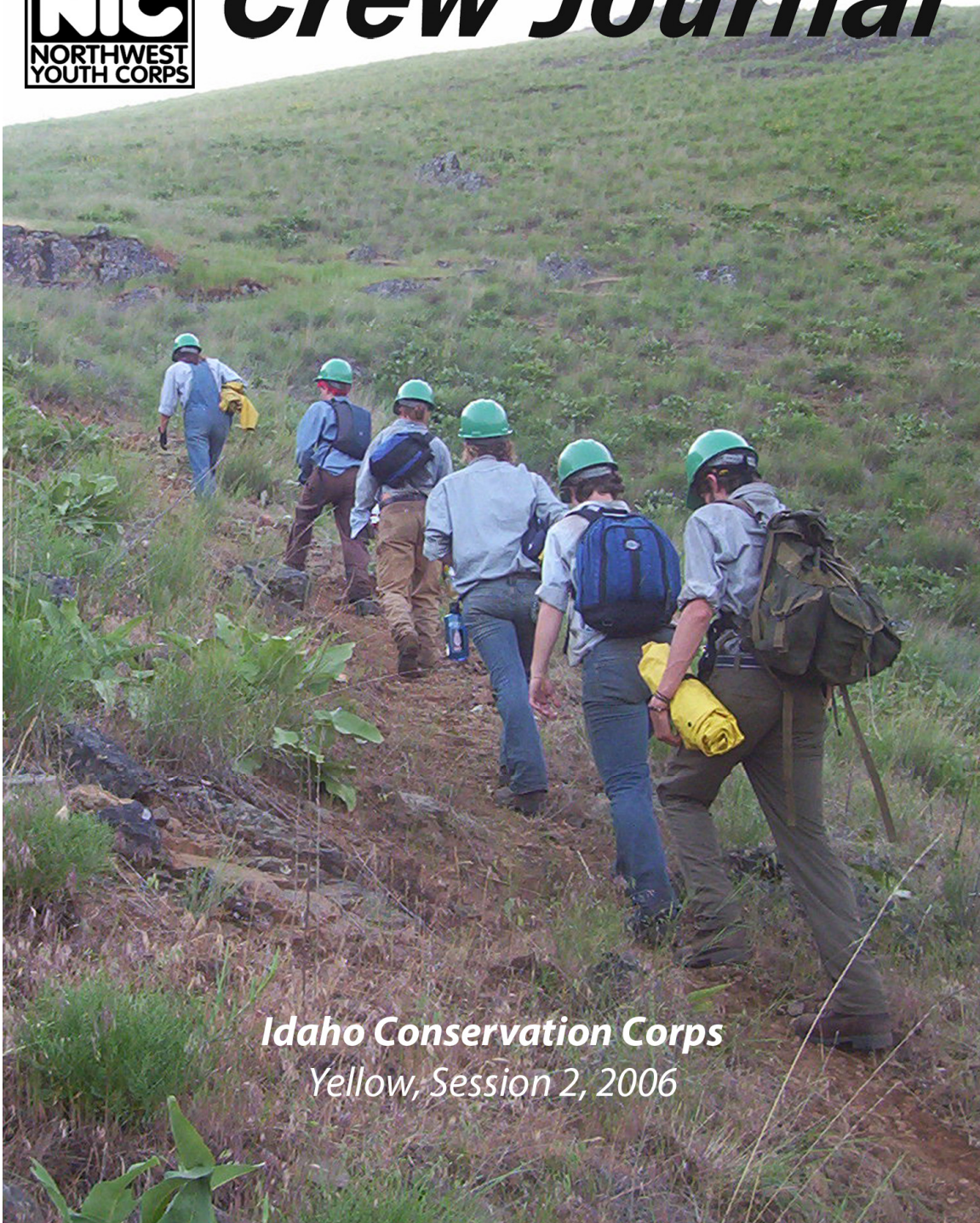




Crew Journal



*Idaho Conservation Corps
Yellow, 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.

