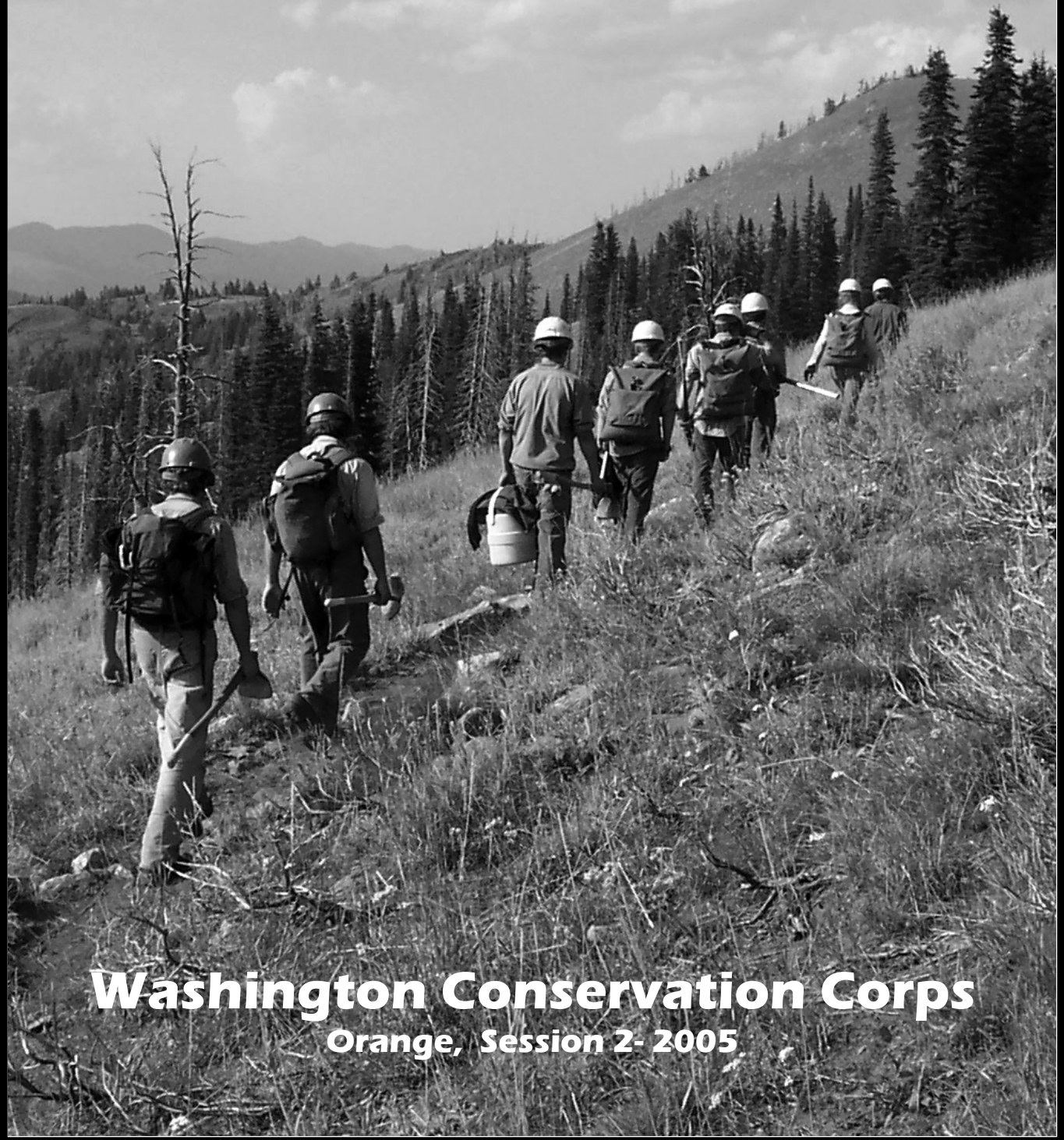




# *Crew Journal*



**Washington Conservation Corps**  
**Orange, Session 2- 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"



**National Forest: Willamette  
Ranger District: Middle Fork  
Project Name- EPCT**

**Week 1: June 11-June 18<sup>th</sup>**

Monday: Today was the first day of work and I think I speak for the whole crew when I say it was pretty hard. The crew seems to be coming together pretty well, we are all starting to joke around and “bond.” I think this crew is ready for the hard work and obstacles that lie ahead, even though sometimes we will wish we are in the swear bubble. Here’s to the next six weeks. (toast at dinner)...Peter B.

