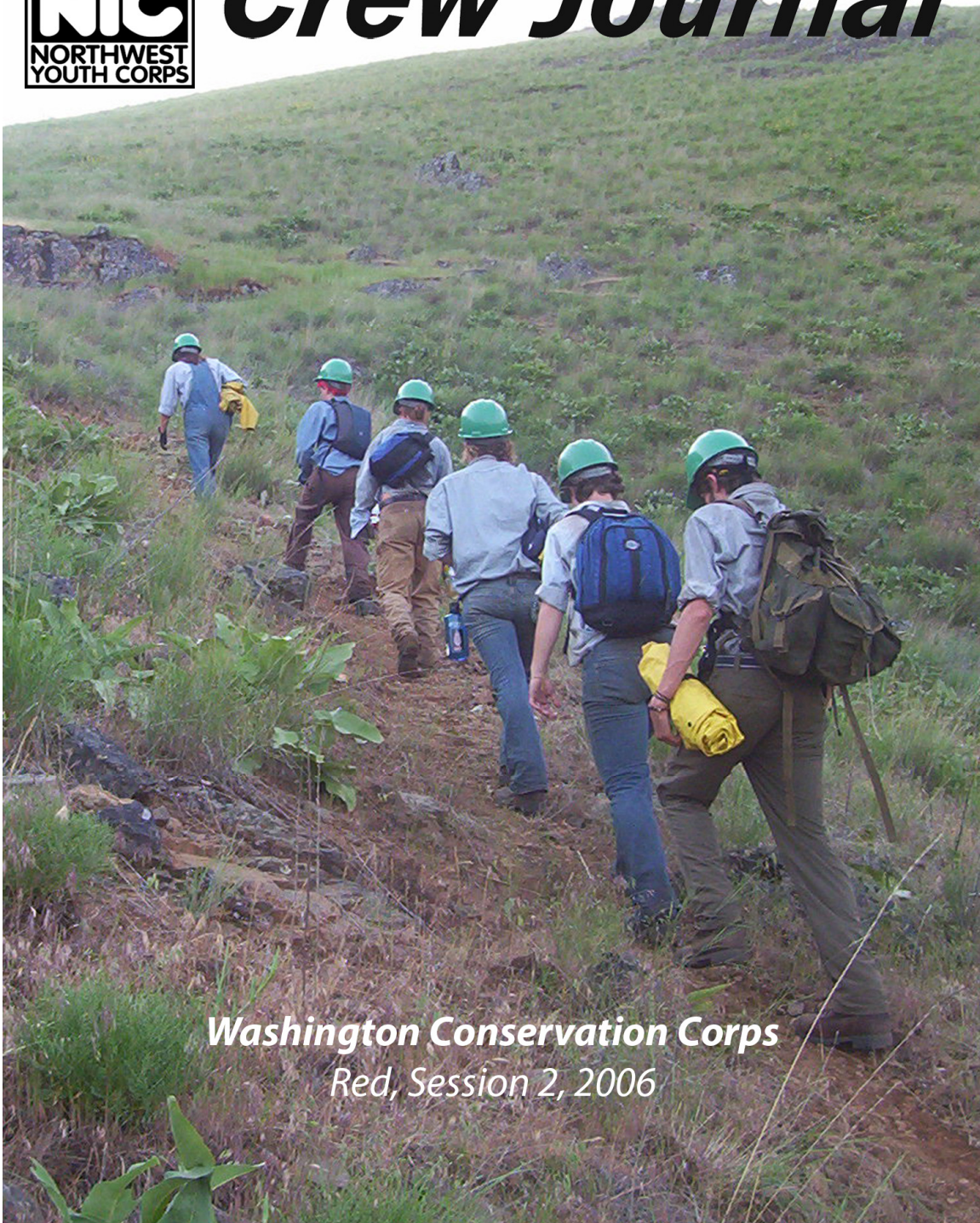




# *Crew Journal*



*Washington Conservation Corps  
Red, 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**  
**Ranger District**  
**Project Name-**

Week 1: June 12th-16th Date

Monday: This weekend we were introduced to our crew members, leaders and the NYC way of life. We all found out that we're in Red crew and we are going to pull weeds all week. We were very excited to have our trailer packed up first with extra time to do our chores and other crews chores before they even packed there trailers up. –Mike J.

Tuesday: This week we learned how to effectively sweep across a valley and kill weeds. We also learned how the faster we do dishes and other chores, the more free time we will receive. We were also taught a very interesting SEED about forest success by our rover Jason. –Cody B.

Wednesday: This week our crew is trying to get in the swing of things and get down a nice and easy schedule so we will become a well oiled machine. Also we are trying to finish all three of our work priorities. The team is definitely coming together.

Thursday: I learned how to effectively sweep across a valley and kill weeds; we also learned that the faster we do dishes and other chores then the more free time we will receive. We were also taught a very interesting seed about forest succession by our rover Jason. Go Dawgs.