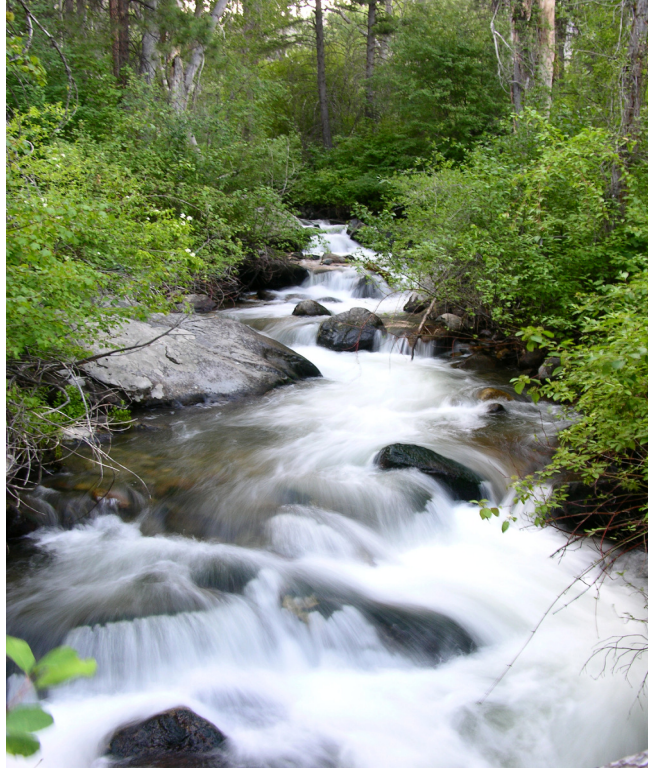
As you embark on your next adventure, whatever it may be, remember the things you did here. Remember the challenges you faced and that nothing is impossible. All you need is a fistful of gorp, a PB&J, and some good friends. Make it happen!!!

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
Ranger District
Project Name- Little Pend Orielle Slash Piling

Week 1: Date July 31st-Aug 4th

Monday: We met up at “Whoop Um Up” campground. I was a little nervous with so many people around, but it was cool. We got our groups the next day and drove all day to Washington (outside of Colville.) We learned how to do slash piling for the first day, and figured out how camp works. Cool so far. Also we have the spirit of Chuck Norris to see us through. Chuck Norris rocks my world!! Scott was here!!! –Anonymous

Tuesday: Today we worked on a trail. We used pulaskis for the first time. It was fun swinging those things. Afterwards my muscles were sore because it was the first time I had used one. No!!! Scotty boy, Chuck Norris Rocks MY WORLD. –Adrianna M

Wednesday: I think the goals for the crew are questionable, some want to push harder, some want to take on more responsibility and others want to quit. Those of us who have done this before feel comfortable in this place where everything is a bit less complex that it is at home but are still struggling all the same. The other who haven’t been here seem to be wondering what they really got themselves into. So I guess our goals for the week...Service, heal and triumph over ourselves. –Wes G.

Thursday: This week we learned how to properly use a pick-axe and how to stack slash piles. It has been great fun and Dan is very much satisfied. My highlight of today was my wig and mustache made out of tree limbs. My crew and I conquered many stumps today and I shared

many of my Chuck Norris jokes...I mean Chuck Norris facts. Did you know that under Chuck Norris' beard isn't just another chin, It's another fist! -Rachael M.

