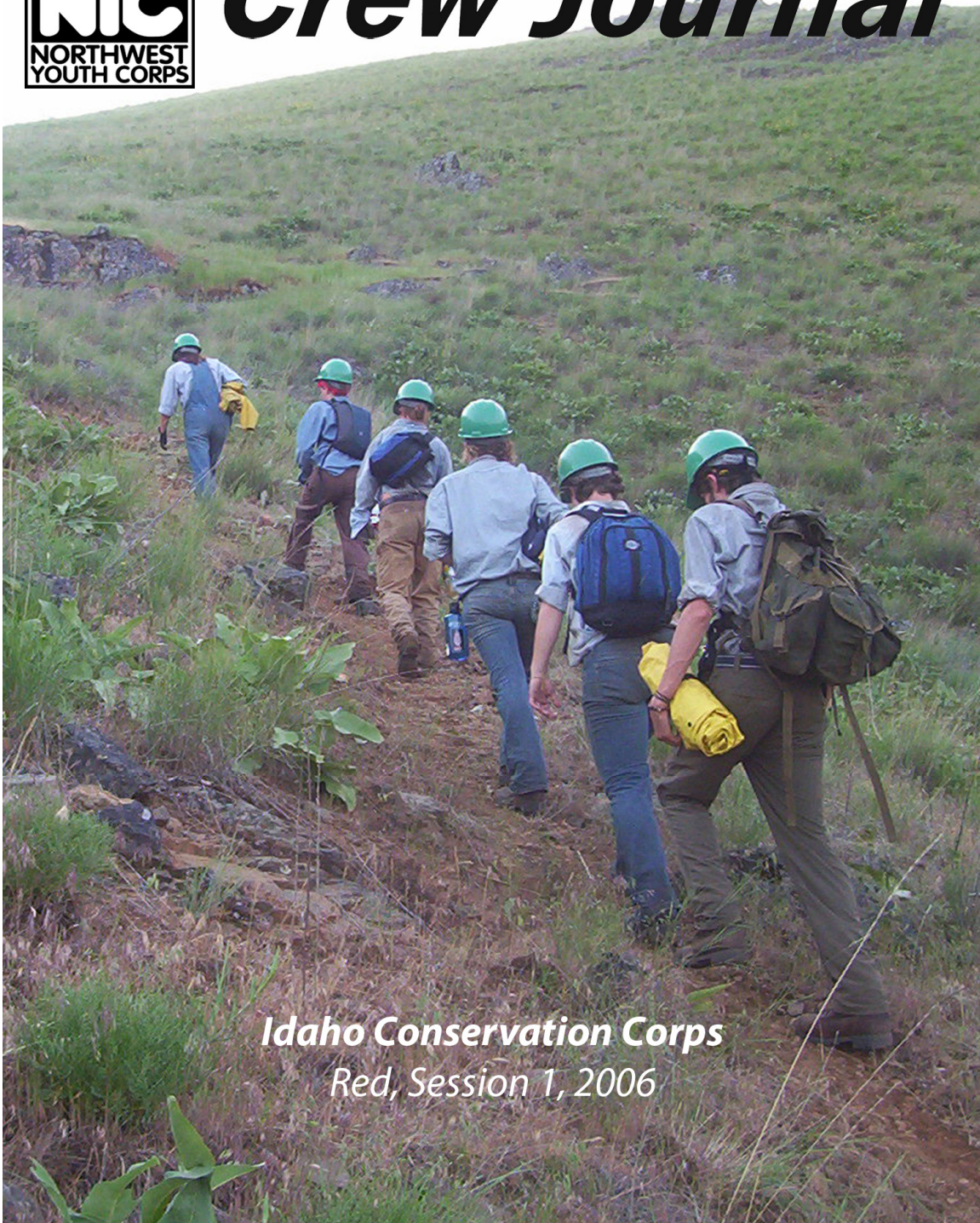




Crew Journal



*Idaho Conservation Corps
Red, 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.

