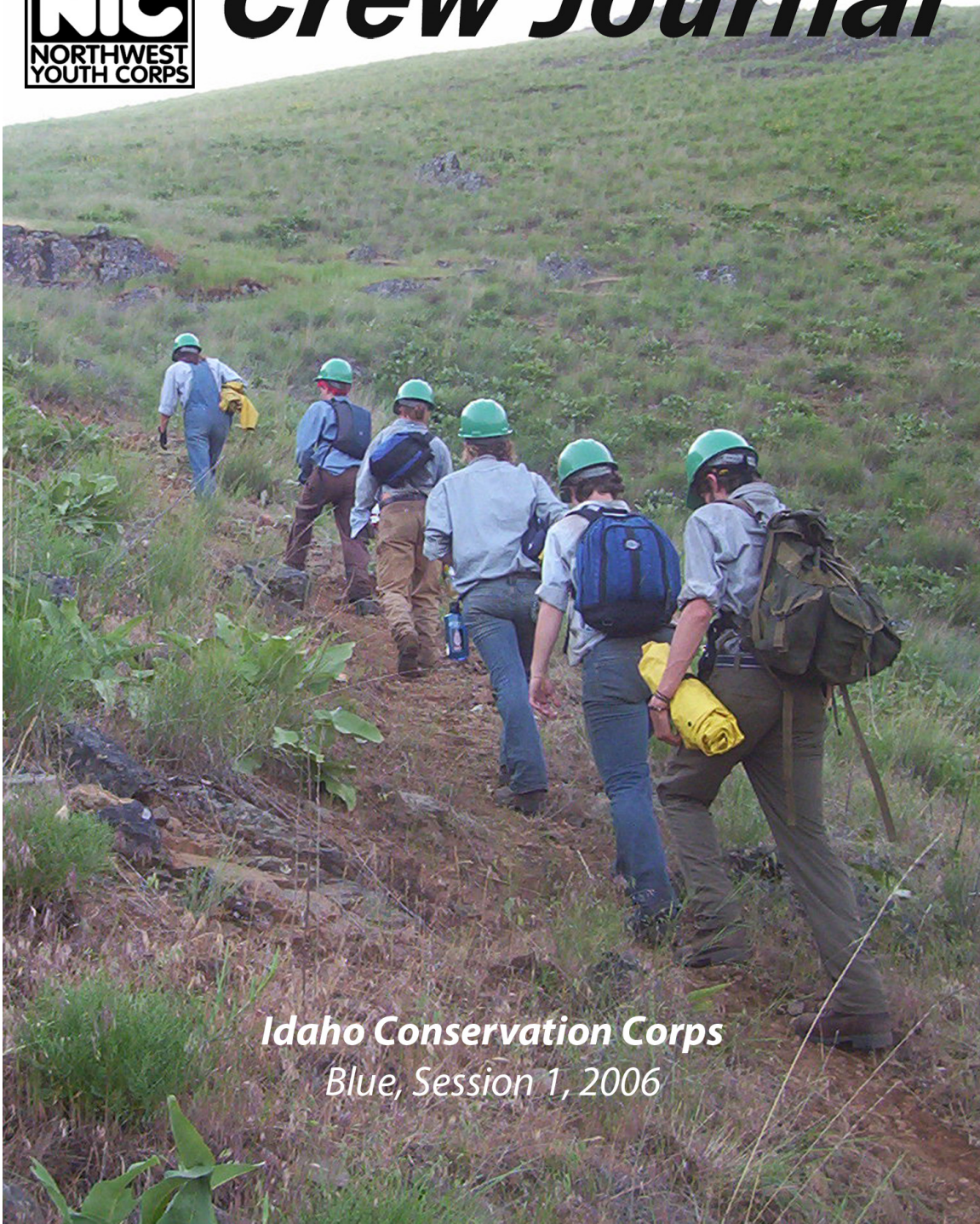




# *Crew Journal*



*Idaho Conservation Corps  
Blue, Session 1, 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.

