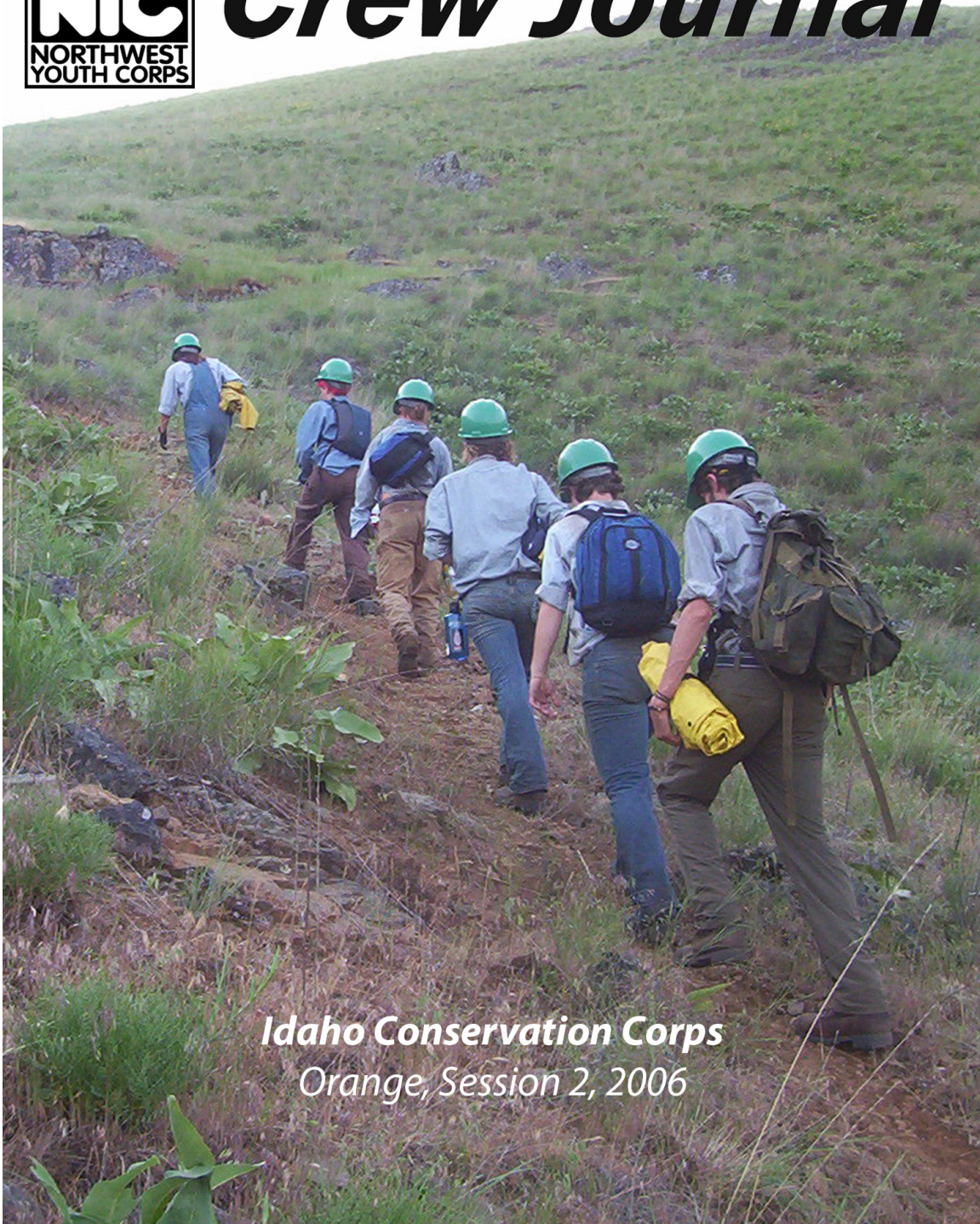




# *Crew Journal*



*Idaho Conservation Corps  
Orange, Session 2, 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.

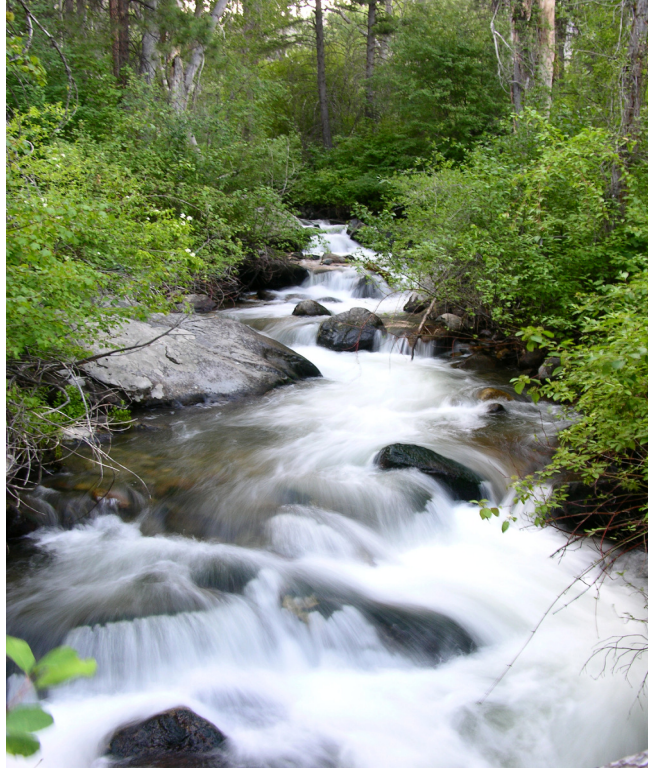
As you embark on your next adventure, whatever it may be, remember the things you did here. Remember the challenges you faced and that nothing is impossible. All you need is a fistful of gorp, a PB&J, and some good friends. Make it happen!!!

