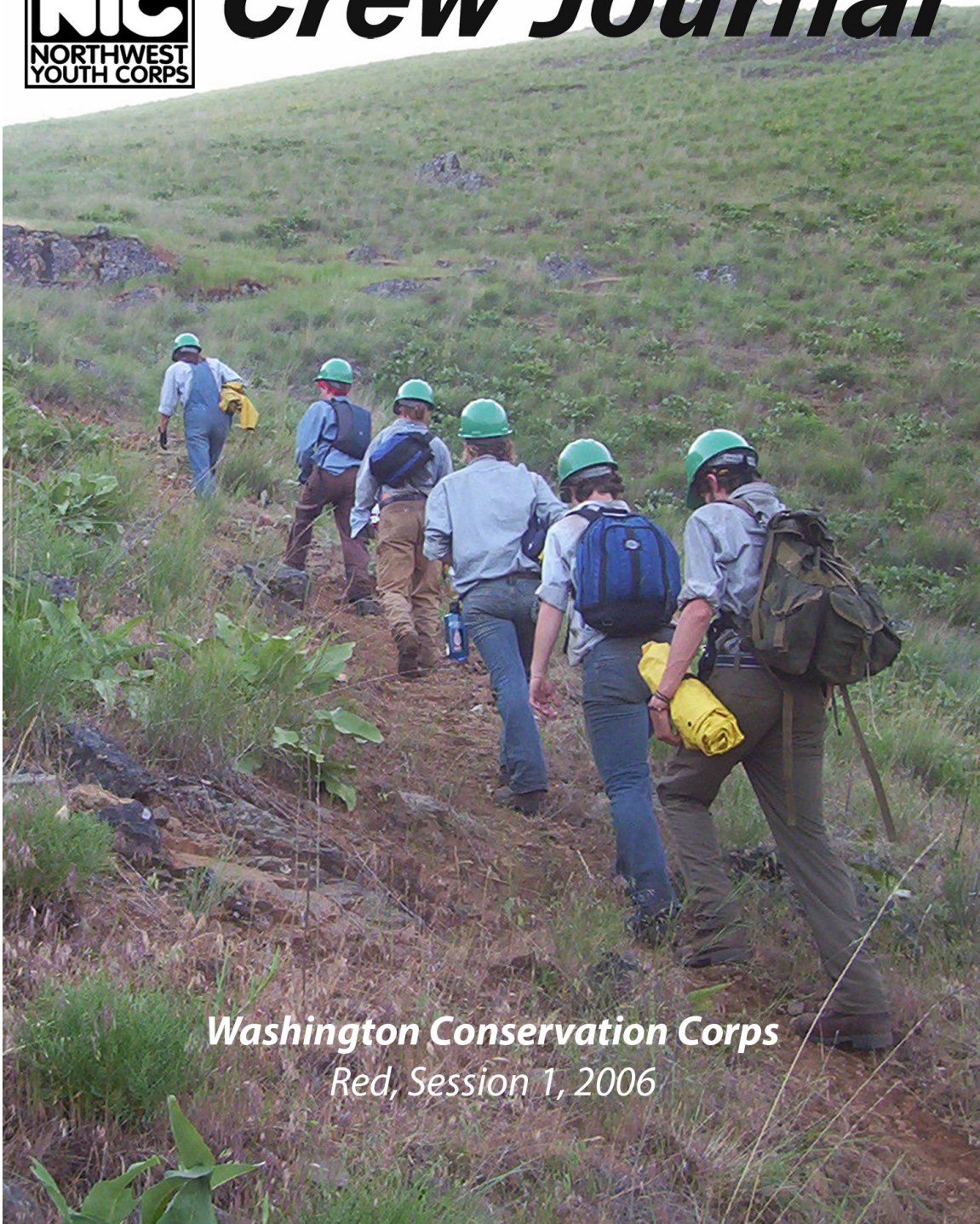




Crew Journal



*Washington 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 positioned over a light blue rectangular background.

