



# *Crew Journal*



*Oregon 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 set against a light blue, textured background.

Joe Waksmundski  
NYC Field Director



**National Forest or area that the work took place: Umpqua NF**  
**Ranger District: Tiller**  
**Project Name- Tiller RD Trails**

Week 1: Date June 19-June 23

Monday: On Sunday we arrived at Whisky Creek, about two hours South of Eugene. Red crew (our crew) set up tents, tarps and cooked our first dinner of hamburgers and potatoes. The next morning we began our first project affiliated with trail maintenance. We traveled three miles from our campsite cutting down trees and bushes which were close to the trail. The trail was originally designed for all types of use including horses and motor vehicles. It was narrow in places and there were a few “sketchy” spots. –Carson

Tuesday: We are at Whisky Creek/Camp. Our maintenance is not of the ordinary instead of making tread we are just clearing out everything. Which is nice because it’s easy, but disappointing cause I’m sure we were all looking forward to treading the trail. But I’m sure we will get plenty of that next week and then we will all wish we were still just “clearing the area.” -Amy H.

Wednesday: (Our crews goals for the week are...) To finish the job we’ve started. To try and not walk through any more poison oak. Maybe

speed up the bump line a little bit. Today we did some awesome trail hiking. We hike 7 miles. Yay we were all pumped. It was all up hill to. Walking up hill for 1,000 ft. elevation. Did some cleaning up in the trails, bucked some logs and got some great views. For today's dinner we are having top ramen with some additives. –Dustin C.

Thursday: Our crew rocked it today until the aliens showed and started to attack Beth; it was all aliens in the beginning but being the loyal crew that we are it soon turned as we started to wrestle their mind control widgets away from them in an attempt to win our fearless leader back. In the end the aliens were subdued and as a form of punishment they were forced to complete the work day on trail as we enjoyed some ice cold lemonade.

Friday: Well, the first week has finally ended. It was hard but definitely worth while. We swam through fields of poison oak. Luckily we have all so far stayed rash free. Broke in new boots with six and seven mile hikes, fought off blisters and started to adjust to our new life with new people. For some, it was hard to adjust to the scheduled life and for some it was hard to have such a lack of plans, but we're all beginning to get into the swing of things. Our first week was full of accomplishments. Working hard despite adverse conditions, climbing mountains, learning how to use the tools, cook with the dutchie and after various aspects of our camp life. But our challenges and accomplishments have brought us together and we are very much starting to be a crew. –Claire and Emma

We are dirty and we smell bad.  
The mosquitoes make us very sad

We cut lots of logs  
We swam through fields of p-oak  
Tecnu every day.

We have more friends and more muscle  
because of this week we know how to hustle.

Yay! No School!

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Lower Smith River**  
**Ranger District: N/A**  
**Project Name- Menasha Weeds**

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

Monday: We were eaten alive by mosquitoes. It was a small weekend site because Blue crew is still out working and Orange crew left Saturday morning to go back country. The rec. trip I went on was supposed to go up to a volcano, but the road was blocked by snow. Never fear! We busted out the hogs and hoes and shoveled snow! We continued on only to find blow down blocking our path. We turned back, lacking a chainsaw.

Tuesday: Were in some trees by Reedsport, we are exterminating scotch broom. We are here to save the trees. The crew is located in the coastal region near Florence. The project is ridding the hillside of scotch broom for a company called Menasha. After working a seven hour day we visited a beach where we cooked hot dogs and potatoes from the Dutch oven. The weather has been warm but the beach was windy and we were not able to stay there long. –Dan P, Jesse H, Carson Q

Wednesday: Today we continued upon our quest for the complete annihilation of all scotch broom! We worked from a little before 6 o'clock to an early 1:30. We combed an area, using our loppers and handsaws and completely cleared it of all its pesky "scotch" weeds. After, we headed to the beach and a select few of us braved the icy cold waters for a cool, much needed rinse. We quickly left to find a more protected cove for our dinner. Over-all a very successful day. –Claire

Thursday: Today we cut down some more scotch broom. We woke up about 5:30 to get on the clock at 5:45 yay. So then we finished early, 1:45. Scott was here today to sadly take Elyse to Portland she said. It was awesome to have the same rover for two weeks, well 1 ½ weeks. I thought she was really cool, chill, but most of the time on the move. So today was a pretty good day. P.S. Tomorrow is Friday. Yay!...Bustin Dustin

Friday: Our challenge this week was to eradicate our vile foe. Scotch broom. A disgusting noxious weed with flowers (that two of our courageous crewmembers discovered vile allergies to, which only served to fuel their raging hate towards Scotch broom.) that we were vilely forced to lop and saw until the bodies of our fallen foes littered the ground and their vile cities lay in ruin.

