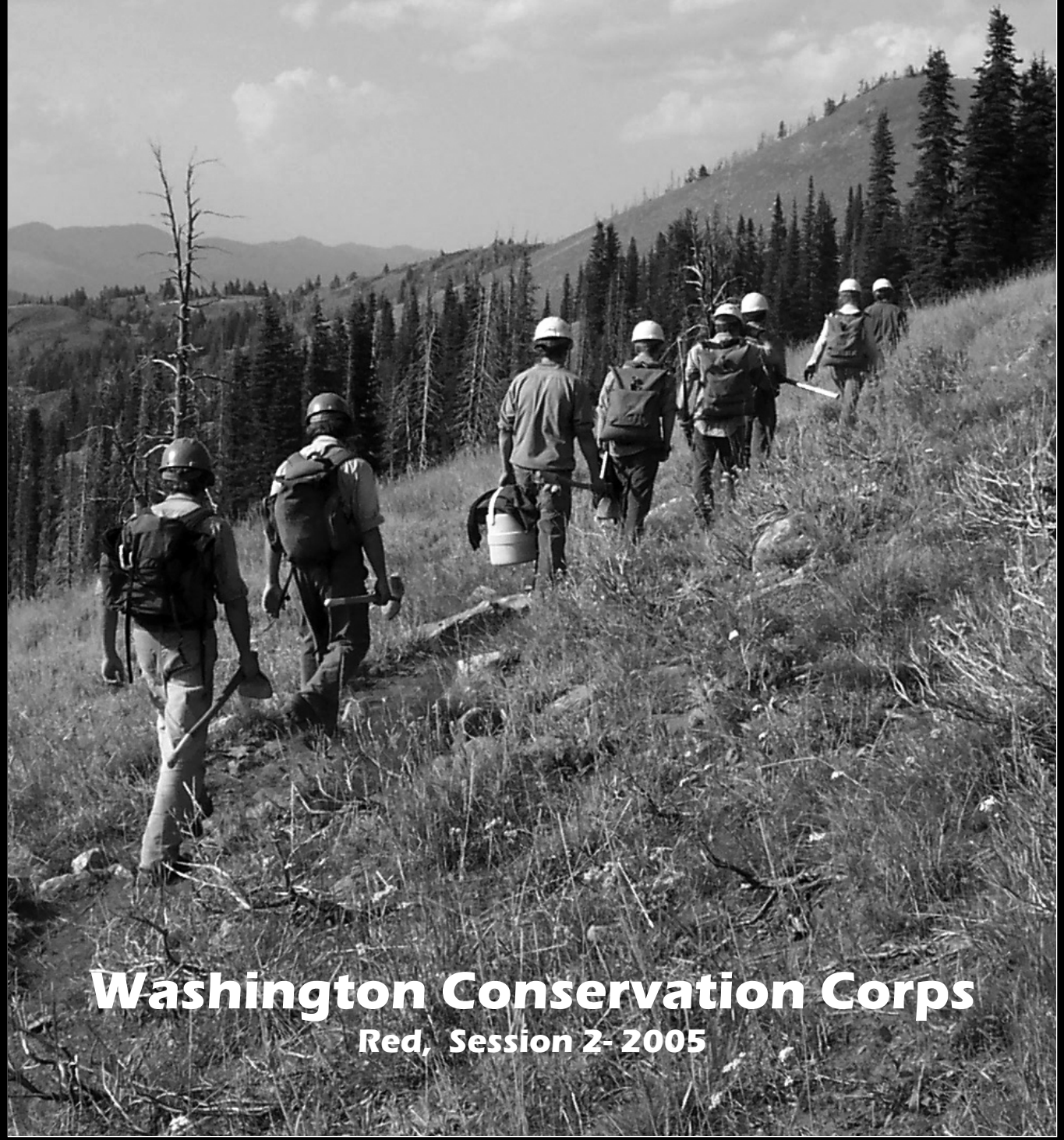




Crew Journal



Washington Conservation Corps
Red, 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: Ochoco
Ranger District: Paulina
Project Name- Hounds Tongue

Week 1: June 11-June 18th

Monday: Anticipation dances between each soul as Grandfather begins his sleep spiral from dreamtime. Spider weaves her silken thread person to person in game, in riddles, in silent communication. The first day stretches and purrs, tickling mind and fancy as grandfather races to his peak his eye waxes. Hot and the crew gathers beneath the mother's trees for break and lunch. Slow as grandfather's heavy eye begins to droop and the crew heads home the knot of bondage tightens...