Joe Waksmundski
NYC Field Director



Lewis and Clark National Park Lewis Noxious Week Control

Week 1: June 11th-16th

Monday:

This weekend was the beginning of my crew's time at Northwest Youth Corps. We learned basic rules, guidelines, expectations, etc. We left Sunday for Astoria, where we are now working on various miscellaneous weeding projects, approximately five miles from the beach. Our brand new bus broke down, and we were stuck at a gas station for five hours.

Dylan E.

Tuesday:

Today we were planting and pulling weeds. We hiked 5½ miles to the ocean. The ocean breeze felt good after hiking. We had more team work when we were working and we also had fun. We didn't have to walk back from the ocean after words we got in to the van. That felt a little better on the feet. The crew that we have works very well with each other. We also have lots of laughs at the camp site and the fan and when we are working.

Robin S.

Wednesday:

Today we took the bus to a trail, to take off more scotch broom and blackberry bushes. Après on a enlevé des plantes alder . . . qui bloquaient les autres plantes natives. Cela nous a pris toute la matinée. On a mangé, puis on a repris le bus pour se rendre á un autre chemin. On a enlevé encore des plantes et des fleurs (non natives) pour laisser place aux plantes natives. Il a plu toute la journée et pas mal de personnes étaient mouillés. Pour conclure c'était une journée difficile et humide, mais rompli de bonne humour.
(English)

Today we took the bus to a trail, to take off more scotch broom and blackberry bushes. After that, we took out alder plants which block other native plants. That took us all morning. We ate and then took the bus again to another trail. We pulled out more plants and flowers (non-native species) in order to leave more room for native plants. It rained all day and a lot of people got wet. In conclusion, it was a difficult and humid day, but full of good humor.

Thomas P.

Thursday:

Today we took out a load of lotus's, all the way around the pond. There were tons of bull frogs and that's about it. Tonight we well feast like Queens and Kings and cause tonight is our last night.

Mandy H.

Friday:

I'd like to start by saying that so far, Red crew has one of the best functioning group dynamics I've ever seen. I look forward to the following five weeks.

It rained almost the whole time we were there and staying dry was not without arduousness. In fact, we were pretty wet some of the time despite our adamant efforts.

In camp, we did okay and everything stayed nice and dialed in. There were a few small incidents regarding the possession of abandoned rain gear, though these were resolved.

At work, we freaking busted out the vast majority of the time. I found it slightly disappointing and confusing when there were short moments in which a large number of folks seemed to be just standing around. These huddlings were however, quickly (and with relative ease) dispersed.

To sum up, I see great potential for some crazy hard work and a lot of fun in this group.

SPEAK FOR THE TREES

Bezell Memorial Forest Bezell Bridge Construction

Week 2: June 19th-23rd

Monday:

Today was a good day nonetheless. We embarked upon a trail to do many things. The biggest of all is to build a bridge which I know the crew is excited about. From the bump

line in the creek where Thomas hallowed “Hey man watch where you that thing,” to splitting up and do some very hard and tedious jobs it was a very good day.

Jed B.

Tuesday:

Yo today is Tuesday, we had to wake up so early because we needed to get to our site at 6:45. Early at 7 we all lifted a huge 18’x1’ plank (x2) down the hill. Then off to different jobs like, wheel barrowing, stupid cut back that took 2 days and 1 bridge, also some planning on & help on the big bridge. Back to camp where we are Tortilla pizza on the fire.

Mandy H.

Wednesday:

This week’s plan was to build a bridge and do some trail work. We started by finishing an almost completed bridge and fixed a section of trail by leveling it. We then did some prep work on another bridge by digging support holes. Sometimes the work was not as enjoyable as it could have been, but we still worked hard and put in a good days work.

Cory.

Thursday:

We learned about nature’s cycles from our SEED books, water and earth cycles, cycles that have always affected us, cycles we didn’t know much about till now. Learning is important and it starts with “how?” “why?” But what the hey? To learn, one must enter the fray of chaos.

J.

Friday:

We built a bridge and had fun as well. We all get along. The hill that we had to climb was rough, but we did it anyways. The holes we dug were big. I only two of them I could fit in that went over my head. Working with the crew that I have is really neat and we all talk and laugh at a lot of things when we work. We get projects done on time even when we talk. That is what we did. Glad we didn’t have to pull anymore fox gloves, or any other weeds.