Tuesday: We are fixing the switch backs and building them and also the trail. We are at the Eugene to PCT trail project area. We walked on a trail for three miles and began work. Also the biggest event was when Spike hurt his ankle. We got done and walked the other trail for two miles. We got back and took pictures and now we are doing chores and getting ready to eat. Go rock-rolling Orange Juice!!!.....Kevin P.

Wednesday: It would seem to me that our goal for this week is to get Spike in working condition and bust some acorns and finish the short re-route tomorrow. Today, while no one was looking that dang

sasquatch stole a yellow top and brought it back to camp for us, (we left it behind.) Man that sasquatch, he's out to ruin us. I look in shadows and see his beady eyes and then he vanishes. Maybe I'm paranoid, but I doubt it. I think sasquatch is just toying with us, biding his time. I don't know what it's planning but I fear the worst. Just kidding. End log 2717.....Levi G.

Thursday: Being the first week we have learned a lot. Like how to build the tents, how to cook a decent meal with limited supplies and of course how to build a trail using many different tools for different purposes and situations along the trail. For example, the rock bar is used to pry large rocks out of mountain sides and the high reach saw is used to saw off branches at a high height, which would get in the way of a hiker. Not only along the trail, we also learned to have a fun time with our crewmates...Wesley H.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Wilamette National Forest**  
**Ranger District: Middle Fork**  
**Project Name- Eugene to the Pacific Crest Trail**

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

Monday: We played some dumb games. We got lost and had a shower and washed clothes. We went on different quests Saturday for our day off. Fox left and we want him back. Some of us are really bonding and some want to leave. We got mail and made a huge fire. We traveled on Sunday to the place we are now. Hopefully we can have fun and do things that we like and not get bored...Kevin P.

Tuesday: This week has been in my eyes pretty stressful! We are pulling Hounds tongue outside of Prineville and so far our progress is going well. The work we are doing is not too hard, it's just very tedious and the heat makes us all tired. The worst of the project is done, and now we have to cover the lesser infested areas so we don't complain anymore...Peter

Wednesday: This week we plan on covering at least 200 acres and eradicating that devilish hound's tongue! We also want to have fun while we're out there so we're playing lots of name games and talking while we work side-by-side. This week has been "stormy" and challenging so far. Our main goal is to make it to the weekend healthy and whole...Grace

Thursday: After a long week of pulling hounds tongue it became apparent that there was more to the Northwest Youth Corps than maintaining trails. Despite the monotony of the weed pulling we will all receive a silva culture sticker to go along side our trail sticker. If we managed to succeed in such a boring project (compared to the last one of course,) With Fox returning (hopefully), we hope to have a good welcome back for him and continue our fun job...Wesley

Friday: This week we had to deal with a missing person due to events that occurred during the weekend. We had to make the hours by working an extra half hour each day. During the week we eradicated hounds tongue. We had several priorities and we managed to get our first priority done of about 160 acres. We also got up earlier to work during the colder hours of the day so we didn't have to work long in the hotter hours of the day. One day this week we went down to the river and played around....

**US Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Columbia National Wildlife Refuge  
Project Name- Russian Olive Removal**

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

Monday: This weekend we went to Memaloose State Park. Nate's family came to visit. He shared his vegan pizza, cookies and bread with us. We went on several rec. trips. Our crew leader Grace had the weekend off and we missed her very much...Levi H.

Tuesday: This week we are removing evil Russian Olive with six inch thorns that cause swelling and attack with no mercy. We counter attack with our fearless and relentless leader's grave and Mumbles on roarin chain saws. This is important work because the plant takes over the local ecosystem...Nate M.