Tuesday: My first day of work was not the most fun, but all in all there were some fun times. That was especially when we were playing games (when we weren't always being yelled at.) I'd have to say weeds aren't my favorite thing to be working with. All together I'd have to say it was a pretty good day, but sun burns are not cool!...Lacey

At the end of another hard day, I have to make the effort to stay psyched about another 5 and a half weeks of this. We were up at 6 am again; 5 minutes later I am out of the tent and dressed. The eggs are cold so I choke down some granola and yogurt in the few moments I have before we pile into the van with our gear. To wake up and get going we listen to bad country and pop music loudly on our way to the work site. (Got lucky and heard some Bowie today!) This is the only music we get to listen to and I appreciate even the songs I don't like. At the site it's safety circle-stretches and then back to pulling the vicious weeds that plagued my dreams the night before. They're wicked little suckers, "Hounds Tongue" they call it, and I swear they are smart enough to grow in the most precarious of places, making our job as tough as they can. Our contact meets us at the site and tells us there was a thunder and lightning warning on the radio-we never do see any though-we start on the west side of the hill we were doing yesterday. Before moving on to new ground we do a sweep and try to get out all the weeds that were hiding yesterday. Our contact was good enough to bring us a thermos of real coffee this morning and by (oh I am really thankful!) sometime around 11:00 we move up and over the hump of the hill separating the east and west sides of the hill- new ground! Soon enough it's lunch time and we're all glad to have some time, even if it isn't too much, off our feet. After lunch we descend the east side and the terrain gets rough; dead burned out trees are strewn across the whole hill and the rock formations get tricky. My boots are grating my toes and I dream of skate shoes with their excessive padding. I think everyone is getting tired, even our group leaders seems short on patience. At the end of the day we have to lug the 45 gallon bags we've been filling with the corpses of our enemies. I am so eager to get into that van that I carry 3 or 4 at a time back up the harsh ground and steep hills. Finally tool count is done and I get to sit down on a cashier! Sweet relief! Now it's going on 3:00 in the afternoon and we head back to camp to do chores and get some rest. Another long day, but the work is satisfying (or finishing work is!) and some R&R sounds real nice. I am looking forward to pizza for dinner and the good night's rest that comes from a hard days work...

William M

Wednesday: I heard there are wild horses in our area, I want to see them so bad! A lady is coming to talk to us about them on Wednesday and I hope she brings pictures. Thinking about them makes me miss my horse and think about all the animals on my family's farm...Nikki S

Thursday: Tonight we packed up camp and got ready to go to the weekend site. I'm so glad to be done with pulling weeds especially hauling them up the hill that was never ending. Everyone was really tired when we were done but we are happy with the job that we did...Savanna

Friday: We woke up at 6:00 and loaded up in the van. Then we headed to the work site. Then we got to the work site and got out of the van and got in a circle and told our safety concerns and did some stretches then we grabbed our tools and went to work until 9:30 then we went to a break, then we went back to work till lunch. After lunch we got back to work pulling up the hounds tongue. Then we stopped at 4:00 and headed back to camp and started doing our chores. Then we had SEED around a fire and then went to bed...Josh

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

Week 2: June 19th-June 25th

Monday: We stayed in Ochoco National Forest in a meadow. The crew made barbeque chicken and a vegetarian rice dish. There were various rec. trips: Prineville Rodeo, John Day fossil beds, the lake, and a hike in Ochoco forest. Red crew was assigned to eradicating Russian olive trees in the Columbia National Wildlife refuge....Stepahny R.

Tuesday: Oh man, where to start. First thing I woke up to is people telling me to get up for the third time. I didn't even remember waking up until 5:20. Everyone was completely exhausted by 12:30 so we all sat and drank water for 30 minutes. Eight to nine hour days ensue. Still it is a better experience than sitting at home all day. Oh yeah, Scott decided not to leave so go Scotty! Just the way your mother likes it....Sam

Wednesday: For this week our goal is to get rid of all of the Russian Olive trees. They range from little twigs to giant tree looking plants. They are covered in thorns! We are trying to finish up this project before the end of the week. We are trying to keep our crew together. This week it seems to be a big struggle. We are losing 2 people, Matt and Scott. It's a bummer...L.J.