Friday: This week our main crew challenge is to get to know each other and get along with each other despite our differences. Our other challenges include working hard despite the weather and learning how to make good meals despite a lack of decent supplies. I think we did a pretty good job accomplishing a solution for all of the challenges listed above. I was proud to see that we finished all of our priorities and that we all get along fairly good with few exceptions. I just can't wait to get better work that is more challenging. -Nick

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Willamette**  
**Ranger District: Detroit**  
**Project Name-**

Week 2: June 19th-23rd Date

Monday: This weekend we went hiking

Tuesday: This week our crew is tasked with slash piling. Every day, we had to go on a tedious up-hill hike to arrive at our work site. Our work involved cutting and stacking trees in hope of preventing fires and creating healthier forests.

Wednesday: Our crew's goal for this week is to improve everyone's work ethic and get in all work hours possible for our crew. We would like to also better understand how building slash piles effect the environment around the area we are working. Red Zeppelin would most of all like to improve our relationship with each other, seeing as how it has been the toughest goal so far. – Mike J.

Thursday: We had a long 9 hour day but looking forward to hiking back and then a 4 hour day tomorrow. Today we started on a new location and went a little slower than the first three days, but we got a good start. We learned how to make a fire, shave and deal with stress.

Friday: Our challenges were many this week. Working a 9 hour day every day but today this week was no easy feat. In the beginning our organization wasn't the greatest but we pulled together as a team in the end. Of course there is always an isolated crew member who didn't want to be part of the team. We got all of our hours in with no injuries or ailments to slow us down. The contact seemed pleased but then again only the leaders knew how they really felt. We all look forward to going to the weekend site to relax after another week of hard work. –Ian

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Willamette**  
**Ranger District: Detroit**  
**Project Name-**

Week 3: June 26th-30th Date

Monday: On Monday my crew woke up early around 5:00 am, we got packed, ate breakfast and started on our journey to find our trail. We all were very tired of mosquitoes and the difficult hike. We then found our trail which we began working on, just after we started the trail we found out that the trail was not the part we were supposed to work on. We then had lunch and tried to set a bear hang so we could leave the food and finish our trail. We then found our trail and worked a little then went back to set up a camp out of the burn area, all on Monday. –C.S.

Tuesday: Our project was to repair a forest. We had to take roots out and dig. We were in the Willamette National Forest in Oregon. We are widening the path to make the path easier for hiking and horses. –Brock

Wednesday: Our crews goals include maintaining an effective bear hang, reviving over 1.5 miles of trail and coming further together as a crew. –Jamie

Thursday: We learned a lot this week. At the beginning of the week we learned how to put up a bear hang. Although we tried quite a few times we finally got it up. Also, we learned how to build a small camp fire in the back country. We learned how to be safe when building the fire. All together, this week was a good learning experience. For both me personally and the entire crew as well. –Ian D.

Friday: This week was our first back country week and the hikes with heavy packs on were real challenges. The other main challenge, especially for me was to deal with the thousands of swarming mosquitoes. The mosquitoes kept us from receiving a full night's sleep until Kal gangsterized our tent. That was a huge accomplishment. Another challenge for our crew was to make a successful bear hang. Our main accomplishment was completing the mile and a half of trail work almost perfectly. GO Dawgs -Nick

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Willamette  
Ranger District:  
Project Name- Elk Horn Ridge**

Week 4: July 2nd-7th Date

Monday: We had a good weekend, even without Yellow crew. Our site was nice, we had some ice cream and pizza and met some dudes families, they were all cool. The work today was long and hard, like a tent pole. But not too long because we have shore days this week, that's right baby, but the walk to work makes up for it because its super bogus. Also our campsite is off the chain and we should take advantage of our swimming hole more often. Holler. –K Dogg

Tuesday: This week our crew is at a mountain by Mill City doing trail maintenance on one of the steepest trails and I've ever been on. We are cutting back the brush and defining the switch backs better. We have some pretty awesome views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. Today is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July so we are going to watch the sunset. How romantic. It's not fire works but it is better than nothing. Go Dawgs. –Nick G.

Wednesday: Was a hard hike up the mountain we had to get tools. One of our crew members was stung by a bee. We worked an hour after and all ran down the mountain. It was fun and we fell a lot. –Brock

Thursday: This week, our crew learned about how fun it is to hike up really steep trails. We also learned how to catch crayfish in the lake by our camp site. Another interesting thing that we learned is that we should be proud to live in America because other people in other countries might have it a lot worse. Go Dawgs. –Nick

Friday: We had to hike up a steep mountain 2 ½ miles to work. Got off work and had to hike 2/12 miles down. It sucked, but had to happen. When Tom came out to work with us the day before, he said “that’s the hardest, steepest hike we had done all summer.” This made us feel good. It was a good short work day. Went back busted out chores and went to bed nice and tired.  
-Cody

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

Week 5: July 9th-14th Date

Monday: We got our bear hang set up today! I like it. It’s a nice one. It’s super high. There is a rope from a big tree to a smaller tree, the big tree has no branches except 1 dead crazy looking one that we wrapped a water bottle around. Then the other one has branches. Also, theres a log underneath the bear hang, Also, chipmunks. –Kal

