



Crew Journal



*Oregon Conservation Corps
Yellow, 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: North Umpqua RD
Project Name- N. Umpqua Trail #1414

Week 1: Date June 19-June 23

Monday: We met at Elijah Bristow Park; all forty crew members were there. Everyone went through several rotations to help us for the next five weeks. Some of the rotations were tents, tool safety, general camp rules and van safety. On Saturday AM the staff and members got in a big circle. Everyone discussed why they are here. Sunday morning we were all divided into different crews, Monday our crew is near North Umpqua and Lindsay is our crew rover. Last night we had an observational seed. We discussed goals for the next five weeks. At the end of the night we played big booty.

Tuesday: We are at the North Umpqua trail. This is in the Umpqua National Forest in the N. Umpqua Ranger District. On the N. Umpqua trail we are doing brushing and construction where a landslide occurred. We are also doing trail widening. On the section we were primarily widening and brushing. A lot of brushing! Jesse is the lopper. We are doing this to make the trails easier to walk on. –Adam

Wednesday: One of our goals is to memorize each others names. To not get poison oak to keep a positive attitude. To do a super job on helping the trail. To nail down the grip stuff to help prevent slipping on the boardwalk. -Jesse

Thursday: Yellow crew learned about trail work and about each other this week. We learned how to properly use the trail tools, how to brush and how to create a drainage cup. We also learned about safety. We learned how to properly wear our personal protective gear and what we could do to avoid possible hazards. Throughout the week we all also learned about each others backgrounds, interests, likes and dislikes. –Nora

Friday: Our challenges included opening up to each other emotionally and the physical labor, such as lifting heavy objects and maintaining a good PMA (positive mental attitude.)

Our accomplishments were learning how to use our tools correctly and setting up our own camp. We also cooked for ourselves, left no trace behind and learned various skills and information during our SEEDS. (Something Education Every Day.) As a group, we learned about different types of trails and how we can help to properly maintain them. Most importantly, we accomplished teamwork during trail jobs and during small tasks throughout each day. –Nora C. & Hannah A.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Umpqua National Forest
Ranger District: Diamond Lake Ranger District
Project Name- Diamond Lake Hazardous Fuels Reduction**

Week 2: Date June 26th-June 30th

Monday: This weekend we met up with the Red and Orange crew. The Orange crew left for Cal. So between us and the reds we split up into two groups for a rec. trip. One group went on the Hadulock trail, had a snowball fight then went swimming at Diamond Lake. The other group went or was supposed to hike up a beautiful mountain trail that ended on a volcano but due to some snow and a tree we were forced to go on another trail. We still had fun though, snowballs & Swimming. –Hayley

Tuesday: This week we are piling logs to burn and cutting out trees so the forest won't be so thick we are in the Diamond Lake Ranger District. To go into more detail on the piling of sticks. First we gather small and go bigger as we get higher. They are kind of stacked into a pyramid shape. That pretty much sums it up. And for dinner tonight we are having a NYC thanksgiving. –Chris H.

Wednesday: Our crews goals this week were to get up and out of the campsite by 6:15. So far I guess we have been doing OK with that. Deverton said that we didn't get out until 6:16 today, but my watch said 6:14. Our other goal was to make a lot of piles although at this point Kelly has not calculated how many we made. –Bryce G.

Thursday: This week our crew learned how to create burn piles. We've been making them for four days now and although we started out a little shaky we've been turning out a lot of piles lately. We've also started learning about each others personal histories. So far only two have gone but hopefully the whole crew will eventually go. We've learned about changes in weather

and differences in rocks. We learned about the definition of hipsters and on how to make clam chowder. This was a really educating week for Yellow crew. –Lauren D.