Thursday: We woke up very early and went to work pulling and cutting the Russian Olive trees. We finally finished our area so we got off early and went swimming because there was no more work for the day. When we got back from the river we had dinner with the blue crew. Then when the blue crew left we packed up the trailer and went to bed....Josh

Friday: Today red crew had a short day and we were sleeping all day because we woke up at four o'clock. We were cutting down Russian Olives. We found a huge one growing out of a dead one. We, as a crew are so happy that we made it this far and we only have 4 weeks left. We all make a great crew. Our crew is having some problems with people wanting to leave but our crew is strong enough to make it through everything...Nikki

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

Week 3: June 26th-July 2nd

Monday: On Friday we left the Columbia Wildlife Refuge for good. We pulled out of camp at 4:00am (!!) Worked 5 hours and drove to the weekend spot. On Saturday our parents came to visit after our rec-trip. I got a care package from my dad with my mom's home-made cookies! On Sunday we drove to the trail head to our back-country camp site. We will be nine miles into the forest for two weeks! The rest of Sunday was spent hiking. I had never hiked with a 65lb backpack on before. We only made it a mile and a half before it got dark. On Monday we hiked the next 8 miles. It was definitely the hardest most difficult thing I have ever done! Then we set up camp and slept a hard earned night's sleep.

Tuesday: Red crew is at Wenatchee wildlife refuge in the alpine lakes area. We're brushing trail, brush consisting primarily of vine maple. We cleared a swatch 8' on the uphill slope and 6' on the downhill.

We're also building drainage dips and rock water bars to divert water off the trail so horses don't sink in the mud...(night wolf)

Wednesday: We are going to finish some drain dips and continue working on removing the rain maple from the existing trail, we have done about 250 feet and are aiming for 950 feet, which we hope to accomplish before the 2 weeks are over.

Thursday: This was my first week with red crew so I didn't really have any basis to judge their knowledge on, however, we did learn that vine maples are easy to kill, that you have to cut them at the root or as near to it as you can get and that hiking is not fun in the least. The latter part of all this knowledge comes from our 91/2 mile hike and the soreness and pain that followed. It was a great week...Curtis

Friday: We woke up at 4:30 and ate breakfast and then we went off to work. We then took a break and went back to work for a few hours. Then we went to lunch. After lunch we got back to clearing the trail. About 1 and a half hours after lunch Savannah and Conerz hiked out and headed to the van. Conerz was taking Savannah to the clinic to check out some spider bites that she got earlier in the week. Then we finished off the day and headed back to camp. When we got back to camp we had a break and did our chores....Josh

National Forest or area that the work took place: Wenatchee National Forest
Ranger District: Leavenworth
Project Name- Ingalls Creek Trail

Week 4: July 3rd-July 9th

Monday: Some members and Thomas went on re-supply while the remainder of the crew hiked to Ingalls Lake with Blue crew. There we either swam, relaxed or went boulder climbing. A couple of people meditated. From where we were, we could see Mt. Rainer. Then we hiked back towards our separate camps and waited for the re-supply group. After they got back we put away the food and bedded down for another day of trail work...(Night Wolf)

Tuesday: My crew is working in the Wenatchee forest. We have been assigned to cutting back trees and shrubs so that the hiking paths look better. Second we started digging trenches for the water to escape better into the forest. It is hard work when you're in the sun but it's worth it...Lacey

Wednesday: We have completed our goal for this week. Thus we are following drain dips. We did a lot of drain dips and also restored a lot of them too. We restored a bunch of trail and built rock and log water bars. We created a rock dam and cleared brush from 8-10' of the trail. It was hard sometimes, but we all had fun while doing it. Blue crew and yellow crew helped us out with the hours along with Billy's and Thomas's hours for the hike up. We are making all our hours this week so we can soak up the chillanation...Sam

Thursday: This was my second week with red crew and although I can't speak for everyone else, I know I learned that perseverance is an honorable quality in people, and that it is sometimes better to forgive a person than argue back. I learned that everyone has a story to tell and a reason for being the way they are. I learned to trust in myself and to have faith in my abilities...Curtis

Friday: This week we worked on drain dips. We got about 7 drain dips completed and we also worked on some trail maintenance. We duffed trail and removed rocks, and we also did some brush work. We got done with our project early so we could improve the trail that leads to our camp. Savannah got sick and she had to leave which brought the crew down but we had a great two weeks....Nicole S.