Not missing a vile inch of their vile territory, we spread out, sometimes getting lost in the vile undergrowth of vile ferns. (Employed by the vile scotch broom) attempting to delay our righteous crusade. Summoning the spirits of Marco Polo, a rescue party would be sent crashing through the growth to thwart the vile attempts at hindering our progress. Of course, like true heroes, we were never dismayed (even by rocketing sneezes) and to vile Scotch broom no longer vilely ruled the hills and the baby trees were once again free. -Emma

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Rogue River  
Ranger District: Prospect  
Project Name- Rogue/Umpqua Divide Wilderness Trail**

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

Monday: My crew and I went to Crater Lake and hung out with friends from other crews. Also this weekend was parent's weekend so most kids talked with their families. The Red crew made sub sandwiches and potato salad and we also had fruits and veggies for dinner. Family and friends ate dinner with everyone. We had lots of fun. –Tiera D.R.

Tuesday: Week 3!! This week we are working in Prospect, Oregon in the Prospect Ranger District. The work we are doing is trail maintenance and we are all learning how to use a cross cut. This morning we said good-bye to our wonderful crew member who had to head home. That was really hard but he reminded us that we are young and we are positive! Everyone is realizing how bizarre that tomorrow is the ultimate hump day (half way through the session). We have a great dinner to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Lasagna!! Oh two more things. Our yellow top rolled

down the hill but it was rescued after a water explosion. And we bucked and (bundled?) some wicked logs. It was G-REAT. I love life. (hehehe). –Shannon M

Wednesday: Our crew, a usually benevolent group of peace-loving human beings, has become a malevolent force to be reckoned with. We are faced with vulgar trees, vulgarly overgrowing the poor trail. Vulgarly we grunt and sing as we maliciously saw and Pulaski. Overgrowth, making a fresh corridor. Since the unexpected absence of agent “a” we are working extra vulgar hours. Hard as it is, we refrain from using any vulgar language to voice our frustration. Instead we take our anger out on the vulgar branches.

-Emma

Thursday: The crew of red royally diminished trail of 5 or more miles. We bucked a total of 18 logs today yay! Climbed approx. 1,000+ feet of elevation. Chopping down trees, falling trees (under supervision of course) and they were small. It’s the last full day before Friday, me and the rest of the crew is so excited to know where we are going next. On my way up, Shannon was bustin out some little trees when I said “do you need some help with that”, she said “no thanks” and when she was getting rid of them she hit herself in the back of the head it was funny (turkey).

–Dustin

Friday: This week we worked on some of the most beautiful trail ever we hike up some seriously steep trails that opened up into meadows. This morning we saw some elk on our way through the trail to clear out some major logs. On one particularly gynomous log we had to fashion our own nature made rock bar from small dead trees. Then we had to get 5 people behind the log to move it off the trail. Overall, we had a sweet week with Deverton and we endured the daily noise of ATVs surrounding our campsite. Some of our crew (Dustin, Tiera & Nicholas) were drooling over the machines. But the others of us were trying to adjust to all the noise. We also got to carry our water from a far away spot back to camp. Rock on big guns. Red crew rocks!

### **National Forest or area that the work took place: Siskiyou NF**

**Ranger District: Galice RD**

**Project Name- Little Silver Lake Trail**

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

Monday: This weekend we camped at Cave Junction. All four crew were there this time. It was also a parent’s weekend again and we had a fashion show, it was G-reat. The rec trips were wicked sweet, I went on one with Tyson to the Oregon caves. It was the coolest. We also went to it’s a (Burl?) It was also the uber-coolest. One crew went to the Redwood forest. The end. Nicholas B.

Tuesday: This week we are camped down in the bottom of a wash with beautiful, steep, rocky sides. We get to climb up and down on the way to and from work each day. The hike is gnarly but we are learning to support one another. We are continuing to bust new trail and eat lots of salty back country food.

Wednesday: Today was hump-day. Of course to celebrate, we had some wicked good gorp. It had like chocolate, and like some delish gummy bears. Anyway, our work consisted of splitting into two groups, one of which headed down trail to bust new trail

around lil silver lake. The others (the handsome ½ or Red crew) continued their valiant struggle with “false tread” sliding rocks and the occasional fire breathing dragon. We met back at camp for tecnu baths and uber spectacular foot messages. Today’s rating :6 Fun Fun Fun! –C to the Laire.

Thursday: Today was a wonderful day! We started with a 5 am wake up call followed by a wonderful breakfast of bagels. Then we took our morning escapade up the treacherous cliff to our work area. From there we busted amazing trail that was lost from the Biscuit Forest Fire. It was dusty. We are all beginning to think of our lives without NYC. For example waking up in a room not accompanied with our NYC family and sleeping with sheets and a pillow. Any who, after work we had our very own themed Thursday, pool tropical swim party in our private deck. It was a super amazing fun time and most of our dust layers came off. Basically the time here is amazing and fun moments are around every time! -Shannon

Friday: Today red crew dug trail and brushed the trail. There was a good amount of poison oak. Most of the soil had tons of rocks but the parts with out rocks were very unstable. There was extreme heat in the sun and a 15 degree difference in the shade. Some chain sawing was done but it was mostly done with hand saws, loppers and a high reach. The tools we used for digging were the following: hazel, hog, Pulaski and McLeod. I estimate two miles of trail was dug today. –Dan P.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Siskiyou NF**  
**Ranger District: Galice RD**  
**Project Name- Little Silver Lake Trail**

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

Monday: My crew and I hiked out from our back country on Saturday. Then set up camp and then we went to town for laundry and store time. When we got back from town we played Frisbee and had free time till dinner, we had raman noodles with veggies. We worked for six hours on Sunday, came back from work and relaxed till dinner. Tiera D.R.

