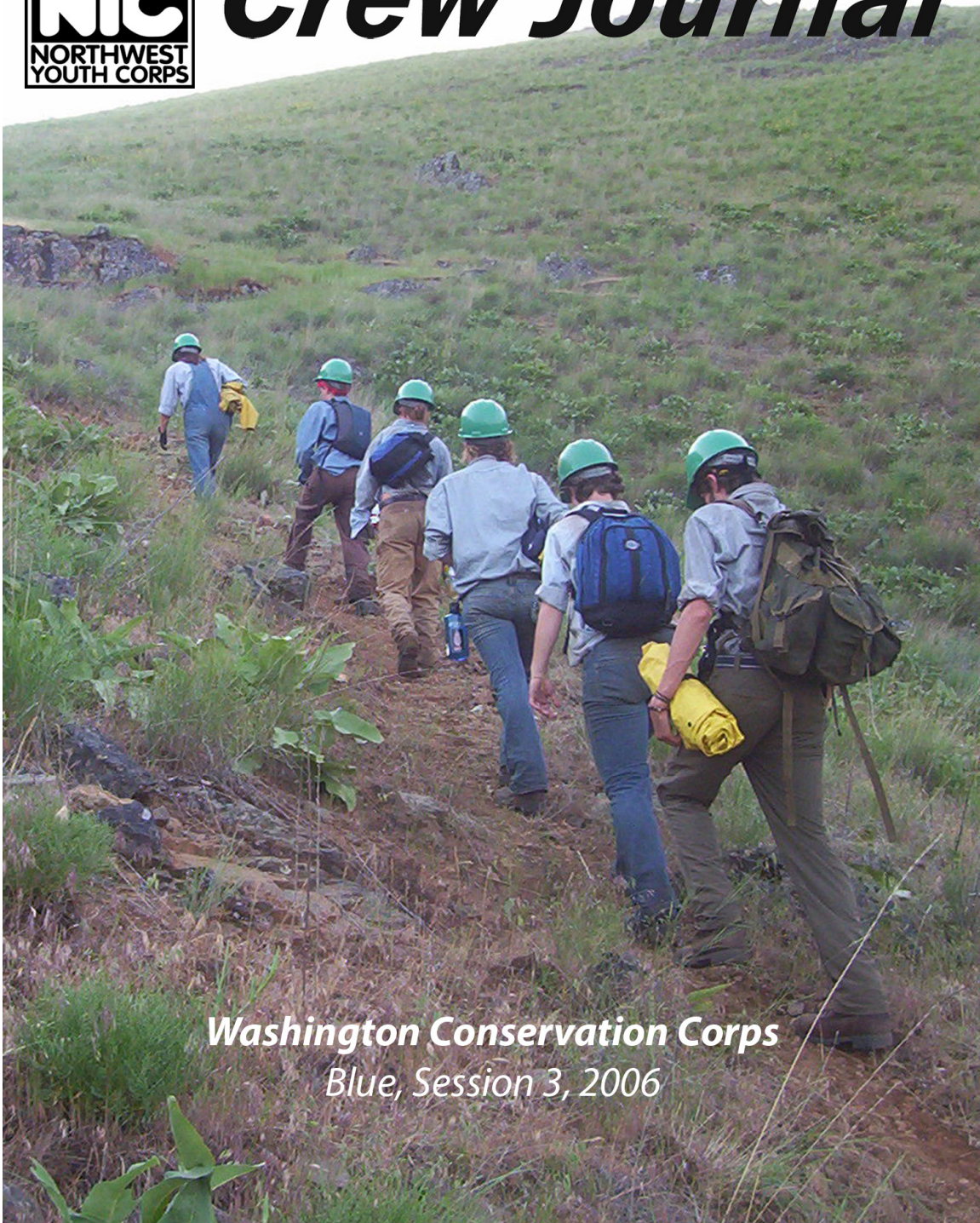




# *Crew Journal*



*Washington Conservation Corps  
Blue, Session 3, 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: Stub Stewart  
Ranger District  
Project Name- Stub Stewart State Park**

