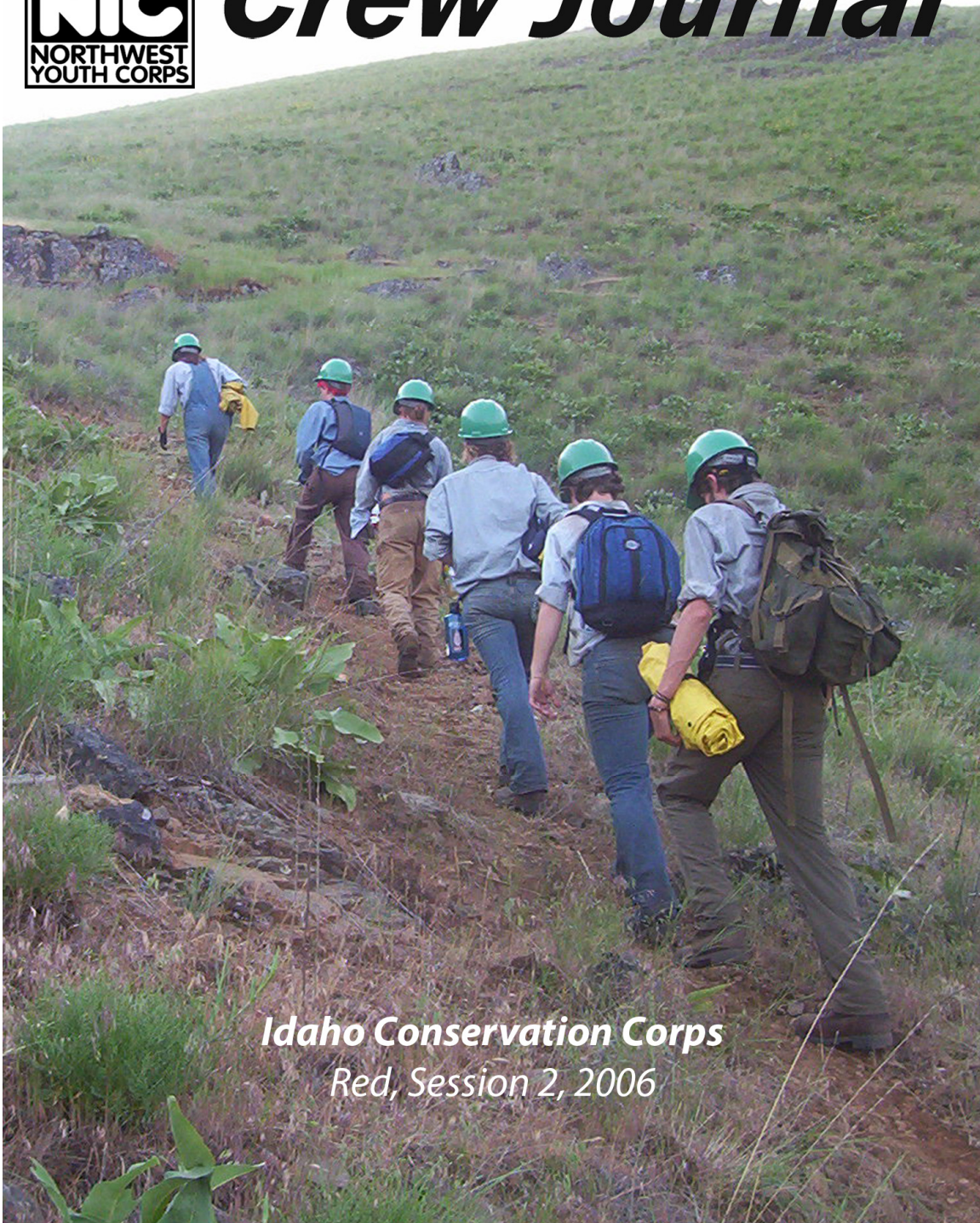




Crew Journal



*Idaho Conservation Corps
Red, 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.

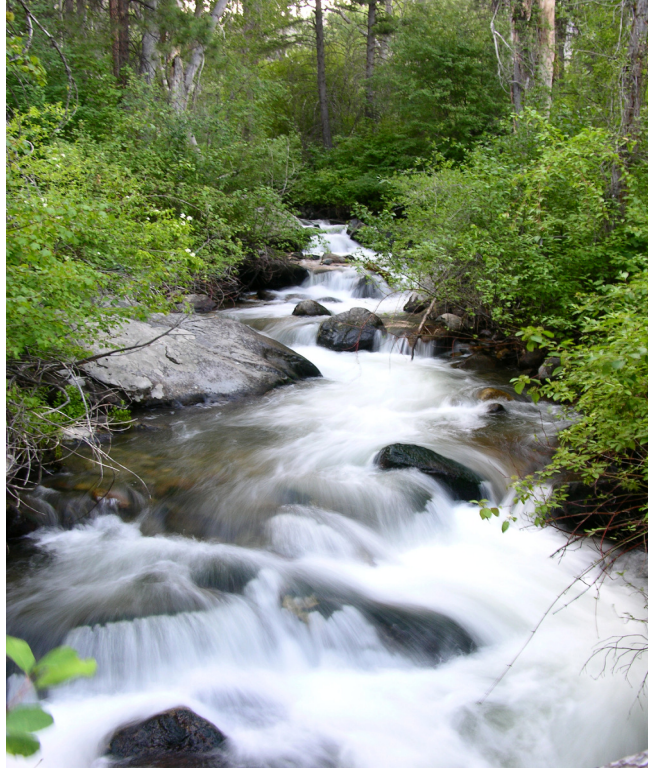
As you embark on your next adventure, whatever it may be, remember the things you did here. Remember the challenges you faced and that nothing is impossible. All you need is a fistful of gorp, a PB&J, and some good friends. Make it happen!!!