National Forest: Wenatchee
Ranger District
Project Name- Eagles Creek Trail

Week 5: July 10th-July 16th

Monday: On Friday, after hiking 9 miles out we decided to go swimming. After washing our clothes we went to a local swimming pool and chilled in the hot tub and sauna. Then we all met at the weekend spot. Saturday we went on a Scavenger hunt through Leavenworth. It was a Bavarian town. All of camp met back up and had a big hoedown with lots and lots of parents. On Sunday we got all packed up and left for a Five Mile Hike in. Wasn't too hard, and we dropped Connors and picked up Matt and Grace....Sam

Tuesday: We are working on Re-routing a trail in parts and now tomorrow we are going to be building a rock dam. We are also working with the crosscut. We have been cutting an 8 foot trail. Today has been a good day...Nikki

Wednesday: We woke up at 4:30 AM went to work for 8.5 hours. We made some new trails and rolled a few boulders down a hill into the river. When we got back to camp we did our chores and a few of us went to the river and hung out till dinner was ready. Then after dinner we did our SEED and went to bed....Josh

Thursday: My crew learned how to be better team members and how to work together better, and we also learned to make really bomb food and how to cope with other crewmembers. I really enjoyed the work we did and it was really rewarding. We did a lot of rock work and it was really rewarding. We did a lot of rock work and other rock related things. It was tons of fun and very rewarding...Curtis

Friday: My crew has been building a lot of rock water bars. Drainage dips seem to be very important to the Wenatchee forest. I would say that when we are finished with this project it will be so much easier for horses to come through! Clearing out trail and rock helps out hikers when they pass through. These two weeks are pretty much creating a new and better looking environment. When we first started we were always tripping over things (roots, rocks, and twigs). I never thought I would be tired of lopping. All I have to say is hikers and horses will be happy....L.J.

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

Week 6: July 17th- July 24th

Monday: This weekend I had the privilege of being involved in the re-supply mission and had a great time doing it. We (Josh, Will, Sam and I) hiked 5 miles out to the van, where we hurriedly packed our packs full of food. (mostly perishable) and then drove to a local gas station for a bite to eat and some fuel. We loaded up, drove back and hiked back to camp, all in the space of 8 hours...Curtis

Tuesday: We were cutting new trail and brushing out the old trail. We all got to use the crosscut saw. Rusty wanted his trails to be wide enough for a horse to walk on it with a back on. So we cleared 3 feet on each side of the trail...Nikki

Wednesday: Today we slept in a little more than usual then we went to work. We worked an 8.5 hour day and we met up with yellow crew which means we finished the project.

Thursday: On Thursday we met with Yellow crew after our last day of work. We kicked it and chilled with beans, rice and pasta for grub. It was relaxing to know that we had all made 1500 bucks (except for Curtis) I like this day the most....Sam

Friday: My crew did not have any challenges this week. However, we did dig a lot of trail for the fifth week in a row we finished our project early...

There wasn't a whole lot to do. Everybody was excited because the six weeks was finally ending. As an NYC member you need a lot of patience. I think everybody learned a lot. I definitely learned a lot. This is why I'm coming back again next year. It has been fun. Larry

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

Keeping constant PMA, especially on the mornings I felt really bad-it paid off in the end to keep the positivity...Night Wolf

My most challenging experience was hiking 9 miles with a heavy pack on my back, but when Beth was telling me to say I can, it made it easier to do...Nikki S.

The most difficult challenge I was faced with was to hike 18 miles in one day over a mountain with a 50lb. back-pack. That was not only the largest hike I've ever done in one day, buy my first experience back-packing as well. It felt great to realize my physical potential and to complete such an epic journey!

My most challenging experience was hiking the first 9 miles of our first back country project. Uphill was a real challenge for me. Down Hill has become my favorite thing besides the swollen ankles but I have over come most of my challenges...L.J

My most challenging experience was hiking 9 miles with 60 pounds in the morning...Curtis

The day I had the most challenge with was hiking 18 miles, 9 in AM, 9 in PM. It was pretty hard but it made me feel invincible.

