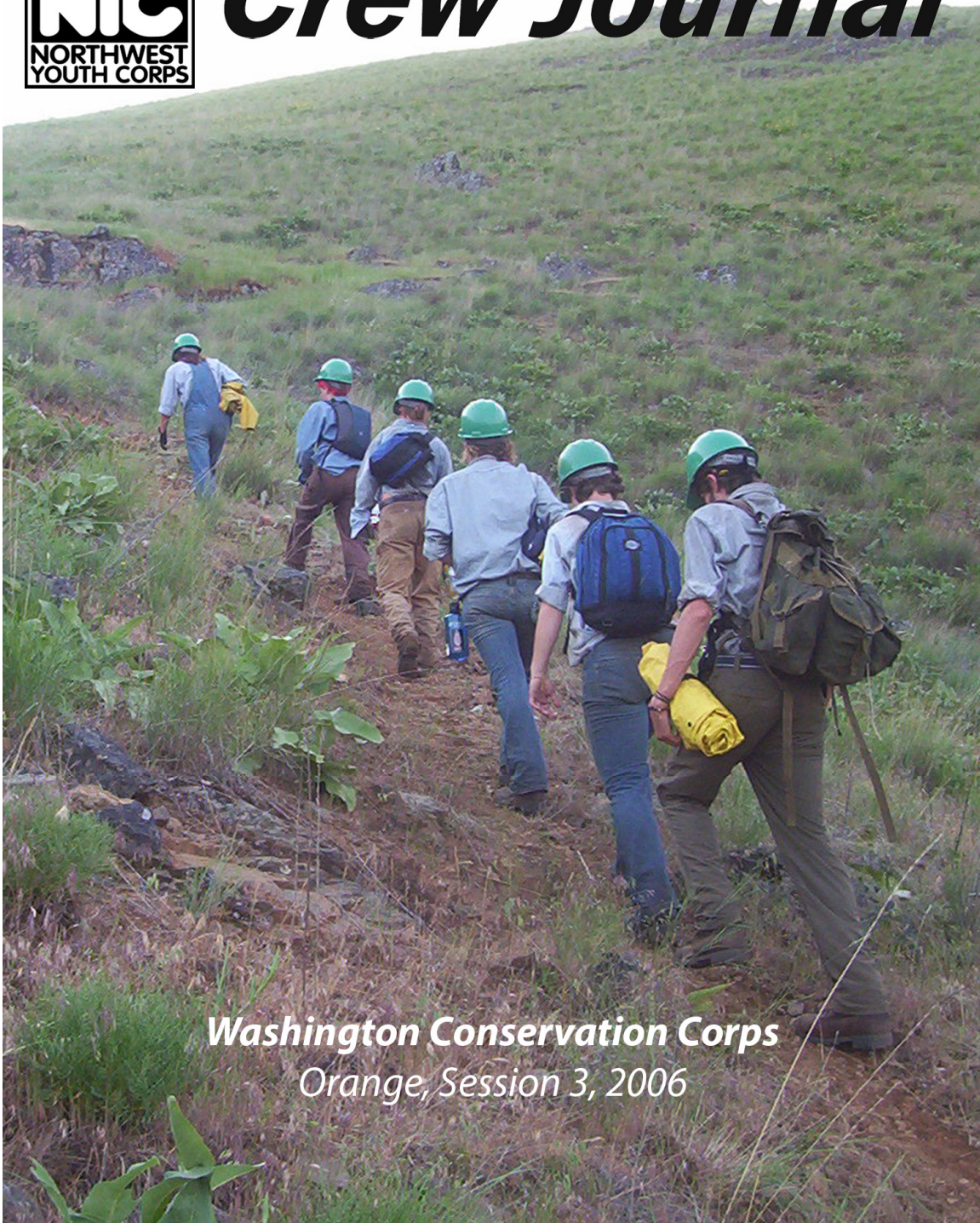




Crew Journal



*Washington Conservation Corps
Orange, 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, 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
Ranger District
Project Name- Eugene BLM- Shotgun Creek

Week 1: Date July 31st-Aug. 4th

Monday: We busted are buns all 9 hours. It was fun but I got hit in the face by a stick. We got a lot done but I think every one had fun on the first day of work. I hope we all have fun the rest of the time we are going to be here. –Marcus.

Tuesday: Our crew is in the fabulous Shotgun Creek Camping ground. Our crew has an awesome project. We are power uping a hug mountain top aka little hill creating an amazing trail for hikers to charge this mountain with full force, without having to stop and find their way up this crazy place. That’s my story and I’m sticking to it. –Samantha A.

