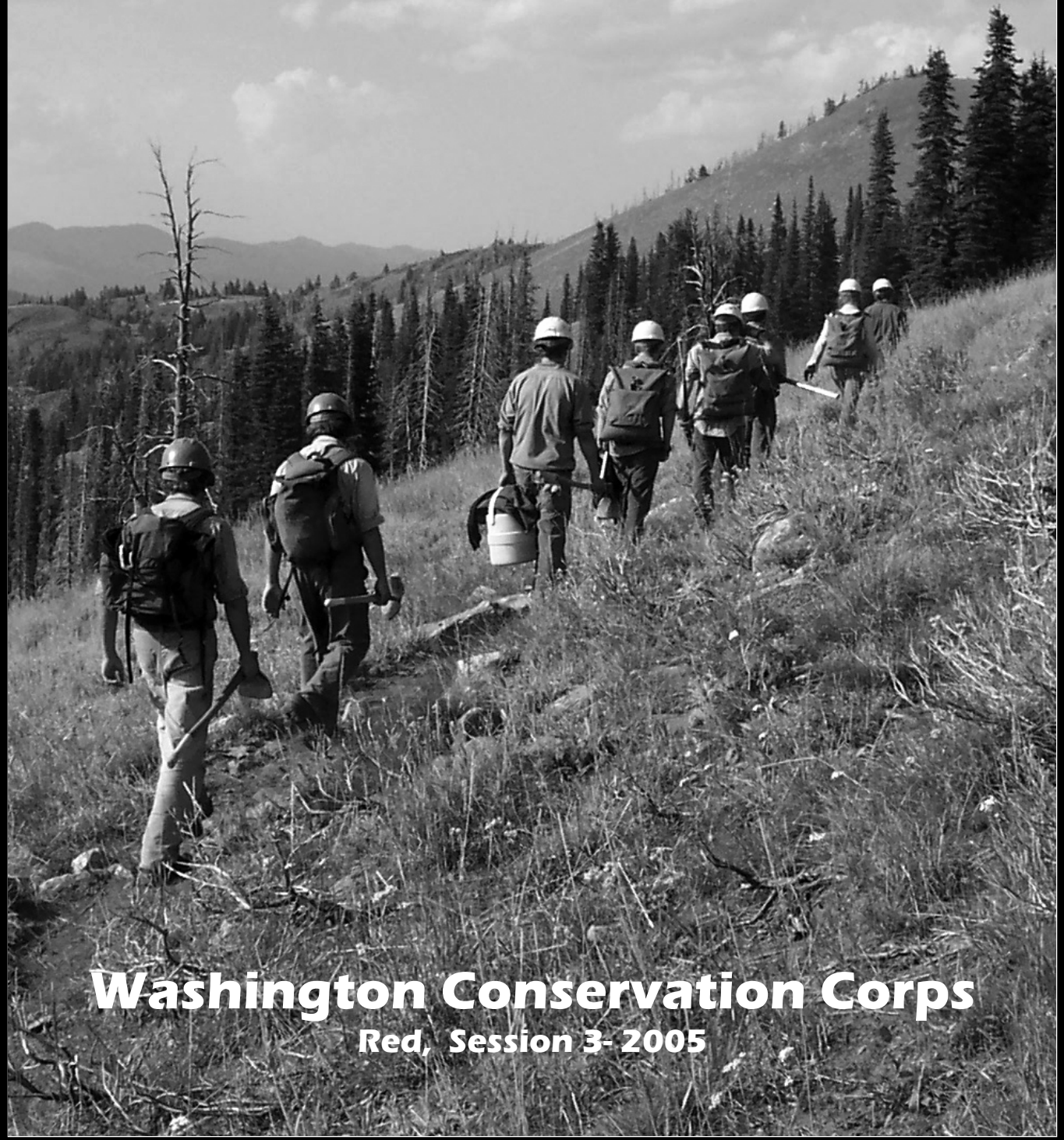




# *Crew Journal*



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



**Marion County Parks**  
**Project Name- Aumsville Parks**

**Week 1: July 31 – August 6**

Monday: First we started it off with orientation, and what to pack. We went over the rules with the crew leaders, and also we went over all our names. Then throughout the day we had some time to relax so we played basketball, and some people sat and listened to one of the guys play the guitar. Then on Sunday we all got up, got all our stuff packed, then ate some breakfast. After breakfast we all helped the crew leaders pack up the trailers with the tents and all our stuff. Then after we all were packed up we all went our separate ways. –Amanda S.

