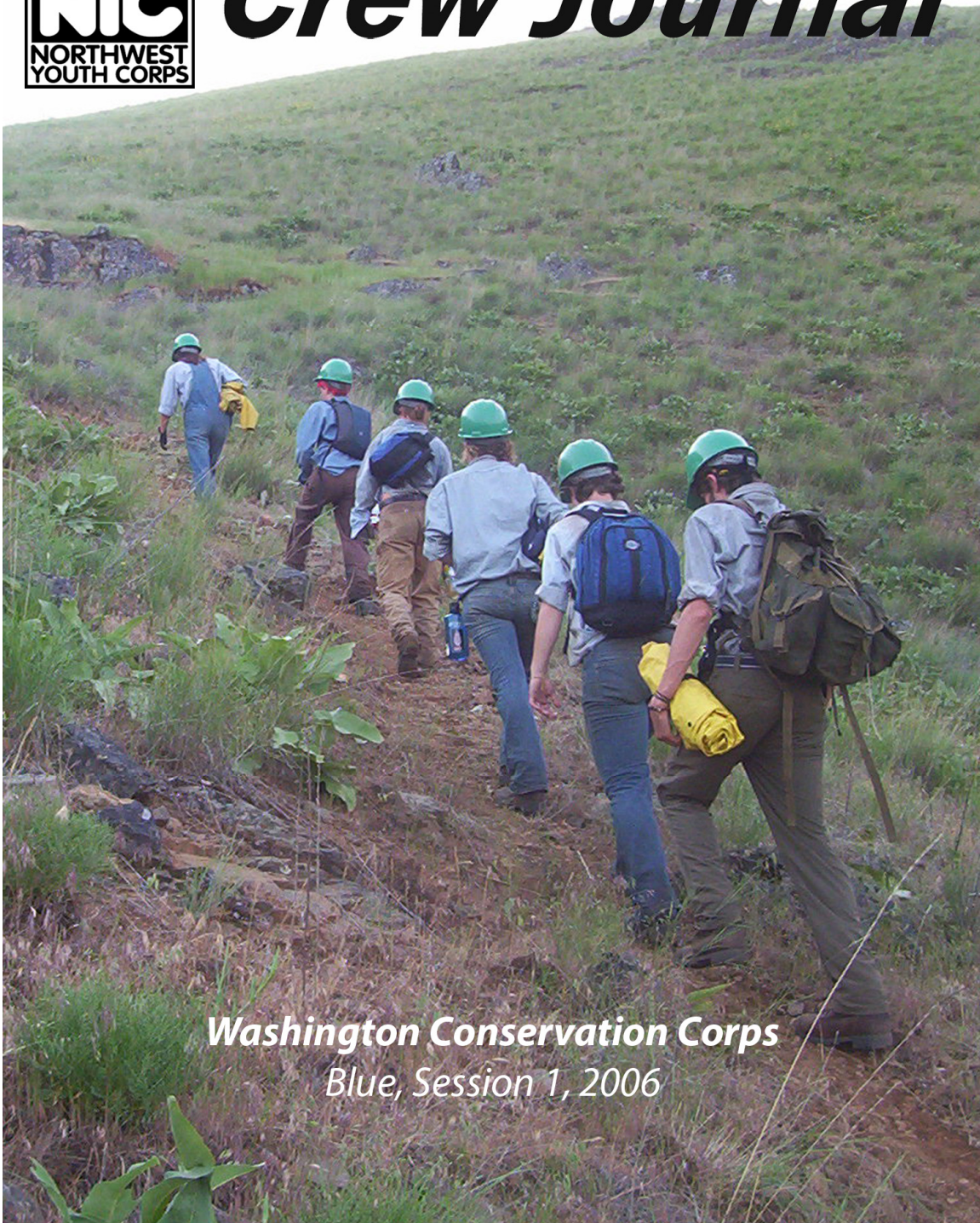




Crew Journal



*Washington Conservation Corps
Blue, 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, slightly slanted style. It is positioned over a light blue rectangular background.

Joe Waksmundski
NYC Field Director



Beazell Memorial Forest

Week 1: June 12th-16th

Monday:

This weekend was basically the start of our adventure. Saturday we all met up and really learned what NYC was all about. Sunday we found out who we were going to be working with. This crew we have seems to be a good hardworking crew. After crew assignment we packed the trailer and hit the road. Today we all woke up early and ate breakfast. Then set out for a hard and exciting day of work (and here we are now eating dinner).

Dustin G.

Tuesday:

This week the blue crews project is developing a new trail. We are camped in a really nice location near Corvallis, OR. We are duffing nature covered trails, fixing up muddy patches by filling them with rocks and extending cribs.

Garrett G.

Wednesday:

Today we worked on duffing a trail. There were lots of rocks and a massive tree in the way. It took the whole day. After the trail is done tomorrow we won't have much to do...which is good. I look forward to jacking-up a bridge.

