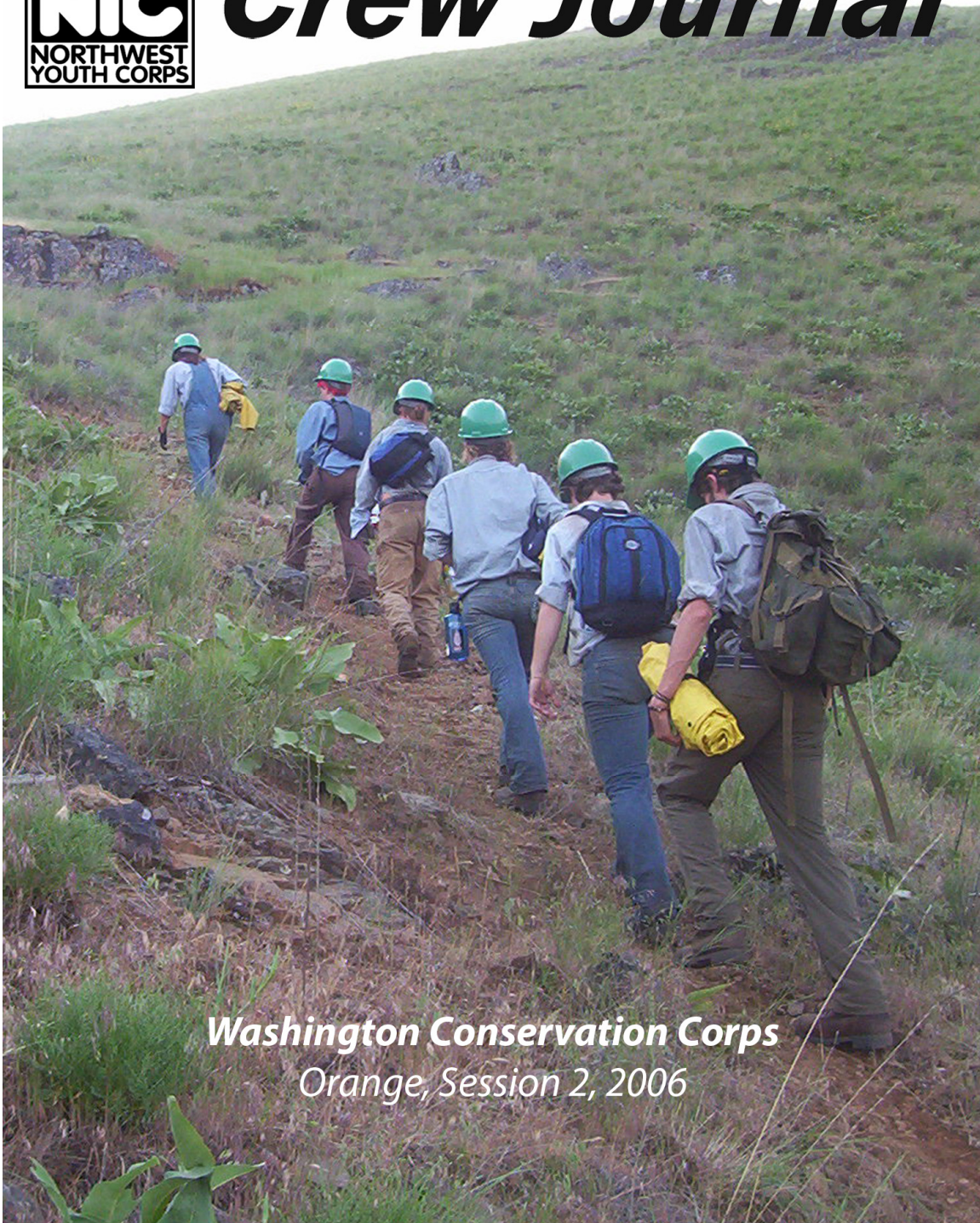




Crew Journal



*Washington Conservation Corps
Orange, 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



City of Staton Invasive Species Removal

Week 1: June 12th-16th

Monday:

This weekend we went through orientation and split into crews. Then we went to our job site. We spent 3 hours on the kitchen tent. Then there were tents and rules to take care of. And that was the weekend of the ‘Orange-inal’ Gangsta crew.

Chris (AKA Wolverine)

Tuesday:

Killing bushes, Scotch broom, and ivy off the trees. Down the road from camp. Swamping, lopping and hacking bushes. Because noxious weeds were taking over

Steve O.

Wednesday:

We all went to a park for a change and did some trail maintenance! Wahoo! (no more blackberry bushes!) It rained on us but the work went on.

