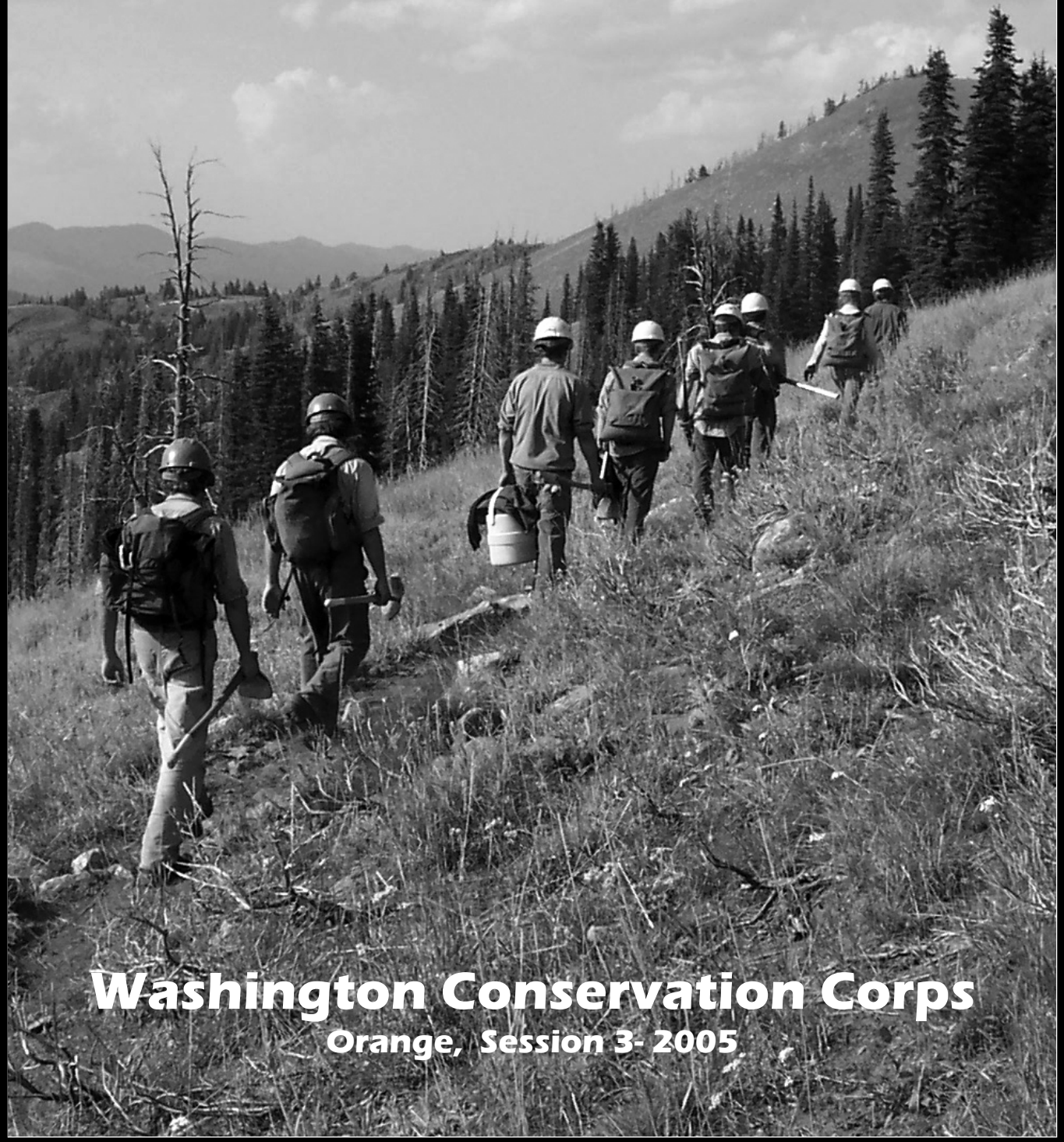




Crew Journal



Washington Conservation Corps
Orange, Session 3- 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"



**Mt. Hood National Forest
Zig Zag Ranger District
Project Name- PCT/Zig Zag Lem**

Week 1: July 31 – August 6

Monday: Being at our first couple of days we were organized into crews and then marched out to our first campsite. We had the supreme luck of having back country our very first time out so we got to learn in the hard stuff. It's great so far, what with our first real work like a 5 mile hike up and down and zig-zagging all around Mount Hood. This is truly a life changing experience, and is sure to be as much fun as it was from day 1. –Ben L.

Tuesday: This week we cleared trail at Mount Hood. Mostly we had to cut off the berm on the edge of the trail. And take off the vegetation on the edge of the trail. We're doing this so hikers have a better walk way for years to come. –Eli P.