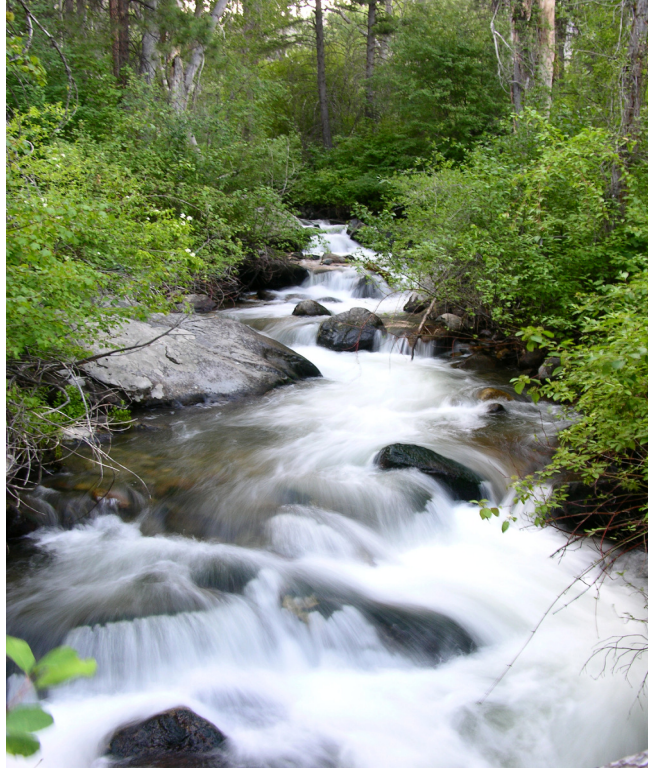
As you embark on your next adventure, whatever it may be, remember the things you did here. Remember the challenges you faced and that nothing is impossible. All you need is a fistful of gorp, a PB&J, and some good friends. Make it happen!!!

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 positioned over a light blue rectangular background.

Joe Waksmundski  
NYC Field Director



**National Forest or area that the work took place: Colville  
Ranger District  
Project Name- Little Pend Oriell Slash Piling**

Week 1: Date June 19<sup>th</sup>-June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Monday: First off we started to get to know each other. We did various activities such as bag check. Then we all circled up and talked about what we are going to do and what they expect from us, as a member and a crew. Then next day we got in our crews and went to the worksites. –J.O.

Tuesday: The crew is maintaining (clearing) an old fire road within a wildlife refuge. The road hasn't been maintained for several years, leading up a mountain, cutting trees and shrubs from out of the five mile reach. – Chad

Wednesday: Today we were “trail blazing!” One of our goals was to finish our first project earlier than the time provided. You know what? We are the best looking crew. We plan to keep it that way. Another goal is to keep a positive attitude toward other crew and ourselves. –Trevor M.

Thursday: This wonderful first week we learned to work as a team. (aka teamwork.) We also learned the proper ways to use all the tools. A lot of us have also learned to change attitudes to compensate for others. This was a great first week. Also more motivation comes from within. – Andrew

Friday: This week we successfully accomplished clearing a road of trees and other debris. We started Monday and finished it with an hour or so to spare. Some challenges were getting the trees cut down and moved to the side of the road. Another one was the chainsaws breaking down and the chains becoming dull. Some of the crew started to get sick with allergies and other sicknesses. We broke down camp the day before we left and slept under the stars. We got our showers and started for our weekend site in Moscow, Idaho. -R. C.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Hell's Canyon**  
**Ranger District: Hell's Canyon**  
**Project Name- Painting**

Week 2: Date June 26<sup>th</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>

Monday: We got to the weekend sight around 10:30 pm. After that we set up camp as fast as we could and made dinner. At dinner we had lasagna. After dinner we went to bed. On Saturday we went on are recreational trip. One group went to a reservoir and the other went to the Snake River. After that we all got on chores and then had a big fun, then had dinner and then had another big fun and then went to bed. The next day we broke down camp and then did another big fun and then hit the road.

