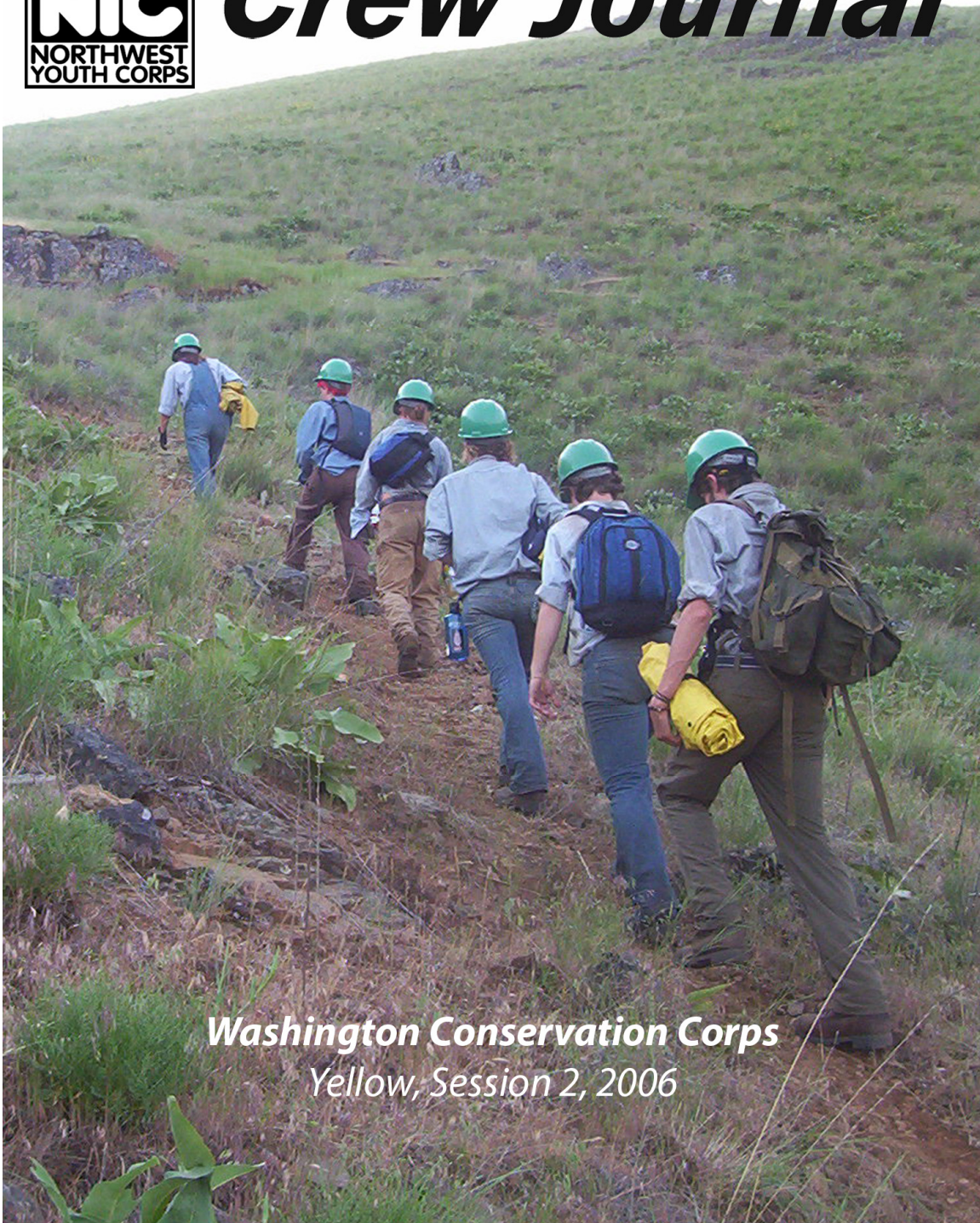




# *Crew Journal*



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

Joe Waksmundski  
NYC Field Director



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

Week 1: June 12th-16th Date

Monday: Weekend: this weekend we set up camp for the first time, it was frustrating but we got it done.