Plus being a crew and spending lots of time together also means we get sick together.

**Detroit Ranger District
Opal Creek and Whetstone Trail Maintenance**

Week 3: June 26th-30th

Monday:

Ah, Monday, the start of a fresh new week. We started by getting in the bus and having a treacherous drive be our new work site. Building water bars, cutting roots, and makes for another spectacular NYC work day. Winding down was the best part of the day a nice dip in the creek.

Jed B.

Tuesday:

Tuesday, ah, that means it is almost Wednesday and before ya know it it'll be week 4! Suh-weet. Anyway today we put in more water bars, cut more routs and even shored up a trail with rocks! We hiked probably a total of 4½ miles, then the arduous van ride back to camp took, like, 40 minutes. But it was all worth the incredibly short swim after work. So sweet. Anyway we're having spaghetti or lasagna or something, mmm-good. Peace out,

Keenan T.

Wednesday:

Okay today we woke up to...I don't remember but the bus ride was okay...freakin rocks!! Again for the third day that's what we did was push rocks around. I think I speak for my crew no more rocks! Well after the gnarly hike back, Aubrey drove us back...I glad to still be amongst the living...wa ha ha I wasn't that bad. We got back to camp and a couple of us snacked and most of us swam SO my way... PEACE!!!

P.S. go red crew!

Daniel B.

Thursday:

Today we moved to our second site, it's a wilderness trail about 2 miles out of this mad creepy ghost town. We had to get wet and everybody but Dan was a wuss about it. The day actually went by mad fast...oh and it was Aubrey's 21st birthday. But that's no biggie cause she's Canadian. The bus ride was longer cause our new site so Aubrey chose hella music. Dylan had a blast listening to his favorite artist Van Morrison. The day was pretty chill, wood water-bars, cross-cutting, log shaving and all that jazz.

Cybil M.

Friday:

We had the privilege to go to Opal Creek National Forest. The weather was nice, but it did get hot enough in the afternoon to force us into our swimsuits after a good days work. The water was cold, but it didn't stop us from going all the way in. I think that this week was by far the best. As for challenges, I guess the biggest was the heat getting to people, making them cranky. There were few bad attitudes however because we were all working so hard. The only other challenge was the 2½-3 mile hike that led to the days work stations. It was quite a workout, but the scenery was spectacular! I so want to go back and camp there sometime. Our work was mainly making waters bars and fixing minimal damage to the trail. I am glad for the opportunity to work in such a beautiful area and hope all of our hard work pays off!

Cory.

**Rainier National Forest
Wonderland Trail**

Week 4: July 2nd - 7th

Sunday:

-The start of the fourth week- Today was very exciting because we not only one safety pup but MacGyver too and not to forget the chocolate dough-nut! With about a 5 hour trip ahead of us, I was excited along with some others because I got my Hinder CD Finally! Then we got to stop at Freddy Meyers, it was my first time and it was huge! Anyways off to our site where the stupid trailer hooked me again! Tonight we're having yummy watermelon and awesome burgers that the boys are making! Rock on- yeah.
Mandy H.

Monday:

We walked up a 2½ mile trail. Before we left for the trail we had to take the food box and stuff with an odor out of the bus due to the brown bears being around the area. We ended up having to work longer because we took a little longer to get up and ready for work today. The day got a little warm, but it didn't get too hot it got cool before it got too warm. The hike was tiring and long and somewhat up-hill. There is brushing on the side of the trail that we had to go through, but didn't touch them.

Robin S.

Tuesday:

We're doing basic trail maintenance near Mt. Rainier. We moved a bunch of dirt today. People need to experience the outdoors, hence the trail work. Yogurt Bunnies.

Joe P.

Wednesday:

HUMPDAY IS OVER! The last time we have to work 8 ½ hour days this week? Aubrey? Can she saw or what. It was a very good day indeed, lots of checkpoints and dirt bags! Red crew ROCK ON!

Jed B.

