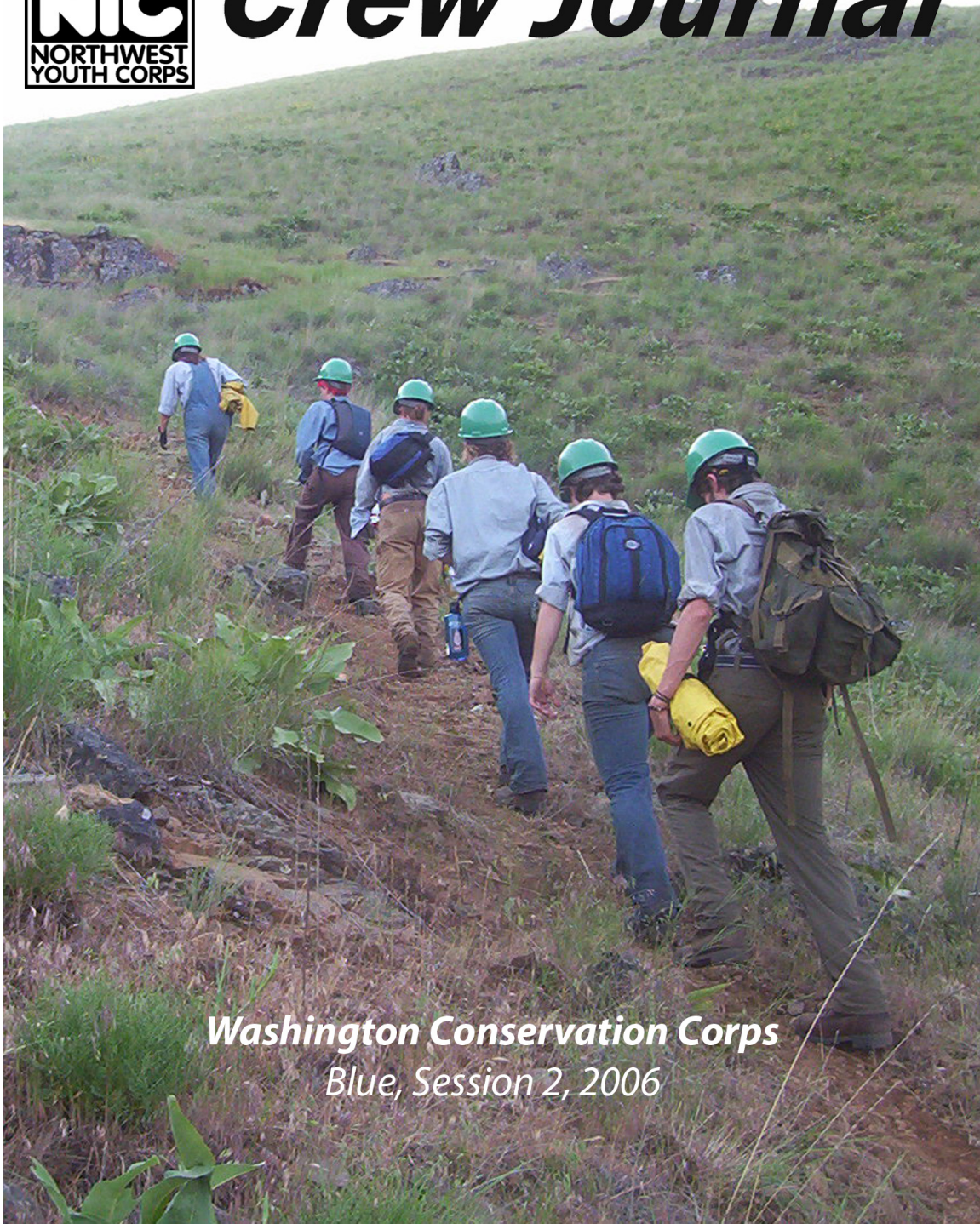




Crew Journal



*Washington Conservation Corps
Blue, 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: Willamette
Ranger District: Oakridge
Project Name- EPCT-Bunchgrass Trail**

Week 1: June 12th-16th

Sunday: Today is the first day of youth corps Blue crew camping. I suppose this whole trip looks to be easier than I had anticipated. My hard boots are comfortable, the food is good, the people are incredible, nice and the scenery is beautiful. Everyone here has been very helpful and worked together so well that all our chores were finished quickly and smoothly. Right now we're having dinner in a thunder and lightning storm which most find fantastic, I'm very appreciative of everyone here in such an awesome atmosphere. I believe we're all lucky to be rough'n it in nature. -Coral B.

