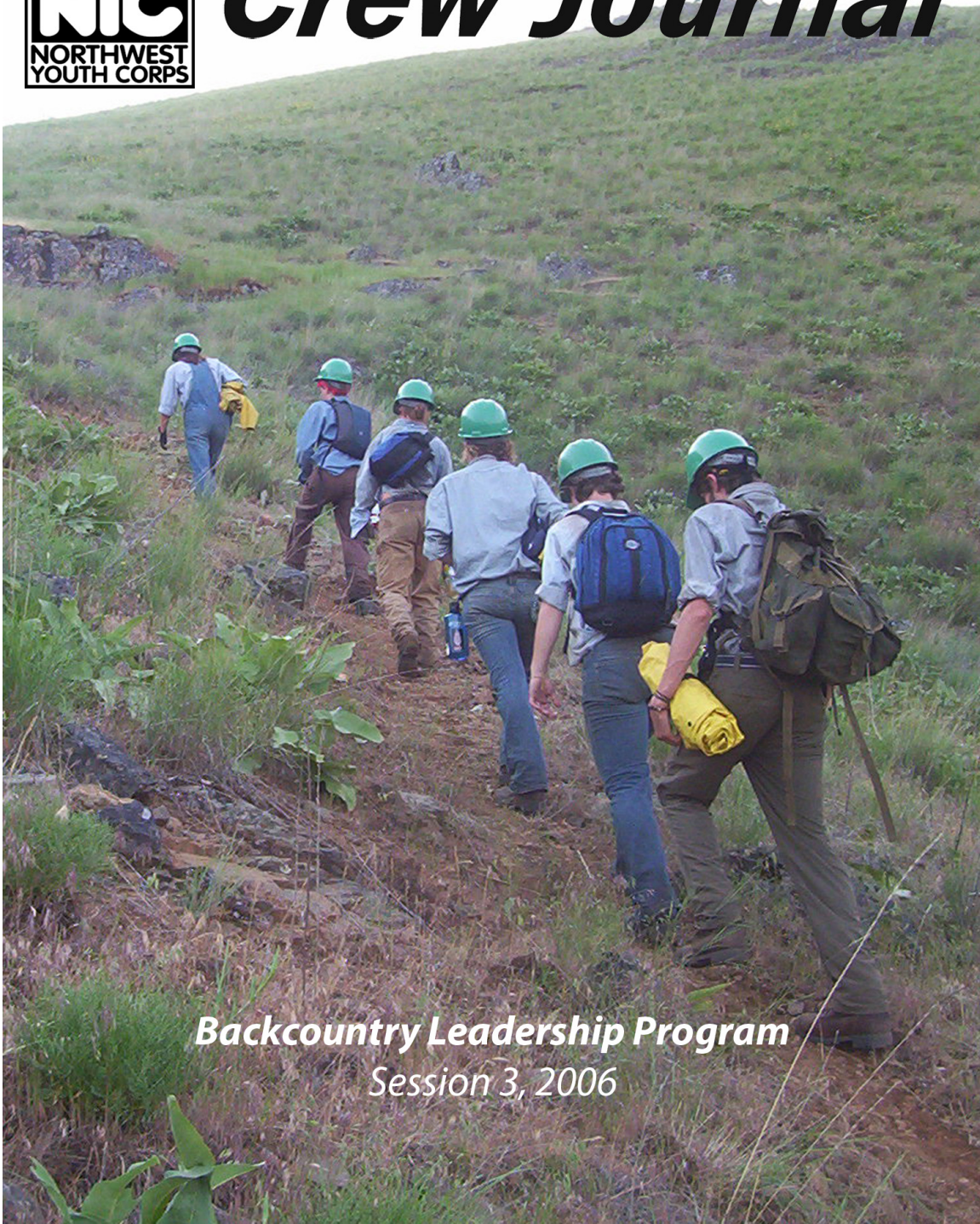




# *Crew Journal*



*Backcountry Leadership Program*  
*Session 3, 2006*



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 2006. It is testimony of your successes, challenges, experiences both good and bad as well as some 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. Make it happen!!!

A few of the amazing things accomplished during the 2006 field season at NYC; over 17 miles of new trail constructed, over 328 miles of existing trail maintained, 2,237 drainage structures installed, 3,400 ft. of retaining wall built, 1,222 ft. of turnpike constructed, 323 ft. of bridge built, 208 acres of trees pruned, 381 logs bucked out, and 1,513 acres of noxious weeds eradicated.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe Waksmundski'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue, textured background.