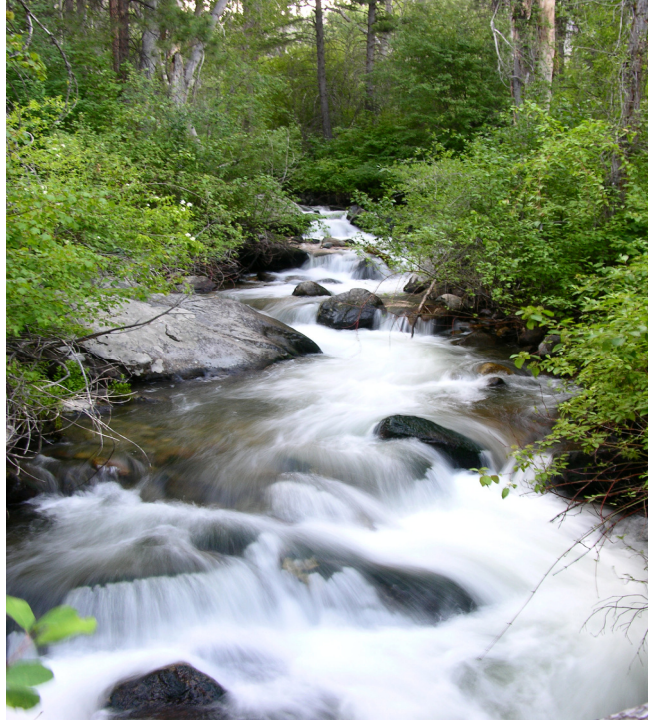
As you embark on your next adventure, whatever it may be, remember the things you did here. Remember the challenges you faced and that nothing is impossible. All you need is a fistful of gorp, a PB&J, and some good friends. Make it happen!!!

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 National Forest
Ranger District
Project Name- Pend O'reille**

Week 1: Date June 19th-June 23rd

Monday: Saturday and Sunday, the crews stayed at Lewiston and we all learned the basics about NYC. We learned rules about safety and personal hygiene. We all made new friends. We played games known to NYC as big funs, like Yee-Ha! and Birdie on a Perch. We got all our gear together and had to leave some stuff behind like a pillow and other things that we would have liked to bring. The boys stayed in about 7-8 tents and the girls about 3-4 tents and about 4 to a tent. –Adam

Tuesday: (describe your projects this week.) Slash piling, using hand saws, loppers, and high reach saws to cut down smaller trees in order to make room for the taller trees. Picking up the smaller trees and other debris into piles. Going around and cutting down the stumps to be almost flush with the ground. We have to make sure the debris is lined up straight and at least 5 to 6 feet high with paper about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up pile. Our goal today was to have at least 25 slash piles and we got a total of 60!!! - Adam

Wednesday: NYC is challenging and fun. We get to meet new people and learn new jobs. By Wednesday you can't wait until you find out what is going to happen the next week. You also can't wait until Friday so you can take a shower and wash your clothes. The down side is that you have to get new rovers. –Angela

Thursday: Today we did some more slash piling and sweeping the area for extra things to pick up. We did 41 piles all together today. We have a total of 173 piles. We got off work around 2:30 and went to watch 2 wildlife videos. The video's *seemed* interesting. After the videos we went to camp and started the chores. We got up this morning and said "Tomorrow we get to take showers and do laundry". –Adam K.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Nez Perce
Ranger District: Salmon River
Project Name- Bouffard Ridge Fire Reduction Project**

Week 2: Date June 26th-June 30th

Monday: Today is Monday, the most negative day of the week. To make it worse, it was our second week slash-piling. Despite this, our crew was all ready to go by 7:35. We got to the worksite, where we met our contact and began working. By mid-day, it was around 100 degrees outside, and many people were a combination of dehydrated and fatigued. However, after a lunch of baloney sandwiches and rest in a drainage ditch, we continued work until 3:15. At 3:15 we counted the piles to be a whopping 46, and we left to retrieve new ice water in a rather impromptu manner. We rode around in the sweltering heat for a while until we retrieved our hydrogen monoxide in a solid and liquid form. We then went to camp to find yogurt exploded on our beds and to do our chores.

Tuesday: Today, once again, we did some slash piling. Oh the joy. Before that, we did our usual exercises, but this time, we did an "Anti" safety circle. Ooh how fun. The Anti safety circle was fun because it was easier to name things out and some of the things that were said were hilarious. Anyways, a lot of us got worn out faster than usual but we wiped out 54 piles. All in a days work for the awesome one and only red team of NYC. End of story. –Zach A.

