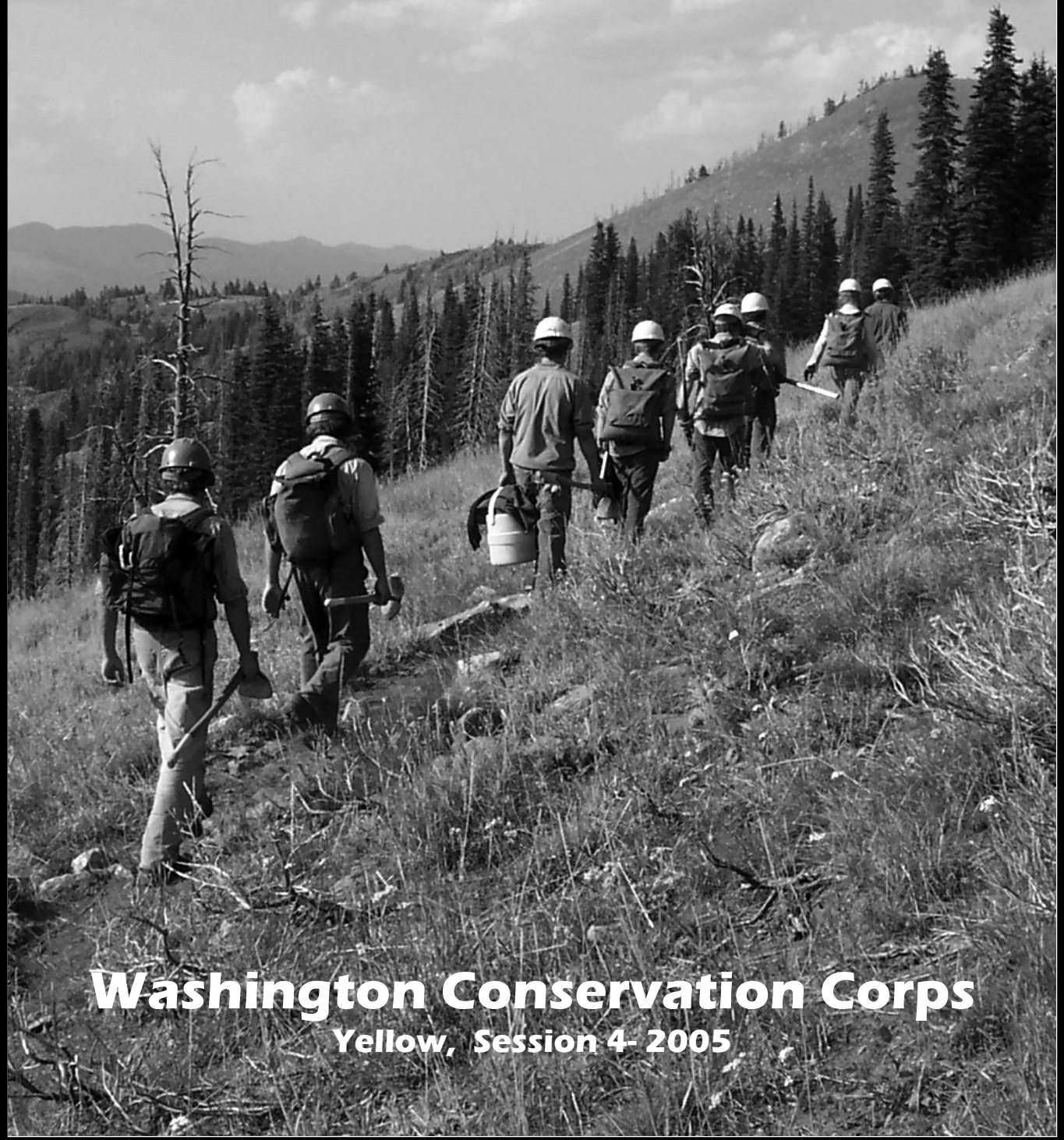




Crew Journal



Washington Conservation Corps
Yellow, 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 NF
Ranger District- Detroit RD
Project Name- Elkhorn Ridge Trail

Week 1: July 31 – August 6

Monday: Our crew drove 4 hours up and into the mountains. It was hot and took a couple of hours to find a camp ground, and when we did the site was beautiful. Our site is overlooking a lot of mountains. Our crew of MEN is getting along great! A couple of the crew members are making hot dogs for dinner. I hope it tastes good! –DJ JP

Tuesday: We walked uphill then downhill and dug in the dirt, then walked home. We ate lunch and had two snacks. For lunch we had smoked salmon on bruchetta with a pinch of parmesan and fresh basil. Dinner was so extravagant that I can't get into it here, but I will say that the crème brulee with roasted Brazilian cashews was quite pleasant. –Guess who

Wednesday: We went up a hill, then over it, then back. It is the endless flow of flux and consistency. The hill may seem the same morning after morning, but it is all quite different on a microscopic level. Even the wind will move a blade of grass slightly to one side, and a fly might become entangled in a spider's web. It might seem like the same hill to the untrained eye, but in fact it is quite different. –Boss Man

Thursday: We walked up a hill and worked on the trail clearing brush, and some people... Jeewillickers, that was fun. Then we walked down the hill and met Matt, he was driving a different van and popped the tire and they fixed it.