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 positioned over a light blue rectangular background.

Joe Waksmundski
NYC Field Director



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

Week 1: Date July 31st-Aug 4th

Monday: This weekend we all met up at a horse camping spot and went through an orientation on the basic things we will need to do in camp like setting up tents and making a hand wash station. We also played some games so we could get to know each other better. Another reason we played the games was to get to know each others names. On Sunday morning, we got up, packed up camp, found out what crew we were in, and with whom. We then packed up the vans and left. Our crew drove to a town to buy some stuff then way out into the middle of nowhere where we then took a dirt road further into the middle of nowhere then turned up a ghetto dirt road and took that three miles farther away from nowhere and into the middle of everything. We parked the van and then hiked into our camp spot, through a couple year-old burned forest into a green meadow, surrounded by lush green trees.

Tuesday: This week we are all at the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness area. We will be sleeping in an alpine meadow. We are working with Dylan and Jamie, both forest service folks, and their mules. We have been cross-cutting, axing, and moving large cuts of trees away from the trail in a post-wildfire area. They are similar to large rocks but roll better. The trail will be for future hikers and backpackers.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Frank Church
Ranger District
Project Name- Morse Creek Springs**

Week 2: Date Aug 7th-Aug 11th

Monday: This weekend we camped out at Stanley Lake. On Saturday morning we dropped off the rovers for their day off and we first went to go check out Red Fish Lake. When we got there we rented a pedal boat and Nick, Hayden, and I cruised around for a half-hour, from there we went to another lake which is where we spent the majority of the day (Little Red Fish Lake). I jammed with Captain on guitars while Nick and Dan went fishing and the rest relaxed and read. We ended the night with a game of Ultimate Frisbee. –Sam D.

Tuesday: This week so far we have been forced to take a 6-hour van ride. Then during the day we work clearing brush and trees from a horse trail next to a beautiful creek. Then at night we have to spend all of our free time doing whatever we want in our campsite with a hot springs. It's a tough life we lead.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for this week are A) Do hard work clearing a horse trail, B) to create a support wall for a stretch of trail along a steep slope, C) to make sure we drink lots of water, D) finish as much of our week's food supply as we can, E) work efficiently to get up and get to our work site quickly, F) remain safe while working G) Finish all food made at dinner, H) enjoy the hot springs by our campsite, I) learn about the outdoors, J) maintain a positive attitude and help each other and have fun.

Friday: This week we built a retaining wall. It took a lot of effort to dig out the holes for poles with a non-functioning hole digger. The last day we worked for 12.5 hours (including 2.5 hours of volunteer time). We had to haul a lot of bags of dirt to make the trail level and to fill in the holes. We managed to finish the work in the end. The drive back was interesting. Everyone was loopy from dehydration and belting songs at the top of our lungs. It feels great when we complete projects well.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Payette
Ranger District: McCall
Project Name- Black Lake Trail**

Week 3: Date Aug 14th-Aug 18th

Monday: This weekend we went to a gold mine which was amazing. The guy who ran it was very informative and had some very interesting things to say. Then we camped on a bee infested area where we had an intense war with the bees. After that we went back to Stanley and camped in the same area we did last weekend. From there we had a long drive to the next project. –Sam D.

Tuesday: Our project is to clear trail and making water drains so that the trails don't erode. We are also making some kind of bridge over muddy trail, and some other things that I'm not even

sure have names. We are camping outside of McCall which is probably the best town we've been to yet. –Sam D.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for this week are the same as always safety, hard work, PMA etc. With an extra one set in. We all want to enjoy our rovers for this last week that they're here as much as possible.

Thursday: This week our crew learned a lot like how to make tread, log water bars and especially a lot about Hayden during his Personal History. The water bars were tiring work, the tread making was even more tiring, but I don't think we could tire of Hayden. So all in all the week was great and there is still a little to go but with luck we still have a lot of Hayden to go. P.S. I like Hayden's intro of his life and hope to learn about everyone else.