Monday: This past weekend was spent at orientation and then driving to the site and setting up. It was as of yet the most boring part of the week (including work.) The best part was making the commitment and losing the game repeatedly. Then we checked out the work site, ate in a thunderstorm and made the crew contract. Not quite typical but still a not too exciting weekend. Today was awesome despite the chance of harm. The first day of work in a thunderstorm, hail and pouring rain. We also had to leave 2 hours early from the storm, it was right on top of us, some of the strikes were less than half a mile away, not many crews can say they had a similar first work day. Anthony R.

Tuesday: We, the Blue crew, are 970 feet from where we started. A lot of rain fell. The latter half of the day was cold and wet. We are kicking it off to a great start. The rock wall we've got going is coming along swimmingly. If it could get better we would be happier than I am now. –AJ C.

Wednesday: It went well today. The work was hard, but everybody pulled to the challenge. Today AJ and I had 2 huge rocks and they both rolled down the mountain the second rock rolled way down, it just kept going and going. Today we didn't have any rain. It was very nice, I hope tomorrow is the same. I'm surprised that everybody is still getting along so well and I hope it keeps going. –George D.

Thursday: Today we learned that we can depend on each other for help. We also learned that hard work and determination can be gotten quit well, because of the fact that the rock wall is getting bigger. I kind of wonder if we will be able to get it up high enough. We also learned that we can not be too stubborn. I learned that the hard way. –Robert P.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Ochoco Weeds
Ranger District: Paulina Ranger District
Project Name- Ochoco Weeds

Week 2: June 19th-23rd June 19th-23rd

Sunday: Today is our first day at our new site in the Ochoco area. We'll be pulling Hounds Tongue this week, a project that will challenge our stamina and mental fortitude in camp, we're starting personal histories-something a lot of people are looking forward to. I'm ready to learn more about my crewmates, and to share myself with them. The PH timing is good, our crew "squabbled" for the first time today while pitching tents. It was quashed quickly, no one here wants to fight. I'm looking forward to another great week and a lot of good times. I hope our crew will continue to be strong. Bonded and a family for the rest of the session. – Jen H

Monday: Last weekend was our first weekend together as a side since we started work. We got to meet up with the other crews and swap stories about the hardships and fun times of the first week of work. While it was fun to get the chance to hang out with all the other NYC members I was glad to move on to the next site in the Ochoco Forest and get back with our Blue team family. We had our first taste of hounds Tongue hunting today it's not as fun as building rock walls but it's a lot less physical. With a good attitude it could be alright and knowing our team we will make it a great week. –Laura P.

Tuesday: This week we, the blue crew, are cutting or removing all the hounds tongue that we can find. Which is pretty hard to find, but we try. Our project is in the Ochoco National forest. It gets fun, for awhile...playing guessing games, singing and laughing are all that keeps us sane. As far as I know the point of picking these things is because

they are stealing nutrients and other stuff from all of the other plans that are supposed to be there. This project isn't so bad. –Zach H.

Wednesday: Today we only did about 3 acres but there was Hounds Tongue everywhere. I enjoyed that because we were allowed to sit down to collect SEEDS and we didn't walk as far as yesterday. It was hot today so the water jug was passed around often and most of us rolled up our sleeves. We found a huge field of Hounds Tongue during the last half of the day and even though it looks barren now it still isn't done. The only other thing worth mentioning was that we found bear tracks by the creek. They were less than a day old. –Brittney R.

Thursday: This week my crew learned how to search and destroy. Our job was to hike a long a stream and destroy as many Hounds Tongue as possible. We also learned how important it is to encourage our fellow crew member on the trail. Then also we learned the importance of communication. We live with each other in close proximities, therefore if something is bothering you it's important to talk to them! -Anna R.