Thursday:

Roses are Red
Violets are blue
I love Mt. Rainier
And it's bigger than my shoe.

Jed B.

Friday:

Okay...Fridays are generally our sweetest day, however today was less than bittersweet. We said goodDaniel B.ye to Mt. Rainier, week 4, and more significantly Dylan. We worked a good 4 hours, then did the usual Laundry-Store-Shower thing. Despite our loss we're proving we're resilient, and we continue to smile, laugh, and sing.

Cybil M.

National Forest or area that the work took place

Ranger District

Project Name-

Week 5: July 9th – 14th

Sunday:

Wake up at 7:00 Blue Crew is going back-country. Next weekend is going to be really quiet. We won Safety Pup again thanks to Mama Emma and Aubrey. Zack is on our crew again. I think we're all pumped for that. On our way up we got shafted for lunch but Mama Emma was kind enough to buy some yummys for us. Off to PCT. And there were a couple big holes in the road but we tackled them of course, we're Red crew. We ended up in our small but cozy home for 7 more days. Excitement for only 10 more days of work.

Monday:

Um today we started work on the PCT and we were lopping all day, the mosquitoes got really bad and it did get a little too hot but for the most part it was good...

Oh and Moma Emma made us a DANK formal dinner it was pretty dang good...

Daniel B.

Tuesday:

The blackness was creeping, inside his head
It hungered to fill the nothing it was
To steal away and make him numb
Of all that joy of past and future

Trees stretched for miles, twisted, tortured
Stretching toward rivers, heavy with ink
The comfort was gone, the sun long receded
Pressure was building behind those blind eyes

But there through the haze, the filth, the hate
A light shined, one he had overlooked
Light that flowed and shifted and sang
Soft songs that stretched melodiously, infinitely

Cleansed and renewed, those eyes looked anew
Those trees, once black, glowed with fresh youth
He heard the green song, felt joyous and free
Those eyes, once blind, could now see the truth

Laughter resounded, soft chuckles, and loud
It had never been gone, mainly hidden
Squelched by selfish misery that could only destroy
It all lay in perception; sadness is a deception

Keenan T.

Thursday:

Today we hiked pretty far and people got a little tired. Dan and Corey were leaders of the day. I get to do my pH today. O we lopped more branches and got to the end of the trail that we had to get to. Everyone got a little cranky including myself. WE finally got sun after a rainy day. Some of the tent puddles dried up, but some didn't.

I don't know about anyone else, but I am getting a little tired of the mosquitoes here at camp and on our work site. This day was our last long work day and last long walk. Tomorrow is going to be short and not a very long hike; which is good because we don't have to walk so far to get back to camp and leave to weekend site. I have a song stuck in my head, which goes like this: O chicken lips and lizard hips and salamander thighs, monkey legs and buzzard eggs and I don't remember the rest at the moment.

That was our day,
And I am counting down as
Well

Friday:

This week we worked on the PCT, which stands for the Pacific Crest Trail which goes from Canada to Mexico.

For the whole week Red crew lopped back bushes that were growing on the trail. Very monotone work but we got about 5 or 4½ miles of that done. Oh and the insects were hell we were eaten alive. This week red crew showed very much so the social classes that should have never formed all week we were at each other's throats and alliances which also shouldn't have been there formed over the weeks showed for me this week could have gone better. I for one am glad to finally be done with it and I hope that when we all part ways we go to our towns with greater values for our lives and grow to be better people that we have been lately...the trials of our lives are but obstacles that we must overcome, but when those trials become too great we only have our friends and family to ask for help for friends are our greatest weapons.

Daniel B.
Animal

**Stub Stewart National Forest
Stub Stewart State Park**

Week 6: July 17th – 21st

Monday:

My crew had our first day of work at Stubbs and our last Monday of this session. We are building brand spanking new trail YES!!!

Finally a job that doesn't SUCK!!

Right on

Daniel B.

Tuesday:

On a continué la construction du chemin et tout le monde a l'air d'apprécier le changement de travail. Il fait beau et chaud: une bonne journée de travail.

