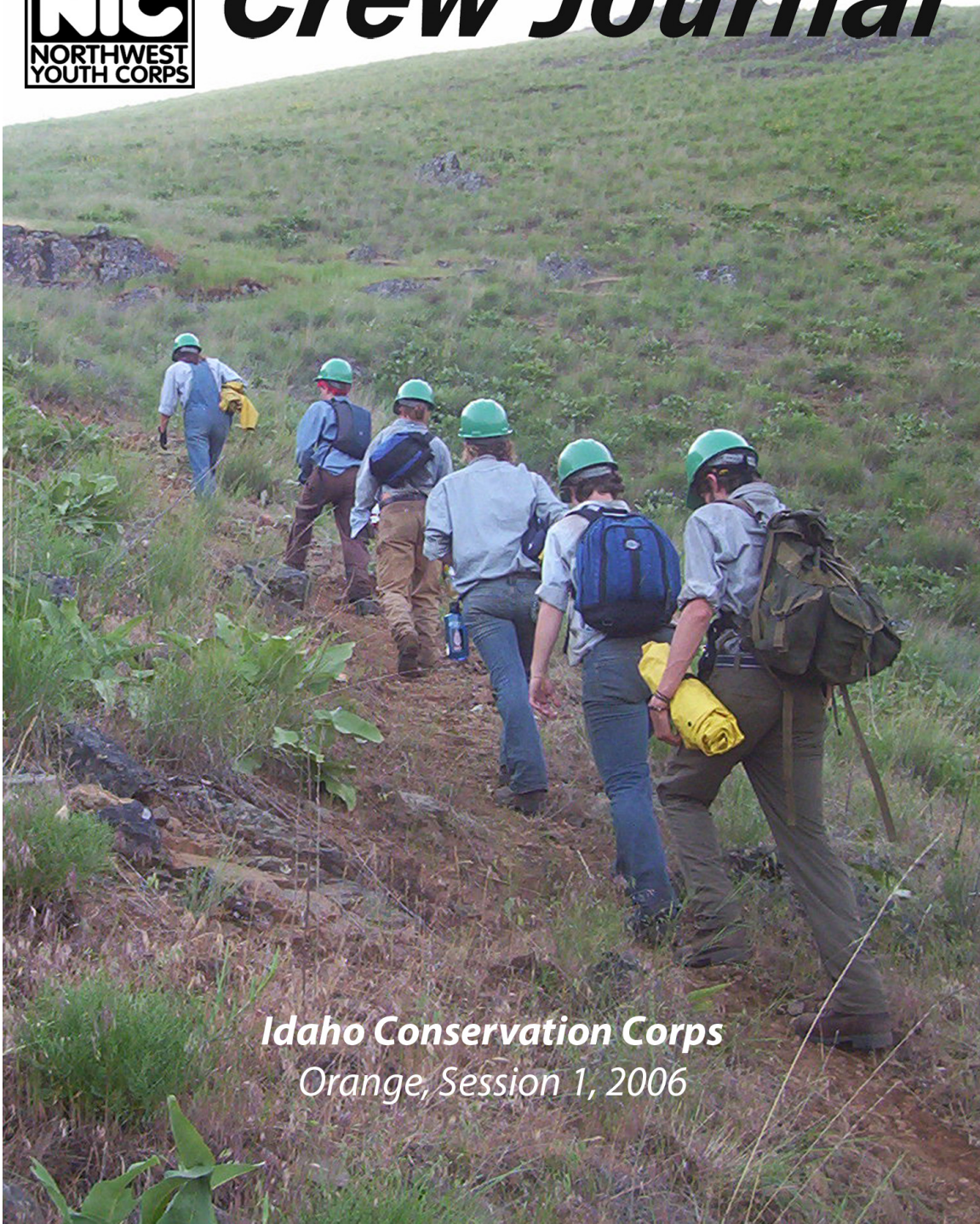




# *Crew Journal*



*Idaho Conservation Corps  
Orange, 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.