Tuesday: Today was our second day of work, and we worked at Aumsville Park to dig trails. We are doing the trails to help elderly people walk around the lake. We did a fire line of gravel down to where we dug the trail out. –Greg H.

Wednesday: [Describe your crew's goals for the week:]

To finish all of our work with the confidence that we did the best job possible.

To build up our strength and endurance

To get along with each other, acting as one big functional family

To have an attitude of non-complaint, and remain positive throughout the hardest points.

To contain our smell, so no one has to suffer!!  
Let's do it. –Mad T.

Thursday: This week we learned lots of stuff. First of all we learned to dig trail and clear vegetation. Then in SEED we learned how to purify water and about volcanoes and stuff. We also learned about other people's personalities. We learned a lot this week about all kinds of stuff, and I'm sure we'll learn a lot next week too. –Ivan D.

Friday: The big challenge facing the Red crew this week was getting as much trail done around the lake as possible. Part of it was five feet wide and needed to be meticulously graveled, and for the other we had to valiantly fight our way through what Jordan Fink aptly named "Blackberry Hell" and other devilish plants, but we made it. We got the graveled portion done, and much of the rest. We worked hard as a team and for the most part we all got along swimmingly- which, considering how some or most people are naturally nasty to one another for no readily apparent reason, is an accomplishment in and of itself. We fought unyielding rocky trail, vile blackberries, sunburn and dehydration—and conquered! It was, in all actuality, a very satisfying week in which much was accomplished. –Bree E.

**Gifford Pinchet National Forest**  
**Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument**  
**Project Name- Loowit Trail**

**Week 2: August 7 – 13**

Monday: This weekend our crew almost stuck completely together. We went swimming at some lake and then we went out to buy hair dye and wash our clothes, then it's to the showers- showers and clothes was before we went swimming! Yeah that was it—almost—Red Crew cooked dinner for the extra camp on Sat. We done good. It was tasty. Yeah, that's it. –Kato

Tuesday: Our project this week was to build a trail down a mountain, and we are next to Mount St. Helens. We have made it half way or more down the hillside. We are making a trail down the hillside for hikers. We make it for hikers so they can get close to Mt. St. Helens without being too close or too far away. The trail's name is the Loowit Trail which was a name of a pretty young girl back from the Indian times. Same with Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams, and it has a long/short story with it. –Amanda S.

Wednesday: This week our crew's main ambitions are to stick together and pump iron on our 1 ½ mile hike to work and back. It was hard for everyone to get up in the morning. I have a feeling that will change throughout the weeks. Right now we are trying to stay a Crew. I know we can do it! The sand we are working in is soft yet tough stuff. We are digging through it like maniacs. So far it's been fun. –Jacqueline W.

Thursday: This week we learned about volcano stories the Indians made up. Then about water stuff and geology. This week we learned mostly stuff about weathering and that kind of thing. –Ivan D.

Friday: We had a two mile hike in and out and at the beginning of the week. The hillside was slippery, but it was a lot better once we finished. We probably got around half a mile of trail done and it looked pretty good. –Ivan D.

**Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**  
**Skykomish Ranger District**  
**Project Name- North Fork of Skykomish River Trail**

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

Monday: This weekend our crew got to spend time with assorted loved ones at the weekend site- that is, once we all arrived at the weekend site. Red crew arrived first, at around 9 or 10, and blue crew pulled in last, at about 1 or 2 in the afternoon. Before the parents came, at four, we had our rec trip, and much of Red Crew stayed together again and went to Deception Falls and then for a swim. The former was very pretty, the latter quite cold. We made store stops. Then, parents! And a painful game of caterpillar. Dinner was wonderful- Fruit! And it wasn't canned! Then, bed, and an early wake-up. On Sunday—and most of Monday—we hiked to our new back country home with 10 million pound backpacks. It was 7 miles, and made us want to die – but we're okay now. –Bee E.

Tuesday: The project is to repair trail that was destroyed by a flood—well, build a bypass, anyways which includes a couple of rock walls. Horses are going to tread upon it, so it needs to be extra sturdy. We are near Skykomish, on the Skykomish River Trail, and we have to do a monstrous amount of hiking. But it is fun, and soon the project shall be done, and we will repair already-existing trail. –Bee E.

Wednesday: [our goals...]

- Eliminating fights
- Eliminating laziness/fatigue
- Completing our work
- Getting chores done faster
- Making our hours
- Getting enough sleep
- Mental preparation for hike
- Keeping hydrated
- Taking care of feet
- Avoiding the bees
- Keep safe in general
- PMA, Avoiding PMS (esp. the guys) PPG!!