My most challenging moment is when we all had 60 pound packs and we hiked 9 miles up a mountain and back down....Josh M.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

I liked the first day because I got to meet 10 people who I didn't know. Now I know them all so much. I also like singing in the van with Savanna, we sang one of the songs I like the most. I have liked week 5 because everyone was so happy to know that we only have a week left. I was glad to know that I made it six weeks and am coming back for the next 5 weeks...

Back country was the most difficult and the raddest! Being in the forest is beautiful and good for the soul. Working through sunrises is off the hook...William

Watching an Orange moon rise over a mesa, seeing and howling at a waterfall...Night Wolf..

The day we hiked 18 miles in one day, chillin on the weekend eating some vegan pizza, picking wild huckleberries...

Rolling rocks down a hill, swapping Russian olive (huge thorns), Singing with my group...
Lacey

Driving Home, cooking breakfast at 4:30 AM, Sleeping in till 11:00

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I would have to say that for the most part, my experience in NYC has been pretty good and worth remembering. I have had a lot of fun, and most of my memories have been good, however, I have really struggled with the whole concept of patience, especially when dealing with people I normally wouldn't have to deal with or live with at all. NYC forces 12 people to live together and to work together in stressful conditions and short of quitting (which isn't an option) there isn't much you can do about things or people you don't like. After living with this crew for three/four weeks, I've learned a degree of patience with more so I've learned that sometimes things don't always go your way, and life will never be perfect and comfortable. I've learned that problems arise and all that you can do is deal with them. I will always remember the people here because in some way or another, I learned things from everyone. But mostly I've learned to deal with problems, not to complain and to have a PMA. I will always remember these important lessons.

I will always remember the four weeks I spent eating dirt, drinking dirt, working in dirt and sleeping in dirt. I will never forget how much this makes me appreciate the comforts of home...William M

I will always remember singing on the trail with Lacey and Night Wolf. One of us would start to sing and then we all would...Nikki

From now on I will always remember that life can be so simple, and to not sweat anything not worth breaking one on...S. D.

The thing I will remember the most is waking up at 4:15 am and putting boots on that had to be shaken out to check for scorpions and snakes, good times...Lacey J.

The moments of absolute oneness, when your work, your environment and your mind melt and blur the lines, and all that becomes real is the fact that you're having fun...Night Wolf

From Now On I Will Always...

I will always appreciate the sleep I can get. I will always appreciate the comforts of an environment actively dedicated to the human species i.e. the city...William M

From now on I will always enjoy being able to just have things that I want when you are 2 miles back country you can't just go to a store to get something...

I will always enjoy the cool and refreshing taste of un-iodized tap water...Samuel D.

Drink and eat tons of food! We eat 5 times a day in the NYC...Lacey J.

Run with a positive attitude through all my work...Night Wolf

At NYC I Learned...

I have learned that anything is possible...Josh N.

My time in NYC has been without a doubt the most well spent time of my young adulthood. Through this program I have gained life skills that are indispensable for existing happily and successfully in this world.

Through the various rigorous challenges NYC experience presented (i.e. 18 mile hikes over mountains, moving boulders several times my own weight etc.) I became aware of just how much I am physically capable of. As a human being I have so much potential that I had not previously recognized. As a result I have so much more confidence in my own abilities both physically and mentally...

Through challenges and stress I was forced to have a sense of resolve and discipline that I had previously "gotten by" without. I simply have never before in my life possessed the discipline to wake up at 4 am, cook breakfast for 10 people and then work for 9 hours only to return to camp and help out with more chores. I have come to know a new self discipline that keeps me motivated to do my best and to never accept failure. This skill will give me the drive and ability to become unstoppable with regards to any personal goals I may set in my life. And while NYC is very group/community oriented such that as individuals we depend upon one another for the success of our projects. The most important lesson I have learned is how to better take care of myself. I have had previous experience being on my own in the "real world." But I had not had experience being responsible for myself. Though we operate as a group, the only person I know I can consistently and need to consistently depend on is myself. I have always be-

lieved that I know what it meant to take care of myself, but through the past six weeks with NYC I have come to know what it means.

I learned that teamwork is very hard sometimes, that you should show respect to everyone no matter what and that you need to work hard...William

That dedication and PMA go beyond the work site. It exists every single second from the moment you wake up to the second you go to sleep...Night W.

I learned that honesty is the most important thing in life without it who are you really...Lacey J.

I learned that everything can be fun if you make it so...Curtis H.