Friday: One of my crews challenges this week was staying motivated. All week we were pulling Hounds Tongue in really warm weather. So half way through the work day everyone was getting tired and wanted to be done with the work day. So this week we really worked on encouraging one another to keep going even when people didn't want. Then I would have to say our greatest accomplishment this week is pulling 14 and ½ acres in one day and 49 acres the entire week. So yeah we worked hard and had fun. – Anna R.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Wenatchee
Ranger District: Leavenworth
Project Name- Lake Wenatchee**

Week 3: June 26th-30th June 26th-30th

Monday: This weekend was pretty good. Everybody went swimming that was fun it was really hot out. This weekend was a lot better than last, no rumors but still people get tired and people got woke up. This weekend was fun. –George H.

Tuesday: I think that the blistering sun raining down on us bothered us but we did a good job going through 8 hours on the job. I think that next time we forget tools we should try to remember were they were. –Robert P.

Wednesday: Today was a good day for our crew. Our workday started with a deer sighting. It was nice to see some wildlife other than mosquitoes! After the van ride we had safety circle, where the necessity of proper dance-drination was discussed. After circle, we headed down our new trail. The day went fast with good conversation, hard work and of course tons of dancing. We completed 13, 750 feet of trail! I'm looking forward to tonight. We're having an awesome Seed (taught by me) and we're going to hear part two of Anthony's PH. It's been another great day. This week has flown by. –Jen H.

Thursday: This day was our last full work day out here in Eastern Washington. I played connect the dots with a pen and mosquito bites, the design is impressive. The miles of trail we've maintained did a real number on everyone's feet, but the scenery and friends make up for every discomfort. There isn't any place I'd rather be than out here being strong, healthy, around astounding nature, and fantastic beautiful people. I'm looking forward to the coming weeks, my (and others) PH's, going back country and all of the challenging experiences we'll have. –Coral C.

Friday: This Friday was very relaxed. We felt good on our way to work because I felt that we knew that the end was in sight. Becca drove us to the trail and then drove off farther down the mountain so that we could walk straight to the van and not turn around when work was over Jen and I speed walked down the mountain and I won. –Brittney

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Wenatchee
Ranger District: Wenatchee River
Project Name- Lower Peshastin Fuels Treatment project**

Week 4: July 2nd-7th July 2nd-7th

Sunday: The fact is, we will be coming to a new work site. We will be going to bed a lot earlier. We will be strong because of the fact that we don't want to, but we have to. I think we will be going through a hard week and a hot one. It will be so interesting because of the new thing that we will be encountering. –Robert P.

Monday: We went on a scavenger hunt in Leavenworth and found out some cool facts about the town, we also had a race between yellow crew and ours. We won of course!!! The only parents that showed up was Coral's, that made me sad because I was missing my folks. –Brittany

Tuesday: This week we are ending slash piles. It was really hot today. We got up this morning at 2:00 to get in a van away from the lightning. Next after a long 8 hour 15 minute day and an hour nap for people to sleep. Now we're eating dinner and waiting for these new storms. –AJ

Wednesday: Today was amazing!! It started well, getting to sleep in Till 5:00 and waking up to Bear's delicious pear cobbler. Work went well with very few squabbles and plenty of laughs! We even made up an hour for another crew. We came back to camp to have a wonderful SEED with Jen which was interrupted by a hail storm with close to golf ball sized hail. It was really cool. The days are flying! We are beginning to come to the realization that soon we will be done and our time at NYC is almost over. SO we are striving to make the remaining time the absolute best it can be. –Laura P.

Thursday: Today was a slow start with George's bad idea of waking people up with a pot/spatula drum. The rest of the day went well though, we're even going to put in some extra hours to make up for Red crews lack of such. There were some disputes though and they were cleared up and the overhanging clouds were a great change from the 90-100 degree temperatures all week. Also it only minorly rained instead of those rear golf sized hail balls that one day and marble sized rain drops too. –Anthony R.