–Mad, Bee, Mandy

Thursday: [what we learned...]

- Bear Hang
- How to build a fire
- How to build a fire when raining
- How to use the back country stove
- How to survive a 7 mile hike
- How to iodize water
- How to get along with farting
- How to deal with PMS (mean guys)

–Amanda S.

Friday: Our challenges were getting into camp, walking 7 miles to get there, and then once we got there we needed to build 4 rock walls and horse trails. A big challenge is getting over all of the bees. There are a lot of them. We still haven't quite gotten over them. Our accomplishments are that: one, we got here; two, we are almost finished with the 4 walls; and three, we have scored up to what seems like sixty million bee stings. Good week!

**Henry M. Jackson Wilderness  
Ranger District- Skykomish RD  
Project Name- North Fork of the Skykomish River Trail**

**Week 4: August 21 – 27**

Monday: Oh, it was a lovely weekend for Red Crew—extremely active, more to a point. On Friday, we worked a full nine-hour day, and then proceeded to make the seven mile hike back to the van to re-supply (get more food). We stayed the night at the van, eating noodles and drinking hot chocolate. In the morning we shoved food in our packs and made the hike back to our camp/home. The rest of Saturday was fairly relaxing. On Sunday we worked seven hours to make up for hours we missed on Monday, and also so we wouldn't have to work this coming Friday. We were all tired and out of it and cranky and, hence, quite unproductive. It was a very busy weekend, to be certain, and I think most of us are happy to have it behind us—it was exhausting. –Bee E.

Tuesday: Our project this week is the same as last week—second verse, same as the first. We are working on the rock walls once again, but they are essentially finished now and we will be able to work more on the actual trail—the Skykomish River Trail, for those who don't know. We are still doing it for the horses, and we will be, as before stated, putting in the actual dirt trail. Then, if we have time to spare, we will work on repairing already-existing trail. –Bee E.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for this week are to finish the trail in a timely manner and do extra, and to be out of camp on Thursday night, and to build a strong crew and get to know each other better. –Hawk P.

Thursday: This week, we learned how to complete rock walls and make them at least mildly presentable. We also learned, just like last week, that bees are indisputably the devil. But now, we know how to KILL them, and how to run away from them very, very fast. I learned that a walking stick makes a seven-mile hike much easier—as does good conversation about how much ice cream we will eat when we get back to town. We learned how to stump Pulaski-felled trees with a tiny handsaw. We learned that boys are bizarre and frighteningly misguided enough to hold a competition to see who can get stung the most. And we learned that love is the greatest gift of all. Or maybe not. –Bee E.

Friday: This week we had to finish our rock walls and bust out around 500 feet of tread. The biggest challenge with the rock wall was placing the rocks. We had to find good rocks and make them fit in the wall. It was annoying, but when we got done and covered them with dirt it looked really good. The trail was really easy after they killed the bees—we got it done in under a day. This week we got done even more than the contact wanted and I feel pretty good about it. –Ivan D.

**Mt. Rainier National Park  
Project Name- Wonderland Trail Maintenance**

**Week 5: August 28 – September 3**

Monday: This weekend we got to the weekend site on Thursday and we left on Saturday to go to our new camp site. We just ate, cleaned, and left 'cause we had to start work early. That's about it for our weekend. –Amanda S.

Tuesday: We are on the Wonderland Trail on Mt. Rainier. Our job is basically brushing and some drainage maintenance. We are working on this trail because it is one of the most hiked trails in America. This project seems awesome. –Jacqueline W.

Wednesday: This week my crew's goals were to get the whole trail brushed and to make our hours. We wanted to finish up the trail and put in gutters all in just 4 days. It seems impossible but I know we can do it! –Vito H.

Thursday: This week we learned how to put in gutters and we learned that stumps equal pushups. We also learned, by experience, that you shouldn't swing on trees—you'll hurt yourself. –Vito H.

Friday: Our challenges: (1) making the 2 ½ mile hike to work everyday; (2) doing the best work ever possible; (3) trying to make up our hours. Our accomplishments: (1) finishing; (2) making it the best time ever. –Mandy S.

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

My most challenging day was during the second week (Tuesday, if I remember correctly) when I got heat exhaustion and had to sit and puke and I felt miserable and useless while everyone else worked—and then making the two-mile hike back to camp and just sleeping. It was an extremely frustrating day. Bee E.

My most challenging day at NYC was the day we had to do a 7-mile hike to the Skykomish River Trail. Amanda S.

The biggest challenge was the second day of the 7-mile hike because I was already burnt out and knew what to expect the second I woke up. Madeline T.