Friday: Some crew members are please with themselves for staying an entire week without quitting, some of them feel as if volunteering at every opportunity will make them better people and they feel great about helping out, or taking the initiative and completing tasks before being asked to do so. Some are probably happy that they haven't simply passed out from exhaustion on the work site. As for myself I'll never forget the pride I felt after whacking at my first stump with a Pulaski, getting a feel for the tool, grunting and screeching in determined frustration and finally rolling the lump of roots in the air with a yell. Although I would knock out many more stumps in the following days, that first accomplishment, which I would brag about the entire morning, as if no one else had ever eradicated a stump before, set the mood for the rest of my week. I'd heard about NYC before, the good and the bad; so I had a number of expectations. Not only have all of my expectations been exceeded, I've surprised myself and reach all of my personal goals; indeed, I've done much better than I'd expected. I wasn't sure that I'd be happy waking up every morning in a cold tent to work an exhausting sweaty eight hour day, going at least a week without a shower, swatting hundreds of mosquitoes at evening meetings, drinking bottle after bottle of water and camping in the woods for five weeks, but with each passing day, I'm getting more comfortable in this unique environment and I am in fact very happy to be here.. One of the most satisfying experiences is getting up at five o'clock and working hard all morning. At eleven o'clock on a weekday on my summer schedule, I'd probably still be snoozing. I feel great being so active and getting eight hours of sleep each night. I feel so much healthier. -Hannah S.

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

Week 2: Date Aug 7th-Aug. 11th

Monday: Today we hike five minutes up "River of No Return" trail to a place near where a creek had eaten away at the bank until the path was about demolished. Then we started to level out a strip below the trail so we could make a rock wall. The hardest part was moving enough for a 6 ft. by 40 ft. wall. Spencer was seeing things. -Sterling

Tuesday: Well, we're finally "backcountry" and we're getting settle in to our new campsite, with a lovely blue-green lake to on side, a huge slope of broken rocks to another and a forest of conifers surrounding us and the neighboring area. We're living for two weeks deep in the Frank Church "River of No Return" Wilderness, and we're here working for the USDA. In two days, we've made a lot of progress on the rock wall we're building I think we'll soon finish the wall, which will support small broken stones and prevent them from sliding down a slope into a protected stream bed. When we started the project, the hiking trail went along the hillside above the stream, but as there were many patches of "false tread," or parts of a path which appear stable but are, in fact, not sufficiently supported from below and may give under pressure. The trail was unsustainable. By building a retaining rock wall below that temporary path, and by loosening up the rocky soil of the path to rake down the rubble onto the growing wall, we're creating not only a safe, stable trail with no false tread (the path will be used by USDA workers and hikers alike) but an effective way to contain the eroding soil.

The work itself has involved the use of hazel hoes and McClouds to break up the hard soil of the temporary trail. Then we rake down the loosened rocks and primarily, our hands;

(gloved, of course...were not to forget our PPG's) to throw down flat-ish stones from the massive rock hillside adjacent, then to pass those scores of rocks back to the work site through a "fireline" and finally to place and secure layer upon layer of those flat-ish stones to build the wall. The Yellow crew has been doing great work, and most of us are really enjoying ourselves. Spencer has gotten particularly close to our retaining wall, and has suggested we call it "Rosetta." – Hannah S.

Wednesday: (Describe what your crews goals are for the week.) Well, this question is hard to answer on a Wednesday. I guess our goals for the rest of the week are to bust out whatever work Lisa/NYC puts in front of us. We have started the week off strong building a massive rock wall and are going to continue pushing the limits. We're all sore in one place or another, but that life, right? Meanwhile everything is starting to get back on track. We are off work before all hell breaks loose from the sky, (which is a first.) Hopefully, we get some free time by the lake. This is supposed to be fun after all. We have to work Saturday, LAME! -Wes

Thursday: This week we learned how to build a rock wall and build trail. Today was much easier, but not as satisfying as building the rock wall. The contact person seems very pleased with the work we have done. The weather has been a little crazy. It seems to always be boiling hot during the day, and thunder and rain at night. –Rachael AKA the human flyswatter.