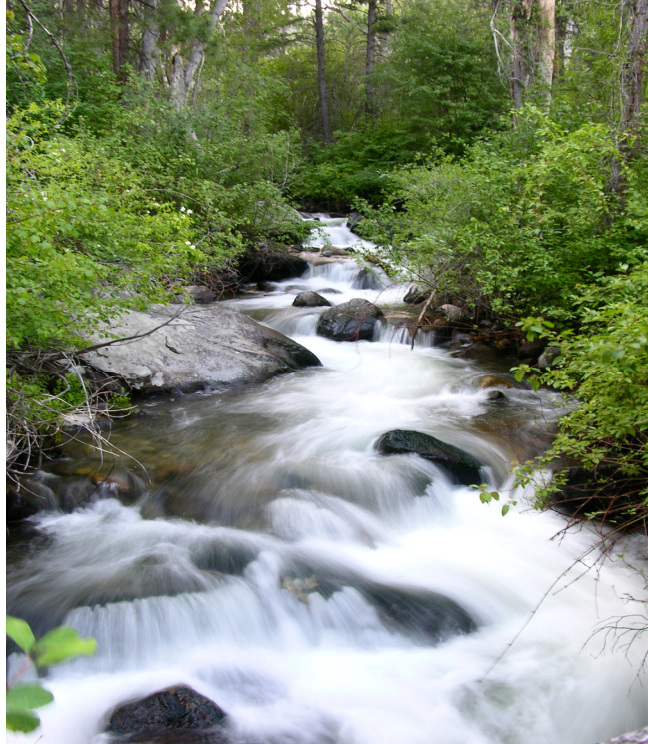
As you embark on your next adventure, whatever it may be, remember the things you did here. Remember the challenges you faced and that nothing is impossible. All you need is a fistful of gorp, a PB&J, and some good friends. Make it happen!!!

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 set against a light blue, textured background.

Joe Waksmundski  
NYC Field Director



**National Forest or area that the work took place: Sawtooth  
Ranger District  
Project Name- Redfish Trails**

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

Monday: Today, during work we made a lot of progress clearing trail and digging paths. We used tools such as shovels, pick-mattocks, Axes and hazel hoes to help us. Our team is working together on the majority of the trail, which is nice because we will finish sooner than scheduled. This was a good start to our NYC session

Tuesday: Today we worked on a part of path that we finished and cleared out. We also started to start a new trail and bridge project. We cleared out most of the place for the path to start the new bridge.

Wednesday: Today we had to move like a whole lot of lumber. We all worked hard and fun, somewhat. We all worked as a team, got the lumber to where it needed to be and got off of work early. However, we will have to work extra long tomorrow. All and all we kicked butt!

Thursday: I woke up early and made a hot breakfast for everyone. After that everyone hiked out to rebuild bridges. The one project I was put on was to rebuild a log bridge. We cleared out the rotting logs and moved huge rocks for a base. After that we used pulaskis and a come-along to pull a huge log across the stream. Once all the lifting and spraining was

over with, we moved rocks to stabilize the log in its place. I then drew even lines across the top so we could level out the top. –Liz

Friday: After this first week I feel almost like a horse after it's been broken. Every day feel is like shedding skin or unraveling the web of comfort our plush American life allows us. I learn something new about myself, my crew members, and the nature of humanity everyday. This feels like genuine living. It is an anthropological/introspective experience that I am overjoyed to be a part of. Every crew member and leader brings their own level of humor, kindness and tenacity that molds nicely together in a cohesive team. We built two nice bridges and dug trail. I'm glad that the hardest part is over. –Camie T.

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

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

Monday: Today we got to work in the hot weather with no shade but the van we drove in, it's been the longest day for me, but not a bad day. After all the work we did, we got to go swimming. So I still have never experienced a bad day while working at NYC.

Tuesday: We are in range-country pulling noxious weeds to restore and balance the local ecosystem. Today, that entailed walking 10 miles through folded desert hills, in 80 degree weather in full gear. Fox got separated from us and we feared for his safety. We finally went swimming after and all the tension melted away. –Amie

Wednesday: We ate the great old normal for breakfast - oatmeal with granola and p-milk. Then we drove a while to our worksite where we worked pulling Med Sage for an awesome dude named T.J. For lunch, T.J. made us hamburgers and bought us sodas it was all delicious. Then we went to Al Marsh's land where Patty directed us to dig out more Med Sage in the heat of the day even though it wasn't as bad as yesterday we got over 2,000 weeds pulled together then we came back to camp and went swimming in the creek. –Jay

Thursday: It rained for the first time during this session, which was a nice break from the killer heat. We worked with around a dozen others from a weed removal organization to spray and pull Yellow Thistle. They treated us to a nice lunch and explained why removing those weeds is important.