Friday: Today we set out again to conquer the mountain trails. Brushing and lopping were the main activities we worked on. We had to work for 9 hours and got off at 3:20. We hiked back down and got to lie around for 20 minutes. Then we took down camp and prepared to leave on Friday. We had burritos and Nate and I ate way too much. Then we had SEED and went to bed. –Allie F.

National Forest- Okanogan
Ranger District- Methow Valley
Project Name- Crystal Lake Trail

Week 2: August 7 – 13

Monday: Today my crew went backcountry. We walked 4 miles up the mountain, it was freakin' HOT! We had horses carry up our food and tools. Our crew worked 4 hours fixing trail. We are all very dirty and it's only the first day! –A very dirty person

Tuesday: Today our crew didn't want to get up. But we had to anyway. So we split up into two groups and one went one way, the other went the other way. We met up during lunch and started building a turnpike. We removed the old one and started the new. Now I'm writing a journal entry because it's so fun. –Chris C.

Wednesday: We woke up early and cleaned up from last night, then started working. I skinned logs then after I skinned a log we moved them into wherever they were supposed to go. Then I moved rocks. After lunch I dug holes, then I moved rocks again for the rest of the day. When we got back to camp it started to rain and I dug out the tent and then I wrote the journal. –Joe H.

Thursday: This week we learned about camping in the rain. On the second and third day out here, we got a lot of rain in the evening. Doug and Jacob showed us how to make our backcountry tents bomb-proof against the rain. We dug trenches inside and out of our tents. We also dug out level areas on the ground so that we wouldn't slip out. It didn't always work! Nate slipped out anyway! But none of our sleeping bags got wet, despite the rain, hail, lightning and high winds. –John Paul B.

Friday: On Friday a wind storm struck, making it unsafe to work. So we all went back to bed until the evening. At about one o'clock the horse crew arrived, ready to pack our gear uphill. Also the wind died down, making it possible for us to head up to our next campsite.

**National Forest- Okanogan
Ranger District- Methow Valley
Project Name- Crystal Lake Trail**

Week 3: August 14 – 20

Monday: Today we did a lot of trail work, like improving the tread and digging grade dips so run-off water doesn't erode the trail. It was really hot and there was no cloud cover at all. By the end of the day, we were all ready to go back to camp, but we felt really good about the amount of work we got done today. –Leham W.

Tuesday: This week we are continuing up the Crystal Lake Trail. We have dug around 20 drainage dips and currently looking forward to 4 more turnpikes so the trail is passable by horse. A chigger bit my butt today—that is no dice. The area we're in is a burn area worse than ever. We use sunglasses and sunscreen. –Sam L.

Wednesday: Today, the crew continued working on the last three turnpikes. We gathered rocks for the foundation. Using sweet hooks, we hauled huge logs to their desired locations. We had to stop many times along the way to rest because the logs were too big. Doug and Jacob had to cut down the logs with chainsaws. After being cut, the logs had to be skinned of their bark. Before any of these turnpikes could be worked on, we had to tear out all of the old logs and dirt. –Allie F.

Thursday: Today when we woke up, Paul's lip was swollen up like a horse. He had a reaction to something. The crew split up—one half finished the three turnpikes, the other built a French drainage dip and got attacked by bees and stung. Then Paul had to leave because his lip was huge and it was our last work day for this project.

Friday: We woke up in our white and green tents. Tiredly we put our gear on our packs and hiked out. It took about 2 hours for us to hike out. Happy to see the vans, we loaded up and drove to our weekend site, making a few store stops along the way.

**National Forest- Wenatchee
Ranger District- Leavenworth
Project Name- Upper White River Trails**

Week 4: August 21 – 27

Monday: This weekend, we went to the last weekend site of the session. It was the last one because every crew is going backcountry for the last two weeks. We all got some well-deserved rest and packed up and left for our next project.

Tuesday: Today we worked on brushing and clearing the trail. We had to lop and saw vine maples. A couple of people had to dig drainage ditches. Brex came up and worked with us. We had some goofy old guy who worked on the trail in 1966 walk by. My legs are infested with some strange parasitic parasites. –Al

Wednesday: Our crew has been working hard for 2 days now. Our goals for the week are brushing and trail clearing. Today we woke up early, it was cold. We jumped right into brushing vine maples. There

was dew on the leaves, which found its way onto us in no time. When the sun came out so did the bees... 4 nests were discovered today. I was stung 4 times in the arm—this too was no dice. –Sam L.