After work we had a wrestling competition where Elissa was able to take Steve down, and Jake and I ending up in “interesting” positions. Kara & Chrystal instigated a midweek dinner game and had all of us doing crazy things such as Matt’s high pitched

laugh every time someone asked to pass the hot sauce or Elisa's "I'm going your way are you going my way?" It was a fun night and we capped it off with Matt's PH and some Dookie.

Kristen

Thursday:

Today we learned about the local water treatment plant "Der Da Der" this town uses a lot of water!

Jake

Friday:

This week orange crew was given the task of clearing blackberries and other noxious weeds in the area around the Staton waterplant. We cleared a large amount in the first two days then worked on clearing walking trails in Staton for the next two. Finally, today, we went back to working on the area around the waterplant.

We all got a lot closer and have learned a lot about each other.

Matthew

Ochoco National Forest
Ochoco Ranger District
Ochoco Weeds

Week 2: June 19th-23rd

Monday:

Well the 'Orange-inal' gangsta crew went to the weekend site and had a bomber time. We had a great rec. trip. We went to the store and on a hike. We went with Eric. We also lost Nicole, one of the girls on our crew. And then, and then... And then.... And then..... Oh, who cares I forgot. Oh, well.

Chris H.

Tuesday:

WE are in the Ochoco wilderness removing hounds tongue because it is an invasive plant. Walking through open fields, taking out tiny plants (kill the babies) trying to remove the plant from the area because it makes the cattle sick.

Kimberly C.

Wednesday:

Cut down lots of hounds tongue and help out the cattle and all the native plants in the area.

Steve O.

Thursday:

Moral goes up when the woods-boss is around.

Jake

Friday:

We got up early and packed up camp in less than two hours. We woke up later one day, which was great. We made it on time to work this week. We were excited because we were always late.

We are getting along a lot better. One of the challenges is getting told to slow down. We are also getting better on communication and teamwork.

Elie

**Wenatchee National Forest
Leavenworth Ranger District
Little Wenatchee**

Week 3: June 26th-30th

Monday:

We got to go swimming and got to see some historical sites. We all seemed to have a good time. We got a new rover Jason the crew gets the chance to go back country for 2 weeks.

Steve G.

Anaranjado

(it ought to be in the brochure)

Once upon a time there was a group of nine crazy kids and even crazier crew leaders. They went into the woods for six weeks not knowing quite what to expect. Their group was made up of all different kinds of people: Jake- the flute-playing pyro; Stevo (aka the Redneck); Josh- a great southern guy, awesome hounds tongue impersonator, but not so great a chef; Chris (the teddy bear); Kim (the off-balanced overachiever); Kristen- the SPU masseuse; Elissa- the recovering coffee addict with her funny accent; Eli- the Manga-loving loudmouth; Matt- the Wookiee with too many names; Crystal, our hippie/yeti crew leader.

Tuesday:

This week we are in the Wenatchee wilderness area in Washington doing trail maintenance and recon. We built a bunch of drainages and got to use the cross cut to move logs from the trail.

Elissa

Wednesday:

Our goals for the week are to cut a re-route around a washout and to get enough hours. We also are trying to get Chrystal to take better care of her feet and drink more.

Chris H.

Thursday:

We learned how to lay trail and most of us got the opportunity to cross cut and fell trees. We were able to work well as a team even though Eric left and Stevo was out sick today and as a result, Jason had to stay behind as well. Tomorrow will be our first back country hike in which will challenge everyone. All in all, it has been a great 3rd week and hopefully we won't lose anyone else!

!Anaranjado!

Kristin

Friday:

This week we had to work long days because we were short one person. We finally got to start trail work (so much more interesting than hounds tongue). We built (& rebuilt) a bunch of drainages, had a few mud fights, brushed trail and built a reroute. On Friday after work we hiked into our backcountry camp (with only a few falls (Kim), and complaints). Our solos on Friday & Saturday went by both way too fast and ridiculously slow and showed us what it's really like to be all by ourselves.

Elissa P.

**Wenatchee National Forest
Wenatchee Ranger District
Little Wenatchee**

Week 4: July 2nd-7th

Monday:

Chrystal got sick so she could not work. We worked for 9 hours doing random projects. We did not have any problems which each other SEED was great. It was the funnest thing we had.

Elizabeth R.

Tuesday:

We are in Wenatchee wilderness area doing 'Rusty' projects. We pull rocks, brushing and reroutes. We are doing all this because Rusty is re-thinking some stuff. There are a lot of rocks. Smashing rocks is fun.

Chris H.

Wednesday:

Our goal for this week is to get the trail maintenance done. We also want to start packing up for our hike out. We must be able to do Rusty's work and do other required work.

Joshua C.

Thursday:

We pushed our limits and hiked in and out without major problems and Jason carrying all of our stuff out. We had another great week and found new recipes to incorporate our delicious TVP in!

