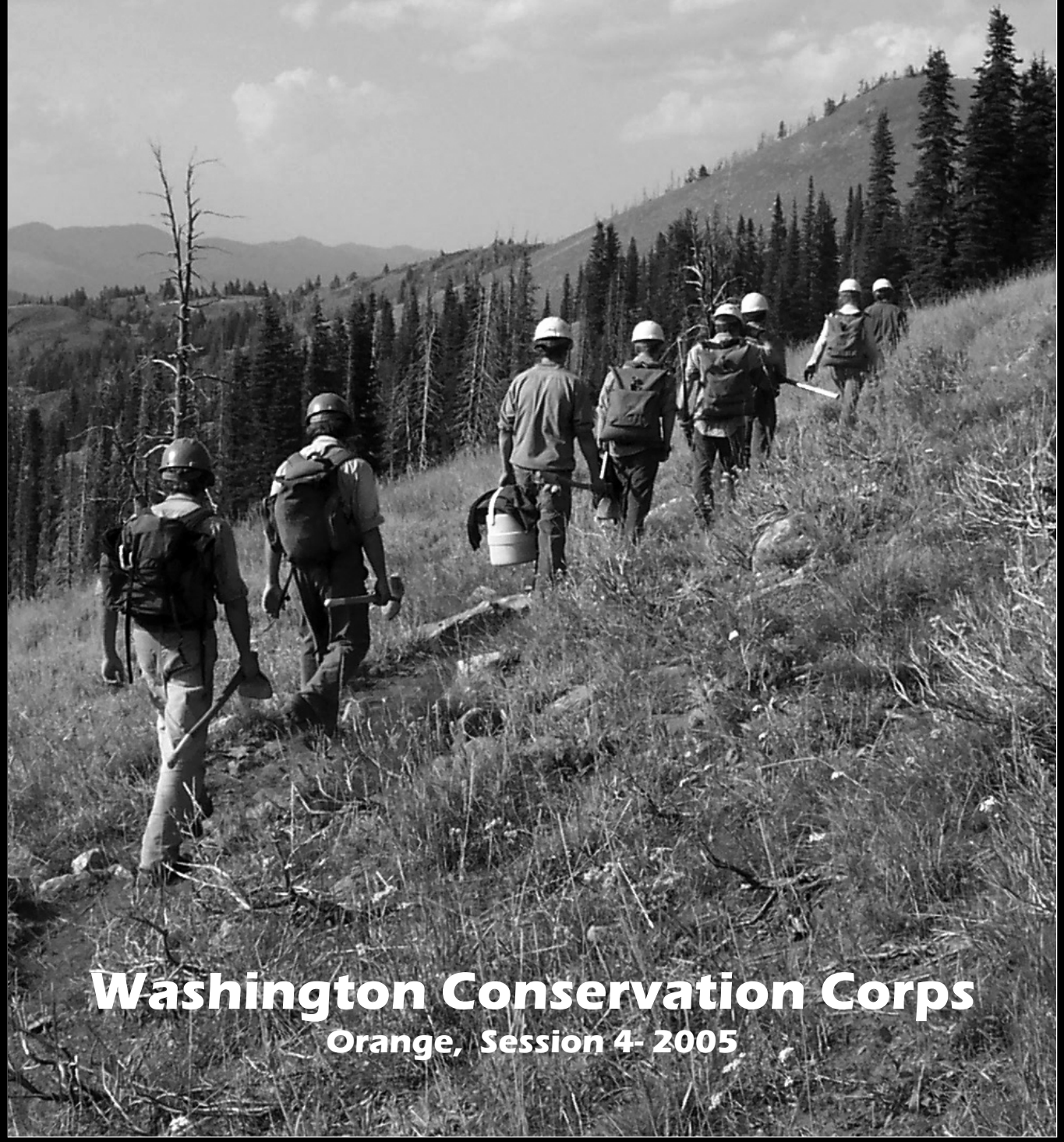




Crew Journal



Washington Conservation Corps
Orange, Session 4- 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- Detroit
Project Name- Bachelor Mountain**

Week 1: July 31 – August 6

Monday: The first thing our crew did during the weekend was discuss where we were going to go. After that we took about a four hour drive to get to Mt. Bachelor. I liked the drive because we got to listen to music and make some stops. When we got there we set up camp and that probably took a couple of hours. After that we played some fun games during free time. The next morning I woke up a bit late because I didn't hear the alarm. The day turned out well. –Spencer S.