Week 1: Date July 31<sup>st</sup>-Aug 4<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: Today has been great so far, we got to our camp and set up without much difficulty, we even used rope and stakes to water proof the tents. ( I love rope and or that, it's so useful.) The only bad thing was the ride over I got Mr. Roboyo stuck in my head, thanks to our crew leader who burned it onto the CD. Anyways it's a great Site and an even better crew. No thunder since bear isn't here (you'd have to be on my last session to understand that though,) and we got one of the good tents too. Hopefully I can do the SEED I wanted to do, it was first week SEED on Wednesday last session. I don't know about this session though, anyways let's eat I'm starving. Oh yeah I'm happy to have no veggies on my crew, nothing against them I actually admire them, but I enjoy meat enough that I actually want it cooked in the meal. Now when cant I start?! –Anthony R.

Monday: This weekend everybody arrived at a school in Eugene and we had a long day of introduction to NYC. Then we went to bed and woke up and found out who was to be in our crew. Then we loaded the car and started driving Noth. Most people slept I guess. I don't know because I was asleep. Then we got to this place and set up camp and ate some food then went to sleep. –Ben M.

Tuesday: This week, our crew has been working severely hard to build a new horse trail in a new State park west of Portland. Today, I woke up far earlier than I would ever like to, feeling like a wild rabid wolverine thirsty for blood. After breakfast I felt better. The day was long and productive and no one quit or gave up, even when we were practically swimming in duff especially Ben. We all preserved and have worked up ravenous appetites. –Paul DS

Wednesday: There is a creek I hadn't seen until today that we are working up to. Until that moment when I glanced at it I felt like a righteous soul working towards heaven, but purgatory doesn't sound too bad I guess. Either that or rearing off to Nirvana, maybe there is less duff there. I look forward to the weekend site and future projects. –Daniel H.

Thursday: When we first started the trail we learned some trail building vocabulary for ex. Topline, hinge, tread and so on. As the week went on we learned that quality is better than quantity, even though we are not the best trail builders in the world we are well on our way. But I still think the most important thing we learned is to work together as a team. (Jordan T.)

Friday: This week our crew went somewhere outside Portland Oregon and we made 1055 feet of trail that was 4.5 to 5 feet wide. We duffed it and made all the top line and we also duffed a bunch of trail we didn't need to Duff we accomplished all of our challenges making all of the trail was a lot of fun and I enjoyed every minute of it the first week flew by very fast. –Justin H.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Table Rock WA  
Ranger District: Salem  
Project Name- Saddle Trail**

Week 2: Date Aug 7<sup>th</sup>-Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: (What does your crew enjoy most so far out of their NYC experience?) I think our groups really enjoyed the weekend site. Also I think everyone enjoyed the rec. trips getting to go somewhere and relax, getting to go to the store, talking to parents/family, getting to buy all the stuff we didn't really need. What I enjoyed is meeting all kinds of different people and hanging out with them. It was just real fun. Also what I enjoyed is/was finding out each week where your going and who your rover is going to be. Oh one more thing is that how we got to listen to what we wanted on the CD player in the van. It makes you feel at home at least that's how I felt listening to good music. What I'm going to enjoy is having Dave, I mean Dan cut my hair. There's yer sign. Let's Eat. –Blake S.

Monday: This weekend our crew went to the weekend site and we were second to the site. Yellow was first but that's okay because we didn't have to cook. Then we lost a crew member which isn't good. Then the next day we went to the Dam and went on a VIP tour then the Rec. site then found out where we were going. –Justin H.

Tuesday: Our crew is hiking Rooster Rock Wilderness trail approximately 2 ¼ miles. What we are doing is maintaining the trail by building a rock wall and also making French drains and water bars. We're building these to prevent water from flowing down the trail and causing erosion. The rock wall is also for the prevention of erosion. Thanks Dan and Zach I can hike the trail easier. They push you real good in a positive manner.

