Wayne are the cross cut super team, we also learned. We learned how to level paths and remove humps and rocks. We also learned some different martial arts moves. In SEED we learned about the water cycle and some stuff about forest fires....Jennifer H.

Friday: This week we were working on a new fitness trail in Oakridge. We started with nothing but the marker flags and practically untouched land and turned it into the first part of the trail. Our start got us about half a mile to a mile in. The whole crew worked really hard and all of us took on several personal independent projects such as, digging out a large rock in the middle of the trail area or digging/cutting out roots and tree stumps that also blocked the trail. We were in an area full of old growth and many of the larger trees had fallen on the trail and we had to use the crosscut to get them out of the way. We were all excited to use the new tool, but slightly scared/intimidated by it as well. The crosscut was really cool because we had to work together in pairs in order to complete a job and it made us all feel closer together and increased our group sense of esprit du corps, like together we could all tackle any project, we were on a mountain side for a good portion of the trail and it was hard to cut back into the side of the mountain and one of our main safety concerns was sliding down the side but no one did or got hurt and we got the job done so we're proud....Kayla C.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Rainier Forest**  
**Ranger District**  
**Project Name-**

**Week 3: June 26<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Monday: On Friday we left Oakridge heading towards Mt. Saint Helens, roughly a seven hour drive. Once we made it to the Mt. Saint Helens area we searched for our campsite and in true NYC style we got lost. But later that night we met up with the rest of the Washington crew and then we set up and crashed for the night. The next morning we all got up and chose our Rec. trips for the day. Brian took a group out to the Ape Caves and a few people went with him. Others of us went out to June Lake and other various places. Most of us got mail and completely gorged on candy and cookies. Our weekend was hectic but fun...Kayla

Tuesday: We are on Mt. Rainier at a public camp site. We're all really happy because we have actual bathrooms. Yesterday and today we were brushing trail. It's about a mile and a half up to where we started. There is a lot of devil's club up here so we have to be careful of what we grab. We are mainly lopping everything within four feet of the trail on both sides. We're doing this because they only cut back the trails every 5 to 20 years so we have to do a really good job...Kayla

Wednesday: Our goals this week are to finish brushing and swamping all of the plants hanging in the trail for the first three days. Our next goal is to put in all of the check steps on the path with the cedar bars we made. We had to hike about two miles on our second job, and our goal was to do it in 45 minutes...Jennifer H

Thursday: This week we learned that it is good to put peanut butter on both sides of the bread when you make sandwiches so as to prevent sogginess. We also learned to only pack one kind of crackers for shotgun. We learned a lot about shotgun. We also learned how to split logs into cedar bars and planks with wedges and a sledge hammer...Jennifer H.

Friday: Red crew met many challenges this week. We had to work with the forest service as well as move to several different work sites. Hikers interrupted our work much of the time and we had to learn a great amount of patience. Still we managed to bust out quite a bit of trail and put in a sheet set of stairs and water bars. We also split cedar for water bars and planking for bridges. As a crew we sat down and worked out some of the problems we'd been having. Everyone is on the ball and work gets done quickly and efficiently...

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Mount Rainier National Park**  
**Ranger District: Parks Service**  
**Project Name- Seattle Parks Trail**

**Week 4: Date July 3<sup>rd</sup>-July 9<sup>th</sup>**

Monday: This weekend was different than others because we didn't meet up with all the other crews at a weekend site. Our crew also chose not to shower. We're crossing our fingers for next week. We went into Bonny, a town near our site roughly an hour or so away, while we were there we bought hair die, red of course because we all have crew spirit! Almost our entire crew has red hair, only two people don't it was Brian's weekend off so we spent most of Friday and all of Saturday with Shilo in town playing football and seeking the reason why everything in the area contains "410" in its name; it's because of highway 410...Kayla C.

Tuesday: Once again this week we are at Mt. Rainer and are still doing trail work. The drive to our work site is one hour but we have amazing views of Mt. Rainer all the way up. The trail we're working on isn't the smoothest, easiest trail so we're making it so by adding check steps and water bars, pulling, digging out roots and rocks so that the long hike will be easier for those who use the trail and there are a lot of people who use it. We see upwards of 20 people a day hiking the trail so that's why it really needs to be in great shape....Kayla C.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals are to clean up the trail and make the trail an easier hike for those who use the trail, as we previously noticed the trail is used a lot so it really needs to be well maintained and managed. We all are brushing trail to make it look nice and are adding check steps in the rough areas and even plan on making a ladder between some large trees and a steep bank side where the trail is extremely choppy. Aside from the work on the trail our crew has set goals to better our esprit de corps and respect for one another. We also really just want to have a lot of positive memories we can take home and think of after our session when NYC is done....Kayla C.

