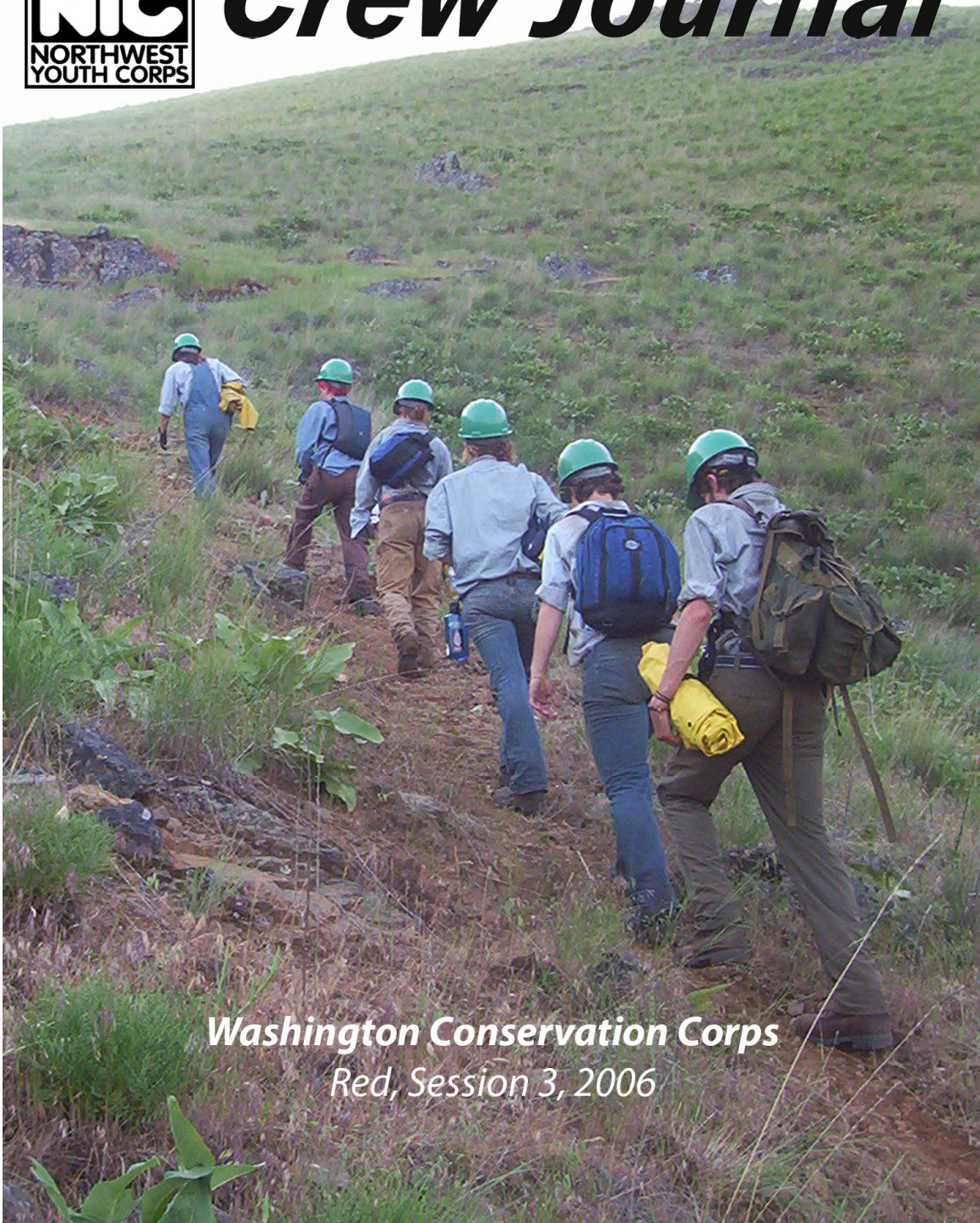




Crew Journal



*Washington Conservation Corps
Red, 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- Shotgun Creek Loop Trail

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

Sunday: This morning when I woke up I was really nervous about what team I was going to be on. At that point I really had no idea that I would be camping with such awesome people. But anyhow...Now that we are out in the woods I'm a lot more relaxed. Well what else can I say, Maddie is an excellent hider as well as the others, piggy wiggy is an awesome game and black magic is weird but also awesome. We also have a great guitar player, I couldn't dream to be that good and the flute is pretty cool as well. But anyhow...all in all every one is awesome and I will so be here in five weeks!! -Mary M.