Wednesday: On Wednesday morning, our crew got woken up together under the kitchen tarp. There was a thunder and lighting storm at night. We got woken up during the storm and moved under the tarp and remained there all night. Things at the worksite were getting tiresome. To try and get our morale on a positive note, we played alphabet games, sang songs and made a goal to do more slash piles than the first week. We completed 406 slash piles total at the end of two weeks. -Rebecca

Thursday: Today was our last full day of slash piling and what a day it was! This week we learned a lot. I've learned that even though you may think that slash piling for two consecutive weeks would be totally awesome, it isn't! But whatever, nobody can pile sticks like the red crew! Casey or Shelby enlightened us by explaining the mystery behind those big puffy things in the sky. Thanks to their teaching we weren't surprised by the precipitation that fell from the cumulous cloud all afternoon. We also experienced the essence of topo maps when we descended down from our 4,800 ft. to the river where some of us swam and others didn't. We learned that the moose song stays in everyone's heads all day.

Friday: Our major challenge this week was the unbearable heat. While camping and working in the Nez Perce National Forest we got to experience not only incredible scenery but incredibly hot

temperatures. On our first day of work, the high was 101 degrees. People were getting dehydrated and tired. Mitch, Amy and I got so delirious during work on Tuesday we laughed till we fell over. After almost one yellow top of water between the three of us, we were able to get back to work. Thursday, we got a day of rain and for the most part our crew was celebrating. By the end of the week we had built 205 slash piles, beating last week's total of 201. –Rebecca

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Nez Perce Wilderness
Ranger District
Project Name- Salmon River Trail**

Week 3: Date July 3rd-July 7th

Monday: Saturday night we had a parent night where the parents of the corpsmembers are invited to see their kid or kids and eat dinner with them. The corpsmembers got to hang out for most of the day with their parents and other friends, play “big funs” and other games. Not everybody's parents came though, so that was pretty sad. When the parents left, there was still plenty of chores to be done, like doing some more dishes and getting the tents situated. We had to get up early the next morning to get to our next site where we got to do trail maintenance in the backcountry. Saturday morning we went to Ponderosa State park, but not all of our crew members were with us. They decided to do a different rec. trip. At Ponderosa some of us swam in a small swimming area and had lots of fun. We also played Frisbee. –Adam K.

Tuesday: For our third week, we got assigned a job of “brushing” a trail in the Nez Perce Forest. This time though, we were backcountry. Our project included hiking in about “five” miles to our campsite. (The trail followed the Selway River,) and trying our hardest to get as much miles of trail done as we could.

Wednesday: Captain was back and we began our 3rd day of trail brushing. Captain said that we were doing some quality work and that it was time to step it up a notch. Our goal was to make it for the 1 and ½ mile in from the entrance. We took the challenge and got further that day than Tuesday and Monday. We opened up a can of kick-butt on that trail, but who would expect any less from the freakin awesome, wonderful, fantastic, groovy, great, hot red crew. –Zach A.

Thursday: This week was hectic and finding time to fit in SEEDS was difficult. Our rover Kate told us about tectonic plates, different types of rocks and a bunch of other geology related information. Other than the SEEDS we learned about the joys of backpacking and putting on sopping wet clothing at six in the morning. –Amy C.

Friday: This week we went backcountry for our first time...it was a week jam-packed with challenges. We had to hike four miles or so to our campsite, we overshot by two miles. The majority of the group kept going, thinking we hadn't reached it yet even though we'd long passed it. All in all we probably hiked about eight miles. It was getting dark when we realized we needed to turn around. The hike back to our temporary Sunday site was frightening. A crew member ended up falling and twisting his ankle which meant he'd be unable to work and would have to be carried out on horses the next day. The next day we woke up early to hike back just a few yards to our new camp and then be off to work lopping and sawing overgrown trees from the sides of the trail. The day after Tuesday Captain returned from hiking out with our poor sweet injured crew member and made us aware of how far along the trail we were - two miles past where we should have been, which meant we weren't even working on the right part! Since we

had already begun our work we continued each day until Thursday morning when we woke at four o'clock to move our camp three miles down. After the hike we set up, we prepared a healthy shotgun, and hiked to continue our work. That day there was a wild thunderstorm. We had to sit under a rock formation for a few minutes until it died down a bit. It rained once more that night at bedtime, so we all clustered under a tarp only to wake up to wet, sandy pants and our beloved half-workday. We finished our work week and hiked out to our van where all our clean clothes were. Despite all the unnecessary hiking, the cold and the wet, we still put in all of our required work hours, even extras making up for our crew member we lost in the night hike Sunday night. Despite us not working on the specific part we were supposed to, we still covered three and a half miles, partially in the area we should have and further. It also felt so nice having hikers or park officials pass and tell us how good the trail looked - A reminder of our hard work. Most of all we kept on trucking through all the hours on our feet in the rain and damp. I think that alone is an alright accomplishment. -M.S.