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: Little Pend Oreille  
Ranger District  
Project Name- Slash Piling**

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

Monday: This weekend we all met for the first time and we learned a little about each other. On Sunday we got up and packed up everything then took off on to the road to our current location. Our trip was about 12 hours to get here from Whoop Um Up campground. We got here around 8 pm and set up camp. After dinner was made we all went to bed and woke up about 6:30 this morning for our first day of work. –Mathew C.

Tuesday: Today we drove for 45 minutes to get to the site where we worked at. We got up at about 5 am and ended work at 2:45 pm. Then we got a 45 min. free time and now preparing dinner and lunch for tomorrow. We'll be going to bed at 9 pm. –Alex

Wednesday: This morning we woke up and ate the usual Cheerios and P-milk. We loaded up shotgun and headed up to our work site, 45 minutes then hiked in the last few minutes. We started work! At certain times of the day everybody smelled bad, some worse than others. After lunch, our second break, Fox was trying to show us how to make Arnold Schwarzenegger sounds! Act like your lifting a car because there's a baby under it, Fox would say. We tried but weren't very successful. We worked nine hours instead of eight. We got a lot of work done and had fun. Now we're making tofu for dinner. –Josh F.

Thursday: This morning we woke up at 5:15 for breakfast. We had Cheerios and peanut butter and jelly then we cleaned up and headed out about 5:30. We went to work. We had to get a lot of work done. Then we stopped a little bit early and went home and our wildlife contact brought us watermelon. –Justin.

Friday: Today has been totally sweet! We got up at around 5 am to go to work. We worked with Grizzly Josh for 5 hours. Then we cleaned up camp and tied the trailer up and got outta there. Finally, after a week we took a shower. Man was that good. Then I took a nap on the drive to Spokane. Now we're on our drive to Moscow, ID for our weekend site. This has only been my first week but I'm digging in so much. –Alex

**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 Today we woke up at 5:30, did safety circle and went to work. We finished building the trail and packed a lot of loads of rocks in the water bags to the back of the trail for the last three hours. Then we went to camp and did chores.

Tuesday: Today we hung out and really did nothing. Some people went swimming in the creek and some people read books. That's about all we did. And we had a nasty dinner. D

Wednesday: Today we took our coolers over to the Forest Service crew so they could take them up to our trailer. We got our picture taken with the crew before they left for the week. After that we started hiking up the mountain on the other side of the river cleaning drainage dips and logs off of the trail. While hiking we were able to look at the mountains across the valley. The hike up was slow and steady. We drank lots of water on our way up we finished two yellow tops and two water bags. The hike back down the hill only took us about 2 hours which put us home at about 7 pm. Tonight I am teaching the forest succession SEED so that maybe we can hopefully be in bed at a decent time tonight. –Matthew C.

Thursday: Today was crazy but a very good day. We hiked one mile to our job. We got to attempt to destroy rocks but the rocks were too big. We beat and beat with an axe and a Pulaski but nothing budged but little slivers. We threw rocks off of cliffs, big branches too and Justin hurt his wrist which I don't think was a big deal and also Richard hurt his finger and that was about it. –Justin

Friday: Today was pretty sweet! We split up into two groups to tackle two different projects. I went with Dan, Fox, Richard and Grizzly Josh to the cliff area to build trails. The rest went on this 8 mile trail to do maintenance. I'm sure my group had a much more enjoyable time. We first cleared out this area near the old trail and then for like 3 hours busting up rocks. For the last hour we fixed the incline of the trail and then moved a huge rock. Today was our last day till Sunday. Wonder what the other group is up to...They're still not back and we got off work like two hours ago. –Alex

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

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

Monday: Today was pretty awesome. We finally got to work with our new rovers and they're totally awesome. We did brushing for most of the day and then we did cribbing. This was my first time cribbing. It was totally sick and then we did a way cool seed. –Sith Lord Alex M.

Tuesday: So far today we started out by finishing up the cribbing. We worked on it until after lunch. We finish and it looked fabulous. Then we filled up holes we made when we moved the rocks off the path. We work 9 or so hours, which was totally cool by me. Now we're cooking dinner. I can't wait to eat. –Alex M.