Wednesday: Our goals have not been stated but I believe everyone of us wants to make it through our intense hike everyday. It also seems we all want to smash big stuff and work hard. I think all of us want to exceed the expectations of a ten man crew being we lost one member when we were already down one. Oh think the major goal is just have fun and enjoy the amazing scenery.

Thursday: Today got off to a slow start with a quiet wake-up call. Many people were on edge and a disagreement started them off. We got that over with though and everyone is happy again. I hope tomorrow starts better and ends even half as well. This morning though had an awesome view you could see the entire valley covered in a sea of clouds below you. I feel sorry for anyone who didn't see it. Unfortunately we cannot make all the crew hours so we can't complete the contract because we only have 8 crewmembers and a leader and a rover. –Anthony R.

Friday: Describe your crew's experience while dealing with a nearby wild wind fire? When we first learned of the fire a majority of us panicked. After a minute or two we calmed down and proceeded to plan the best way to get from the fire. The plan was that the crew was to pack as our rover found our leader who was on his day off. That was the fastest pack I've ever seen. We finished by the time our leaders got back and we decided to go where we were camping before which was seen as a safe distance. I believe the crew handled this situation exquisitely and even though none of us have been in a situation like that we all handle it with relative calm and level heads. –Brian C.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Table Rock Washington**  
**Ranger District: Salem**  
**Project Name- Saddle Trail**

Week 3: Date Aug 14<sup>th</sup>-Aug 18<sup>th</sup>

Monday: We ate together at our store stop in a Chinese restaurant. Unfortunately Dan could not attend but he did have his day off. Then we returned to an expected place of solace, but it was in disarray. We had to leave because of an encroaching fire. It was hectic, but we proved ourselves. Monday's work was fulfilling until I slammed a rock onto my wrist. I feel better now. That weighed heavy on my head. –Daniel H.

Tuesday: What has been your greatest challenge this week? What has been my greatest challenge this week was moving camp fastly due to the fire and also knowing I had to hike up rooster rock for another week. I'm trying to work on it and try my best for another 3 days. –Blake S.

Wednesday: This week the crew was very excited to get away from Rooster Rock but we got sent back. We held our head up high though and are working harder and faster than ever. Jordan has completed more steps than I can count and the rest of the crew has built many steps and water

bars. That trail will show little or no erosion by the time we're done with it. The rain will not even know what to do. Our goal is to keep on keeping on. –Benjamin M

Thursday: This week we have gone through a hard trial. We got put back in the same spot as last week but we have pushed through it and learned just how far we can push our selves. We've also learned a lot about leadership which is sweet and a very important skill. This entire week has been about life skills and we have all learned a good amount of it. –Brian

Friday: Our crew had many challenges and accomplishments this week. I'll start off with the challenges. Some challenges this week was to hike 2 ¼ every day to work. And also a challenge was to move camp and find out that we had to hike up the hill. Some accomplishments this week are that we made some great rock bars, a rock wall and check steps. One last accomplishment is no one quit or gave up hiking for the two weeks.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Baker Snoqualmie  
Ranger District: Darrington  
Project Name- Sulphur Creek Camp**

Week 4: Date Aug 21<sup>st</sup>-Aug 25th

Monday: Today was a great start to the week. We hike 3 and ½ miles to work. When camp is already 2 miles in. We also saw many back packers. Here was one group that was on their 7<sup>th</sup> day on a round trip, long hike. Our camp is actually a really good place 75 feet, 25 feet. Flat area with benches and a fire ring right next to the river and pit toilets close by. Super good area and looking forward to the whole trip. –Anthony R.

Tuesday: For this week and the next the easiest way to describe our project is trail maintenance on some sweet trails. We are in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Darrington Ranger District. We are to maintain a couple of trails and so far, it looks like they need it. –Brian C.

Wednesday: This week is to maintain trails and do a 5 mile hike at (Sulphur?) Mountain Trail.. We just finished Danten Creek Trail and know where moving on to a trail closer to camp. – Aaron C.