Thursday: The crew learned tons of new things on the trail; we laid out check steps and started on our ladder. We also put in drains and water bars. During one of our SEED's we learned that skills we develop out here at NYC are very transferable and desirable when we're applying for other jobs back home. Many of us found it surprising that some of the skills we learned by just busting trail like communication could help us out when we got back home. Our crew also learned another valuable life lesson or at least started to understand it; that some times you have to compromise and deal with things or people you might not want to deal with but in the end no matter what you must be civil and respectful... Kayla C

Friday: This week was a really big week for red crew. We learned a lot of new things on the trail and had lots of fun with it but we all grew up a little this week too. We spent hours moving huge rocks for a set of rock steps we needed to put in and then we also spent several hours around a fire talking about our problems and concerns as a group and then as a group decided what needed to be done and what needed to stop. Today we put in the last of our check bars in only an hour and a half, we're all really proud of that. Yesterday about 1/2 the crew stayed at the end of the trail and put in the stairs and a few check steps while the rest of the crew spent the last three quarters of the workday doing complete quality control over the slightly less than two miles of trail we polished up. We all really came together as a crew and busted the heck out of the trail and in the end we could all really see the work we had done and the difference it made in the trail...Kayla C

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Oregon State park**  
**Ranger District: National Parks**  
**Project Name- For t to Sea Trail Construction**

Week 5: Date: July 10<sup>th</sup>-July 16<sup>th</sup>

Monday: After two weeks in the Mount Rainer area and two weeks without seeing the other crews we headed down to the weekend site which this week was just outside Molalla, Oregon. The campsite was really small but we all were really glad to get the chance to see members of the other crews again. For our recreation trips we all stayed close in to camp and hiked some small trails one of which was an NYC built trail. Our crew was on dinner Saturday night and we made lasagna for all the crews and guests. We had a hard 30-45 minutes of rain

after dinner and missed Saturday circle but had a great big fun with the BLP crew...Kayla C.

Tuesday: This week our crew is in Astoria, we are building trail in an area where no hikers have been really. The new thing we are all really excited to learn how to build is a boardwalk, we got to see an example of one and we're even more excited now. Today we built a turn pike and will probably have to build many more because the trail is so muddy and mucky. As previously stated this trail hasn't really been opened to the public, so we're bustin it out so it can be opened faster and people can start enjoying...Kayla C

Wednesday: Our crew goals for the week are to gravel the entire trail we're working on because it's really muddy and difficult to walk on so it really needs it. We also just started getting ready to build a boardwalk we really hope to have that finished so we don't have to leave it for another crew of workers. We have another turn pike that needs to be finished and we hope to be able to complete that as well. Basically our goals are to do as much work as possible on this trail so that one other work crews don't have as much work to do and two; so this trail can be opened to the public sooner because it's a sweet trail that's probably going to get used a lot...Kayla C.

Thursday: This week our crew really learned that team work and communication are vital to getting a project done. We were all feeling the effects of some mung, especially Tuesday and we were just all really tired and it's easy to see on days like that, that when your crew's not doing well it's hard to get things done, so we all tried to get rest and take vitamins to get better and for the most part we did. Wednesday and today were really productive days for us. From the mung we all found that the "3 in" rule is really deeded. On the job site we learned a lot about turnpikes and are learning a lot about boardwalks and drains...Kayla C

Friday: Our crew's challenges were most definitely the boardwalk and the turnpikes. Working on the board walk was hard because we had to work for several hours digging in the mud. It was deep and we got stuck in it while trying to work. The turnpikes were hard because we had to lift heavy logs on our shoulders and carry them. Our accomplishments were graveling in a lot of trail, building three turnpikes, and building a fifty foot boardwalk...Jennifer H.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Willamette  
Ranger District: Detroit  
Project Name- Bruno Meadow**

Week 6: Date July 17<sup>th</sup>-July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Monday: We went to outside of Washington reloaded our food and tools. We went on rec. trips. There we also had the NYC Olympics. First event was the pudding eating race. Second event was Vesper chug. Third event was a race with goggles, gloves, chaps, helmet and a circle around a hazel then we left...Dan

Tuesday: For this week we are at Brunow Meadows working on taking out bear grass and other invasive plants. The reason for this is that there is absolutely no visual trail, so we are making clear trail....

Wednesday: Well yesterday we cleared 2000 feet. Today we cleared 3,494 feet and our goal for Thursday and Friday is to reach where we left off on Monday. We want, no, ARE going to be the best darn crew NYC has ever seen. Bear grass sucks, and our goal is to destroy it all and also woody plants suck. They too must be destroyed. Our goal is to end session WA1 strong...GO RED CREW....