Tuesday: Today our crew continued the trail all the way up the mountain. The view there was amazing, almost making one forget about the hot sun beating on our faces. Aside from a view of the deep green forest and the Three Sisters Mountains, we could see our camp from high above. The beauty of nature out here makes all the work we are doing worth it, providing a way for others to also see this magnificent sight.

Wednesday: Orange Crew has several goals for this week. We are all trying to push ourselves and work harder and harder each day. We are also concentrating on learning the basics of trail building so that we can become well trained digging machines! And we are doing all this while working to complete two full miles of the beautiful Bachelor Mountain Trail. –Max St. Brown

Thursday: The crew learned this week that hard work is pretty fun when you make Arnold Schwarzenegger sounds while working. We all learned how to make trail.

**National Forest- Willamette
Ranger District- Detroit
Project Name- Elkhorn Ridge**

Week 2: August 7 – 13

Monday: Today was a very productive day. We started hiking to the bottom of the mountain where we got to see a large pond and a crosscut demonstration from the crew leader. Somebody forgot to bring the lunch, so we had to hike back to the top of the hill. We worked a full day. At the end of hiking back we got to see a natural arc made of shale rock.

Tuesday: Our project this week is to maintain and reconstruct trail. It's called Elkhorn Ridge. We are near Detroit Lake, about ten minutes [away]. We are doing this to make the trail more appealing to hikers. –Blaine

Wednesday: Today our crew had a long and strenuous hike on a constantly inclining and declining trail. We also enjoyed the beauty of a 7-hour day, which let us frolic like little kids in the lake all afternoon. Then the tragic SEED about water happened, yes, it is very hard to concentrate with rabid ducks stalking the crew... anyways.... After a long and crazy day home, now the day is winding down and we are looking forward to dinner. –Wylie

Thursday: Week 2, Day 5. Under the command of Generals James Fox and Matthew Scott, the other 9 members of Orange Crew and I managed to take several hundred feet from the enemy. Fighting out here... deep in the woods, killing hundreds, possibly thousands a day, has taken its toll on us. We have all become stone cold killers. So far we haven't had any casualties, but one person did suffer a leg injury and had to sit out of battle for a while. Some of us have doubts that we will win this war, but I know that together we can do it. Tomorrow we will destroy any living survivors and move out to rendezvous with another squadron, where we will learn of our next mission. I can't say I'll miss this place. Jacob Staly, signing off... Orange Crew for life. –Jacob S.

Friday: The epic search for cheap rims...

It was very challenging trying to find a decent pair of rims for a good price. The rims on the O.C. van are undoubtedly sub-standard. If we roll into the weekend site like this, people will surely point and laugh, saying, "Check out those rims!" We can handle lots of criticism, be it about our work, eating habits, or smelly tent, but when it comes to rims, that's where the O.C. draws the line.

First we went to Freddy's, but the rims were hurting there. We did consider some circular loaves of stale bread, but figured the rodents would make short work of them. Then Wal-Mart, but everyone knows that you can't get rims at Wal-Mart—good ones, anyway. Then we checked out other cars in the lot for a five finger discount, but Fox said "NO WAY!" Maybe we can get some extra hard hats to glue onto the existing rims—yeah, that's it! –T. Brex

National Forest- Wenatchee National Forest
Ranger District- Glacier Peak Wilderness
Project Name – Indian Creek Trail

Week 3: August 14 – 20

Monday: This weekend the Orange Crew went to Leavenworth, WA. We saw an accordion player and many Bavarian themed shops. We went into “A Matter of Taste Store” and tried some habanero salsa that made several crew members and one unsuspecting rover’s eyes water. After leaving the weekend site on Sunday we headed to Indian Creek Trail. From the trailhead we hiked 5 miles while backpacking all our tools and food for the week. Then on Monday we completed the 8-mile hike with a round of high fives! –Max