Tuesday: Our bear hang is holding up good. I’m eating a crew leader cookie. Pretty good. About our bear hang its real cool cuz we can put lots of stuff on it and keep tree brush on it. I like hanging out at the bear hang cuz you might see a bear there. –Kal

Wednesday: Today we had to re-tighten our bear hang. I cried, now it’s tight though. It could maybe get tighter even so I’m going to go try. Holla atcha bear-hang. –Kal

Thursday: This week, our crew learned how to neatly and efficiently clear a wide patch of destruction that would later be used to clear fresh trail. We also learned about different aspects of ecosystem prevention and fossil fuel management. –Jame

Friday: I think our crews challenges were coming together as a work crew and getting the Muppets out of our heads from the weekend drive. Our accomplishments would probably be pleasing our contact with great work and meeting our work goals for the week. -Jamie

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

Week 6: July 17th – 21<sup>st</sup>

Monday: Because we're on a 2-week back country we didn't get to go to a weekend site. Crew leader Jason had the day off on Saturday. We just hung out, relaxed, slept and went to a creek to swim. Other than that it wasn't a very busy weekend. –Ian

Tuesday: We're just continuing our project from last week. Rusty wants us to do a few random projects. We are still working on the re-route though. –Cody

Wednesday: Our crews work goal for the week is to make it through the day without arguing and to try to get the work done as good and fast as possible. –Craig

Thursday: We are on the last day of work; we are tired and angry at each other. The crew learned irritability comes at the end of things. –Brock

Friday: Well- it's the end, we woke up at 4:00 am and hiked 2 ½ miles down to the van. I fell asleep and woke up at McDonalds!!! Sensation bought me breakfast. It was "bangin!" as the session ends. –Cody

### ***My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...***

My most difficult day was the last work day of the session. We worked overtime and everyone was angry at each other. –Brock

My most challenging day at NYC was our third to last day of our back country week before our last back country week because of the hiking. –Craig

My most challenging day was each day during the Hounds Tongue week because I'm not used to being told to work slower than I am. –Nick

The first night trying to figure out what I got myself into. –Kal

Tuesday, week 4, my right knee, old injury, was unbearable. But I had to keep working. –Cody

Our first hike into the back country because my pack wasn't packed properly and it killed my back and shoulders. –Ian

My most challenging day was the first back country week. The hike to work the first day was tough.

The last day of work was especially challenging to finish.

### ***My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...***

The first day everyone was nice, second was being in the van with Red crew was fun. Third having Jason as a rover. –Brock

My first favorite experience was riding in the van, my second favorite was the work itself, my third fav, was all the pretty mountain views. –Craig

Our last back country site was nice. Listening to Jack Johnson in the van. Getting up hecka early and hiking out on our last Friday to make it to McD's on time. –Nick

Jack Johnson in the van. McD's on the last Friday. McD's on Saturday when I got my EP Holla. –Kal

Good music, getting my EP on week 4 and getting Jason sensation back week 5-6 –Cody

Van/music time, Rover Jason with Red crew back country, sitting around the fire as a crew at night. It was fun. Good times. –Mike

My favorite experiences were the nice people, road trips and listening to good music. –Ian

Making new friends, having fun and building character

### ***One Thing I Will Always Remember...***

Is being in the van listening to music and messing with Red crew. –Brock

I will always remember meeting all my crew members and how cool they all were. –Craig

Is the conversation in the tents at night before we all went to bed. –Nick

Ice cave. –Kal

The high's and low's of Red Zeppelin -Cody

Breakfast at McDonalds! MMM...processed food baby. –Ian

Mickey D's breakfast two days in a row. Yum. –Mike

All the friends and all the honest people I met here.

### ***From Now On I Will Always...***

Respect what I have and help more. –Brock

I will always be more respectful and be happy. –Craig

Try to do things as soon as I can instead of waiting until the last minute, unless it's a paper I have to write. –Nick

Just go with it. –Kal

Take Chances. –Cody

Be less conservative. –Ian

Think before I speak and watch my temper. –Mike

Respect everyone's differences and try to be nice to everyone

### ***At NYC I Learned...***

At NYC I learned not to litter. How to use a Pulaski and how to get along with people. – Brock

At NYC I learned not to whine about stuff and not to expect the best of everything. – Craig

At NYC I learned how to compromise to live better. I also learned that whining never makes a situation better and finally I learned that sometimes you have to do things yourself if you want them done quick and right. –Nick

How to live with other guys from different back grounds, how to survive back country and how to make a good bear hang. –Kal

Thanks to Jason sensations SEED I learned a lot about environmental studies, learned a lot about myself and a lot about what I'll need in the future. –Cody

At NYC I learned patience, how to control my temper, compromise and understanding people's different situations and back grounds.

I learned to compromise, practice leave no trace camping and patience. –Ian

I learned a variety of life skills that I will have for years to come.