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

Week 4: Date July 10th-July 14th

Monday: Last weekend we backpacked out of the backcountry and then drove to Grangeville for laundry. But before that we took showers. We met up with all of the other crews in a place outside of Grangeville. We ate a delicious dinner of burritos and went to bed. Saturday we split up and swam. I went to town and had a nice Saturday circle concerning our beliefs. Sunday we packed up and drove for 9 hours to the beautiful Sawtooth Mountains.

Tuesday: This week we are in the Sawtooth Mountains, some of the most beautiful mountains our crew has seen yet. We are building a fence in these mountains. The fence will be roughly 17 miles long at the time of completion, and we are to do about 2 miles of it. The Forest Service has contracted two NYC crews to complete 2 miles and the rest will be done by another work source. The fence will prevent the fragile and rare plant life from damage by goats and cows but our crew has yet to see either.

Wednesday: Seeing as our crew was happy with our fourth week project of building a fence, we didn't really need a motivational push. We prevented boredom by regularly switching tasks, whether it be digging holes for fence posts, measuring distances between posts, pounding poles, or hammering staples into the fence posts. One thing we are looking forward to is a relaxing bonfire with smores on Thursday night followed by a rare Friday off. Our campsite is nestled between "Railroad Ridge" and two jagged mountains in which snow still sits. Within eyeshot from the campsite there is a beautiful but mysterious old ghost mining town. I guess our goals are mostly emotional and personal. Whether it be keeping a positive mental attitude or trying not to hammer our fingers and work, we all are aware graduation is within days. -Rebecca L

Thursday: What we learned this week was to pound and dig holes for some fencing. When we came back to camp we moved big boulders there. We got to camp and the ranchers picked me up and tried to stick me into the creek but they didn't, they just took

water bottles and got me all wet. After that we made dinner, did chores and then we stayed up until 11 to eat marshmallows.

Friday: A big challenge for us this week was the high elevation. We camped at about 9,000 feet and worked at around 10,000 feet. We found ourselves short of breath more easily which made hiking up and down hills even more of a challenge. Another difficulty that we faced was the dry and windy climate. Most of us had chapped lips. Sometimes it also got very cold. One day it rained and many of us felt a lot of pain from our cold hands. We surpassed our intended idea of how many miles of fence we could build and so that felt really great! -Amy

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

Week 5: Date July 17th-July 21st

Monday: We met up with yellow crew. Our crew got to camp way before yellow so we got things ready then some of us played cards. When the yellow crew showed up we ate dinner then went to bed. On Saturday we all woke up and split up to go on the rec. trip. Some went on a hike to a lake then town. The other group went to town then to a lake. We had our Saturday circle then went to bed. On Sunday we got ready then left for our next worksite. -Angela

Tuesday: Finally, Finally, Finally, Finally, This week we are maintaining trail. When I say maintaining, I don't mean some brushing. We are "de-vegging" trail, making it look professional. Where we are, I don't know. However, the view is spectacular. We can see McCall from here, along with about 15 miles in all directions.

Wednesday: Our goal is to make trail and brush off trail. Captain had to take 3 people down hill and make drain ditches in the trail. We made as a team 850 ft. worth of work. As we hiked out we saw a dead cow, it looked like it was pregnant or broke its neck.

Thursday: Our crew learned a lot about digging, maintaining and brushing trail. We learned about rolling ditches and just plain old trenches. We completed a loop of about 4 and ½ miles and some parts we had to dig new top line. We finally got to use pulaskis and all Josh wanted was an excuse to cut down a tree with it...The view was incredible at the top of the mountain. We could see McCall/Lake Payette on one side and the other was more rolling mountains. When we reached the top on Wednesday we stopped and had a snow ball fight. The view was incredible though. As the week flew by we realized our time together was dwindling. All of us are anxious to get home, but no one wants to say goodbye. -Rebecca

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was the last day. As we trudged up the hill to work on the trail, I felt like crying. I wanted to go home, I was so tired of working and I felt like collapsing. However, when we got to the worksites I did my job as usual and before I knew it the shift was over and I was hiking back to camp. I was totally relieved. –Josh G.

