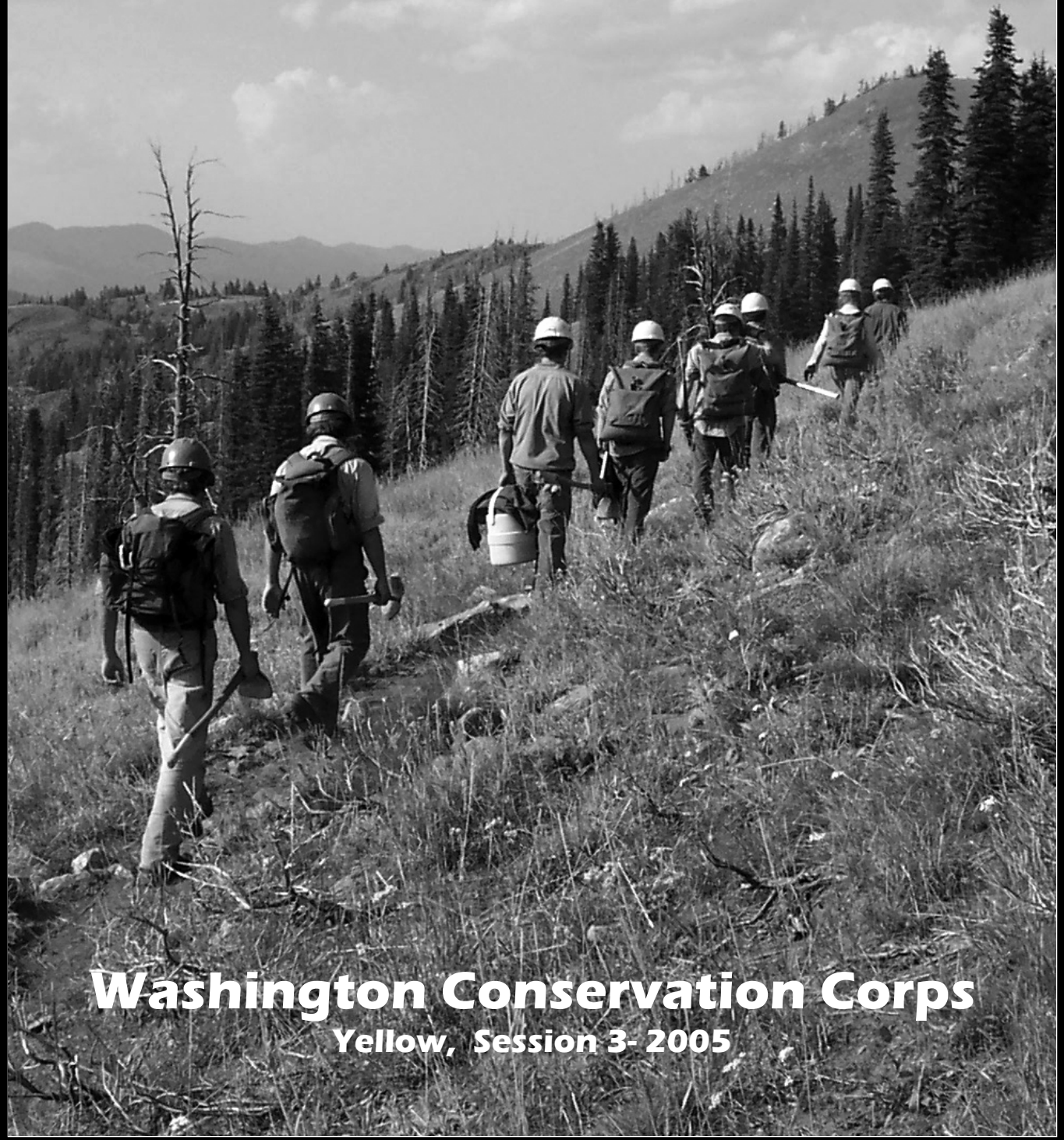




# *Crew Journal*



**Washington Conservation Corps**  
**Yellow, 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"



**Oregon State Parks**  
**Project Name- Fort Yamhill park maintenance**

**Week 1: July 31 – August 6**

Monday: Yesterday we met the crew. Some of us didn't get along, but hopefully that will improve. We left for camp not knowing the specifics of what we were going to do. We left on that basis alone. We arrived and looked for a place to set up camp and a water source. We had time to set up camp and then go swimming in the Yamhill River. When we woke up we went over OSHA and fire safety. Our tour was boring and we were extremely hungry. –Jason