Tuesday: Today the Orange Crew hiked about a mile and a half to get to our work site. As soon as we arrived we began to work. We crossed many creeks and cut many trees, but at the end of the day or work paid off. One of the more attractive members of the crew sprained his ankle and had to take it easy, but the Orange Crew pulled another day off. –Foxy Grandpa

Wednesday: MEGA HUMP! Awesome. Today we started the day off with Safety Circle, Hump edition. Fox made a few promises today to the crew. One was if we got done with the trail by the end of tomorrow, Fox will buy the Orange hair dye. I think that today was the most productive day of work this whole session! Guess that we have done about 2 miles of trail. Last night drove the unsuspecting few of the crew that slept outside back into their tents... we got rained on. With the pending threat of rain we wore our raingear all day. Max looked extra funny with his raingear on backwards. –Taylor

Thursday: It was the best day of my life. Psych! This morning started out with a healthy breakfast, which everyone enjoyed. Then our crew did some good stretches and started a long journey to the work-site. We worked a long day and then we crawled back to camp. Then we got started on chores and I (Leo) got stuck with the funnest chore ever—shotgun/journal. After finishing chores we ate one of the most amazing dinners, did SEED, and went to sleep. –Leo N.

Friday: Our biggest challenge is the 8-mile hike to our campsite and the 2-mile hike to our work. Our biggest accomplishment is getting our work done. Sunday we hiked out 5 ½ miles where we had to camp for the night. Monday at 5:30 in the morning we had to hike the other 2 ½ miles to our campsite. We then had to hurry up and set up camp and hike 2 miles to our work site where we worked for many hours. On Wednesday we worked some more, sawing everything in our path. On Thursday we worked 10 hours swamping everything we cut and finishing trouble points on the trail. On the days it was hot, everyone was sweaty, and we were all attacked by an infinite amount of flies. One night it rained and some of our gear got wet, and the trail was muddy. Although we didn’t get our horses to pack in some of the weight, we managed to haul it all in. Richard, our contact, stopped by while we were working and said the trail was a two week project and that we didn’t believe we could get it done, but despite the flies, the rain, and the hike without our horses, we (Orange Crew) came out on top. –Wylie

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

Week 4: August 21 – 27

Monday: We slept in more than usual today... ah, sleep. Then we woke up and hit the trail and walked about 1/8 of a mile and made a fine re-route. The team showed a great amount of dedication to the project and got it done in one day. –Josh H.

Tuesday: Our project this week is to do our two final weeks in the backcountry. We will be doing brushing and fixing drainage dips. Wednesday we will be taking out a bridge. Today we thought we saw the bridge, but there was no marker saying that it was the one, so we left it. We are on the Ingalls Creek Trail near Wenatchee making it more of a decent trail to walk on and easier for water to run off. – Spencer S.

Wednesday: Today was a productive day. The crew started out very early. We then hiked down towards the trailhead. We were mostly brushing small shrubs and adding drainage dips. First break came soon and the end of the day came late. The dust filled up the sky and one of our hazel hoes broke in two under the force of the swing. On the way back to camp we came across a Northwest rattle snake. It made me realize the woods can be dangerous. –Corbin

Thursday: In one week we will be hiking out of here. Today was a very strict day with 3 staff and a swamper walking around. With all the extra staff, some of the crew still found time to slack off. Thomas, our woodsboss, flagged off sections for the group to work on. Fox says that we might even finish the trail and get to the van by the end of the day tomorrow. –Taylor

Friday: Week four—no more! Orange Crew rocked the trail this week. On Sunday we conquered a 3.5-mile hike to camp. Then the work week started on Monday. We built a re-route of a trail to be farther from the stream and did some brushing along the trail. Later in the week we really pulled together and started smashing out some projects. On Thursday we removed much of the berm and smoothed out the trail and then we started working on drainage dips and retaining walls. Friday was a hardcore day. After 4.75 hours of work towards the trailhead, we started hiking with empty backpacks. The plan was to get all of second week's food and make the 3.5-mile hike back to camp again, but luckily our contact Rusty helped us out with a horse and a pack mule. So all that was left to do was make our way back to camp while admiring the 4 retaining walls and 11 drainage dips that Orange Crew perfected in Week 4!