Friday: This week Orange crew took part in a weed control program located in Adams County, Idaho. On Monday we searched for thistles on a system of ridges near our campsite and eradicated a large patch on the top of one ridge. On Tuesday the crew scouted two large ridges for the existence of invasive plants, but found almost nothing. This action set the boundary of a larger, community-wide project that took place on Thursday and involved our crew assisting locals as well as BLM employees. The group was able to remove the majority of invasive weeds from a hillside adjacent to what was explored on Tuesday. Wednesday and Friday found us removing Med Sage from several locations near the town of Council. At one of these locations

we were asked to count the number of sage plants we removed. In all we removed over 5,000 plants from one location. –Thomas Z.

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

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

Monday: Our crew had a pretty chill weekend, despite being surrounded by all the other crews and LDP. We played a game call Wizards, Giants and Gnomes which was a chaotic mass game of rock-paper-scissors/tag. If it sounds confusing that's because it was. We lost Brehan and Steve to another crew and mourned them. Yet, we gained two lovely ladies and set out for a week of slash-piling! -Amie

Tuesday: This week we are in Colville Washington. Up in the mountains working for the fire crew making slash piles with the branches and wood that the firemen and us are cutting down so that the wild fires will not spread as fast. I'm glad we're back in the mountains working though because it is not as hot as where we were pulling weeds last week.

Wednesday: Hump day of Hump Week!! Today we cut down monstrous trees with our beautiful saws. Then we had glorious slash powers with our muscular guns and our worn gloves. Oh yes, and I almost forgot about the most awesome morning ever! We woke at no later than 7:45 and left after having eggs and avocados. (which was so good). Anyways, after that we all jumped in the van. We went down the road after taking a slight turn. The only animal we saw was a wabbit. –Daniel H.

Thursday: First thing this morning Fox woke up the crew with his usual obnoxious banging of the pots and the spoon. After enjoying two steaming rich cups of hot chocolate, we loaded the van with Northwest Youth Corps members. Down the dirt road, voices chorused with Mannu Chad's "King of the Bongo" when we reached our destination we had a gnarly safety circle of dance fever, whoa Nelly!!! Orange crew then strengthened our rapport, cracking belly clutching jokes during a fabulous weed pulling session. After the annihilation of the weeds we stuffed our faces on the drive to our next site. We finished our next couple of hours creating slash piles, but...the last twenty minutes of work it started to downpour dime-sized hail! So we called it a day and drove back home. We enjoyed two theatrical presentations at the bunk house with delectable watermelon and doughnuts. Woohoo!

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

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

Monday: During the weekend we had a pretty big Saturday night circle about what we believe in. Then our crew went to Moose Lake trail in Northern Idaho. We hike 3 and a half miles

backcountry with an average of about 75 lbs. on our back. It was quite the adventure but worth it in the end. –Josh

Tuesday: We are about 20 miles east of Sandpoint, Idaho. We are digging alpine trail for future hikers. We are in the middle of nowhere, it's like space, and none can hear you scream. Our bear hang has been causing a lot of stress and we endured a close thunderstorm.

Wednesday: Our first goal is to not kill each other. Another is to avoid the topic of religion and deal with the constant swarm of mosquito's trying to bleed us. In between all these tasks are the 9 hour days of digging trail. I've never gone without running water for 2 weeks and I'm starting to miss it. Home is beginning to sound like heaven. –Amie

Thursday: The crew has progressed quite a bit in the last week. Although we have experienced major setbacks in completing our assigned work and have been forced to live in closer proximity to one another than in the past, we are becoming proficient at clearing trail. Today we almost doubled what we cleared on Wednesday.