Thursday: Today we walked up 15 switchbacks. When we got to the top we started working. We cut stumps and brushed sticks and cleared trail. Then we had a 15-minute break. We went back to work then we took a half an hour lunch, then we cut more stobs, then we got off at 3:30. It took 30 minutes to walk back.

Friday: Today our crew got a lot of work done. We worked like crazy in the hot sunny weather and almost finished the 2nd switch back trail. We were pooped but not after we jumped into icy cold water, which felt good... kinda. Oh yeah! We all saw Bambi trying to get down the trail which we were blocking. Tomorrow is our rest day... YES!

**National Forest- Wenatchee
Ranger District- Leavenworth
Project Name- Upper White River Trails**

Week 5: August 28 – September 3

Monday: Today we woke up late because we didn't get to our new camp site until very late in the day. We continued our brushing activities and cut down a few small trees. The weather kept shifting between sunny and rainy throughout the day so we had to work in our rain gear all day. Today also seemed to go by much faster than normal, which was very nice. –Leham

Tuesday: This week we are in the Wenatchee Wilderness area. Our goals for the week are to clear the trail of vine maple and cut back foliage that I have deemed "raptor grass." The trail is completely overgrown in some places, enough that horses can't pass. This is no dice. And we are now charged with the duty of improving the trail. –Sam

Wednesday: Well we woke up, had breakfast, went to work, busted our backs for 3 hours working on stream fords, then had break, then went to work after break again. We worked 'til we were tired, then got lunch break and sat around doing nothing. We went back to work, then got off work, then did chores...I got to do journal entry. –Nate E.

Thursday: Thursday we worked a short 4-hour day and then hiked an 8-mile hike out. We all were hurting so badly but we pushed on. We spent the night at the end of the trail. We got to sleep in 'til 7am. It felt good. –DJ JP

Friday: We woke up. Sam and I made breakfast. We ate breakfast and packed our gear to leave. We left the trail and we drove to the weekend site for Big Clean. –Charles C-T

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was my 1st day getting to know everyone. I had to figure out who was who. Charles.

My most challenging day at NYC was at Elkhorn trail, having to hike up 2 and a half miles. It was one good workout. JP.

My most challenging day at NYC was hiking the food in to our camp. Joe.

My most challenging day was the very first work day of the session when we hike dup Elkhorn Ridge. Leham W.

My most challenging day at NYC was our second time climbing Elkhorn R. Vomited twice, it was no dice. Sam L.

...hiking in to Boulder Creek. Allie F.

...hiking out of Boulder Creek. Nathan E.

...hiking out from our last camp. Chris.

...the first day hiking up Elkhorn. Paul S.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My first experience was meeting new people and friends. My second experience was learning new skills. My third experience was learning to work hard. Charles.

My three favorite NYC experiences were having fun time in the tent, PMA on the worksite, and hearing Doug sing in the morning. JP.

My favorite experiences have to be the first and second weekend rec trips, and getting to know my crew. Joe.

My favorite things were the first weekend site, playing my guitar at Okanogan, and the banana stretch in safety circle. Leham W.

My favorite things were watching Chris interact with nature, the tent battles at night, and just talking with my crew at dinner. Sam L.

... (1) moving rocks, (2) rolling rocks, and (3) laughing at Chris. Allie F.

... rolling rocks, doing tread work, and eating the bad food. Nathan.

... (1) moving rocks, (2) rolling rocks, and (3) laughing at Allie. Chris.

... (1) the food, (2) hiking, and (3) cool music. Paul.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember people are unpredictable. Charles.

I will always remember fun times at the work site... LOL. JP.

I will always remember just chatting with my crew at dinner. Sam L.

I will always remember my new friends. Allie F.

I will remember the bad food. Nathan E.

... are the people. Joe.

I will always remember what I learned about the environment. Leham W.

I will always remember my friends and D and D talks. Paul S.

I will remember the food. Chris.

From Now On I Will Always...

I will always respect others' privacy. Charles.

I will always remember to use the RIGHT forest TP! JP.

...eat more PB&J. Paul S.

I will always be safe when using a tool. Leham W.

I will always store stools properly. Allie F.

I will always be myself. Nathan.

I will always use toilet paper.

I will always respect nature and treat it so.

I will always remember my friends. Joe.

At NYC I Learned...

I learned to talk to people, relax while being around people I don't know, and brushing vine maple trees. Charles.

At NYC I learned to rebuild trail, what to use as TP, and how to cook dinner. JP.

I learned how to cross-cut, how to dig trail, and what was good to use as nature wipe in the woods. Leham W.

I learned that building trail isn't easy, and also that getting to know 10 other people in such a short time was hard. Sam L.

... how to roll rock down the hill. Chris.

I learned how to cross-cut.

I learned how to cook on weird stoves. Allie F.

I learned how to make grade dips.

I learned how to carry tools, how to store tools, and how to use tools properly. Joe.

... that badness is not cool in NYC. Paul S.