Tuesday: This week we are re-painting shelters at the Hell's Canyon National Recreational Area. Temperatures top out at over 100 degrees. We are taking breaks in the middle of the day to avoid the blistering heat. Also the paint doesn't work during the heat because it dries too fast and peels or bubbles. As the week goes on we are acquiring more appropriate tools for the work: rollers, sand paper, etc. The scenery is beautiful. -Paul B.

Wednesday: In the morning we painted the camp bathrooms. The crew would like to finish painting the three bathrooms and do as much prep work as possible elsewhere. If there was more paint we would paint more. Trevor would like to ride a bison. -Matt G.

Thursday: This week we are learning about safety with rattlesnakes, painting, and lizards. Also we learned about reading different kinds of maps. Also we learned eating garlic straight is very disgusting and hot. We also learned a little about the hot hot weather and the Snake River. Thanks for being a great leader Justin! -Glenn M.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Nez Perce**  
**Ranger District: Riggins**  
**Project Name- Slash Piling**

Week 3: Date July 3<sup>rd</sup>-July 7<sup>th</sup>

Monday: This weekend we stayed at McCall. We all went on our rec. trips and hung out downtown. Also our parents came to visit. It was a great weekend.

Tuesday: My crew is camping in the Nez Perce National Forest and piling slash to prevent the spread of wildfire. –Matt

Wednesday: Due to our project of slash piling we set the goal of completing over 75 piles a day. We completed 80 in one day, though found short of slash due to the lack of materials. –Chad

Thursday: Attitude makes all the difference. Our crew was not excited to get our assignment Sunday morning, and our mood reached a record low on Tuesday morning. There is no inherent enjoyment or unpleasantness in the work itself. It is what you make of it. Personally, I enjoyed the work more as the week went on. Some crew members complained but it's their attitude that is the problem, not the work. With a good attitude, the work goes much more quickly and is also more enjoyable. The key is to keep up the PMA. –Paul B.

Friday: We finished all the slash piles in the Nez Perce National Forest that we possibly could. We completed something like 200+ piles. A few challenges we had were keeping up our curiosity as the days of piling went on. Today our challenge was finding things to pick up because we did such a good job earlier in the week that we really had nothing to do. Now we are headed to the weekend site. –Ryan C.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Frank Church  
Ranger District: N. Fork Salmon  
Project Name- Clearing Trail**

Week 4: Date July 10<sup>th</sup>-July 14<sup>th</sup>

Monday: The various crews gathered at a camp site near Grangeville. On Saturday everybody went on Rec. Trips. Sunday consisted of taking care of re-supply. –Matt G.

Tuesday: We are working in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area. We are clearing trail for six miles, along Reynolds Creek. It's a horse trail, so we have to clear 4 feet wide and 10 feet tall. We will cross the creek many times along the way. This trail must be used fairly often because there is fresh poop on the trail. We will have another project next week. – Paul B

Wednesday: Our goals for this week are to finish Reynolds Creek trail as much as possible. Another goal is to get in all our hours plus more so we don't have as much to work in the backcountry next week. –Ryan C.

Thursday: This week we learned to put the raingear in two backpacks instead of one bag. We also learned that if we have PMA the end of the session will come quicker. We also learned that pushing yourself harder than usual will get things done quicker. –Ryan C.

Friday: Starting at 7:00 in the morning we started hiking 2 miles in to try and re-route a trail. Our stuff was carried in by mules including gear, food and appliances. We all had a great attitude about work until we found out that we had to hike back to fix a trail. We all were a little upset but we were all optimistic, and carried out the job. –Trevor.

**National Forest or area that the work took place:**  
**Ranger District North Fork Salmon**  
**Project Name- North Fork RD Coyuse Trail**

Week 5: Date July 17<sup>th</sup>-July 21<sup>st</sup>

Monday: This weekend we just had a good time. We were by ourselves at a campground. We went to the hot springs and just chilled. On Sunday we worked on our project. –Andrew L

Tuesday: We all finally met our contact, Jim. We built a retaining wall. And a mighty fine one indeed, located at North Fork, inside the Frank Church Wilderness. Following other trail projects, check dams, water barges and trail reconstruction. –Chad

Wednesday:

Our goal for the week was originally to do a re-route and fix a French drain in the backcountry. However, an early section of the trail needed immediate attention, so our focus shifted to building a retaining wall, check dams, and water bars. We would have made more lengths of retaining wall, but we ran out of supplies; because our contacts didn't pack in enough posts and stuff. We did what we could with what we had, though which is what we've been doing the whole session. –Paul B.