Kristen S.

Friday:

This week we were working back country on the Little Wenatchee trail. We packed out on Friday then went off on 24 hour solos. While we were out on our own our crew leaders set up camp. When we got back we had a good dinner cooked by crew leader Jason. During dinner we exchanged warm fuzzies (compliments) and tried to impersonate other crewmembers. Then we went to bed.

On Sunday we worked a half day and chilled out in the afternoon. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday we worked nine hour days. Then on Thursday we worked another half day. We were supposed to be making a reroute several miles long, starting at our camp and continuing down the trail further into the mountains. However, our contact decided to rethink the reroute so he had us brush (clear away plants) back down the trail. While this was an easier job, it was nowhere near as fun and our morale was fairly low during work. Low morale turned out to be our greatest challenge throughout the week. It caused stress, laziness and tension between crew members and leaders.

J.D.M.T.

**Colville National Forest
Little Pend Orielle Slash Piling**

Week 5: July 9th-14th Date

Monday:

This weekend we went on a few rec. trips involving a trip to Rocky Beach Dam, a fire interpretive center, and swimming. It was a parent's weekend we were introduced to some of the crews' families and given fruit. And we lost NYC's Olympics.

Kimberly C.

Tuesday:

This week we are slash-piling in Little Pend Orielle. That means that we are taking everything that the crew leaders cut down and cut up and piling it together to make large piles that will be burned in the fall. The point of doing this is to thin out the forest so that when there is a fire it doesn't kill all the trees. It's pretty simple work and the hours have been flying by.

J.D.M.T.

Wednesday:

We are doing slash-piling and want a lot of piles. We have to pick up trees and cut up trees and branches of trees and putting them into piles. Crystal and Erik are the ones who have to chainsaw trees and branches of trees so that we can pick it up and slave over making piles for fires; Eli was working hard along with the rest of us. No one can spell her name right. I'm just rambling because I can't think of anything else to write about. I actually forgot to write my journal so I'm writing the Wednesday journal on Thursday.

Joshua L.

Thursday:

Slash piling is about 100 times more fun than hounds tongue (der)! We lost our third crew member this session. We can still pull together as a crew and bust out 37 piles a day which is way more than any other crew. Eric is a hilarious rover and it's great to be in front country again with porta-potties and a rat-infested cabin to store our food boxes in – um, yeah it's actually pretty great. Time is flying by we have about a week left before we all go our separate ways and in to the "real world."

Kristen S.

Friday:

Our challenge was that we had to learn to hold on and keep together tighter than we have before. WE accomplished this and more and we were able to handle the worst. Other than that I have nothing else I wish to re-iterate or focus on. So this wraps up my last journal of the session. Now we all go home and relax and we are able to relax for awhile and chill like it's nothing and also not work.

Joshua L.

Lewis & Clark Trails

Week 6: July 17th – 21st

Monday:

This weekend we drove to Astoria, where we put up our camp. Before we set up our camp on Saturday we went to the ocean and hung out on the beach. On Sunday we slept in then went to the ocean to hang out on the beach more. After that we picked up our rover from his day off, then went to a store stop, then laundry. Afterwards we got pizza, courtesy of Winston. We then went back for a SEED, free time then bed.

J.D.M.T.

Tuesday:

Today we graveled even more. I was a L.O.D. and it was fun. Eric taught us part of the SEED and it was great. Now we are going to eat dinner with the fake blue crew (which we call them). They are from WA1. It is going to be fun and we are excited. We also going to slip and slide which is going to be great because we are all going to get wet.

Elizabeth R.

Wednesday:

Our goal for this week is to gravel as much as possible. We want to get as many hours in this week as we can. We are going to have to push ourselves tougher than we have any other week. I am sore all over from the gravel and the wheel barrows. Now I am just blabbering. My hand hurts. I'm waiting for (hopefully) good food. I'm bored. Done Done Done Done....

Joshua L.

Thursday:

Graveling is the most physically demanding project so it was a good thing that our bump line worked so well or we would forever be walking (well maybe we did that anyway so...)

Thanks to Erik we learned to be "propafied" so we can uphold NYC rules and regulations and be more "awesomified" for Chrystal.

Elie, Elissa and I should run faster next time when we steal food from the blue crew on the 'dark side.' On the other hand we had an interesting SEED w/them at the visitor center about Lewis and Clark. Time flies by quickly. Tomorrow is our last work day EVER. WOW!

Kristen S.

Friday:

Graveling was our most physically demanding project because the loads were heavy and even though it was all downhill, the switchbacks weren't friendly. Everyone was sore by mid-week but we pulled together and were able to lie around ¼ mile worth of trail that ran up and down a bunch of switchbacks. We were rewarded tonight by being treated to an amazing home cooked meal by Erik's mom, camping out in his back yard, and showers! Also because it was our last work day of the session, we finished it off with a wheelbarrow relay.