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

Week 5: August 28 – September 3

Saturday: We got to go swimming and pack up all our stuff. We then hiked 3 miles deeper into the backcountry to our new camp site. Sunday we worked between our old camp site and our new one, building reroutes, removing rocks from the creek, and packing in our food. Today we got to tackle two more reroutes, repaired an older one, and moved many large logs. Last night we had a nice dinner with our crew and one of our contacts, Scott. After dinner we had an observation SEED and we played fantasy (which was very humorous).

Monday: Monday our crew spent the whole day working on re-routes. We completed 3 re-routes. The first couple hours we worked right next to our campsite. After taking first break our crew moved up to work on the next reroute. Our rover, Emma, went up to the forest service tool cache, which was about 6 miles away, to bring some tools which we needed for the project. –Leo

Tuesday: It's Tuesday and we have completed yet another re-route, but this one was a little more challenging because it was full of rocks and roots so it took us the whole day.

Wednesday: This week is re-route week. We finished a long trail re-route next to a stream and we plan to move forward as the week goes on. On Thursday we hope to move some big, huge rocks and brush the area around a new length of trail. This week we also get to cut down a 30-plus foot tall tree and watch it fall. –Max

Thursday: Thursday was our final day of work because we worked on Sunday too. The day was filled with hard work and team effort. Our final projects of the day were the destruction of a small bridge that was ready to go. We had to be careful of it though, because of arsenic. Jacob Staly and I had to move baseball-sized rocks up about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the bridge to fill it in when it was gone. Fox and Leo were responsible for chopping down a beautiful Western Red Cedar and removing it off the trail. Lastly, Wylie, Taylor, and Blaine spent about two and a half hours trying to get a giant rock out of the trail with a final roll into the river. –Spencer

Friday: This final week was our second week backcountry in a row. It had its challenges, failures, and accomplishments. We raised the bar and won the war, but some of us lost a battle or two. The crew lost touch and not everyone at first, but we pulled together at the end. Our last week out in the wilderness proved to hold just as many lessons as the first.

Our job this week was to build several reroutes. We got further than our contact predicted we would, but it wasn't easy. We moved all kinds of large debris such as rocks, stumps, and trees. On our final reroute however we came across a small rock in the dirt that turned out to be an iceberg lodged in the ground. We weren't able to remove it in time so our crew leader had to chip it down with the back of a hazel hoe.

During the week our attitude grew sour towards one of the crew members, and he was given a hard time. After a rather negative scene in a group event, we all had a talk and decided to give each other another chance, and managed to make it through the rest of the week without any further problems.

This last week had many challenges, some we beat, some we came around the second time and conquered, and some we failed. But we all gave it our best shot. Although the session is finished and we're all going home, the lessons we learned from each other and ourselves will stay with us forever.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

The most challenging day that I had this session was Sunday before third week. Our crew had an 8-mile hike into a week-long backcountry stay. Our spirits were especially low because we had just lost a crew member, but I was excited because we were supposed to have horses packing in our stuff. But the horses never came and a painfully gruesome hike followed. Max St. B.

My most challenging day at NYC was the first day of first week. Starting out with a new crew is always fun, however it is also challenging. Leo N.

My most challenging day at NYC was the third day of the second week. I had a log roll over

my knee which was really painful, and I had to hike 2 miles out on it. Josh H.

My most challenging day at NYC had to be one of the days in second week. I was recovering from a minor hip [injury] from the day before. I had decided to work on my hip but it got way worse. I did not want to sit off the clock because it hurt the crew. Another hard thing that day was the 2-mile hike back to the campsite. It would have been OK if it was flat ground, but no way. It was all uphill. Taylor L.

My most challenging day at NYC was the 8-mile hike on the second week. Blaine P.