Wednesday: Today we moved earth. We moved large chunks and small chunks and it was totally awesome!! We ended up starting a rockslide when I kicked down some rocks from this monstrous mountain and rode the rock slide down. It was like a totally rad wave. It was gnarly, yo!! . –Daniel B

Thursday: Today we put gravel in the trail to make it smooth and easy to walk over. Fox and I broke a huge rock with the sledge and Alex broke one by himself. Justin hurt his foot and Alex and I are making a shark out of rock. –Josh F.

Friday: This week we were challenged to move very large rocks off of the trail so that we could put gravel over top of the trail. We did this to make the trail easier for the horses and other hikers to pass through the trail. Before the fill we did some brushing along the trail before we could do anything with the trail. We also built a few rock cribs in the trail. We managed to finish all of our fill projects this week. This allowed us to have a short day today so we all took naps this evening. –Mathew C.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Payette**  
**Ranger District: Krassel**  
**Project Name- Monument Creek Trail**

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

Monday: This Saturday, on our day off, we went off on our Solo's. We left at about noon and picked our spots to stay for a day and night. While on our Solos, some of us read books, some built shelters. Some threw rocks down the hill. –Mathew C.

Tuesday: Today we worked on building a rock wall. Both teams endured hard work with no room for mistakes. Today, there were no terrible injuries, but Ann, our rover, smashed her finger in a rock. What had happened was she was rolling a rock and it rolled on her finger. I saw the rock smile as she cried because of the pain. –Justin

Wednesday: We moved rocks big, little, and bigger than the earth. BIG STUFF! That's pretty much what we did all day long

Thursday: Today was totally sick. We split up and did a few different jobs. We built a turnpike which took us 10 hours to complete. We worked ten hours today. It was totally pimp. First ten hours this session. Today was also the last full day of work. Peace. –Alex

Friday: Well, today we hiked out 6 miles. But not until after we worked for 4 hours. We got up and packed all our gear and took our packs to work. I mainly brushed while others were working on two different rock walls. Then we started the insane hike out with BLP. Fox made some dark chili. It was pimp. Then we played Mafia and everyone thought I was the Mafia man. I don't see why! After that we went to bed and talked about how things will be after Saturday. Well this is my last journal. PEACE. –Alex M.

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

My most challenging day was probably just this Wednesday. I was building my first turnpike. We worked for 10 hours on it and the closest gravel was down a hill. So, I had to carry heavy bags up a steep hill. A.M.

My most challenging day was Wednesday because I built a trail re-route by myself. I worked 10 hours on. I was pushed, but I loved it. –J.N.

My most challenging day was the hike in on our second backcountry trip. My pack was the biggest and we hiked in six miles. The pack was heavy on my shoulders and rubbed on my hips. When we got to the campsite I was happy that I carried the heavy pack all six miles and was up in the front three people the whole way. –Josh F.

My hardest day this session would have to be when we hike out of our first backcountry site. My pack weighed about 80 pounds and we had to hike 9 miles to get to our van. When I got there I could barely stand. –Matthew C.

Signing up for the session. –Daniel

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

My first few would have to be the 24 hours solo. My second was chillin with so many different people. My third was chillin with Foxy Lumps. A.M.

My three favorite NYC experiences were chillin with Foxy Lumps and getting to know Alex, Dan, Matt, Josh and the rovers especially Kevin - that my boy. Also the 24 hour solo. –J.N.

My three favorite NYC experiences were learning to push myself beyond what I thought was my endurance. My second favorite NYC experience would be making friends that I

would normally not like. My third favorite NYC experience would be listening to my crew's personal histories. –Josh F.

My three favorite experiences would have to be getting to be on Fox's crew again. Getting to do another Idaho session and finishing the summer with NYC. –Matthew C.

My three would have to be every time I picked up something that I wasn't supposed to would bite me. –Daniel

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

There is not one thing I won't remember. It's all so wonderful I will remember Fox for sure. –J.N.

One thing I will remember is the nasty food we ate and hangin out with the rest of the crew like a family. –Josh F.

I will always remember the lessons that NYC has taught. –Mathew C.

The fish I caught on a stick and three or four feet of fishing line. –Daniel

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

Look at things with a more optimistic view point. –A.M.

To enjoy life and to take care of it. –J.N.

From now on I will always work hard and take life as it comes. –Josh F.

From now on I will always make sure I don't eat food that is older than two days.

Identify the snake I pick up before I pick it up. –Daniel

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

At NYC I learned how to build a rock wall. I learned how to build a re-route and finally I learned all about the forest. –A.M.

At NYC I learned to be patient and work as a group and to be tolerant of other. –J.N.

At NYC I learned how to work with others in a group or team. I learned how to build different things like rock walls, cribbing, turnpikes and re-routes. A third thing I learned was to trust in members on your crew, group or team.

Three things I have learned are patience, tolerance and acceptance. –Matthew C.

I have learned that I can and that no matter what anybody says to me that I am my own person. -Daniel