Friday: Being in Youth Corps is the hardest and best experience of my life. I've been challenged before but never so emotionally and physically exhausted. Twelve incredibly different people

from all over the Northwest and Michigan living in extremely close conditions and braving the elements while working long laborious hours. Everyone is struggling with their own issues for example mosquito bites, blisters, muddy clothes, nutrition, friendships and little illnesses. I love these people like the brothers, sisters and friends I do not have outside of this place. I'm blown away by the compassion, strength, guidance and awesome integrity of my fellow blue crew mates. I dread having to leave this unbreakable family we've created. I have chosen to continue Youth Corps over my entire summer, it's just that good. I hope when I leave Youth Corps in the future that I'll be a more loving responsible, healthy, strong and totally beautiful individual. Thank you Blue crew, I'll always be your friend no matter where you all are. I'll make you stronger!" -Jen

National Forest or area that the work took place: Wenatchee
Ranger District: Wenatchee River
Project Name-

Week 5: July 9th-14th July 9th-14th

Monday: This week is going to be interesting for sure. We started the week out on Sunday with an arduous 8 mile hike into our camp site. Morale was high though; we sang songs, laughed and lost the game together on the way. So far this week, we've set up camp. Worked some trail and have had very little free time. Some things in the future of the crew: haircuts and a lot more work.

Tuesday: Blue crew has been living together for five and a half stress filled weeks. While we're all very close and respect one another there are constant arguments. I personally enjoy the bickering, it makes me feel like a friend and sibling and part of something. Never mind, I don't know. The view is nice. Our camp is gorgeous, sometimes the work seems really difficult but it's not so bad. It's good for me, it'll make us stronger. -C.B.

Wednesday: We got a great surprise today. We didn't have to climb the mountain. Instead we got to cross the river and brush out the trail. It was fine until it started raining because we had no rain gear. WE got wet. We didn't finish brushing but we went a long way and the trail can be seen now. -Brittaney

Thursday: This week our crew learned about carrying capacity and about resource use. We also learned that more water and working harder can fix anything. We also learned what stinging nettles look and feel like, something I've wanted to do for a while now. -Zach

Friday: Our crew had a few challenges this week. For starters our crew started bickering a lot more this week but those arguments were soon settled. Also another challenge this week was our hike in and our hike to our work site. Although we had a lot of challenges. Many of them became our accomplishments. For instance our hike into camp was about 8 miles and although it was hard we made it through. Also we had a nice little hike to our work site that presented us with quite a challenge however when we made it to the top and saw the view it became an accomplishment. All in all we have had a great week. -Anna R.

National Forest or area that the work took place
Ranger District
Project Name-

Week 6: July 17th – 21st July 17th – 21st

Monday: Today flew by! Our work today brought us to a burn site about a mile and some away from camp. We removed burned roots, leveled tread and brushed for the day. We all enjoyed the opportunity to dig trail again. Back at camp, we've just finished chores and are about to eat. We're celebrating Zach's birthday today with a special dinner-burritos and cheesecake. The day has been great, but has gone by too fast- less than six days left in the session. –Jen H.

Tuesday: Well today went fast and this week is going even faster, I'm sad that session is going so fast. Last night we had burritos and there was dried refried beans. Lets say that there was a lot of farting going on. –George

Wednesday: The last full day of work is over and done! We only have 4 days left together. It's crazy to think about. Speaking of crazy Alissa is giving hair cuts tonight. It's great. Jen's Mohawk will soon be no more as the end draws near it is important for us as a crew to keep the joy and happiness level high and end the session on a high not as we started.

Thursday: We worked a hard day today. It was intense and we didn't have to cross a bone chilling river, stream thing. We went back to camp and gorged on food the rest of the day, and we did chores. We ate a lot of rice. We went to bed early. –AJC

Friday: I think that being in the backcountry was fun the hike was hard. Put 60-70 pounds on your back for 8 and ½ miles and its tough. But we made the last night sleeping under the stars was awesome. Most people were looking forward to the 11 ½ mile hike out of here. Everyone is truly going to miss this family, I know I am. –Robert P.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day was our hike into back country. I haven't really hiked much and the hike in was definitely a test of my abilities. –Anna

My most challenging day at NYC was when we started the first day of work. I had no idea how hard it was going to be. So I busted butt and got the job done. –AJ.

The back country, the hike was long, I have never done anything like that. –George

One day the first week it was pouring rain, and a lightning storm caused us to head back to camp 2 hours early. When we arrived back, we found out that our tents had flooded. –Jen H.

During the first week I cried at dinner one night. I'm a recovering anorexic and eating all that food with others is so hard, but I did it. Nobody ever said to me before "If you don't eat, you can't work." I'm inspired. –Coral

Being sick on the worksite. –Brittney R.