Monday: Saturday we arrived at NYC did rotations and gear, tents. Sunday we got in to our crews and found out where we were going. We are now at shotgun creek making dinner. -Catherine H.

Tuesday: This week, we are building some awesome structures in Shotgun Creek recreational area on the shotgun loop trail. We are building and rebuilding several awesome staircases. Making an awesome ford over a stream and constructing some awesome turn pikes. It's awesomely fun. -The Awesome Grey P.

Wednesday: Our goals for this week are to work as hard as we can and get as stinky as we can. Our main goal for this week is to finish our

projects on shotgun creek trail. We finished a turn pike, and some steps leading down to our stream crossing that leads to the river. It looks great and much safer for people to walk down and across. We definitely reached most of our goals for this week. But there's still two more days left, so I'm sure were all ready to get more stinky and dirty. –Bryce L.

Thursday: Our crew this week has learned the very valuable skill of team work and the importance of hard work and good strong effort which will follow us for many other days to come. So in closing we have learned how to survive and live successfully in the ways of teamwork, effort and hard work. –Joel S.

Friday: So it's Friday already? In a weeks time we completed many projects and became a family in a sort of way. We made 2 stair cases, made one turn pike, improved another and even started a 3rd turn pike. Hauling out the freshly sawed trees was difficult. Communication was key. We successfully installed all of the turn pikes poles which was a major pumping up factor.

The stair cases were known to be frustrating from what I heard, they were. Adjusting then readjusting, the adjusting a third time was tiring but in the end, those stairs were solid. Kinda like our crew. There have been quirks with our group. Through talking issues out and more adjustments we were able to come together and become a solid NYC crew proud to wear our Red helmets. –Maddy S.

National Forest or area that the work took place
Ranger District
Project Name- Stub Stewart State Park

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

Sunday: This is a story of a crew fighting for what they want the most in life... a life! This crew of constitutes of 12. What people didn't know was they all had super powers! Peach's with super strength and the power to eat, grow and turn into peaches super fast. Mary with the power of flying and the power to control sheep of all kinds. Katty With the power to make plants grow and control them and the power to turn into a kiwi. Grey with the power of mind control and make food appear from nothing. Casey with the power to make ice from air and to leap tall buildings to get to malls faster and the leaders Emma with her deadly Emma rays and the power to be the boss. Michael with the power to change into anything and fart deadly gas on command. Maddy with the power of invisibility and master yoga with out hurting herself. Bryce with the power to create and control fire and work hard. Joel with the power to explode things and to do a back flip at random. Sarina with the power to make sonic booms and do front flips at random and last but in no way the least...Joe, with the power to control all technology and to make everyone break out in song. –Michael B.

Monday: Happy Birthday Grey. 17? Your almost out of the house, out of school? What are you going to do? Will you amaze even more people with your well cooked and delicious meals? Or, will you preserve your mind power abilities from Mike's analysis and fight crime the rest of your

life with your mind controlling abilities. What ever you do never change your personality. You're a great guy. Happy Birthday from the crew!

Tuesday: (What do you like the best about the program?) I like the fact that the program is like a family. You learn the true value of hard work and you can eat some good food that you make yourself and also the good friends you make. –Joel S.

Wednesday: Once there was a person, they were an ordinary person with ordinary dreams and ambitions. This person joined the Northwest Youth Corps and sweats more than they ever have before in their life. The skills that they brought home makes them change their life forever and brought health and happiness to their life. This is the story of almost all of the participants in NYC. It is my story, my brothers story, our friends story and the story of every other NYC alum I have met. This is the reason why I returned and why so many other people have recommended this program to others. –Grey P.