Tuesday: Our project is that we're moving brush into piles and clearing the land down to the dirt. The place that we're doing this is Yamhill. We're doing this because archeologists need the land cleared for their digging. We had better breaks than yesterday. Dinner was good but at the end we had to eat all the Jalapeños. –Micah

Wednesday: Our goals are to learn how to cope with Bryan. It's not bad to become better friends with Micah. We hope by this weekend we will have the 5am to 2pm thing working. It's been a good week. [Goals:] to not quit NYC, to operate tools safely, and to finish our job. We also got all our hours even though we got a tour, so that's nice. We hope to finish strong. –Keenan C.

Thursday: Our crew learned we can't always get what we want. We learned the hard way. We learned how to push ourselves to the limit. We also learned that this program is all about fun and we need to have it. Working is just one of the things that keep this program together, therefore we need to work and keep it going so that we can have fun, learn and have the experience of the 5 weeks we signed up for. We had a talk and we pretty much summed up what this program is all about, Fun and Experience. – Robert J.

Friday: Our crew's challenges were that we had some problems with our communication and other things. Certain crew members had trouble with our crew leader but we all sat down and worked it out. Our accomplishments were that we worked out our problems. We learned proper tool use and placement, and about PPG (personal protective gear). We worked more on our communication in the crew. We worked with archeologists and learned how if it is a historical site it is important not to disturb the soil. –Michael A.

## **Marion County Parks**

### **Project Name- Aumsville Park**

#### **Week 2: August 7 – 13**

Sunday: On Saturday most of our crew stayed together and got to just chill at Silver Creek Falls. When we got back we all got to chill for a little longer and then played capture the flag. On Sunday we found out that we were staying at the weekend site. We went for a hike and went swimming. We got back and did chores, had spaghetti for dinner, and had pudding for desert. –Michael A.

Monday: Today we are on a project that has the crew including myself building trails- we are pretty much building 1 trail. We are east of Salem in a place called Dinsville. Where we are working is about ¼ mile hike away from camp. Jason found a mate, HIS name is BRENDA. Brenda is a bug who likes doing a jig when Jason waves his finger at it. Brenda ran away. –Les Brown II

Tuesday: In the beginning, our crew honestly 90% of the time we never worked well. But we are more of a team now. We are missing 2 people and have to work extra hard to make up for them. We need our 2 people and then life would be good. We can still build our team. Our whole crew knows we are a team. We work well together now. The negative is gone, now life is good. We will finish NYC and do it strong. Jordan helped me be happy and I hope he doesn't disappoint. –Keenan C.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals week consists of finishing the grey graveled trail that circles the pond in which Doug lives. The overall work ethic in the crew is building except for when Lukas gravels. We've been moving on since two of our fellow crew members hung us out to dry, so we're showing them how we can keep on going! And our biggest and most important goal for this second week is to finally get a warm toasty meal for breakfast other than... –Lukas

Thursday: We learned about the water cycle. I learned that Michelle is 48 years old which I don't believe because she doesn't look that old. We learned that trail is fun and hard work. –Micah R.

Friday: Our crew's challenges were working longer hours in the hot sun because we lost 2 crew members. But we did finish it. Keenan and Cyle helped a lot. And so did Doug the duck. We finally are starting to be a team. It's quite nice. Our accomplishments were getting through the week and finishing our trail that goes around the lake. We had a hard time with some of our crew mates not participating in camp cleanup and other things. Other than that we had a pretty good week. –Robert J.

**Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest**  
**Darrington Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Chockwich Trail Maintenance**

**Week 3: August 14 – 20**

Monday: This weekend the belly happy yellow carebears busted out of Aumsville, OR and hustled on up to the mighty Northern Cascade Mountains listening to mad good jazz and mad bad country. They had their second family reunion of sorts with the red, blue and orange crews. They mixed and matched as they socialized and laughed and went out into Mother Nature. Some swam, some hiked, but all were lucky enough to waste their money on chips and other marvelous unhealthies. Come Sunday morning the race began and when the dust settled the yellow care-bears stood on top with a bar of nasty pancakes. Through teamwork and dedication everything got done now that the tasks demand more and for us to be true for the next two weeks to come. –Lukas W.

Tuesday: This week we are building a bike trail that collapsed two years ago. It is finally stable enough to work on. We are at North Cascades. We're doing this so bikers can bike and have a new trail. It's hard work but we do the job well. –Micah R.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for the week are to clean up and rebuild an old bike trail that had been overgrown with brush and stuff. Some of the trail is fine and just covered in brush and the other parts need to be smoothed out because there are dips and holes in the old tread. It is a lot of lopping and swamping out the area. –Kris G.

Thursday: We leaned iodine water causes gas and Cyle doesn't like to hike more than an 8<sup>th</sup> of a mile. Some were disappointed on the very very very short hike into our campsite. And we also learned that even if we might not have our full crew, we do just fine. –Cyle

**Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**  
**Darrington Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Chockwich Trail Maintenance**

**Week 4: August 21 – 27**

Monday: This weekend, what is left of our crew just chilled on Saturday. Keenan and Jason had left on Saturday and as a crew we were feeling low in morale. Later, though, during Saturday circle, Jason came back and we had a little rise in morale that night. On Sunday, most of the crew just chilled again, but Lukas and Chris went with Bryan up the Bedal Trail. When they got back they looked tired but said it was worth it. –Michael A.

Tuesday: We're brushing the trail and we got to the waterfall and now we get pizza. It rained today and that sucked. We're doing Chockwich Trail in the north Cascades in Washington. At lunch I climbed up a hill to check out a cave, started rolling rocks down, and slid down on my feet. –Robert J.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals this week are to brush as much of the trail as possible and to keep everyone happy. Nights and days have been colder and it has been a struggle to keep warm. The crew has been very happy because today the contact came down with a winch and we moved an extremely large rock out of the middle of the trail. –Jason R.

Thursday: We learned about resumes, cover letters, and how to act in an interview; that it's better to stick it out rather than quit; some cool knots; that a grip hoist used the laws of physics and is set up by a system of ropes, pulleys, and levers—levers meaning kinda like a come-along or wench. We also learned if you just keep going you can get a good day (2000 or more feet). –Cyle

Friday: Our challenges have been getting along because a lot of people complain, me being one of them. Then our other challenges have been walking the trail because we have to get to the place where we are working in a certain time or we are off the clock. Then our accomplishments have been getting 2000 feet of trail done a day, almost every day. Then Bryan said he would give us ice cream if we reached a spot in the trail. Then one of our other accomplishments was getting out of camp on time and getting the trailer packed and getting out of where we were. –Micah R.

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

**Week 5: August 28 – September 3**

Sunday: Our crew went to Dairy Queen, compliments of Bryan. Also, we got the craziest rover, Shilo. There was a 2.9 mile hike uphill on the Carbon Trail. We are currently working on it. Orange Crew is camping less than 1/8 of a mile away from us. It is our last week and we're gonna bust out more tread than ever. –Robert J.

Monday: We are in the Clearwater Wilderness area and are working with Orange Crew about ¼ of a mile. We woke up to rain and we're not very energetic. We worked 9 hours today. We also are very cold and extremely wet. Everyone huddled around the stoves trying to get warm. –Jason R.

Tuesday: Yellow Crew's goals for this week... Yellow Crew is struggling this week with the enormous task of... getting to safety circle without being late and having to do 500 pushups. Another one of our goals is to stay warm and toasty on even the darkest days. Since the weather has changed back from rainy to partly cloudy and warm, we have begun our drying out. We are starting to work harder during the day, but we still have much farther to push ourselves before we can truly say that as a team we are working hard. –Lukas W.