Today: Was the first work day. We heard a lot of complaining but we were able to deal with it. Although the hiking was fun and the scenery was beautiful. –Dustin B.

Tuesday: Today was a better work day than Monday I think the day went by faster because we knew what we were doing and got more done. –Jordan

Wednesday: (describe your crews goals for the week.) To complete all hours and do a good job. To not get hurt. To follow all safety precautions. Work in a timely fashion and kill most/ all of the Hounds Tongue. –Michael R.

Thursday: We thought we would be done with the 4<sup>th</sup> section of Hounds Tongue, but we hit the mother load of weeds. It took us longer than expected, since the last 2 sections were sparse with Hounds tongue. We didn't end up finishing early, but we made a great amount of progress. Tomorrow looks to be a better and faster day, but we won't know until we try. –Austin B.

Friday: This was our first week of NYC and so we had our first taste of what we will be doing over the next several weeks. Some days were harder than others and some were more successful. Monday, the first day I questioned whether or not this was a good idea. But even though it hurt, and my arms were sore I was still having fun. Early on, we didn't make much of a team. There was much bickering and arguing going on, and some stereotyping even among only 10 people. On the work sites we weren't working together very well, and had to redo several sections but as we got more comfortable with each other, we started to communicate and work more systematically, getting the job done quickly and easily. Over all this has been a great first week, and I know the next five will be just as awesome. – Michael A.

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

Week 2: June 19th-23rd Date

Monday: Finally work that does not involve hound tongue. Although the work was very physical, it was new and fun. It was also by far our most productive day yet.

Tuesday: Today we had lots of fun lopping branches, clear cut fashion. We did quite a bit. We started to slow down but with some encouraging words from Matt, we worked a little harder.

Wednesday: (describe your crew's goals for the week.) Get the job done and try not to get hurt as usual. By get the job done we mean quality over quantity and by try not to get hurt we mean be safe.

Thursday: We learned to push ourselves, don't stop when you are in dis-comfort but when you have reached your limit. We also learned that shabby work won't cut it. When we found out we had to do a section over we were reluctant but it turned out to be worth it. –D

Friday: The walking and sitting so long on this trip. Some of us slipped on the trails because of loose gravel or mud puddles. The long drive is some what unbearable but the music rocks so, booya! We successfully set up camp, cleared out brush and trees a like, very nicely. I think personally that the biggest accomplishment was trust amount our group has grown. Love and Peace. P.S. food was great. –D

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

Week 3: June 26th-30th Date

Monday: Most of the crew slept outside, it was nice to see so many stars. When we woke up we felt syked to start our new job, so we got ready in a hurry. When we meet our destination we

thought, ohh no!! By the end of the day we did a great job, there were irritable moments, but team mellow Yellow always pulls through.

Tuesday: Today went slow and then fast and then slow again. Charlie was everywhere, so me, Brian and Bill took out some branches. Then three seconds later team x-treme dominated the wild.

Wednesday: Our crews goals for the week: not suck; not be lazy; slash pike the heck out of that clear cut; not die of sun exposure.

Thursday: Today was really good in the morning but as lunch passed everyone was less motivated it ended up being a tough day

Friday: The third week was hot. Many of the days were over a hundred degrees. With the heat came arguments, dehydration and hard work. We spent the week making slash piles. In the time of 1 week we covered about 4 acres of land. One of the problems with the heat was that we all got dehydrated. We tried to combat this with lots of water but this was only somewhat successful. Another problem of the heat was that some of the people got irritable. This led to arguments. One of these between Brian and Bill was ended by a formal debate in which Bill got one minute to speak followed by Bryan's 30 second ending statement. Over all the third week was productive, interesting and exciting.

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

Week 4: July 2nd-7th Date

Monday: Today started out slowly but progressed quickly. It was a productive day. We fixed about a mile of trail or so. Bill and Becca showed up around, 11ish and there was much rejoicing. The end of the day was rather muddy, but I think I am not alone in saying that Mud is fun. And messy. Messy Fun! -Kelso!