Kristen S.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

...My most challenging day at NYC was during the 4th week. Towards the end of week 4 the whole crew was extremely tense and emotions were running high. It didn't help that our contact kept changing what he wanted done, or that he had us doing minor tasks. It was difficult keeping it together when everything was falling down around me. –J. D. M. T.

...The most challenging day at NYC was 2nd week. We had a lot of people who were sick and sat out so we worked harder and it was really hot. The other thing was that one guy kept running away. It was hard and difficult, but we survived and we are still a group so that is good. –Elizabeth R.

...I came as a replacement this year and my most challenging day was the first few days trying to adjust to a new crew at a weekend site. –Kimberly C.

...One day during week 2 we climbed a lot of really steep drainages and it really challenged me. –Chris H.

...Was when I had to finish today. –Joshua

...My most challenging day at NYC was the first day when we had to wake up really early for work and it was raining. –Elissa P.

...Day 1. I had to wake up really early. –Jake

...My most challenging day at NYC was Wednesday of week 6 when we were graveling with Tom and it was hot and I was so sore from the days of graveling before and the pace got quicker and the rest in between gravel loads got shorter and shorter. –Kristen S.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...My favorite experience at NYC was yelling songs at the top of my lungs with several other crew members while working. My second was pulaskiing through a tree, and my third was being a LOD and being in charge (helping to keep motivated, making sure everything gets done...etc.) -J. D. M. T.

...My three favorite NYC experiences were learning something new like how to use the tools, work as a team and communicate. Being a leader of the day. It was a great experience, and learning different culture and different people, I loved it. –Elizabeth R.

...One of my three favorite experiences was the bare (bull) second week, being forced to be a leader was OK and sleeping in on Sunday was great. –Kimberly C.

...Swimming, eating real food, and meeting Eric. –Joshua L.

...My favorite NYC experiences were shower/laundry/van ride days, pine cone fights and other “blue crew” activities and getting to see and go swimming in the Pacific. –Elissa P.

...Week one when we went to a public pool that had a waterslide! -Chris H.

..."it's bangan," solos, van rides. -Jake

...My three favorite NYC experiences were our crew van rides/store stops/laundry stops, wrestling matches, and our inside jokes. -Kristen S.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...I will always remember what I learned here, both about myself and the world. -J. D. M. T.

...I will always remember how NYC changed my life and the people I met. I hope I meet more people like my crew when I get back to the world. -Elizabeth R.

...I will always remember everything that NYC has taught me and try to teach others. -Kimberly C.

...Eric and Jason. -Joshua L.

...I will always remember all of the amazing people that I met this summer. -Elissa P.

...I will always remember the people from my crew. -Chris H.

..."It's bangan." -Jake

...I will always remember the laughs and inside jokes; my crewmembers, crewleader and all the rovers. !Anaranjado! -Kristen.

From Now On I Will Always...

...From now on I will always remember to be myself and do what I want to do, but also to look out for others. -J. D. M. T.

...Use the skills I learned here to use in the real world and be myself. -Elizabeth R.

...I will always strive to achieve more, learn more and do more than I ever thought possible. -Kimberly C.

...I will work harder and appreciate sleep. -Joshua

...I will always appreciate sleeping in, milk, showers and food that does not contain peanut butter or jelly. -Elissa P.

...I will always appreciate my friends and family. Also I will be more grateful for good food and my bed. –Chris H.

...Take showers. –Jake

...From now on I will always appreciate the trails, the gravel on the tread, the trimmed back shrubbery, and everything else that has anything to do with beautifying nature for the public because I understand the work that goes into it. –Kristen

At NYC I Learned...

...I learned that the depth of beauty depends on how deep you are willing to perceive. I learned that hard work and following the rules are more fulfilling in the long run than laziness and lethargy. I learned that personal hygiene is overrated. –J. D. M. T.

...I learned more about who I really am, the person I want to be and learned to accommodate more. –Elizabeth R.

...I learned many things yet not fixed in stone are still stable, and that life is all about growth. –Kimberly C.

...To run, eat more, and sleep. –Joshua L.

...At NYC I learned that it rains a lot in the Northwest, the ‘right’ way to pronounce Oregon, and that beached whales can be vicious and vengeful. –Elissa P.

...One of the things I learned is that life is full of surprises. Also I learned that all “OC” leaders are real people. The last is that second time isn’t as hard as the first. –Chris H.

...Simplicity in life is important. –Jake

...I learned to truly understand what it means to live with a group of people for 6 weeks (it’s like you’re married to them), to push my physical limits, and to develop a greater appreciation for trails and the outdoors in general. –Kristen