Wednesday: What we learned this week was that we needed to come together as a team instead of individual people to get a job done and done the right way. The crew also learned how to use a crosscut and cut down a tree with it, then how to make steps in the trail to make the trail a little smoother. –Kris G.

Thursday: Our accomplishments have been getting our trail done and all of us getting our hours done. One of our accomplishments has been working hard in the rain. Our challenges have been getting along with each other, working in the rain, trying to work and get warm, and getting up on time. So we got up earlier than usual. We finished our goals of the week and were happy about it. –Micah R.

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

My most challenging day at NYC was the last week on the second day. It rained and I was freezing. Our crew's PMA was really low. We were trying to keep warm. It took us approximately 6 hours to put up our bear-hang. –Robert J.

My most challenging day was probably the first day. I sprained my ankle and it was so bad I thought that I might have to go home. –Michael A.

My most challenging day at NYC was the day we hiked in for the first time to our backcountry site. The mental push I had to use to keep going was unlike anything I have ever done. As hard as it was, it was one of the most enjoyable things I've done out here. –Lukas W.

My most challenging day at NYC was the first day getting used to the schedule of the day: getting up in the morning, eating breakfast, going to work, coming back, chores. –Kris G.

My most challenging day at NYC was when Bryan and I got in an argument and it was hard to get back to work and to talk afterwards. But we talked through it and now we're good friends. –Cyle S.

My most challenging day at NYC was the last day. Everyone was mad at me because I was in a bad mood and not working. –Micah R.

My most challenging days were getting up in the rain. –Jason R.

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

My three favorite experiences at NYC were working on a trail second week and completing our project; second, going to the North Cascades in Washington, the view was cool; and lastly, my favorite view was of Mt. Rainier. –Robert J.

My three favorite experiences were working on trails, making new friends, and seeing the awesome views of Mt. Rainier. –Michael A.

My favorite NYC experiences were camping in a wilderness area, seeing Mt. Rainier, and hiking to mountain summits. –Lukas W.

My favorite things that I experienced were digging my first trail, working as a big team, and going backcountry. –Kris G.

My three favorite NYC experiences were (1) making new friends, (2) five weeks of beautiful views, and (3) digging lots of trail. –Cyle S.

My three favorite things were the rec trips and swimming, making friends, and getting to go backcountry. –Micah R.

My three favorite things at NYC were meeting new friends and people, the beautiful views were killer, and the hard work was good for me. –Jason R.

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

One thing I will always remember is making all the new friends and long work days. –Robert J.

One thing I will always remember will be all of my new friends. –Michael A.

I will always remember the majesty of Mt. Rainier. –Lukas W.

One thing I will always remember will be hiking out 3 miles in 28 min. –Kris G.

One thing I will remember is the 3 mile hike that I completed without complaining... just doing it. And that was hard. –Cyle S.

I will always remember all the friends that I met. –Micah R>

I will always remember my new friends. –Jason R.

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

From now on I will always work harder to get further in life, and try to get a good job. –Robert J.

From now on I will always work hard and be able to work with different people. –Michael A.

From now on I will live more sustainably and not care about having brand new things or having everything clean. –Lukas W.

From now on I will always remember the effort that is put into the making of trails. Kris G.

From now on I will always take time to look at nature... it's so cool. –Cyle S.

From now on I will respect nature and work harder. –Micah R.

From now on I will always treat nature with a new respect. –Jason R.

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

At NYC I learned that washing in the rain is not fun. I learned good working skills, and how to push myself. –Robert J.

At NYC I learned to use new tools, how to build trails, and how to work better with a larger group of people. –Michael A.

At NYC I learned that keeping a positive mental attitude can make a bad day good. I learned that pulaskis are the all-awesome. Lastly I learned that I can always push myself farther. –Lukas W.

At NYC I learned how to be a positive worker, I found out how to make a bear-hang, and I also learned how to live outdoors. –Kris G.

At NYC I learned there are other ways to express yourself than swearing and violence. –Cyle S.

I learned how to build trail. I learned how to use tools that I didn't know how to use before. I learned to respect others. –Micah R.

I learned to work in a team, use new tools, and eat more than I could have imagined. –Jason R.