Thursday: We learned how to build a stable retaining wall, that will last ages to come. Following that we did other constructive objects like rock bars and check dams. An important week for the first time all session we build actually a permanent object. –Chad

Friday: Our crew was challenged by having to fit all our hours into 4 days while working on a physically challenging project. We also ran very low on food. Our accomplishments consisted of completing our hours and a great deal of work. We also managed to have complete dinners each night. –Cody V.

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

The most challenging day at NYC was probably when my crew and I were stationed at Pittsburgh landing in Hells Canyon. We were painting huts in 107 degree weather. The paint would have troubles sticking to the picnic benches and huts, but by us all going through the troubles together it made us a stronger crew. With Love, Andrew L.

The most challenging day was painting in the 110 degree heat at Hells Canyon. ---  
Trevor

My most challenging day was when I was painting in Hells Canyon. –Ryan C.

My most challenging day was the first day of work because I wasn't used to the labor and I missed my girlfriend. –Paul B.

My most challenging day was the beginning of week 3 because I still had 3 weeks and hadn't gone ½ way. –Matt

My most challenging day was when we painted in 110 degree weather. –Cody V.

My most challenging moment was when we worked in Hells Canyon in 107 degree heat.

The 107 degree heat of Hells Canyon while working in sunny conditions. Chad N.

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

My three favorite NYC experiences were meeting new people, completing the program and finding my true inner self. –Andrew L.

Being able to complete projects with the satisfaction of knowing all my energy finished it. Dipping in the beautiful hot springs after a long day and traveling the majestic land of Idaho. –Chad N

The three things are getting new friends, having fun and finding out about myself. – Trevor P.S. Love me

My three favorite NYC experiences were meeting new people, making new friends and going to new places. –Ryan C.

Last day of work; swimming and thunderstorms. –Paul B

Learning how to maintain a trail. –Cody V.

Building a retaining wall, Rec. Trips and meeting awesome people. –Matt

My crew, my rec. trips and my crew leader. –Johnny

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

One thing that I will always remember about NYC is “the crew” we were such a hard working crew. With love –Andrew L.

That an adult can lose freedom even working high above others. –Chad N

One thing I will remember is that we are the best looking crew. –Trevor

One thing I will remember is everything that has happened. –Ryan C.

I will always remember the conflicts and challenges I faced as a swamper; also Justin’s goofiness and Trevor’s antics. –Paul B.

I will always remember the friends we made and the challenges we faced. Cody V.

I will always remember the people that I met and some crazy hair. Matt

My crew. –Johnny

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

From now on I will always remember my manners and always do dishes. With love – Andrew L.

I will acknowledge others personality, despite differences. –Chad N

From now on I will always remember. –Justin M.

From now on I will always be myself and not let anyone else say anything different. – Ryan C.

From now on I will always try to help others who need it, I will also always stay true to my ideals. –Paul B.

From now on I will try and keep the environment around me nice and clean.

I will always stay true to myself. –Matt

Keep in touch with the friends I made here. Johnny

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

Here at NYC I have learned a lot. A couple of things that I have learned is that I have great people skills, how to work with a group of people and how to properly use tools. With love –Andrew L.

I Learned that even when working to the highest ability, others will be accredited for least effort done. –Chad

To let loose and become oneself and find the inner self.

I learned to tie knots, open up a bit more, and to not get pissed off about nothing. –Ryan C.

That you can't make people do what they should do, you have to figure out how to convince/motivate them. –Paul B.

I learned how to do trail work and to stay hydrated and keep a PMA. –Cody V.

I learned more about who I am and what it is like to be an adult. –Matt

The same thing I learned the last three years. –Johnny