Wednesday: (Describe your crew’s goals for the week.) Goals...well, there are the two at each end of a field...but in terms of what we want to get accomplished. We are trying oh so hard to get to know each other, make up as many chuck Norris jokes as possible, sing lots of songs badly and build as much trial as we can. There are you happy now? -Meridan P.

Thursday: What is your favorite tool and what name would you give it should it be yours forever? Why? My favorite tool is the hog hoe and I would name it Albert if it was mine forever. I have always had a thing for

trail tools and I am glad that NYC has given me a chance to express my true undying feelings. I love you Albert! -Katy L.

Friday: Describe our QC game, who won and your favorite part. Oh man, our QC game was awesome because my team won it was awesomely sweet. My favorite part was when you finished something and your crew won the flag. The laundry stop was awesomely sweet to cause I got cheese its. I'm now going to draw a picture. -Sue

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Mount Baker/Snoqualmie
Ranger District: North Bend
Project Name- Dutch Miller Gap**

Week 2: Date Aug. 7th-Aug. 11th

Monday: We all met up with all of the other crews and ate a bunch of food. We went to a bunch of different stores and ate cheeseburgers. Then we went to the week site back county and spent 3 ½ hours on an extremely bumpy road. -Rainier

Tuesday We have to make a trail look pretty so the people hiking on it will be happy. We are in the mosquito infested back country. We are digging out the sides of the trail and removing a lot of rocks and stuff. -Rainier M.

We are in Dutch Miller Gap this week. On our project we have to maintain trail for two weeks. At our campsite we have three creeks. While working the crew got to see a big waterfall it was really nice. -Jodi S.

Wednesday Would you rather kiss Chuck Norris or Jackie Chan? Would you rather drink only vesper or Soda for the rest of your life? Ok now talk about building new trail.... I would rather kiss Chuck Norris if I absolutely had to. I would rather drink only vesper. Today our crew re-routed some trail. We also began to build a rock wall. Our crew collected rocks uphill and brought them down to where our rock wall will be. Nancy K.

Thursday: How do you feel about Chuck Norris? Talk about Rock wall stuff. I feel ecstatic about Chuck Norris and his awesome mess. I will meet him one day and defeat him myself. The rock wall was pretty awesome it kind of rocks to carry the rocks all over the place but it beats doing the regular stuff. -Danny C.

Friday: This week we faxed insurmountable odds, fighting dragons, sneaking past troils, eating back country food, and finally kneeling victorious before Chuck Norris. We were promptly round house kicked to the faces and sent on our way. The God's of weather, talking pity upon us broke the constant rain and shed light on our weary, sweaty bodies. The queen mosquito, however, seems to enjoy sending her undertings to constantly torment us. Sleepless, we look forward to a day of rest and re cooperation to return to our struggle and toil. May the sun smile upon us, and fortune treat us kindly. Until next time. -Meridan P.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Mt. Baker/ Snoqualmie NF
Ranger District: North Bend
Project Name- Dutch Mileage Gap**

Week 3: Date Aug. 14th-Aug. 18th

Monday: We all went on a 5 mile hike to a lake. The lake was round with an island in the middle. There were no fish in the lake. There was a big glacier near by with a big cave going through the middle that was pretty sweet. On Sunday we laid around the whole day. Until then we worked. –Rainier M.

Tuesday: We are at the great alpine lakes and we are using are light sobers to fight off all the grass demons that are trying to mess up our trail. We've been fighting them for 2 whole days. There putting up a good fight but we are conquering them and we will kill them all. –Marcus L.

Wednesday: Describe how you would feed all the starving people around the entire globe...? Chuck Norris could roundhouse kick all of the 3rd world countries into the future when they would get food. Then he could roundhouse kick the world into the past then, Sammie would make dinner and give the left overs to 3rd world countries

Thursday: Would you rather be a squirrel or a mouse? And where would you live? What would you name yourself? I would rather be a squirrel because I don't like mice. I would live in the forest with a lot of acorns so I can eat a lot. I would name myself chipper, because it sound like a squirrels name. –Jodi S.