Thursday: Thursday we learned how to deal with unexpected circumstances. It turned out we had all our hours so we changed lots in the middle of the day and hauled butt so we could have Friday off. We also looked how amazing we could be when we worked together as a crew, we broke down camp in 29 minutes! Everyone (worked) with each other smoothly and as quickly as possible

Friday: This week our crew's challenges were trying to keep working in the heat when we were tired and hot trying to not get distracted by the view and being aware of the LOD's. It was a really hard week because we were trying so hard to work hard but it was hot and we were all tired. Our accomplishments were brushing so much trail. We brushed about 2 miles total on three sections of a trail.

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

My hardest day was Tuesday of week 6. I was LOD and it's a big challenge.

My hardest day was having to leave my crew for a couple days due to injury...

My hardest day was on Rainier there was pouring rain all day and we had a couple mile hike uphill first thing in the morning...Wayne

Most of my work days were challenging in one way or another the most challenging day though was probably when I was an LOD...

My most challenging day at NYC was my day as an LOD. I was energized and had fun, but it was hard to take on so much responsibility...Jennifer

My most challenging day was the best day of work having to be LOD and work through extreme nausea from bleach water and through the hot day...Justin

My most challenging day at NYC was definitely my first day of work, knowing that it was the beginning of 5 weeks away from my friends...Kayla

My most challenging day was when I was LOD...Dan

My most challenging day was Tuesday of week six. Reeser and I were leaders of the day. It was challenging for me because I was responsible for everyone on a work site and in the camp...Leonid

My most challenging day was everyday of week six working in the scorching heat...Sam

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

1. Was all of the beautiful sites we saw.
2. Chugging Ramen  
The work

I will always remember the moments where the crew was utterly in sync, like the time where we had a water fight, making the crew flag, rough housing with the crew.

Eating dinner, carrying shaved logs and repeatedly dropping them. Going full bore on some new trail...Wayne

Getting to know the crew, being at the ocean with friends, traveling in the van

Being an LOD, going to the beach, working hard and busting my butt.

LOD, Cutting trees down, working at NYC.

Getting to know new people, The hard work, Learning new things...Sam Peltz-Smith.

Completing large projects, chixaxing after work, getting to the point where I knew what people would say and do if certain things happened, waking up for breakfast every morning...

Work, Work, Work....Dan P.

Getting to know people on my crew and staff of NYC, working all together as a team on big projects and building a lot of nice trail. Finishing up the trail project and walking back to camp on Friday; realizing how much work the crew had done...Leo

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

I will always remember Brian Scott.

I will always remember B.S. and the feeling of satisfaction in work well done...Ibba

I will always remember the beautiful places we saw and the people I worked with...Wayne

I will always remember how hard I worked and that I can push myself even more. I have no limits.

I will always remember the people and the things I learned...Jennifer

I will always remember the people I met here and the kind of work I got to do...

I will always remember my crew, especially my crew leader and the great times we all had working....Kayla

I will always remember how bad the ten smelled and how hard the work was and all the people I met...Sam Peltz

I will always remember Red Crew...Dan P.

I will always remember the great people I got to work with and live with during the past 6 weeks...Leonid N.

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

I will always have PMA from now on...

I will always give people a chance, regardless of first impressions...

I will always throw myself out there and talk more...Wayne B.

Be thankful for my family and all the time I'm with them. I will always take nothing for granted. Also I will always remember to camp at least once a year...Donnie

From now on I will always stay away from bad corporations...Jennifer

Watch for snags and widow=maker...

I will always know that even when I've pushed myself as hard as I think I can, that I can push harder...Kayla

From now on I will always love every minute of fast food...

From now on I will always realize how much work it takes to build a trail. Every time I will go hiking I will think about my crew and others who worked with me...Leonid

From now on I will always remember I can work harder and push myself farther and farther...  
Sam Peltz

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

People are people. At NYC I learned that not all people suck, also that cool cards mean nothing regardless of background...

At NYC I learned the potential of people to grow over short periods of time, how close you can get to people and how to sew.

At NYC I learned that not all people can be reasoned with also learned that eating tons of food isn't good. In addition I learned more about myself. Wayne. B.

I learned to be less judgmental about people. I learned that when you put more effort forth, you get more back. I also learned about working with people and not trying to do everything myself...

At NYC I learned it's fun to be dirty, working hard isn't as hard as it seems because all you need is motivations, everyone has good part of them...Jennifer

How to cut trees down, work efficiently, some of the stuff from SEED...Justin

That living with 11 strangers can be really awesome. That a lot isn't needed to live, that nature's beauty is endless...Kayla

I learned to respect people's knowledge more, some SEED stuff, how to I.D. plants....

I learned how to communicate with people better. I also learned that the best way to lead is leading by example. I learned a lot of things about nature during SEED...Leonid

I learned good work ethic, ways to communicate better, that there always can be harder things.....Sam