The greatest challenge was the hike into the back country. That 8 ½ miles seemed to go on forever! But we made it through and getting to the end felt so good and was something we could be proud of!!

Getting to know everyone and showing them respect and getting the respect in return. – Robert P.

Hiking 8 ½ miles with 80 plus pounds on my back up hill with out very many breaks. – Zach M.

The 8 ½ mile hike in to back-country and soon the 10 ½ mile hike out to civilization. – Anthony R.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Getting to know everybody and having a lot of fun. –George D.

Back country living, crazy surprise days and “danger” safety circles. –Jen H.

“Loving and getting to know everyone on my crew. I’m still spell bound at how well we’ve gotten a long despite the dramatic difference in our backgrounds. Pushing my self in a healthy way; I’ve never done something so good and so tough. The beautiful creatures, views and plants I’ve seen are simply amazing. –Coral

The sights we saw, the weather and the people I met. –Brittney R.

The amazing sights we’ve seen, getting to know the crew, and sing a thons! -Laura P.

Making new friends, seeing the sites and accomplishing the work you have done.

Hanging out with Erik; being in the middles of a lightning storm and hiking 8 ½ miles uphill and working my body to it’s limits. –Zach M.

Going to the stone henge replica, chopping out a stumps roots with a Pulaski and learning how to solve the rubic’s cube.

My favorite experiences were building rock walls, going back country and meeting 11 incredible strangers. –Anna R.

My favorite experience is that we lost the game 100 times a day. -AJ

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember running into the van during week 4 during the midnight thunderstorm. Close and cozy! It was great. –Laura P.

I will always remember the great people I have met. –Robert P.

I will always remember the great conversations I had with my crew. –Zach M.

I will always remember the game. –Anthony R.

I will always remember how good it felt to push myself farther than I thought I was capable of. –Anna

I will remember how to share my work load if I need help. –Anthony

I will remember the fun I had and the people I met. –George

I will always remember being a part of a crew that felt like a family. –Jen H.

“...That I made friends at NYC that accepted me for exactly who I am...and that I CAN do it.” –Coral

The thunder storm on the first day of work. Lighting struck yards from us and when we got back to camp we found our stuff wet but we took it all with a smile and we didn't let it drag us down. –Brittney

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always try my best to be a good example and show a good example of NYC qualities and morals. –Zach M.

I will always be a part of the forestry program or NYC. –Anthony R.

From now on I will always remember to appreciate the simple pleasures of life, such as coffee. –Anna

From now on I will practice time management with school friends and home work. –AJ

Work hard on the little things that need to be worked out before big things. –George.

I will remember to approach challenges with a smile and “it'll make me stronger,” attitude. –Jen H.

From now on I'll strive to earn respect from others instead of trying to get them to earn my respect.” –Coral C.

Work hard at anything I do. –Brittney R.

I will always see troubles as something that will make me stronger. –Laura P.

That hard work and determination will get you far. –Robert P.

At NYC I Learned...

Immediately the first week I learned to eat sleep, work and live with others. I was crying at dinner and wearing make up that first week. Half way through I realized the importance of earning and giving respect all the time. Now I know how to push myself and keep my cool under extreme conditions; I feel incredible.” -Coral C.

I learned how to work and get along with people I’ve never met, I’ve learned how to build and manage trails and I have learned a lot about the world around me. –Brittney R.

I have learned a lot from this experience. I learned how to manage the precious little free time we get and how to live with and get along with others. The most important thing I’ve learned is how PMA can make anything bearable. –Laura P.

I have learned that being in the outdoor is hard but yet rewarding at the same time that you can depend on your self for the right thing. –Robert P.

I learned lots about the environment and about current world affairs. I also learned that work is hard but I can make it fun too. –Zach M.

I have learned about the game, I have learned what noxious weeds are and I have learned you can set up the back country tents without the poles. –Anthony R.

I have learned that anything is possible with a little PMA. Also I have learned to deal with problems I have with others more efficiently then I learned to appreciate nature. – Anna R.

How to cope with not having caffeine after a long time. Without biting off peoples heads. –AJ

I learned to work with others. –George

I learned to be a bit more patient, respect where others are coming from and to avoid implements at all costs. –Jen H.