Friday: Today we had to get up and make a bridge after we packed up camp then drive to the weekend site. We were a couple hours behind and only got to take shower instead of showers and washing clothes. But, we had a good attitude the whole time. -Nick

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

Week 4: Date Aug 21st-Aug 25th

Monday: This weekend our crew drove into McCall and met with the Orange and Yellow crews at a weekend site. On the way we took showers at a campground where we saw Orange crew, then went back to the camp and had a late dinner in the dark. Saturday morning we received mail and then split into groups for recreation trips. Red crew did laundry and went swimming. Saturday afternoon some parents came to visit while we played games and ate dinner. Sunday morning we loaded trailers after eating, got mail, then left. –Sam

Tuesday: This week we are in the Frank Church Wilderness backcountry, installing log bars, check dams, ramps from drop offs and re-routing trails are only part of the projects we will be completing this week. We are camped next to an old mining site next to the unused road we hiked in on. We are improving the trail so it stays in good condition and last longer for the future use of hikers or packers. -Sam

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

Week 5: Date Aug. 28th-Sept. 1st

Monday: On Saturday we (Nick, Hayden, Dan) climbed up to the top of the hill behind our camp (which happens to be in the middle of an old mining camp with a 2 story bun/mess house.) On the way to the top we passed by 2 old mine entrances. One had a mine cart track sticking out from the entrance. The rest of the guys hung out in camp with the guitar and their books. Some of them brewed up dinner. Later I joined Joe and

Derrick on a hike up an old trail that ended us at the first mine I have encountered on the way to the top of the hill behind our camp. Sam did nothing. Actually, he slept all day.

Tuesday: This week we are in the Frank Church once again. We are doing a re-route that is probably about a quarter mile long. The re-route needs a lot of tread work and we will be putting in a lot of water bars. We are doing this so that pack animals can make it through easier. –Sam

Wednesday: Our goals for the week are to get to the 2nd creek. We will also be making 2 fords, one at each river. Another goal is to make it through the week safely with no bee stings or injuries. Our last goal is to finish efficiently and focus the whole way through the week.

Thursday: This week we learned about fords for pack animals to safely cross creeks.

Friday: This week we accomplished finishing some difficult projects like a giant re-route. One of our challenges was battling the evil powerful mice that are constantly getting into our breakfast and lunch food.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day was when we worked on a cold, rainy day. The day passed slowly because it was so miserable. -Axel

My most challenging day was the first day we built trail. The day passed slowly as the work was constant and challenging. -Dan

My most challenging day was the first work day because none of the crew knew anyone else and we didn't really know how to work together. –Hayden

My most challenging day was the one day when built a log retaining wall. I was very tired and on the verge of losing my cool but I snapped out of it and once we were finished I was very satisfied with our work as well as the rest of the group. –Sam

My most challenging day at NYC was the day we built trail the first time. I found it to be both a challenge for mind and body. It was worth the challenge. I feel stronger for completing it. –Derrick

My most challenging moment at NYC was on my 4th, when my back was hurting really bad. I had a lot of trouble keeping my self motivated especially since I was working alone. -Nick

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

The fire after work on a rainy day. Our day off during the weekend and when we got new rovers. –Axel

Eating Ramen for breakfast as a surprise. Our Saturday off in the backcountry and taking showers and stocking up on candy during the weekend. –Dan

My three favorite experiences were the mud fight I had with a rover, the prank war we had with the rovers and the days off. –Hayden

Going to the goldmine on our day off, going to the hot springs after a long day at work, and the very little fishing time that I got. –Sam

My three favorite experiences were meeting everyone on my crew for the first time. Backpacking in to our first sight to work and setting up camp. Knowing I've made it through this challenge and I'm a better person for doing it. –Derrick

My three favorite NYC experiences were when we built a turnpike-like thing that allowed pack animals to safely pass through a marshy area. Having a hot spring in our camp and spending two weeks in the backcountry. –Nick

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember the people I worked with. Everybody was willing and a hard worker. –Axel

I will always remember exploring a gold mine on one of our weekends, exploring with my other crew members. –Dan

I will always remember everyone. –Hayden

I will always remember our day off at Stanley Lake. Reading *Kite Runner* and swimming w Captain down by the lake. –Sam

One thing I will always remember is the friendships I've made. –Daniel

The people in my crew. –Nick

From Now On I Will Always...

I will appreciate the time and effort it took to construct the trail that I walk on. –Axel

From now on I will appreciate the work put into trails I use and the time they take to conserve for. –Dan

I will always appreciate the work people put into trails. –Hayden

I will always appreciate Nature wipe. –Sam

From now on I will always work to my fullest. –Daniel

Be more aware of how many people there are that love the out doors as much as I do and are interesting people. –Nick

At NYC I Learned...

I learned that trench foot is caused by always having your boots on. I learned how to put up a bear hang. I learned how to do various kinds of trail work. –Axel

I learned how to combine foods to make interesting dinners. I learned how to make trail. I learned how to put up a tarp. –Dan

I learned how to work with newly met people, to work can build you physically and mentally and how to make interesting food. –Hayden

I learned how to play a handful of songs that Captain taught me, I learned how to start the WhisperLite stove for dinner and I learned some cool knots. –Sam

At NYC I've learned passions, respect and how to work hard. –Daniel

I learned how to build a log water bar. I also learned how to operate a whisper light stove. I learned about leave no trace camping. –Nick