Friday: This week we were making brush piles and covering them with black plastic, all together we made 126 piles. It was challenging because it was really hot and there was millions of mosquitoes everywhere and we got bit like crazy. Thanks to our rover Deverton we ate great all week. Nicholas W.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Rogue River NF
Ranger District: Ashland RD
Project Name- Brown Mt. Horse Trail

Week 3: Date July 3rd- July 7th

Monday: Friday June 30th we left our campground beside the beautiful Diamond Lake. Where we had been building burn piles. We traveled five miles to the famous Diamond Lake lodge. We washed our clothes and stocked up on bug spray. Then we headed back to a campground to take our weekly showers. The weekend site was in the scenic forest of Prospect. The Blue crew was finally back from “boot camp” that last two weeks. The crews reunited to spread the “Jo Jo” love. Saturday after pancakes we performed weekends chores and then left for day trips. One trip was to Crater Lake, a hike down to the water along with a stop at the Crater Lake Lodge. Other groups went to the Rogue River, hung out and played Frisbee and then enjoyed ice cream cones. Parents arrive at 4:00 pm for some chill time with their kids. Parents brought watermelons, cookies and other delights to share with everybody at a family style dinner. Later that night there was a Saturday circle where everybody shared there goals for the next three weeks. Sunday crews left for their new sites. Yellow crew (us,) took over the blue crews job at the Brown Mountain trail by Fish Lake. –Hannah A.

Tuesday: We are right by Fish Lake and Brown Mountain doing trail maintenance. We are using high reach saws to cut down branches that are leaning into the trail. We are also going into campgrounds to pick up a bunch of trash. We are doing this so that people can hike down the trail with greater ease. –Jesse D.

Wednesday: Our crew had many goals. One goal was for our crew to maintain a positive mental attitude as we are realizing the halfway mark. Some other goals were to work hard and improve in our social skills both in the worksite and around camp. Also at this point one focus for some of us is to pull through and persevere until our session is over. Some of us would also like to build up better tolerance levels. –Nancy K.

Thursday: We learned that you need to eat a lot of food throughout the day in order to have even energy levels. We also learned how to high reach and make corridors in the trail. –Adam B.

Friday: The yellow crew had many challenges and accomplishments this week. The challenges included using a high and midreach saw for the first time. Starting and finishing the whole Dunlop trail which included all the aspects of trail maintenance. The yellow crew accomplished loads of things such as mastering the high and midreach saw techniques and blazing through the trail. –Chris H.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Rogue River NF
Ranger District: Ashland Ranger District
Project Name- Brown Mt. Horse Trail

Week 4: Date: July 10th-July 14th

Monday: This weekend similar to the last all four crews were together as a campsite near Cave Junction. Parents came again this weekend. There were three recreational trips. Two different groups went swimming in the Illinois River, another group went to the Redwoods in California and the last group went to the Oregon Caves. In the Saturday circle this weekend everyone discussed their greatest challenges. Many people discussed their struggles in NYC or just in their lives. On Saturday there was also an NYC fashion show that some of the parents watched. On Sunday our crew arrived at our campsite in Fish Lake to begin our second week here. –Nancy K.

Tuesday: We returned to Fish Lake this weekend. On Monday we finished the Dunlop loop trail which we started last week. The rest of the week will contain a lot of corridor brushing in which we use high-reaches, mid-reaches, saws, loppers and swamp. –Nora C.

Wednesday: My crew's goals this week are to finish our projects. On Monday we finished our trail repair on Dunlop Loop which was 1 ½ miles long. The next day we started working on a road that needed trimming and is four miles long. We've set a goal to finish that up as much as we can before Friday. Another one of our goals for this week and the last week of the session is to be the only crew to complete all five weeks without any crewmembers quitting. So far we have kept that goal and I hope we can stick to it. –Lauren D.

Thursday: This week we have been high reaching and built a turnpike and moved a whole lot of gravel and drove stakes in a swamp. It was hot out. I got a sunburn. The whole day was awesome. Nick W.

Friday: One of our challenges this week was learning how to use a wheelbarrow and making sure it didn't tip over. Another challenge was using the sledgehammer to hit stakes in. We had to make sure we hit the middle of the stake so it wouldn't "mushroom." We started leaders of the day this week and it was a challenge for the leaders that were chosen. Our accomplishments were that we finished our trail maintenance on the Dunlop trail this week. We also worked and finished high sawing and swamping a road that was being overgrown. We finished putting logs in a swamp to make a trail. We then put gravel on top. –Jesse B.