Friday: Talk about our last weekend site and crew Olympics...Our crew was pretty much the first crew that rolled into the weekend site in Skykomish, WA. We set up camp with the trailers that were there from Red and yellow crew. We had dinner late Friday night thanks to Red crew they are awesome! Melissa, Kristan and Emma went to Big Eddy River for their recreational trip. Dan took us to a trial head for the Pacific Crest Trail we hiked but it was mostly flat. We all had lunch on a big rock off the trial then headed back to the weekend site. Crew Olympics was awesome! There were four components of the crew Olympics: frogger, yellow top chug, Pulaski hold and a saw pack relay. Our crew won the Pulaski hold thanks to Marcus. We also won the Yellow top chug. –Nancy K.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Mt. Baker/ Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Mt. Baker
Project Name- Lookout Mt. Trail**

Week 4: Date Aug 21st-Aug. 25th

Monday: Switchbacks....Describe your love for all 42 of our lovely friends...and our experience with them. Well my switchback experience was extremely hard, tiring and emotionally scaring hoping after everyone we would be at the camp. In this experience their came enjoyment, triumphs and most important self fulfillment. I loved the 42 switchback and climbing the biggest mountain of my life. –Sam I am.

Tuesday: This week we are grubbing. Well today me, Sammy and matt had the pleasure of taking out this big tree that was in the middle of the trial. We are at lookout Mountain trial. To make it easier for hikers to come check out the great view. –Marcus L.

Wednesday: Describe the amazing view from our work site..... The view from our worksite is excellent. We have a numerous amount of mountains. The mountains have snow and trees on top of them. If we start work really early we can see the sun rise over the mountains, and if it'll look like a purple haze. –Jodi S.

Thursday: Would you rather eat PB & J or Butt meat for the rest of your life? PB&J because it's healthier and tastier and you know not horrifically procured. Would you rather fight Darth Vader or Sauron? Darth Vader because Sauron is one of many commanders of a much higher power where as Vader only has one martyr to dispose of in order to save the galaxy from the galactic empire. Plus Vader is cooler.

Eaten Alive by ants or Pecked at by vultures? Vultures, because by the time a vulture takes interest in me I am either dead or close to death so it wouldn't matter. –Matt

Friday: If you could build a lookout tower where would it be and what would you put in it? I would build a lookout tower on a gigantic mountain in the middle of the rainforest. I have always wanted to go to Brazil and be in the rain forest. It would be even cooler to work with my awesome crew and hang out with the panthers and anacondas in the rainforest. The rainforest is becoming extinct so I think now is the time to visit the rain forest. –Katy L.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Mt. Baker/ Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Mt. Baker
Project Name- Lookout Mt. Trail

Week 5: Date Aug 28th-Sept. 1st

Monday: If you could have any other kind of dehydrated food right now what would it be? I would have dehydrated Taco Bell crunch wrap supremes because they taste so good and it's not just beans and rice. –Daniel C.

Tuesday: Write a poem....

Rage Flows within me
Fire and water combine
To fill my insides
Civilization takes it's worries about the environment.
When all it really cares about is profit
Each time a fish dies.
From our Power destructions
My blood pressure rises
To a new high. –Jodi S.

Wednesday: Give a detailed picture of your favorite part of the trail...Flat tread with hug cut banks and rivers, mountains and comfortable tool count spots. Alas, the towering beacons of nature we call trees domination the landscape catch my eye more than any man made contraption, the sound effect of the rushing waters nearby provide inspiration for the most solemn moments, when work ethic is at a low and fatigue reaches an all time high. –Matt S.

Thursday: What is your favorite stretch to do in safety circle? My totally awesome stretch is um...so many stretches to choose from! Well, there is trail bo, declaw, pirate song, and iron man.

They are all good, but the sun salutation is very long, stretchy and makes me all covered in dirt. Oh yeah!

Friday: Name three things you will miss about back country in NYC...One thing I will miss is the weekend sites because they were so laid back. Another thing I will miss is all of the dehydrated food. Like the rice and beans. The last thing I will miss is the long hikes to work and seeing the beautiful views once you get to work the 2.5 mile hike up hills isn't bad either. – Daniel C.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was the first day getting to know every one.

Orientation day was hard because I didn't know anyone at all.

My most challenging day at NYC when we had to hi up hill for 2.5 miles. I really developed a love for hiking from that day and I hope to push myself harder next time. – Katy L.

The day I felt sick, didn't get much done, didn't drink enough water, and continuously whacked myself with tools by accident. Needless to say, such a day did not occur ever after. –Meridan P.

The most challenging day for me was orientation when they told me I would be going to the restroom in the ground/ al natural and also taking a shower once every week if your lucky. –Samantha A.