My most challenging day at NYC was when we were building a fence on a mountain top and it rained. It was very cold, and my gloved hands got so cold they couldn't function to do much of anything. Somebody cheered me up a little and I kept making sure to move my fingers, the sun came out and then it was the easiest day ever. I guess I just felt scared by the pain. –Maia S.

On our last week of work I had a day where I just cried. I felt sick and I had a headache and I was frustrated with my crewmembers. It seemed like the longest day ever. –Rebecca L.

When we had to go backcountry and hike. I wanted to give up so much but I had to keep going. –Angela J.

I actually have a most challenging week, and it was the week we had to do a 2nd week of slash piling. I hated to do slash piling, especially for 2 straight weeks. But it's all over now. –Adam K.

The day that we had to wake up early to move camp and then go to work for 9 hours only to return to a rainstorm and soaking wet everything! –Amy C.

The most challenging day for me was doing slash piling the second week in 103 degree weather. –M.

There was a day on the 4th week that we were all in a bad mood and every one was criticizing me and yelling at me. –Zach A.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Building fence; taking breaks during work, the baloney! Slash piling, it gave me a lot of time to think. –Josh G.

Late night laughter fits, sitting down for dinner and hiking on a rec trip to a beautiful lake. –Maia

The bond between us (we became comfortable with each other.); the rec. trips and meeting people on other crews. –Rebecca L.

Girl talk in the tent; going to each campsite and getting to know everyone. –Angela J.

Meeting friends; going to new places and doing all the different jobs. –Adam K.

Sitting around the campfire, Taylor's PH and making great friends. –Amy C

Fence building, trail maintenance and other work.

Getting to see new sites, making new friends and working in new environments. –Zach A.

Get to meet new friends; work on slash-piles and find dead animals on the trail.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will never forget my silly orange long johns. I came out of my tent to discover that the entire crew could see my groin. It was the most embarrassing thing ever but it was so funny. –Josh G.

I will never forget the night hike to camp when we got lost-ish in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness. The person walking behind me started hallucinating from dehydration. It was then I realized how much I cared for him and the whole crew and how on the edge we all were. –Maia S.

I will always remember how we would count down the days then the hours to when we would be doing our laundry and showers. Then the weekend rec. trip would be there and the long work week would be sooooo worth it.

When we were done slash-piling for the first week every one was excited then we found out that we had to do it for another week. –Angela J.

One thing I will always remember is meeting my crew the very first day, and counting the days from day 1 to day 35. I really am going to miss my crew. –Adam K.

Everyone's quirks and all of the things that they did to make me laugh. –Amy C.

One thing I will always remember is some of the relationships I had with some people.

The shout of "tool count" on the last week so I knew that I was going home really soon. –Zach A.

From Now On I Will Always...

Look at difficult tasks with more optimism. –Josh G.

Trust more in my capabilities, my endurance. Celebrate, Love and live in the earth more than before. Remind myself of all the things I normally take for granted. Big and little luxuries. –Maia S.

Have the knowledge and self-esteem to complete what seems like a huge project. I know I can complete it because of the things I completed and accomplished here at NYC.

I would push myself to the best of my ability. –Angela J.

I will be all that I can be and never give up no matter what the circumstances. –Adam K.

Go out and do more things in the wilderness and basically spend more time outdoors. –Amy C

From now on I will have harder workmanship and have a better attitude.

I will always be able to work to my fullest potential. –Zach A.

At NYC I Learned...

How to deal with difficult people and how to be myself. –Josh G.

I have better endurance than I thought, people, like the ones I've just met, exist, and I feel comfortable in my own skin with earth and insects all around me. –Maia

It's okay to be silly, the dirtier the better, and the jobs we've done make a difference. –Rebecca

Don't care what you look like, how to hike for a long time and just be yourself. –Angela J.

To be yourself, how to make new friends and how to build a fence. –Adam K.

More tolerance to push myself and how to build a fence. –Amy C.

I learned to keep a lot better attitude.

How to work harder, how to set up a tarp and how to better myself. –Zach A.

How to make new friends.