(English)

We continued to work on the construction of the trail and everybody seemed to appreciate the change of work. The weather was nice and warm: a good day of work.

Thomas P.

Wednesday:

Climbing turns and busting out burms, leaders of the day been doing okay. When building new trail, there's no need for one's mind to flail, just dig it.

Joe P.

Thursday:

During the hot humid midday, tempers were lost and quarrels abounded both up and down the trail. We learned how to cooperate better on and off the trail even when it was hard to.

Cory C.

Friday:

My fellow crewmembers remember the time that we got to share. Look how you grew as a person in six weeks, remember the SEED and everything, smelling, tasting. May you go forth into the future and do good things.

Rock on Red Crew!

Jed B.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

...Tuesday on the PCT, lopping made me crazy. -Cybil

...Climbing up on Mt. Rainier with 1 rock bar & shotgun & a yellow top. -Mandy H.

...I would have to say both Opal Creek and Mt. Rainier were hard to walk up. -Robin S.

...My most challenging day ha ha ha, I am going to say every day brought a new challenge forth! Rock on! -Jed B.

...Ha ha NOT Becoming a complete lunatic!! I almost started running through the woods howling like a wounded animal!!! -Daniel B.

...Being leader of the day during spring session. It seemed like no one would listen to a word I said and it was just a frustrating day. I learned that I can't get upset just because someone seems like they're choosing to be a moron. -Joe P.

...Being leader of the day when people were being jerks. -Cory

...The day at Opal Creek when I carried 2 yellow tops 3 miles and then nearly broke myself getting a 350 pound rock into my water bar. -Keenan T.

...The last two days because I was completely exhausted by the 6 weeks of hard work. - Thomas P.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...Playing Big Booty week one, laughing at Mandy's "foot in my sleeping bag," week 2, moving my log. -Cybil M.

...Moving Cybil and my stump Friday, July 21st, trying to say bag right, laughing on the trail. -Mandy

...Meeting new people, having fun and working on new trails. -Robin S.

...Meeting dank peeps, building sweet trail, seeing majestic mountains. PeAcE -Jed B.

...Being bitten by every animal I caught and still learning about them. -Daniel B.

...Working, learning, & having fun! -Cory C.

...Advancing my knowledge of spirituality, working hard, and learning about the nature of people. -Joe P.

...'Twas all good. -Keenan T.

...Building brand new trail and meeting new people. -Thomas P.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...Is the way Thomas laughed during Dan's fantasy, Robin's POL, and the picture of the creepy guy. -Cybil

...Using PMA, PMO, A lot! -Mandy

...I will always remember my crew members and how much fun we had together. - Robin S.

...One thing I will always remember was seeing Mt. Rainier, Jed B. seeing the ocean for the first time. -Daniel B.

...Being called "SLAPPY"! -Cory C.

...Growing. -Joe P.

...All the good times. -Keenan

...Everything we accomplished. -Thomas

From Now On I Will Always...

...Say “beg” instead of “bag.” -Cybil

...Not take so much for granted. –Mandy

...I will always know how hard I can work. –Robin S.

...Take showers everyday! -Jed B.

...Be careful when interacting with the wild life. –Daniel B.

...Respect myself more. –Cory C.

...Remember that nobody believes that they are a bad person, we define ourselves, as who we are, and not to be engaged in my control dramas in light of this information. – Joe P.

...Never take drama seriously, it’s a waste of my life. –Keenan

...Remember those 6 weeks at NYC. -Thomas

At NYC I Learned...

...Vive le tont de fie [sic], women in France Do shave, how to say bag. -Cybil

...How easy it is to make friends, how to deal with people you hate, how to make PB&J’s right. -Mandy

...How to build trail. Robin S.

...I learned how to: make water bars; check steps; building the bench. –Jed B.

...I learned how to let go of the petty things and not poke at the wounded animals. – Daniel B.

...How to let go of past hurts, lost loved ones and how to respect myself. -Cory C.

...The foundation of leadership skills (I still have more to learn regarding that), bridge building, and stronger respect.

...Tolerance, work ethic, happiness. -Keenan T

...Hard work, respect and fun. –Thomas P.