Wednesday: Well for the rest of the week we shall finish the rest of the trail on both the east and west side. Also to pack up camp and hike out at a quick pace so we can get back to weekend camp in time. Also to be safe with the tools for the remainder of the time that we are out here. –Will B.

Thursday: This week, we mainly focused on trail maintenance. Therefore, we learned about trail maintenance and all things associated with it. These included: clearing berm, brushing, how to use the necessary tools, how to dig drains, etc. Because it was the first week of our NYC employment, however, we also learned how to collaborate with each other to achieve a shared goal. –Robin T.

Friday: This week orange crew accomplished a lot in a relatively short period of time, not only did we learn a lot of information in one week but we repaved and refreshed almost 2 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. All of our hard work and learning taught us that work pays off and gives us a great feeling of accomplishment. We also accomplished living in close quarters with 11 other people that we have just recently met. –Hertz F.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Stub Stewart State Park
Project Name- Stub Stewart State Park Hiker Camp

Week 2: August 7 – 13

Monday: This weekend we packed up early in the morning and hiked off Mt. Hood. As we were heading for the weekend site it took us two hours to find a shower. When we got to the weekend site we set up our tents, ate dinner, and went to bed. We woke up the next morning and ate breakfast, then chores. After that we had the best ten mile hike. When we came back we split up into groups and one made dinner while the other played capture the flag. Later we ate dinner, did chores, had free time and went to bed. –Frankie C.

Tuesday: This week orange crew's project is to build and gravel the first parts of the first state park to be built in Oregon in over 30 years (Stubs State Park). We are building this park to create opportunities for future generations of Oregonians to have fun and safe recreational activities and to create a legacy for NYC.

Wednesday: This week our goals are to dig out the camp sites then gravel them over. That's it. Maybe some team building stuff to better ourselves but really we're just here to gravel over the campsites.

Thursday: This week, our crew worked on making new campgrounds in the new Stubs OR state park. Our work consisted of airmailing duff, clearing new trails/campsites, and graveling. We learned how to do all of the above, due to the fact that it was all new. Aside from the work, we also learned more about our crew's dynamics, and through a "family meeting," we learned how to work together more efficiently.

Friday: This week our challenge was to finish gravelling and work our body to gain muscle. We have gained a lot of pride once our goal was completed. I just can't believe the week went by so fast. Congratulations. OK we've made it through week two! –Jordan L.

Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Mt. Baker Ranger District
Project Name- Lookout Mountain

Week 3: 8/15/05-8/19/05

Monday: We woke up out of the burrito wrap on the side of the trail. Then we hiked a mile to camp and set as much as we can up and then worked for six hours. And then I almost quit but I didn't want to put my crew members through what the other crews are going through. –Eli P.

Tuesday: We're in the Mt. Baker Ranger District to continue work that a previous NYC crew had to abandon. We're here to build boardwalk things over marshy areas and the regular basic trail maintenance that we always get to do. There are literally no hikers here, and so hopefully if we fix the trail people will actually want to live here but it's steep and there are a lot of fleas, so I doubt it. –Ben L.

Wednesday: We are building 5 puncheons out of wood so that people don't have to walk in the mud. To do that, we need to cut a lot of wood and dig deep to put the puncheons in.

Thursday: This week we learned what puncheon sticks and puncheons are. Also something else we learned was how to build a puncheon. Another thing we learned is our purpose out here and the benefits to public with our service. –Will T.

Friday: My crew has been experiencing collaboration problems with some members, so, a main challenge has been attempting to mend personality issues. An accomplishment, however, has been the successful development of puncheon construction. We have one completed, another being created, and the remaining two in the initial stages of preparation. –Rinot

National Forest- Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
Ranger District- Mt. Baker
Project Name- Lookout Mountain Trail Maintenance and Puncheon Construction

Week 4: August 21 – 27

Weekend: On Saturday we hiked back down to where our re-supply was and hiked back and rested for the rest of the day. On Sunday we worked for 8 hours so we didn't have to work next Friday. –Kenny H.

Monday: Our project this week is to make water bars and drains, and finish our original project of puncheon construction. Overall the views are nice and construction of drains and bars are only slowed by the recently found hornets' nests. Many crewmembers have already been stung, but work has yet to cease. Puncheons are coming along. Drains are draining. And overall this week should go by quickly. Hopefully the last week will not be backcountry too. –Love

Tuesday: Our goals remain to finish brushing up trail and completing drains that have not been done. It is already Tuesday and 3 days of work done; it is exhilarating to look back and see what we have done. Week 4 has just started and already we have most of our hours under our belt and only really 1 ½ days of work until graduation. We have just completed 2 puncheons and the 3rd is in progress; also the drains are coming together. Work is tedious, yet when it comes to 'tool count,' it is all worth it, just to take a step back from work and reflect on more social matters. –Love (again)

Wednesday: This week, my crew worked on creating puncheons and drain ditches/water bars. We learned how to construct such things properly, although it took some of us longer than necessary. Nonetheless, we have sufficiently educated ourselves this week. –Robin

Thursday/Friday: Orange Crew had many challenges this week, as well as accomplishments. This week we had more relapses of our little “family issue” and another issue with drugs that was a big misunderstanding, but still a pretty big deal. As with our accomplishments, we completed our first puncheon quite quickly but had a few issues with the second two that required more time, which set us back on construction of the final puncheon and bridge. Overall I believe our crew did a good job, considering the set-backs and problems we had.