Tuesday: Today we started out working in the mud marsh that we ended at yesterday before first break. We started 3 more ditches and finished the ditch that we started. We also worked on gathering rocks. We started the day with a thunderstorm and ended with one coming our way.

Wednesday: Well today we finished up our mud pit. Some like to call it a re-route. This is good because our feet will no longer be soaking wet all day. We have plenty more awesome jobs to do, including a bit of new trail. Also some others Matt has yet to tell us about. So uhh...Bang on!

Thursday: Today was one of the few days where we had perfect weather that remained constant, overcast and perfect temperature. We got a lot done today, but unfortunately we had to walk about 3 miles to get back to camp. Tomorrow should be a better day, but the weather is always unpredictable. -Austin B.

Friday: Today we finished our last day of work. We started our day out with Brian forgetting where he left his glasses but Bill found them in Brian's backpack. For work we split into 2 smaller groups. One crew worked on a stream crossing and the other did quality control along the

trail. This week our challenges started out like usual for our group not getting along. But this week we put our minds to it and got along well. We also left behind our slacking off tendency and worked extremely hard. Brian P.

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

Week 5: July 9th-14th Date

Monday: Last weekend was fun and went by really fast. The rec. trips were cool. The crew challenges were fun but I think more people could have been more positive about it. Other than that it was a great weekend.  
–Jordan

Tuesday: Today we learned about our project for the week. The whole bridge thing seems very interesting, but the three miles of trail work should also be fun. This just might be a very good week. –Michael P.

Wednesday: Today was a pretty awesome day. Things were flowing nicely and it eventually led to our completion of the bridge. Tomorrow looks to be even better, seeing as how smoothly this day went. However, tomorrow we can expect drain dip work, as it is what we will be doing for the majority of the day. Every day the gloomy shadow of long hours hangs over our heads, but we always find a positive way to beat it and have fun at the same time.

Thursday: The bridge is soon to be finished and the brushin' crew will be increased. We all did great work and are getting a lot done everyday. We are all looking; well some of us are, forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> back country up above crystal lake. Even though it's an 8 mile hike, we'll probably have fun. –Bill "Michael R." Gates

Friday: Today we completed the bridge in the first hour or so. We took pictures of the bridge, then continued up the trail about a mile and started working on drainage ditches and clearing the trail. It was a fairly hard and long day today possibly because of all the hiking throughout the day. We got a lot of work done on the trail, and so it was a fun and successful day.  
–Mikael K A.

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

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

Monday: Today is the beginning of the end of the trip. Although the hike to the work site was long, we still worked hard and got a lot done during the 5 hours of work today hopefully the rest of the week should be as good as today. –Podolin

Tuesday: Today was a good work day. Even though it was very hot at the end of the work day, everyone worked hard until the very last day. Tomorrow looks to be a better day. –Mike A

Wednesday: Everybody is thinking “one more day” and now it is finally true. We started working down hill and we made it pretty far. There is nothing to fear from tomorrow's hike up, as it will be relatively short. This work day seemed pretty lengthy, but it was only a bad state of mind that was easily broken with a miraculous “tool count.” Tomorrow's work day is bound to last, but it is still an ordinary work day that can be made shore through hard work and a team effort. –Austin B.

Thursday: We often think of how far we have come, not only as “co” workers but as a unit. The hard times and then somewhat easy times are just a distant memory in our minds. I couldn't help but think of those past happenings while I worked today, it's not like it was hard seeing as how the morning was almost blanketed in silence. Now at the end of the day, although we are ready to go home, we know that we'll miss many friends here. Something happened to me today I felt sick and weak at the end of work, more so than usual, many of us were feeling tired, but the fact that today marked the semi-end of our hard work hardened many of our soft spirits. –Stetson G.