Friday: Our challenges have been big and small. Our accomplishments have been big and small. But the biggest challenge and accomplishment we had this week was when we built "the great wall of Rosetta!" She stand a proud 8 feet or so tall on one end. And 70 feet long. It took 3 days to finish her. She's gorgeous. We spent many a hour fire lining. We moved hundreds of rocks. Fire lining was the worst challenge EVER! Rock after rock. We were tired and I think Joe was hallucinating. We were grouchy and we were mean to each other but when we finished, we were happy. Rosetta you are beautiful. Forever may you stand. Chuck Norris is so fast.... -Adrianna

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

Week 3: Date Aug 14th-Aug 18th

Monday: What Yellow crew did this week was start on a re-route. We are almost done with it. It looks beautiful. We are very proud of ourselves. We also worked on making a rock bridge across a creek. We are using some pretty big rocks. We all did a very good job. –Debra M.

Tuesday: Today we finished the re-route and the bridge. Then we started on busy work. One of our rovers got stung by a bee for the first time in her life. Both of our rovers were obsessed with fasting today. –Sterling

Wednesday: Our goals for the week included digging a re-route. We also wanted to get some cribs done, which we did. We wanted to get the re-route and the cribs done before we hiked out to the trailhead. We finished the re-route on Tuesday. We also finished a lot of the cribs on Monday. –Debra M.

Thursday: The crew learned how to dig a re-route. They also learned how to make cribs. The crew learned really fast. The crew did an awesome job on the re-route and the cribs. They also learned how fun it is to lop little trees and plants. They learned how to make drain dips. That was fun. I think the crew learned a lot this week, at work and at camp. –Debra M.

Friday: The main challenge this week was building cribs, and hiking to work everyday. We completed all of the jobs Ryan asked us to do so in the end all of our contact people were very grateful for all of our hard, dedicated work. We made excellent timing when we left the River of No Return. We all built some crazy muscles and now we're ready to take a couple of days off for some great fun.

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

Week 4: Date Aug 21st-Aug 25th

Monday: It was a dark and stormy morning, when yellow crew departed for the work site. Little did they know that the day would take them to new heights of adventure, including a bear sighting, miles of uphill hiking, back breaking work, new Chuck Norris jokes and making new trail. All of these culminated to make this day, August 21, 2006 the greatest day of man's existence on earth! Chuck Norris rocks the world! -Spencer S.

Tuesday: This week we are in the Sawtooths. Our project is a huge re-route. The re-route was three hundred and fifty one yards. It is a fun re-route. It is pretty sweet. We have to hike about a mile and then some and it was all uphill. That was an awesome hike. –Debra M.

Wednesday: Our goal for this week is to finish a re-route. I do not know how long the re-route was but it was pretty long. We wanted to finish it by Wednesday so we could leave and go to our next campsite. We did not finish it by Wednesday but we are very close to finishing it. –Debra M

Thursday: Today was awesome! We woke up, we had a GREAT breakfast. We had bacon, pancakes and eggs. It was amazing! We also helped herd the second group of sheep. A sheep came flying at me at 100 mph. But I was saved by my legs stepping backwards out of the way of the sheep. We worked 4 hours today. We finished our trail then we went back to camp. We took off in the van to our new destination. We are now at Beaver Creek in the Sawtooth Mountains. Tomorrow we are heading out to go backcountry. –Adrianna

Friday: Some of our challenges I think was the hike into our campsite. We walked about two miles back country. We also had to cross a river in order to get to our trail. It was pretty tough. For the rest of the week we had to make a pretty long re-route. It was not hard by the end of the week; everyone was really tired. We finished the re-route and went back to camp. Wednesday night we went back to camp after work to find some people with campers, dogs and a bunch of sheep in our camp. The people were nice enough to give us some of their food. We learned a lot that night. We helped them herd their sheep. In the morning more sheep showed up and we helped them herd those sheep. After that was done they made us pancakes, eggs, bacon and gave us some orange juice. It was great. –Debra M

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Sawtooth
Ranger District
Project Name- E. Fork Beaver Creek**

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

Monday: This weekend we stayed at camp on Saturday. Lisa went off for the day because it was her day off. Sunday we went and worked a full day. We are building a re-route that is very long. It is three quarters of a mile. –Debra M