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

Week 5: Date July 17th-July 21st

Monday: Well this weekend we stayed at the Jim Creek industrialized camp. For a rec. trip my group went to Crater Lake and we walked 1.1 miles, 700 ft. down to the lake and swam in the crystal clear water. We also had some store stops in Union Creek. –Chris H.

Tuesday: At the beginning of the day we split into two groups. One group built a turnpike across a little stream and the other group did trail work. After these tasks were completed we built stream crossings and did more tread work. Hooray!! –Bryce G.

Wednesday: Our group goal is to successfully finish the trail we are on. We only have two more work days until we graduate. We have already met one of our goals to finish with all our crew members. –Hayley N.

Thursday: This week we learned how to make “check dams” a French drain, a turnpike from scratch and how to use the crosscut saw. To make a check drain you have to cut down a tree, skin a log, outline the section where it will be, then lay the log in and makes sure it is packed well. A French drain is made by laying large rocks down, then medium sized, then small. To use the crosscut saw you have to get one other person. Then turn the handles either parallel or perpendicular to the blade, make a beginning cut and start sawing gungho!! Adam B.

Friday: This week yellow crew learned how to make check dams and how to use a cross-cut saw. We also created a turnpike and a French drain. At camp, we dug and learned how to use a latrine. For the first time, we gathered water from a river and used iodine to make it drinkable. Yellow crew accomplished being the hosts for a burrito-salad dinner with blue crew and finishing almost all of the brownies afterwards. On Sunday, we put up our tents quickly and efficiently and again on Friday we took them down without any problem and we are now expert tent putter uppers and taker-downers. We finished all of our crews personal histories this week, and we finished our SEEDS which included some interesting ones concerning Dr. Suess, Shell Silverstein and Drug abuse. –Nora C & Hannah A.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was the first day of work. It was the most challenging day because I didn't know exactly what to expect and had to get adjusted to the new lifestyle. Also working with these new people when I have just become acquainted with all of them. –Nancy K.

For me the most challenging day at NYC was when I had to walk my first mile. I'm not used to a lot of physical activities so it was so hard. We were going up and down hills. I'm panting and falling behind and I'm so sure that we are going to stop at the hill and we didn't. I almost collapsed and it was definitely hard for me. –Lauren

My most challenging day was one of the work days awhile (ago) we built burn piles. I was not expecting work like that and I became a little home sick that week. -Nora C.

My most challenging day at NYC was the hike in on the Sherwood trail with yellow tops.
–C. Wizzy

My most challenging moment was trying to express my feeling to fellow crew members because I usually keep them to myself. A-track (Adam B.)

My most challenging time was having to sharpen tools. I hated that job. It was the only job I actually dreaded. Bryce

My most challenging moment at NYC was the second day when yellow crew drove to our first site. When I arrived at the campground I came to the realization that I was going to be gone for five weeks. I was really upset and pleaded with Kelly to let me go home. Hannah A.

My most challenging time was the whole second week. I hated making burn piles and I was kind of home sick. –Jesse B.

Mine was hiking with the water on Sherwood trail. –Hayley N.

Wheelbarrow day first week. –Nick

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My three favorite NYC experiences were meeting all these people with different backgrounds. Another favorite experience was the recreational trip to Crater Lake. It was so neat. The other enjoyable experience was when I was leader of the day. –Nancy K.

My first favorite experience at NYC was the second week. The crew was still kind of new to each other but we were slowly getting closer. One day Hannah and Nora and I were working on burn piles and Hannah started making unicorn flying noises (foreign unicorn private joke) and it was hysterical. It was the first time I felt really close to any of my crewmembers and I laughed so hard I cried. We also sang a lot of songs that week so that was another favorite experience of mine.

1. The first Laundry stop when we got ice cream, went to the amazing discount store and hung out as a group.
2. The last recreation trip when we just relaxed at a lake and got ice cream with matt.
3. Every Dinner. Nora C.