Friday: Our challenge was completing our project really well just the way Matt and Kara want it. Another big challenge was trying to live up to the example of Matt and Kara's social skills. Especially because they are higher evolved than we are. I wish I could live in a big house with them forever and bring them food and learn from them. I am humbled by their intellectual power. You can tell they're really smart because they don't feel a need to use their intellect to establish dominance over others. God, they are so cool. It's kind of like the ghetto boys song: There's some line about how a real gangst doesn't show his gun because he knows he's got one. It's really interesting that hip-hop can express the same ideas that ... (traditional) poetry does, but with very different language and style. Our big accomplishments were probably making it six weeks and busting out like Samson on the last day. I just wish we had gone for it earlier and we might have realized what we could do a while ago. –Jay Warhol

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

My most challenging day at NYC was the first Monday, learning the rules and how to do chores correctly was challenging.

My most challenging day was during the 4<sup>th</sup> week. I spent all day removing 7 roots warped together with a Pulaski.

Dealing with new perverse people every single day. –Cole D.

My most challenging day was during the last week. Hiking up this monstrous hill and re-doing a switchback. –J Loew

The most challenging day for me was hiking into Devil's Gulch on the Sunday before week 2 with such a heavy pack.

My hardest day of work was the last day me, Matt, Jordan and I blew full out to complete the switch in the 3 hours we had to do it in.

For me, the hardest day was the last day of the last week, because we first had to hike 2-3 miles uphill, then start work. –Kelso

My most challenging day at NYC was the Friday of week 2 when we had to hike out 6 miles uphill out of back country, I was not fit. –Austin B.

The last day, it was intense, it was hard and very hot to work and move in. –Morgan F.

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

Being able to work in such a beautiful landscape was a great experience. Learning how to make a proper drainage dip and making a bridge.

My first being crew leader of the day on the last day of work. Second, learning new skills and third getting a new view on life. –Superman

Throwing rocks off cliffs, Hanging with the crew and building a bridge and digging trail. –Cole D.

The scenery; learning outdoor skills and getting to know people. –J Loew

Learning how a trail is made; getting to know the people on my team and seeing the completed bridge. –mpod

Getting to know the people on my crew; getting to see new places that I have not seen before and possibly never see again and learning awesome outdoor skills.

During week two, when we lowered about 20 ft. of trail down about 4 feet; during week three we all pretended to be on steroids and during week four, working in knee deep mud.

The long road trips to various workplaces, a chance to buy things and relax; building my first bridge in the last two weeks, it was a landmark occasion and a major accomplishment and SEED, I was able to teach it and learn from it. –Austin B.

Making a bridge, work experience and the scenery was great. –Morgan F.

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

One thing I will always remember is the scenery. –D

I will remember the people. –Superman

The scenery, the entire crew. –Cole D.

I will remember the people. –J Loew

I will always remember my crew mates and my crew leader. –Mpod

I will always remember my awesome crew. I will always remember NYC's best crew leader. –Matt E

I will always remember the experiences I had at NYC, working and making friends with the crew. –Austin B.

I will always remember my crew members. –Kelso

The forest and nature they were what got me through some tough times. –Morgan F.

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

From now on I will always use what I have learned to benefit my future business. –D

From now on I will always look at the bright side of things; in other words, I will be optimistic. –Superman

Separate myself from pricks. –Cole D.

I will respect the outdoors more. –J Loew

I will from now on look at trails in a different way. –mpod

From now on I will keep myself from getting under others skin

From now on I will always be responsible for my own actions. –Kelso

From now on, I will always take the initiative and do things to the best of my ability. –Austin B.

I will always remember my friends, crew leader and other crews and crewleaders, I hope they live a happy life. –Morgan F.

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

I learned how to make a drainage dip correctly, a Ford with small rocks and how to cook a little.

I learned to eat dehydrated food, work a 7-9 hour day and how to take responsibility.

How to take leadership at the right moments.

I learned how to cook some, how to build a switchback and how to cope with people. –J Loew.

How to fix a trail, new perspectives on life and the world and some of the aspects of a good trail. –mpod

I learned how to control my anger better, how to try being myself and how to do trail work.

I learned how a trail is made, how to be more independent/self sufficient and I learned that sometimes people are mean just for the sake of hurting other people. –Kelso

I learned how to be more social with various people, I learned new working skills and how to manage myself outdoors, and I found a way to live life better when I'm not at NYC. –Austin B.

I learned the fine art of dependability with a hint of hard work.