Tuesday: The project this week involves building new trail in the Sawtooth Mountains by Beaver Creek. Total, we have completed over 1300 feet of trail. Today was the best day yet, because the crew managed to step up to 700 feet a day instead of 600 feet. It has been a rough week. –Rachel

Wednesday: Today was a day of extremes, extreme goals, extreme burn smelling and extreme emotions. We built 896 feet of trail today and have reached almost a half mile this week. The sun is setting, the water is boiling and our minds are turning on potentially the last night backcountry. Some of us will be going home, going to school, or looking for their next adventure, NYC or otherwise. We've made new friends and developed skills that no where else can offer. Once again it's been the time of my life. Saying goodbye deep within the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho, until next time. –Wes

Thursday: This week our crew learned how to dig a re-route. We all knew how but we thought we would learn some more. We learned more about each other. We learned many things during SEEDs. We also found out that we talk a lot. (So says our crew leader.) Besides that we learned a lot that we will always remember. –Debra M.

Friday: Today is the big day. By that I mean it's big clean day! We have finished our work week and our NYC experience is almost over. I wish it wasn't over. We have all made some good friends, done some good work and have a greater appreciation for the outdoors. It seems like yesterday that we just met and had our first work day. We have all become such good pals, and it's hard to say goodbye. Thanks NYC, this was awesome! I'll miss you guys.

-Scott was here

Again the best experience ever. –Debra M

Unicorns Forever! -Rock Whisperer

Keep coming back. –Wes

Rachel, I'm going to miss rolling in the dirt with you! –Adrianna P.S.
I'm going to miss ya'll!

OOOAAOOOAH! Yeti call! I love you guys! –Rachael AKA the Yeti.

This was so much better than sitting on the couch reading....I've never worked so hard in my life, and I've never felt better. This was an amazing experience and I think I'll be back for more. –Hannah S.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC would have to be the day I got sick in the Sawtooths and had to sit out for the day. –Debra M

The most challenging day must be the day we hiked in 3 miles on Beaver Creek trail. –Sterling A.

I don't have a most challenging day but I do have a most challenging week. It was the 5th week at NYC. I was confused and tired. I didn't know if I wanted to go home or not. It was a hard week for me.

My most challenging day was the day I hadn't gotten any sleep the night before and very little sleep in the nights before that. I felt exhausted, but I did my best and helped make progress on the work site. I felt better the next day. –Spencer S.

My most challenging day at NYC was having to make everyone bust it so hard when I hurt my ankle. I had to sit aside for 2 and ½ days and it drove me nuts. –Rachel M.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My three favorite NYC experiences would be the first day I showed up to the crew, the first day in the Sawtooths (BC) chopping a tree down. Also the work. –Debra M

My three favorite NYC experiences are work, work and uh work. –Sterling

My 3 favorite NYC experiences are: Building Rosetta; The sheep herders who gave us yummy food and the day I came running out of Beaver Creek Trail after going backcountry for a week. It was awesome. –Adrianna

My three favorites: Yeti calls; herding sheep and building Rosanna and then taking her down. –Rachel M.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing I will always remember is the first day and meeting the crew leader and the crew. –Debra M.

I will remember the food. –Sterling

One thing I will remember is the day the crew wanted me to lead them up the steepest part of a hill on the way to work. It was an awesome feeling when we all got to the top with me in the lead. –Adrianna M.

I can never forget those wonderful sheep herders. They just kept shoving food down me. –Rachel M.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always respect the people I work with and realize how hard they work. –Debra M.

I have no idea. –Sterling

From now on I will always work out to keep in shape. –Rhianna M

I will probably come back in like a week. –Racheal M.

At NYC I Learned...

I learned what it was like being leader of the day. I learned to get along with other people. I also learned that his job is not the easiest. –Debra M.

I learned how to build trail and turnpikes and how to crosscut.

I learned a lot, in fact, too much to write down. But most of all I learned what is deep down inside of me. I have the potential to do awesome things. –Adrianna M.

I learned how to be more tolerant of other people. –Rachel M.