Thursday: This week my crew learned how to make level trail and switchbacks. (switchback are kind of fun.) We also learned how to work more as a team, do our chores faster and wake up faster. We started to get our trail eyes and bust out more trail in less time. We work more efficiently together and we get along with each other better

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Mt. Baker/ Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Skykomish Rd.
Project Name- West For Foss River Footbridge**

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

Sunday: As the armies march on the city Joe got wind of it through the news while watching family guy on the job. Emma gives him a weird look and says, “what’s wrong in the world today Joe or are you too caught up in family guy to know?” Joe gets a smirk on his face and says “ha, ha, no but there is an army attacking a city.” Everyone drops there tools and takes off there ppg’s. Mary grabs peach’s and starts to fly. Joes makes a jet pack and starts to fly. Mary turns around to grab Katty as she turns into a kiwi and peach’s turns into a peach. She then turns around again and follows Joe. Michael turns into a huge cargo jet and everyone else gets on and Mike takes off. Maddy use’s her power to clock everyone for a surprise attack. They get to the city and see all the horror that the army has created. Joel then creates an explosion in the middle as Bryce and Casey use there powers to shoot at some parts of the armies. Joe makes some of the robots fight one another as Mary drops Peach’s and Katty off. Peach’s then runs into a crowd of them and begins to destroy them as Katty makes roots deadly as they strike down the enemy. To be continued....-Mike B.

Monday: Red crew had an awesome weekend. On Saturday all of us hiked to an old fire station. I enjoy being out here and there. I just hope that everyone feels the same. Our crew is doing great and if all of us are here in 2 more weeks after this week then Emma has to keep her promise. Good luck to us. –Sabrina

Tuesday: Red crew is going to hit is hard this week. Our project is to rebuild a bridge that leads to Foss Creek, remove a giant root and build a nice rock wall towards another bridge leading over Foss creek. We are all staying in Mt. Baker/Snowqualmie Wilderness area. We are all enjoying the area and enjoy the sound of Foss creek River water. We all hope to complete our project....Actually we will, because we are all determined to leave our mark. –The Red Crew.

Wednesday: We, as a crew have many goals for this week. One, however, stands above the rest. Finish our bridge. We must do this by the end of the week or heads will roll. Our other major goal is one we can all believe to be true- have fun, or die as my fellow crew members have been quoted saying, “give me more free time, or give me death!” I tried explaining to them the process while they stood in a picket line, but my delicate prose delivered via Emma’s Axe master 3,000 left them on the ground speechless. –Grey

Thursday: Today our crew worked on building a bridge and on making steps leading to a rock path and we worked as a team to do this. Later today we teamed up to help finish other chores and then sat down to another great meal prepared by our chef Grey. –Joel

Friday: Our crew rocked it this week. Completing a really creative project, including a bridge, a wooden staircase and a rock causeway. It was a challenging and rewarding week and we definitely walked away proud. Way to go Red crew! -Maddy S

National Forest or area that the work took place: Mt. Baker Trail
Ranger District: Skykomish RD
Project Name- Deception Lake Trail

Week 4: Date Aug 21st-Aug 25th

Monday: Our awesome Crimson Crew got to the weekend site after showers and laundry. On Saturday was the NYC Olympics and parents day. On Sunday we packed for a 2 week back country trip, unfortunately Chloe from Yellow had to leave NYC. It took over 7 hours from where we parked to get to camp. I am just glad that today we are finally getting settled. –Sabrina M.

Tuesday: Sunrise or Sunset...Explain why? That’s easy....Sunrise because to me is the sign of a new day and the start of challenges ahead, but on the other hand sunset is a sign for a day well lived. –Bryce L.

Wednesday: Would you rather be wind, water or sunlight? Why? Although the choice is difficult, after some careful thought the answer is clear- I would chose water. Let’s examine the pros and cons of each. Sunligh-at first glance this choice seems the best. It provides life for all, and warms the body and soul. However, it dies upon impact and travels so fast that it would take the fun out of our trip. Being wind would be fun, but winds are always dying and can’t exist without an atmosphere. Water, however, will never run out, can exist in many different forms, can sooth or hurt as well as flow, full and float! Plus, it’s the key ingredient for life. –Grey

Thursday: Describe a song you would think explains Red Crew: Why? The song I think best describes Red crew would be “Goin back to Cali” by the Notorious B.I.G because he goes there to work and make money but also to have a good time. –Casey F.