I think that my most challenging day was the hike back from our third week's backcountry trip. This was my hardest because it was 8 miles long and we had to carry really heavy backpacks back with us, with no help from horses. Also, I didn't get to hear barely any roll and roll music in the van ride either, so I was stuck listening mostly to everything but rock—so it was rap, techno, and a little country I think. Spencer S.

...week five moving large rocks from the trail with Fox and Leo. Corbin.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

I enjoyed working with Matty Scott during second week. On one day we worked an extra forty minutes figuring out the perfect way to make the trailhead sign stay buried snugly. The third week rec trip was also very fun... we went to Safeway and I got ice cream and soda, then we went swimming and I got to hear about what the other crews had been up to in weeks one and two. I also enjoyed the hike into third week's backcountry because my backpack was a bearable weight and I knew when we hiked back out it would be a straight party 'til graduating! Max St. B.

(1) getting to know my crew and others people from this session; (2) moving rocks with the whole crew; (3) chopping down trees and chopping roots. Leo N.

I really enjoyed hangin' with the crew in the long car drives listening to music. I liked it when we finished a week of work, I liked the sense of accomplishment. Third, the views were great! Josh H.

My favorite experiences with NYC were working with the crew. Corbin.

My favorite 3 experiences: (1) chopping down a tree on the first week, I had never done that before; (2) during week 2 we had to drive to get water, I liked just chillin' with Matt Scott or Fox listening to music; (3) hearing Fox say "tool count" on the last day of work, just knowing that I made it. Taylor L.

...(1) the long hikes, (2) the long work day, and (3) freakin' graduation, man/sleeping outside. Blaine P.

My three favorite experiences were meeting new people at NYC, playing my guitar for everybody at the campsite, and third so far, I liked the rigatoni dinner that Fox and Corbin made on Thursday. Spencer S.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Chowing down on granola while helping with resupply was very memorable. And I won't soon forget all the cool cats in Red, Blue, Yellow and especially Orange crew! Max St. B.

I will always remember my crew and my crew leader. Also I will remember the places I got to see. Leo N.

I will always remember everybody from Orange Crew including the crew leader. They have always taught me a lot. Josh H.

I'm going to always remember the Orange Crew, Fox, and all the cool rovers. Oh yeah, I will always remember beating Fox in a rice-eating contest. Taylor L.

I will always remember getting punk rock points for drinking a weird concoction the crew made up and put in my nalgene. Blaine P.

One thing I will always remember will be getting paid by a fellow crew member to dance with a girl from another crew. We danced to the song "Safety Dance" by Men with Hats. I thought it was pretty fun because she let me wrap my arms around her and dance on top of the trailer in front of all of my crew. I felt like the master daddy. Spencer S.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always be ready to learn. Experiencing new things is what life is all about! Max St. B.

I will always try to learn as much as I can from other people and from myself. Leo N.

From now on I'm going to always try and switch up my daily routine. Josh H.

From now on I will always know that I can do it. Taylor L.

From now on I will always know that I did my best at NYC and that I completed it, and also that this experience will help me in the future to push me a step ahead. Spencer S.

At NYC I Learned...

This session I learned how to make one heck of a good trail re-route. I also learned that what may seem impossible for one person can easily be accomplished by a whole crew. And finally I learned that after two weeks of backcountry, powdered hot cocoa mix seems pretty fine. Max St. B.

At NYC I learned how to appreciate nature and people around you. Leo N.

At NYC I learned lots of patience, because I had to work with a crew and it wasn't about my personal choices. Josh H.

At NYC I learned so much about myself and my abilities. I also learned a lot about building trail, that was cool. It was also a learning experience working with a whole crew and moving at their pace. Taylor L.

At NYC I learned to push myself to the extreme of extremes. Blaine P.

At NYC I learned how to dig trail and the technical names for trail. Also I learned how to get along with fellow crew members and get to know them. I think I also learned names for our working tools and equipment. Lastly I learned what it is like to have a real job and what it takes to commit yourself and accomplish the day's work. Spencer S.