Wednesday: Our goals for the week are to cover many acres in the Columbia National wild life refuge as we can. Mostly we need to follow ravines and creeks until all the Russian olive trees are cut down. We also paint herbicide on the stumps.

Thursday: We learned about ecosystems. Especially since we are eradicating a noxious weed we learned why and how plants can take over an area. Mumbles also taught a great SEED. It showed us how to use a map and compass. Thomas was around and he helped us manage our time better which was a lesson we all needed...Ben J.

Friday: We had lots of trouble staying focused as a team. There were many times when we got distracted in conversation. This was partly due to the fact that the project site is really hot and we want to do trail work. On the flip side of that we managed to stay motivated and not get lost in negativity. This is a big accomplishment for us since we struggled with maintaining our positive mental attitudeds (PMA's). We are really proud of ourselves!...Wesley H.

**National Forest: Wenatchee  
Ranger District: Leavenworth  
Project Name- Indian Creek Trail Maintenance**

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

Monday: Our crew this weekend was alone on a campsite because everyone else was in the back country where we are now. A few of us took a hike, then we packed up and made our way here. Also we had some difficulty with the trailer but we got it going. We walked six miles and got there 9 hours after we started....Kevin P.

Tuesday: We are in the back country and are working on brushing a trail that is being used as a detour for the project we are doing it to maintain the trails for the hikers. We have found three bees nests and I got stung. We also woke up in the pouring rain....Brian W.

Wednesday: This week we plan on busting through miles of trail brushing! Not only our work, we are really binding strongly as a crew and we work hard to maintain that balance. Everyone is a teacher and so we are learning every day. This week we have stepped up our intensity and endurance. We want to get out of the back country in just four hours as well...Grace

Thursday: Our crew learned a lot of discipline this week. We had a hard time hiking in with one sick member so we got more easily frustrated when something didn't go according to plan. We also had a hard time rationing food for lunch and dinner and ended up with too much break-fast food. It also rained on Tuesday and some of us got wet from poor planning. Through our mistakes, we learned that if we just buckle down and focus, we can finish any job perfectly... Nate M.

Friday: This week we had to adjust to a second rover- Fletch. He makes us do a lot of push ups but we will be burly by the end. We had a big challenge getting into the back country. Hiking six miles in took us nine hours! But guess what? Our hike out was much faster-in three hours we made it to the van. The hike out was a huge accomplishment and a great symbol of our growing strength and teamwork....Grace

**National Forest: Wenatchee**  
**Ranger District: Leavenworth**  
**Project Name- Boulder Creek**

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

Monday: We had a weekend site and swapped stories. For rec. trip we had a scavenger hunt in Leavenworth. My team stopped at Cold Stone ice cream place- it was Very good! We even got weird costumes and a signature from an Alaskan. All in all it was very fun. We had parents visit and a really good dinner including fruit salad and all the vesper, pop, and cookies we could eat and drink. We woke up Sunday packed up and headed up for back country. The hike was twice as hard but mules packed up most of the food and tools. Sweet....Levi G

Tuesday: This week, (just like the last one) we are working in Glacier Peak wilderness. This time we are working on the trail known as Boulder creek Trail. Just like last week, we are brushing trail so the hikers can get through the trail with ease. Along with brushing the trails, we are constructing drains along the muddy spots to ensure the safety of the hikers...Wesley

Wednesday: This week we have a goal of reaching an area where rocks have fallen down. This is significant because after we get to this we can start working on the highest part of our trail. On the upper part of this trail we will have to dig trail....Mathew C.

Thursday: Our Crew this week has learned many values and lessons. One is the value of nature and how good and wonderful it is. Also we learned how to suck up and deal with things even though they are going bad...Kevin P.

Friday: This week we managed to reach our goal of finishing the shorter part of our trail on Thursday allowing us to start on the upper part of our project. It is difficult to stay on task

when we are lopping day after day. Lopping is very boring. Also everyone is looking forward to finishing the project and the session; throughout the session we have accomplished many things that have been challenging. I think the best thing would have to be working as a team...  
Matthew

**National Forest: Wenatchee**  
**Ranger District: Leavenworth**  
**Project Name- Boulder Creek Trail**

**Week 6: July 17<sup>th</sup>-July 24<sup>th</sup>**

Monday: This weekend we hike to Boulder pass at the top of the mountain. Some of us played in the snow at the top, and then we stopped to see the view and eat lunch. After the hike down, we saw some marmots laying on rocks in the meadow and decided to rest in the meadow.