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

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

Monday: Our crew was backcountry and just hung out on the lake. A couple of people from the crew went fishing for the day for dinner. The day back at work wasn't too bad we all thought it went by quickly. We got to the hard part in the trail and it took us a little longer but we did it. Every one is a little cranky. We're backcountry, but excited about last week here. –Butters

Tuesday: This week we are doing our second week of backcountry out in northern Idaho building trail, which I think is pretty. Fun work, but it is very tiring when you have to hike farther and farther to get to your work site everyday.

Wednesday: Today was just peachy! We got to hike up a steep mountain, eat dirt, work nine hours, and then hike down to do chores. But it wasn't as bad as it sounds. We got to try new food. It was cookies with peanut butter and mustard on top. It tasted a lot better than it sounds. Plus, I got to work with people I like today, and to top it off, only two more days of work. - Amber

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

My worst day began on top of a large root in a freezing tent soaked with dew. It was 6 o'clock and my hands ached from pulaski trail-work for nine hours the day before. We were out of granola and cereal. After choking down Muesli we gathered up our tools and started on our 1 ½ mile uphill trail to the jobsite. My body felt like hard clay. We slaved away. The crew was divided socially into guerrilla war-like hands.

My worst day was when everybody was working hard and pulling their weight except one person who stood in the back derka-derking with a McCloud. –Kirk P.

My most challenging day at NYC was in the last week - the day before the last day of work - when we were down on food and I didn't get anywhere near enough food. –Jay

My most challenging day at NYC was the third day of our fourth week. My body was sore from back packing 3 ½ miles with 75 lbs. and then swarms of mosquitoes to greet us then working the next day so my body hated me that third day, it was hard to keep a positive mental attitude. –Liz S.

I've had some hard days, but none of them were so horrible. –Amber J.

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

One of my best times was when one of our contacts made hamburgers for us for lunch. The worst moment was when somebody lied about me and almost got fired but I would come back to NYC next year and might come back to Idaho also. –Justin

My best time here was all last week. We were all pretty cool with each other. I also like the ride to the fairgrounds for our last day. We went to Dick's hamburgers and ate. – Amber

My favorite memory at NYC was when Fox, Annie, Tom, Amber and myself all hiked up this incredibly steep mountain to watch the sunset. We hiked across these crazy rocks and through these thick alder brushes. We pretty much raced to the tip top to just see the sunset in the nick of time. –Liz S.

The first memory that comes to mind is serenely floating down the Weiser River on my back after a tough work day. Another is having snow ballfights on top of Moose Mountain. The third is Kirk tying Fox to the picnic table. –Amie

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

I will always remember Fox's antics, especially while dehydrated I will remember him eating his food like it was trying to escape him and "O Buddy." I will remember swimming everyday in the Weiser River after scanning barren hills for weeds all day. – Amie

I will always remember the people I worked with. I will never forget Jay, Dan and Nick stripping. I will always remember the fun I had kidding around the Justin and the way Kirk's face wrinkles when he smiles. I won't ever forget Josh, he was so easy to talk to and so chill. I loved the conversations. I will always remember Fox, Jen, Sarah, Steve, Brehan, Nick and Davi. Those were the great leaders we had. I won't ever forget this experience! Last but not least I won't ever forget Tom's evil ways. –Amber J

One thing is the dinner when we played a game that everyone had to act differently when something was said and Steve's job was to freak out when someone stood up is one time he threw water on Josh. One more is Justin doing the penguin dance. –Lis S.

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

From now on I will always be open to try new tools. For example, peanut butter mixed with mustard is so good. When I'm with my family I'll yell out "water session" every once in a while. –Amber J.

From now on I will look before I leap and especially work on not jumping to conclusions about people. –Amie

From now on I will never underestimate myself and my perseverance. From now on I want to keep my body and mentality in good shape. –Lis S.

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

My NYC experience has taught me several important lessons in human nature. First, the majority of individuals cluster together with other like-minded individuals. This I have witnessed within my own crew and by observing the political leanings of the larger NYC population. Secondly many people are arranged by hard workers and those who perform their jobs to the best of their abilities. Thirdly many people are lazy yet nearly everyone despises laziness in others. –T.Z.