Ben N.

Thursday:

This week our crew learned how to build new trail. We learned how to duff, set up back slope, and slope of the trail. I think our crew learned fast.

Dustin G.

Friday:

Our crew's accomplishments were getting to know each other. Also us just coming together and working as a group. Our accomplishments were getting all our work done and all our hours.

Dustin G.

**Mt. Rainier National Park
Mt. Rainier Ranger District
Mountain Harbor Glacier Trail**

Week 2: June 19th-23rd

Monday:

Our crew, the blue crew started the weekend off rough. We went to next weekend's campsite this weekend. A little blooper like that didn't faze us all too much. We came together as a group and packed up camp early Saturday morning.

Re-uniting with the entire NYC crew for the weekend was a blast, we played games such as wiffle-ball.

Garrett G.

Tuesday:

- Our project this week is to install check dams and water bars (and trail maintenance)
- We are at the base of Mt. Rainier? I psot campground.
- We are doing this because we are told to, and NYC project determination is not democratic.

Ben N.

Wednesday:

We, the blue crew, have made it our goal to exude proper ethics, as in: better language, work performance, and over all better appeal to the public and ourselves. We hope to succeed in our goals.

Eric M.

Thursday:

So far, the blue crew has learned how to create water bars, rock bars, and check-dams, not only that but we have learned how to make them “efficiently.” We have also learned how to work together without any problems or anything else that may get in the way of our work.

Chase O.

Friday:

This week we were at Mt. Rainier. We were putting in a lot of check dams and rock/log bars. Every day we had a 3 mile hike out to the camp site. Along with putting in check dams and rock bars, we had to find and strip logs for them. Joe and a couple crew members put in a sweet stair case made out of rocks.

**Willamette National Forest
Detroit Ranger District
Removal of Invasive Species**

Week 3: June 26th-30th

Monday:

We had fun!

Monday- we worked until we dropped and it was HOT. Shade 95 degrees and the Bugs. Massive and mean. One bug was the worst it had a ½ inch long blood drinker.

Jacob M.

Tuesday:

We’re in a forest, striving to survive, with Scotch Broom and trail maintenance, we have a lot on our hands. In the end, I expect my crew and myself to come out smoothly.

Eric G.

Wednesday:

Our goals of this week are to find and eradicate all of the Scotch broom that we find. We also need to get rid of blackberry bushes and other invasive species.

Raine H.

Thursday:

This week we learned how to pull Scotch broom quickly and efficiently. We also learned how to prune trees well. We also learned how to identify trees of the northwest.

Dustin G.

**Olympic National Park
Alava Trail**

Week 4: July 2nd-7th

Monday:

We did rec trips as always.

Sunday we and our camp after a very long drive, we set up camp and did it pretty quickly. This campsite looks to be good.

Ben N.

Tuesday:

This week we are by Saiku. We are replacing boardwalk and the other half of our crew is building turnpikes. Hopefully tomorrow we will get a chance to do turnpikes. This project is awesome.

Dustin G.

Wednesday:

Our goals for this week are to start to assuming more leadership roles and also to complete all of our hours for this week with also doing it efficiently.

Chris I.

Thursday:

Throughout this week, blue crew learned how to tear apart old board walk, rebuild the puncheons (=boardwalk) and build turnpike. Turnpike is like a puncheon but instead of boards it's gravel. Our crew also learned how to carry long boards safely and efficiently and how to take apart an outhouse.

Garrett G.

Friday:

During week four, blue crew tackled important challenges and skills that will help us throughout our lives. We began taking leader rolls within our group, instead of Dan doing everything. The first day was a little rough but we currently have been getting chores done in record time.

Garrett G.

**Willamette National Forest
Detroit Ranger District
Blue Lake**

Week 5: July 9th-14th

Monday:

This weekend was blue crew's fourth weekend campsite. We were the last crew to arrive like usual. The campsite was located in eastern Oregon and I thought it was one of the nicest. Besides that it was an ordinary weekend campsite.

Garrett G.

Tuesday:

This week we are at Mt. Jefferson National Forest by Blue Lake. We are maintaining trail. Putting in log and rock checks, retaining walls, and trail drains. It is a pretty sweet project.

Dustin G.

Wednesday:

Today was an extreme day full of a lot of food, for dinner we had lots and lots of top ramen and other kinds of food. Dan made a bet to see if everyone could eat all of the food, the bet was a 12 pack of soda each. Everyone ate so much food some people threw up multiple times and came back for more, but unfortunately we were not able to keep up our end of the bargain. Oh well better luck next time blue crew.

Raine H.

Thursday:

We the blue crew ventured to our worksite which was a 3 mile hike. We worked a 10 hour day and we worked and we worked and so on!

Eric G.