Tuesday: Our crew has been brushing the Boulder Creek Trail since last week. This week we have been building drainages along the trail and so far we have all had a chance to build at least one. Our project is definitely better this week now that we get to swing pulaskis...Nate

Wednesday: We hope to complete our project of brushing the switchbacks before the end of this week. We also plan to clear some rocks on the trail above. Among the crew, we hope to bring together our abilities and work the hardest we have worked this whole session...Nate

Thursday: We each learned that we must all put our differences aside and agree to get along to successfully get our work done, which includes trail work, camp work, and just keeping our attitudes positive...Nate

Friday: The crew had a ton of stress and frustration built up and one challenge was staying positive throughout the week. One of our big accomplishments was finishing everything we needed to do on the work site, which was also a big challenge. On a smaller level, our biggest challenge and accomplishment would have to be hiking up to the pass really fast and working our way down on Wednesday...Nate

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

My most challenging day was the very first day.

Loving the 5 Gallon...Ben Johnson

The first day; adapting to the program...Wesley H.

The first hike to the back country, uphill was a killer...Levi G.

Being There...Tyler A.

The eight mile hike back-country...Nate M.

Getting to know 8 other guys in six weeks...Matthew C.

Hiking into camp 8 miles in the rain and getting to camp exhausted; having to still cook, set up camp and fill water...

Getting to know everyone....Kevin Parson's

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

Working on trail, meeting new people, having a great time...Brian W.

The ninja game, rolling rock and finishing NYC...Ben

Swimming after work, eating, cooking...Wesley H.

Hide and seek, cooling off in water after work, and having fresh fruit....Levi G.

Hiking, our last back country scenery, graduation...Tyler

Working in an environment surrounded by mountains and natural scenery, learning more about environmental conservation, and being on a fun and dynamic crew....Nate M.

Hanging out with a bunch of guys, going on recreation trips with my friends, coming back for another session with NYC...Mathew C

Learning about trail building and maintenance, playing in the snow in the middle of July in 90 degree weather, camping in the middle of the forest surrounded by beautiful scenery....Peter B

Hiking eight miles in the backcountry, playing in snow after work, the weekend sites...Kevin P

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

Orange Crew...Brian W.

Brian getting stung (in the) eye...Ben

The great people at NYC...Wesley

The great importance of Ramen backcountry...Levi

The scenery...Tyler A.

My crew members, crew leaders and rovers...Nate M.

The fun times...Mathew C.

The good and the bad times I have experienced with my crew...Orange Crew!!...Peter B.

The scenery, my crew, leaders, and sasquatch...Kevin P.

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

Stand up for my self and my friends...Brian S.

Remember that I can do anything I put my mind to...Ben

Appreciate the little things in life that make a great difference...Wesley

Have patience with people I don't know well and think twice before I say something stupid...  
Levi

Remember NYC...Tyler A.

Practice what I preach...Nate

Appreciate the work that goes into trail...Mathew

When times get tough, just stop for a minute and let my surroundings soak in to calm down and figure a way to get through them in one piece...Peter B.

Food and all the good and bad things life has to offer...Kevin P.

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

I learned how to tie knots...Brian W.

Poison Oak is bad...Ben J.

Knots, setting up camp, trail maintenance...Wesley H.

Minimum impact, making trails better overall, and learning how to deal with other people...  
Levi G.

It's an awesome one time program...Tyler

That work is easily accomplished with group effort...Nate M

Throughout my NYC experience I learned to make the best out of working with people who have other differences and styles of work ethic. Also that when working the best way to make the hard rainy day go by is to keep working and no matter what try to keep a positive attitude. Yet overall I learned while working with NYC you must “step out of your comfort zone.”... Peter B.

Don't wipe with poison oak, setting up camp, dealing with issues verbally...Kevin P.