Joe Waksmundski  
NYC Field Director



**National Forest or area that the work took place: Payette NF  
Ranger District  
Project Name- Monumental**

Week 1: Date July 31<sup>st</sup>-Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday: During the 1<sup>st</sup> week it was a bit hectic for myself and a few other corpsmembers. We all thought that we were doing BLP for Oregon. So I drove from Washington to Oregon. Then back to Washington to Idaho. Then by the time we got there we got 3 hours of sleep. Our crews first and only project is in Payette Forest. We had to hike over 8 miles in, walk through swampy lands, cross rivers and even though this was difficult we all made it. Now what is funny about our hike in is that every time we crossed a river we tried so hard not to get wet. Then about 5 minutes until our camp sight, we hear water, we were thinking cool last one. Well we went around the corner and there was this deep river we had to cross so everyone got wet. Our project is to restore a trail and make a bridge.

The first day on the work sight, we busted out some trail. We did everything from pulling small weeds to moving a five foot wide tree from the hill. All day I could here the tools pounding against the dirt. I think that this is going to be the best crew I have been on so far. We all are returners and are looking forward to what we can do. -Johnathan C.

Wednesday: Our goals for the week (though I'm not sure as to whether or not we have discussed this topic yet.) I'm sure would include becoming adjusted to each other and becoming a unified trail digging organism of sorts. Also to be fast and efficient with camp chores. Most importantly, to have fun! -Joe

Thursday: This week are crew learned or re-learned in some cases how to run a after shift bum line, get frustrated over bear hangs and dropping a few yellow tops along the way. -Kimberly

Friday: It seems the crews having a hard time getting back into the whole swing at a steady pace thing. But it seems we've been busting out at camp and trying our hardest with the bear hang and trying your hardest is all anyone asks. We really need to work on not talking when others are talking. -Scott S.

**National Forest or area that the work took place**  
**Ranger District**  
**Project Name-**

Week 2: Date Aug 7<sup>th</sup>-Aug 11<sup>th</sup>

Monday: Our crew went down to the creek on Saturday and hung out for about four hours and on Sunday we hung out at camp and beat the bear hang, third times the charm. Then we hung out and got ready for the next day at work.

Tuesday: Our project is exactly the same as last week. We are building very long, dusty trail. Wahoo! We are going to build a turnpike tomorrow and soon we will have a new project! That will certainly be very exciting. We are still in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. I think that we are doing this project because people like to hike. I definitely know! -Jennifer H.

Wednesday: How is your crew getting along. For the most part the arguments are few and far between and there mostly about nothing important so most things are just fin among the crew. I haven't seen anything that might cause a bigger problem. -Jay L.

Thursday: Today we made a turnpike and finished treading our trail. We used sand and rocks from a beach by fire lining bags up a hill. It was great. We almost finished our first project but we'll have to go back tomorrow for Q.C. Our woods boss might hike in to visit us, because he has to put our re-supply stuff at the trail head anyway, which we get to go out on Saturday to get. -Julie V.

What is the crew's favorite thing about NYC? (according to Jennifer & Kim)

Kim: the hikes to and from work

Neil: getting to cut down trees.

Bri: making dinner for the crew

Cole: sleeping

John: making new friends

Jay: work prep and filling water

Scott: Having lots of challenges  
Julie V.W: doing laundry on Sundays  
Jen: Rocks and Bees  
Julie R: making pancakes for other people  
Brian: Working really long hours

BLP RULES! GO IDAHO! SEAFOAM!

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Payette**  
**Ranger District: Krassle**  
**Project Name- Monumental Creek**

Week 3: Date Aug 14<sup>th</sup>-Aug 18<sup>th</sup>

Monday: Monday the first day of the work week building trail through rocks and across a hill side attempting to reach the seemingly unreachable goals set before us. Were looking forward to the rest of the week.

Tuesday: Starting leader of the day today. It was very helpful I'm sure to those who lead. Looking forward to those next in line. We achieved our goals also today by reaching 500 feet by lunch. It was awesome.

Wednesday: The trees were amazing today, they were an amphitheater for the stars. I really like my shoes. I hope I have them forever. Everybody needs shoes like these. –Johnathon C.

Thursday: Our crew dog fonderosa “Pondy”!  
If we had a crew dog, I'd name her Ponderosa! Call her pndy for short. She'd help pack tools with her cool back pack. She would bring up the slack, because that where we'd need to be at! She would be a true motivator and help keep the (boovels?) away!  
She would be the first volunteer to eat the food that drops on the ground. She'd help breakfast people...Ponderosa would be the perfect crew dog....

Friday: I am tired. We only have one full week left, and then we have 2 and ½ days of work left. That is quite sad. I like Idaho sometimes. I hope I can come back someday. There are lots of beautiful views and lots of sage too. I didn't like it here at first but no I love it. It is quite nice here. Wahoo.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Payette**  
**Ranger District: Krassle**  
**Project Name- Monumental Creek**

Week 4: Date Aug 21<sup>st</sup>-Aug 25<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: One more challenge down, and many more to go! We are coming up to our fourth week and to start it off we started with an incredible challenge, but it resulted in a big reward! Our crew hike to Look Out Mountain on Saturday.

Monday: Man, work is awesome. We almost finished our trail, maybe a few more days? Well again were about to eat dinner.