Tuesday: Though this sheet may say Tuesday I am actually writing this on a Monday, as we started our work week a day early. Today we busted out some hecka good trail. We combated the life-draining heat of the burning sun, cut down some burnt trees/branches and sung many renditions of our favorite song “Cecilia” by THE Simon and G. Our long hike out was tiring but manageable. Oh and our very own Nicholas won the “drink more water” contest with an astounding 12 cups during the workday. Overall rating: 7.5! Very good, very good..... C to the Laire

A Poem

By: Srwop Teragram Erialc & Namtihw Ardaxela Amme  
The day was hot  
Our feet are starting to rot  
Peanut butter and jelly for 5 weeks straight  
Oh! The food we eat yet hate

Bee filled days & mosquito filled nights  
All (except Carson) are covered w/bites  
Our time together is coming to a close  
Finally we may have some time to lay and relax.  
Yay! Sally aka party mobile aka club wagon Here we come!

Wednesday: Today was our 3<sup>rd</sup> to last work day. After a glorious morning hike into our work site with the rising sun, we busted some amazing trail. All tools were an important asset to our group productivity. Creek beds were made and bushes lopped. All in all it was a super great day. Our contact came after lunch to examine the work we did. He seemed happy with our work. During our hike back to camp I learned a lot (about) 2 stroke engines, turbo chargers, and other stuff for cars. Our crew moral is high but we are all anticipating the end of the session. Oh, our “seeds” are taking place on the beautiful ridge overlooking numerous valleys during goose bump giving sunsets. –Shannon M

Thursday: We got up at 5:30 a.m. and had breakfast at 6. We had safety circle, it was good. We walked to the work site and we worked like a ½ mile today. At the end of the day people were tired. We walked back to the camp. Scott gave the group pop and our mail. That is all for now. –Jesse H.

Friday: Today we dug a ½ mile of trail. During the 6 and ½ hours that we work 3 people were stung by bees. One person got stung three times while the other two were stung once. The person that got stung three times was stung in the arm (wrist) twice and once on the shoulder. The other two were stung on the wrist and the left side of the neck. Luckily none of the people were allergic. Besides this horrifying experience we conquered the trail. –Dan P.

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

Walking up hill. Living in a community that is my most challenging day. Jesse

Day 1 of back country, hiking this sketchball trail with quite heavy backpacks on. It was long and hot. –Emma

I think the 1<sup>st</sup> morning at the 1<sup>st</sup> project we had. Get up early in the morning and also getting blisters on the 1<sup>st</sup> week. –Tiera

The most challenging day at NYC for me was the hike into our back country project. It was steep terrain for me, however the amazingness of Red crew pushed me to do my best and I made it successfully! –Shannon

For me it would have to be the hike down into the backcountry. My pack wasn't adjusted to my comfort. –Nicholas

Also for me, or maybe just the closest in my memory, has to be the hike into our back country project. It was long, hot, and our feet were scrambling footing on a barely existing trail. Hard! –Claire

My most challenging day was the first work day on the hike back. –Dan

The most challenging day of this session is when we all walked up hill for three miles at once climbing an amazing 1,000 ft. in elevation. Really some of the days were challenging for us because I've never really worked that hard and long. -Dustin

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

One of my favorite days were all of the people playing games. Two is when we go to the store on the weekend. Three is when I have a good day for the work we do together. – Jesse

1. Ultimate hump day. Getting ice cream. Having special Gorp.
2. The weekend site days
3. Every Day.

1. Learning how to do backcountry for the 1<sup>st</sup> time
2. meeting new people
3. the weekend sites -Tierra

1. The morning when shannon's lip swelled up
2. Seeing Emma pop up from a dust cloud and bush after sliding down the hill
3. When Nicholas tried to back ol' sally up, and Crater Lake! Ahh so many! –C

My favorite experiences while at NYC would have to be the wonderful dinner we all spent together telling stories and laughing. Two, being sweaty and dirty because of the hard work we accomplished and three waking up laughing with the people I Love. Those were only a few of the favorites. –Shannon

1. Weekend site 3 we went to the Oregon Lakes for a recreation trip it was uber great.
2. Digging trail
3. Search and Rescue -Nicholas B.

1. Going back country
2. Digging trail
3. Having Fun -Dan P.

1. Using the Pulaski on trees
2. Taken chillax time with friends and family
3. Having snowball wars