1. Just hanging out with my fellow crewmembers and leaders.
2. The last week of work because I worked my hardest. I built two stream crossing with Kelly and Deverton and worked on a lot of chuck dams.
3. The second rec. trip because I saw some really cool stuff with Beth, such as the natural bridge in Prospect. –A. Track (Adam B.)

1. Swimming in Fish Lake and eating picnic dinner July 4th
2. Preparing a turnpike at the end of week 4.
3. Winning employee of the week –Bryce G.

1. Buying Bambi headbands and crappy flip flops from a discount grocery store with my twin Nora.
2. Recreational trips with my friends on the Illinois River. We chilled, swam and then went to Dairy Queen. It was awesome.
3. When a quiet girl (not) girl on yellow burst out laughing at me and then I laughed so hard I almost peed my pants it was awesome. –Hannah A.

1. Friends
2. games
3. rover and crewleader –Nick

1. Friends
2. Big fun
3. Rec. Trips –Jesse

1. Friends
2. Big fun
3. rec. trips –Chris B.

1. getting to meet new people
2. laughing so hard my insides split
3. going to Crater Lake

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing I will always remember is how well my crew gets along for having such a diverse crew. I will always remember the people I have met while being at NYC.

I will remember the car rides yellow crew took together in the awesome NYC Van and trying to fit all of our laundry and shower stuff into the seats on Fridays. –Nora C.

I will remember how much yellow crew laughed together. One night at dinner I laughed so hard applesauce shot out of my nose on to another members shirt. Everybody had a wonderful sense of humor which made the session really fun! –Hannah A.

I'll always remember my crew has the best sense of humor. We've all laughed so hard we cried and we've shared our lives for five weeks and I don't ever want to forget that.

I will always remember the friendships I made and the great times we had. –C Wizzy

I will remember how we all laughed and had a great time most of the time. I will remember the friends I made while at NYC. –A Track

I will always remember what it was like to enjoy working. –Bryce

Friends –Nick

Chris making everyone laugh and losing his pants –Hayley N

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always have a greater appreciation for simple things. I will always have a higher tolerance level for people with different backgrounds. –Nancy K.

From now on I will appreciate port o potties a lot more. I will also have a different attitude towards Oregon and the entire Northwest. I will probably always wake up earlier at least for a while. –Nora C.

Be more independent in my in my decisions and whatever decision I make I'll always put 100% into it.

From now on I will always appreciate different people and their lifestyles. –C Wizzy

I will always wait to judge someone, hear them out, and take the time to get to know them. – A- track

From now on I will always put 100% into everything. –Bryce

From now on I will appreciate my life and the people in it more. I am a very fortunate human being, with so much opportunity that I should take advantage of it! –Hannah Austin

I will always know that working in the yard is incredibly easy compared to the work we did here. – Jesse B.

Call an ax a Pulaski. –Nick

Take care of myself better and see nature differently. –Hayley N.

At NYC I Learned...

At NYC I learned how to deal with out all the things that are in my normal life. I learned how to step out of my comfort zone to a certain extent. Another trait I learned was to have more of an appreciation for simple things. –Nancy K.

At NYC I learned diversity and acceptance of another's background. Something else I learned was to persevere. I also learned to step out of my box and get involved. –Lauren

I learned a lot about myself at NYC. –Nora C.

I learned proper tool storage, Deverton is awesome, (and) how to make tread. –Nick

At NYC I learned diversity, expressing myself, hard work. –C Wizzy

I learned how to make check dams and stream crossings. I also learned how to put up with other people I don't really like. I also learned how to accept other people's lifestyles and cultures. –A Track

I learned that I can do anything. –Bryce

1. Diversity- peoples backgrounds vary and I can expect that
2. perseverance- I can do anything by pushing myself.
3. Leadership- I really enjoyed my leader of the day. I have developed good leadership skills. –Hannah A.

I have learned a harder work ethic. I have also learned to be a bit more social. –Jesse B.

How to appreciate the finer more beautiful things in life. Hayley N.