Tuesday: We put rock water bars in all day and finished them. It was cool. I have nothing else to say so bye.

Wednesday: We are really close to finishing our project, we have 1300 feet left. We are hoping to be done by Friday at lunch. We only have a week and a half left of BLP and everyone is excited and sad at the same time. I hope we don't have any more injuries because it sucks and we've already had plenty. The past 4 weeks have gone by really fast and a lot has happened, I think we'll all need a vacation after the session is over. –Julie V.W.

Thursday: Next week is the last week of work we are 400 feet from the main project completion and we hope to finish before lunch tomorrow.

Friday: Hooray! We are having our solos tomorrow! It is going to be great because we are all lasting! I hope we all have a good experience, and come back happy. We are also going to be completely silent during our solos and we got to make cool (shelters?) out of sticks and bark. When we got back we got to have a big meal and be happy and excited in the next week of work!

**National Forest or area that the work took place**  
**Ranger District**  
**Project Name-**

Week 5: Date Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>-Sept 1<sup>st</sup>

Monday: Hooray, it's Monday. Today we learned that Christopher Columbus invented the wheel and that Aristotle invented the lever. Sir Isaac Newton invented the waterfall. Scott invented trees. Hmm....inventions. That pretty much covers Monday. –Jennifer H.

Tuesday: I don't know what happened on Tuesday. It was so long ago that if I looked back on it I would probably not be able to write this because I would lose. Trains are cool there big there loud and if you fall in front of on you die. –Scott

Wednesday: Today we did more QC and got finished and are going to hike out tomorrow. Everybody very excited to be nearing the trail head.

Thursday: We hike out today and camped out at the trail head. We get to go home in two days. It is really weird seeing vans and other people. We haven't showered in five weeks, or done laundry or have been to a town. SO everyone is excited for the long drive out tomorrow. Good be Frank Church! -Julie VW

Friday: Today we woke up at 5:30 and packed our stuff up and drove out of the Frank Church. We are still driving. We will be doing be clean later. That won't be fun. -Jay

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

I don't know their was not only one. It was all sort of mashed together so I don't know.  
-Jay

My most challenging day at NYC was when I went on my Solo. It was very different to build my shelter, also not being able to eat for the time I was on my Solo. -Johnathon C.

My most challenging day was when I stepped on a bees nest and tried to run away but I stepped on another bees nest. They all got stuck in my hair and collar. It sucked. - Jennifer

The day my lip puffed up. -Julie

When I had tear a huge stump out. It took all day. -Neil

The first day! -Brianna

Hiking out for hand and hiking back in. -Scott

Working with a puncture wound on my foot. -Cale

The hike out. -Kim

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

The van ride to whoop um up arriving in our camp site and getting out of the site. -Jay

When I hike in to our camp sight it was a very challenging hike the first itme every morning getting out of the ten and seeing every ones faces. Last but not least work on the side of a hill with fog all around, then the sun rising over the hills in the distance. - Johnathon C.

Having the best solo spot ever killing off Julie, hiking out over the trail we dug. First week. -Julie

Solos, lookout mountain and playing mafia. -Neil

Completing BLP, Hiking to Look out Mountain and seeing the sun rise over the mountains. -Brianna

BLP and finishing the job. -Scott

Sight seeing, new friends, fire. -Cole

Getting to look out Mountain, Solo's, New friends. -Kim

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

Cole's PH it was funny –Jay

I will remember everyone's faces on the last day and I will also remember all of the funny moments with my crew. –Johnathon C.

I will always remember the Frank Church and how big and amazing it is. I will also always remember big funs when everyone is getting along. –Julie

The sunrise and my Solo. –Neil

I will always remember the Frank Church and the Wild life in which lives within. –Brianna

Brian. –Scott

Cold –Cole

I will always remember the work experience and all the people. –Kim

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

Appreciate my bed more. –Jay

Be thankful for what I have. Be aware of what I'm doing. Also I will now do anything to stand up for what is right. –Johnathon C.

I will be thankful for all the small things like showers, beds, clean clothes, heat. I will also value alone time and free time more!

I will always be grateful for all of life's advantages. –Neil

I will always work hard to the best of my ability and also strive for the achievement of my goals and dreams. –Brianna

Not bring people down. –Scott

Bring a warm sleeping bag. –Cole

To come more prepared to NYC. –Kim

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

About memory (inflation?) How people can be super lazy and not much else. –Jay

I learned how to be a leader, take responsibility for my own actions and how to be a team player. –Johnathon C.

I learned that bees are evil. Not taking a shower for five weeks isn't that bad and that I can push myself even when I don't think I can be pushed anymore. –Julie

I learned that the wilderness is a cool place. –Neil

I learned how precious the land is! -Brianna

About a new area. –Scott

I learned how wilderness areas are protected. –Cole

To step out side of my comfort zone and attempt to lead. –Kim