Thursday: What our crew learned this week is the bear hang, backcountry stoves, we also went to see professional trail builders. We learned that they work for 35 dollars an hour. It was a lot of fun. That's about it. –Blake S.

Friday: This week we lopped brush, cross cut some trees that was fun. We did a lot of lopping it got boring very very fast but it was easy and aloud us to talk. The trail wasn't long but very steep. We had to move the tools every 15 min so they would not get too far behind. We were thankful that it was Friday we need the weekend break to rest. –Aaron C.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Baker-Snoqualmie  
Ranger District: Darrington  
Project Name- Sulphur Creek Camp**

Week 5: Date Aug 28<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>

Monday: What our crew did this weekend is we went down to the river, Nick/rover went fishing. On Sunday we worked for six hours because we have a long drive home Friday and won't be working. It was pretty fun this weekend. –Blake S.

Tuesday: Our project this week is a bunch of different projects we went on a 10 mile hike to lop the trail and brush it when we got to the top it was very cold and there was supposed to be a view but we could only see 20 feet in front of us from fog. –Justin H.

Wednesday: We needed to lop away our sanity through miles of trail. On Tuesday we hiked up sulphur mountain to a site near the summit. The challenges of that were dealing with the altitudes affects on temperature. It was our goal to hike up and do the work with the reward of a beautiful view. But, seeing for miles was not on nature's agenda. After that day, morale suffered so it became our goal to just survive. –Daniel H.

Thursday: Our crew not only learned much about rock work and retaining walls but we also learned a lot about ourselves. Backcountry is difficult and really tests the strength and unity of the crew. There were frustrations and disputes between corps members but we learned to work through our subtle differences and are a stronger crew for it. –Benjamin

Friday: One big challenge was our five mile hike up a mountain and yeah we did it. It was sweet although it was cold and wet that day it was a great accomplishment and we got to prune a part of the trail that doesn't get pruned a lot. We also had to get over our leaving "blues" being we're never gonna see each other being we came from all over but we got over it and had a blast. – Brian C.

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

"When that one dude did that thing." -Brian C.

Having PMA at the weekend site about everything like dishes! -Justin H.

The day we climbed a mountain and saw no view through the clouds. It was cold. Brrrr. –Daniel H.

The first day of work. I wasn't ready for a 5 am wake up call. –Aaron C.

Hiking to Rooster Rock the first time. –Ben M

Hiking up Sulpher Mt. –J.T.

The most challenging hike was Sulpher Mt. –Blake S.

Sulpher Mt. for sure. –Anthony R.

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

Orientation, the session, graduation. –Brian C.

Blake and his famous bud at debrief first week. Having discussion about life with all the crew and rapping with the river Joe. –Daniel H.

Blake shaving his head, orientation and graduation. –Aaron C.

Rooster rock, Blake's head and graduation. –Ben M.

The hikes, the people and the work. –Jordan T.

Shaving my head. –Blake S.

The work, learning and living outdoors. –Anthony R.

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

“LNT” –Brian C.

Leave no trace because our crew leader always told us of them. –Justin H.

Blake's ridiculous haircut. –Daniel H.

Blake shaving his head. –Aaron

How to dig a latrine. –Ben M.

The friends I made! –Jordan T.

Hand in ant hill –Blake S.

The best summer I ever had. –Anthony R.

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

“Laugh at mashed potatoes” –Brian C.

Have more respect for the outdoors. –Justin H.

Call grape beverages purple drink. (except grape juice.) –Daniel H.

Climbing a mountain 5 miles to see nothing but fog. –Aaron

Be more environmentally conscious. –Ben M.

I remember the friends I made. –Jordan T.

Remember that I hiked inside a cloud on numerous occasions. –Anthony R.

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

“Trust, sympathy and how to live in a tent with smelly people.” -Brian C.

About Rock climbing, global warming. –Daniel H.

At NYC I learned about global warming, clouds and the forest life cycle. –Aaron C.

Leadership skills. –Ben M.

Check steps, water bars and leadership. –Jordan T.

To save the world. –Blake S.

Leadership, predicting precipitation and trust. –Anthony R.