National Forest- Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie NF
Snoqualmie Ranger District
Project Name- Carbon Trail

Week 5: August 28 – September 3

Sunday: This weekend we pulled in on Thursday so we could leave Saturday to work Sunday. The weekend site was back in Skykomish, WA, where our last family weekend was. For the rec trip we (Orange Crew) went to Morey Creek (National/State) Park. After arriving on Saturday to our new home (Mt. Rainier area) on Carbon Trail, due to lack of site, water, and light. So it is Sunday; we hiked back to Yellow Crew (roughly 4 miles back) and broke camp out. All in all the weekend is not hurrying up fast enough.

Monday: What we did today: We woke up and it was raining, everyone was cold and we ended up having to take special care of Jordan Love because he got REALLY cold! Then I got sick and puked and it was great. –Eli

Tuesday: Today the sun came out and we laughed and played. We also worked on the trail and threw rocks down the mountains. We also hiked in and out and are going to eat dinner with Yellow Crew. –Ben

Wednesday: Today we dug new trail and did QC on the trail we worked on earlier this week. The crew united against Shilo in retaliation for his sneaking around, that little rabbit...

Thursday: Today we woke up after having slept in burrito wraps, and worked hard after having hiked down with our packs. Then we left to find somewhere to spend the night and drove for 7 hours. We will sleep at Dina (?) Falls, Eugene.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was hiking 2 ½ miles approx. straight up the mountain. It sucked. –Ben

My most challenging day at NYC was building puncheons and water bars. –Jadon

My most challenging day was the hike back 2.5 miles downhill with a heavy pack and sore knees. –Love

...hiking. –Eli

I found the hiking challenging. –Timothee

Yeah, I'd have to say hiking was my most challenging experience, as well. –Robin

Hiking. –Kenny

My most challenging moment of NYC was the long steep hikes with an overpacked bag. Also not being able to cuss was hard. –Hunter

My most challenging day at NYC was the first backcountry trip we took due to the hike. It was the first time I had tested my physical endurance in years, but at the end it was worth it. –Will

My most challenging day at NYC was when we went backcountry for the fourth week. We hiked six to seven miles just to reach our camp site before night came. We ended up sleeping on the trail and had to hike back four miles because we went too far. –Frankie

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...hiking, working, and swimming. –Kenny

...seeing Mt. Rainier, seeing the top of Mt. Hood, and the chance to meet people I otherwise could never have met. –Ben

... building puncheons, and getting to meet new people. –Eli

...the people and friends, the van rides were cool, and the comedy stuff. –Hunter

...working on the PCT and at Lookout Mtn, and building trail. –Jadon

...puncheon building, making friends, eating and sleeping backcountry. –Love

...swimming, meeting new people, the 1st rec trip. –Robin

...cooking, people, and hiking. –Timothee

...cooking, trail work, and meeting people. –Will

...hiking, meeting new people, and camping. –Frankie

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Working while freezing my bunions off. –Ben

The views from the mountain were cool but I'll remember the people I met and feeling of accomplishment. –Hunter

The views I got from each hike I took. –Eli

Singing oldies during work with Ben; also on the hike. –Will

Feeling very cold, wet, etc. –Robin

How cold I was. –Timothee

The long hikes with the amazing views and everyone I met, and to never leave something out when it's about to rain. –Frankie

The friends I made and the long hikes, cold and wet. –Jadon

Hypothermia, and pressing myself to the limits. –Love

Going on a rec trip with Shilo. –Kenny

From Now On I Will Always...

At NYC I Learned...

...how to build trails and puncheons. –Kenny

...how to maintain trail and how to deal with 11 other people's bull for five weeks. –Hunter

...how to hike and eat dirt without noticing. –Ben

...how to construct trails/puncheon/campsites, how to properly use trail maintenance tools, and how to collaborate with strangers. –Robin

I learned to work together as a team. –Eli

I learned to dig trail. –Timothee

I learned to cook backcountry food. –Will

...strength; also, hypothermia SUCKS. –Love

...how to make a top-line, how to tie knots, and how to work with other people. –Frankie

...trail building, hiking, friendship, and how to work together. –Jadon