My most challenging day was the hike the last week because I hurt my knee. Apollo C.

Every day was a challenge. My biggest one was to wake up in the morning. Hawk P.

My most challenging day was the first 7-mile hike with an 80lb backpack, and getting stung by bees. I think the hardest day is leaving all of my new family, but it's yet to come. Jacqueline W.

My most challenging day at NYC was when we had to hike 7 miles to our backcountry campsite. I'm not used to walking that far. We all sucked it up, though! Vito H.

My most challenging day at NYC was the 7-mile hike to our backcountry site. Greg H.

My most challenging day was the day we didn't make the seven-mile hike and had to camp halfway because I didn't want to stop. Ivan D.

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

My three favorite NYC experiences were watching while the boys shaved their heads into Mo-hawks the first week; finishing that horrific seven-mile hike for the last time; and the NYC Olympics. I had been looking forward to... oh, wait. Actually, favorite experience number three was when my family came to visit on the second weekend. Bee E.

My three favorite NYC experiences were the first day we met at the building in Eugene, also the day we went to Mt. St. Helens (Loowitz) and worked on that trail. My last one was the day we got to Mt. Rainier. Amanda S.

The best moments here were playing games the first Sunday while getting to know my crew, seeing my family the second weekend, and the feeling after finishing the horrible 7-mile hike—much satisfaction! Madeline T.

...building trail, hiking long distances, and making new friends. Apollo C.

...hiking long distances, meeting people the first day, and the last day. Hawk P.

My three favorite experiences were the first day we became Red Crew, the time we cut Mo-hawks, and the day we completed our 2-week backcountry experience. Jacqueline W.

My favorite experience was when we finished our stone walls at the Skykomish River Trail. That topped them all—it's a great feeling to look at something like that and say, "I built that with my bare hands!" Vito H.

My favorite experiences were the day we became Red Crew and the day we finished the 7-mile hike. Greg H.

I loved being with my crew, getting back to the van after the 7 miles back, and being away from the world and its problems for a while. Ivan D.

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

I will always remember the seven-mile hike, which killed me. Well, almost. Bee E.

One thing I will always remember will be my crew at NYC. Amanda S.

I will never forget the 9 unique people in my crew. They are all amazing individuals with much in store for their futures. I love them more than anything. Madeline T.

All the friends I've made here. Apollo C.

I will always remember Brian Scott, AKA Mom, for all the great long conversations. Hawk P.

I will always remember the friends and laughs of Red Crew. Jacqueline W.

I will always remember that family and friends come before everything. Vito H.

I will always remember all the people I met. Greg H.

I'll always remember all the people in my crew and how we became a family.

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

From now on I will always appreciate the luxuries in my life (bed, potty, food that is not dehydrated or PBJ sandwiches), my family and friends. I will always remember the hard work at NYC and not complain about much. Bee E.

From now on I will always enjoy my family, also Red Crew, and the new things to come in my life. Amanda S.

When I go home, everyone will notice my changes. My family especially will be happy because I will help out in any way possible. I will also not be afraid to do anything, mostly to be myself. Madeline T.

...appreciate all the perks at home that I've lived without for 5 weeks. Apollo C.

...love and enjoy the presence of my family and friends. Hawk P.

When I leave NYC I will go to my family and friends and life in general more appreciative of everything I've been torn from in these 5 weeks in the wilderness of Oregon and Washington. Jacqueline W.

From now on I will always treat people with the respect they deserve. Vito H.

I will always turn the bad into the good from now on. Greg H.

...enjoy hiking without a backpack, tool, our yellow-tops, and a lot more. Ivan D.

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

At NYC I learned how to bust trail with hog hoes, hazel hoes, and pulaskis; I learned how to hike long distances without rolling over and dying; and, most importantly, how to get along with people better. Bee E.

At NYC I learned how to build a great trail, to enjoy nature even more, and also to enjoy life, friends, and my family even more. Amanda S.

Before I came here, I didn't know anything about building trail or this type of work in general. I have learned how to turn 9 strangers into my family. I have learned to set my bar higher and how to adapt to pain. Madeline T.

...how to build trail, how to live with people I didn't know, pain is weakness leaving the body. Apollo C.

I learned how to work with others, leave no trace camping, and how to live with the same people. Hawk P.

At NYC I learned to live with the same strangers for 5 weeks and become so close to them. Jacqueline W.

At NYC I learned not to judge people by how they dress or who they hang out with! Vito H.

At NYC I learned how to turn 9 strangers into family, live with 9 people for 5 weeks. Greg H.

I learned a lot about camping and being around people. Ivan D.