My most challenging day at NYC was our hike in on our second back country projects. Our packs were pretty heavy and it was 2 ½ miles all uphill. There were 42 switch backs! Our whole crew did it though even though I never thought I could. –Nancy K.

My most challenging day at NYC was sometime during last back country. It was raining pretty bad and I was cold and miserable and I didn't think I could continue working. – Rainier M.

A dark and dreary Sunday. A Sunday that will live in infamy. A Sunday that nearly killed my knees and shoulder in a 2.5 mile uphill struggle pregnant with shotgun bag and the burdens of the crew on my back. I will never do anything that physically taxing again, I'm sure of it, but hell it was worth it. –Matt. S.

The day I had to hike 2.5 miles up a mountain that mostly contained switch backs. The whole time I wanted to quit but I didn't and finished it. -Jodi

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Chopping down trees, meeting everyone in my group and finishing. –Marcus L.

Dinners; places; rock walls. –Daniel C.

When me an Rainier pushed a huge boulder up a huge hill. Laughing my butt off at every break. Being with Maddy at the weekend site. –Katy L.

Pushing large rocks; moving large logs and safety circle. –Meridan P.

My three most favorite experiences at NYC were the views, they were so enchant -able I can't describe how amazing they were or the feeling I felt. The laughter of all the crazy jokes, and the crazy stories. Last but certainly not least the people; who they are and who they aspire to be. –Samantha A.

My three favorite NYC experiences were laughing all the time with the crew because they're all awesome, another favorite experience was when the crew worked our way up to a look out tower and you couldn't see anything but mountains. It was amazing. My last favorite experience was the third weekend when my parents come to visit me and my brother. –Nancy K.

Joking around with my crew; stopping at stores; hanging out with my crew during back country. –Rainier M.

Bathing in the greatness of nature; eating sub par yet delicious front country food; being consistently Manly. –Matt

The food; the work; the mountains. –Jodi S.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing I will always remember is everyone on my crew and how much fun we had. –Marcus L.

I will always remember how to un-dehydrate dehydrated food, and how to make rock structures. –Daniel

I will always remember the people I had such a good time with and also I will always remember the experiences and adventures I have endured at NYC. –Katy.

The view from the top of lookout mountain. –Meridan P.

I will always remember the most amazing view and the people the great times and crazy amount of laughter with all of them, they will always be with me. –Samantha A.

One thing I will always remember is the day our crew worked overtime to achieve our goal of reaching the look out tower. The view from the tower was incredible and really worth all the uphill hiking and hard work. –Nancy K.

When all of our stuff got stolen. It was a very crazy night and we met a lot of interesting people. –Rainier M.

All of the above! -Matt S.

I will always remember the taste of mac and cheese with nature burgers. –Jodi S.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always treat the environment better than I did. –Marcus L.

I will always look at people by there character and not their cover. –Daniel C.

From now on I will always work a little bit harder and put the best foot forward. –Katy L.

Take a step back every once in a while. –Mreidan

From now on I will always remember to take a step back and enjoy life because you only get to live it once....-Samantha A.

From now on I will always appreciate the simplicity of being out here. I will also grow to appreciate aspects of my “normal life.” -Nancy K.

Go camping and actually enjoy it. Refrain from eating PB and J sandwiches. –Rainier M.

Learn to appreciate everything I have in and out of nature. –Matt S.

From now on I will always know not to mix nature burger with Mac and Cheese. –Jodi

At NYC I Learned...

At NYC I learned how to coach a fish with a showcase and a hook. –Marcus L.

I learned that you cant make muffins on a whisper light, bee stings on the ear and hot chocolate is good cold. –Daniel C.

I learned that the way to appreciate someone is to merely listen and also I learned a lot about trail and most of all I learned about my self. –Katy L.

I learned to push myself to complete projects correctly the first time, take responsibility for my actions and what I can change about myself to make my life better. –Meridan P.

I learned so much from NYC. The most influential thing I learned was to trust in myself that I can do anything I put my mind to...Samantha A.

At NYC I learned that the day is dependant upon your attitude. I also learned that in the right state of mind there is so much you can accomplish. –Nancy K.

How to be very tolerant to the rules of a job and how to be a dependable member of a team. I'm still working on it. –Rainier M.

How to use tools, how to make trail look reeeeeeeaaaalll good. –Matt S.

I learned that nature burger tastes nasty in mac and cheese. I learned how to use a gas stove. I also learned how to cook for eleven people. –Jodi S.