Friday:

Today was our last day out in the back country. Which meant our hike to work shortened by like 2.3 miles. Most of our work for the week consisted of rock dams and water drains along with a few check steps. Although today we did trail maintenance at the beginning of the trail, I'm happy to be leaving the back country.

**Lewis and Clark National Forest
Lewis Noxious Weed Control**

Week 6: July 17th – 21st

Monday:

Friday started off with a long drive. When we got to the weekend site we set up camp and had a pretty chill day. Saturday we went on our rec trips. WE came back and started Olympics which we dominated and got first. After that blue crew made dinner. Sunday we drove to Astoria where we are currently working at.

Dustin G.

Tuesday:

Blue crew's project this week is to swamp out over five bazillion pounds of brush and destroy the evil noxious weed that goes by the name of "Lotus."

Cody T.

Wednesday:

The goals for blue crew's last week at NYC are simple and monotonous in physical labor but huge in individual effort and group connections. We are working at Fort Clatsop and our hands-on labor consists of pulling lotus and brushing big bundles of lumber. On the other hand everyone s striving to put as much effort into our last week as well as leaving without emotions bottled up inside.

Garrett G.

Thursday:

Blue crew learned patience with evil monotonous jobs and how to have fun with super lame-o jobs!

Cody T.

Friday:

Our main challenge was that this was our last week and we were all ready to go home. Everyone was on edge. We finished the week despite the tiffs and the monotonous job that we had to do. This was our biggest accomplishment this week...we survived.

Cody T.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

...My most challenging day at NYC was the Sunday before blue crew's fifth week, which was also backcountry. When we arrived at our site I realized that I forgot my mosquito repellent and I would have to defend myself from the mosquitoes that are so vile and evil with my bare hands. –Cody T.

...In the beginning of the third week, I had become sick and tired of my crew and all that comes with it. I was so ready to quit, but I had a long talk with a rover and decided to stick out the rest of the session. –Eric G.

...My most challenging day at NYC was the first day with my crew. Getting to know people and adjusting was the only hard thing of NYC. –Dustin G.

...The most challenging day was the Sunday of fifth week. We went back country, the hike was fun and difficult. –Ben N.

...I would have to say the most challenging day for me at NYC would have been the Friday of the first week. My crew had spent all week doing trail maintenance which meant most of our time was spent bent over brushing trail. My lower back was in so much pain I could hardly stand it. It also turned into a huge learning experience so it's all good. –Garrett G.

...The hardest day for me was the first day when we left home. The thought of not being able to see my parents and of my friends was hard. –Drake B.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...I would say that one of my favorite NYC experiences was visiting the Ape Caves with some super cool people and my fearless crew leader Dan for a weekend recreational trip. Another would be working at Mt. Rainier and eating PB&J's every day! -Cody T.

...Becoming more physically fit was a great experience, developing good relationship with fellow crew members and cutting off all my hair were all great events to be had. –Eric G.

...My three favorite things at NYC were the places I went, the challenges I overcame, and just the overall experience. –Dustin G.

...My favorite experience was the week at Mt. Rainier. –Ben N.

...My three favorite NYC experiences were our crews 'swat' team missions attacking Scotch broom. When most of the crew ate a spoonful of cinnamon and when our crew had a night dedicated to hair cutting. –Garrett G.

...My three favorite experiences at NYC are getting to know everyone on my crew, the good dinners we had together and all the fun experiences we had together. –Raine Hall

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...One thing I will always remember is how Nick and I would constantly better ourselves to try and overcome each other. I won! –Cody T.

...When Dan thought he could get away with leaving a large patch of hair on my bald head. He cut it off soon after I noticed. –Eric G.

...One thing I will always remember was when my crew all shaved weird designs in their hair. –Dustin G.

...I will always remember how Cody and I would compete on everything. On that note, I am more beautiful than Cody is and I always won when competing with Cody. –Ben N.

...Nine things I will always remember would be the people and friendships I made throughout these six weeks. Blue crew represent. –Garret G.

...Being left behind. –Drake B.

From Now On I Will Always...

...From now on I will always think of a man in pink polka-dot pajamas as a man with an excellent sense of fashion. –Cody T.

...Be prepared to work hard and get things done. –Dustin G.

...Make more friends. –Ben N.

...From now on I will always be understanding to people's views on how they think things should be done. –Garrett G.

At NYC I Learned...

...What I learned from this session of NYC was how to deal with people who you can't stand. –Cody T.

...You can't always get along with everyone, but it's best to put on a mask, then to start conversation. –Eric G.

...At NYC I learned how to set up a camp quickly and efficiently. –Dustin G.

...To get along with people. –Ben N.

...At NYC I learned that hard work and dedication will get you what you were working for. It also taught me that time spent working goes a lot quicker than just sitting around. –Garrett G.

...I learned why the forest is so important and why the work we're doing is so important. –Drake B.