Friday: What’s your Birthday Wish? That once this session is over, I can reflect upon it with a smile.

Saturday: Where do you go when you need comfort and yourself? Explain: Middle of the woods by myself in the forest is when I feel home. By a creek in the forest is home. Hard to explain. – Madelinn S.

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

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

Monday: As smoke rises up from the ash's and the smell of the smoke chokes everyone in reach everyone is struggling to get out of the flame's of the raging fire. Emma and Red crew get out as Casey puts out some of the fire with his power to create ice. –Mike B.

Tuesday: What do you value most about others? This is a really hard questions but I would have to value personality the most because I think it is what makes us who we are. –Catherine H

Wednesday: What is some things you think everyone should hear at least once in their life? Something that I think every person should hear, is either....The ocean, thunder or the sound of a (fah?) The ocean because it's very soothing and calming to the human mind, and a lot of people don't get the chance to listen to the waves crash on rocks. Thunder, because it's very interesting to the human ear, and can be very relaxing if you want it to. Or maybe even scary at times. A (fah?)...because it's the most relaxing thing to me....when I need a good night sleep. Everyone should try it sometime in their life!

Thursday: Reflections on the past session: today, after the final tool count was complete, I hiked and thought over this session. This is it! We are done! Yay? I am as, if not more eager to see my family again after our extended periods of absence from the modern world. But us 10 youth and our different leaders have bonded into more than a crew or companions. We have found family among each other. This is the hardest thing about NYC. – People may whine and moan about chores, hikes or hard work, but none of these complains can hold a candle to the abrupt separation from the friends, no brother and sisters we have lived with, cooked with, toiled with, fought with and even cried with on these five weeks. Our lives that we have spent on this job that is more than a job. I, for one, would not complain if this program was extended just to spend more time with my awesome crew. –Grey

Friday: The crew's biggest challenges the cold and the rain, but also knowing that soon it's over and it's time for the goodbyes. We worked through the cold and the rain and turned a possibly terrible situation into a fun and productive day, and I'm hoping that the end of the program will turn out the same.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

I would have to say my most challenging day was the 3.5 mile hike when we went back country for two weeks, but it was worth it. –Catherine H.

The one day when it rained. –Casey F.

Second to our last day when it rained and it was so, so cold. –Mary M.

When it rained it was so cold. –Damen T.

The day it rained when we were back countrying –Madelinn S

The day in which we hiked to our work site. 3.5 miles mostly uphill with heavy packs. –Grey P.

My hardest challenge here was the day we hiked in for the 2 week back country. It took 7 ½ hours to hike in and I was sweating bullets. –Michael B.

My most challenging day was definitely the 3 ½ mile hike back country. It was an awesome challenge but very hard. But I felt very good about it after the fact.

My most challenging day was the 3.5 mile hike to work during the two week back country. –Sabrina M.

My most challenging day was probably the hike in for the first time. –Joel S.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Meeting new people, going places I have never been to, having fun. –Catherine H.

The back country hike, meeting new people, the experience. –Casey F.

Going new places, meeting everyone and learning to play more on the guitar. –Mary M.

Having fun, meeting cool new people, going to Washinton. –Damon T.

Meeting the best people, seeing and experiencing beautiful places. –Madelinn S.

Chilling with the crew, living back country and domination at arm wrestling. –Grey P.

One was meeting my crew at first and then getting to know them, another was working with them as they make me stronger and the last was one night I couldn't sleep, so I stepped outside and Bryce needed to go to the bathroom and stepped out and woke up Casey and he stepped out to see what was up. We talked for a minute and me and Bryce

looked up and Casey said he wanted to see a shooting star and right then one shot across the sky. –Michael B.

My three favorite experiences here at NYC were...1 meeting and different types of people and bonding with them! It would have to be the projects that we as a team would complete or almost complete. I enjoyed the (Mushe?) build as well!! The last one would have to be living in the woods in general. It was definitely a great experience living in the forest for so long, it's a great feeling and I really enjoyed it. –Bryce.

Meeting people, going places and camping out. –Sabrina M.

Making new friends, seeing more of Washington and eating cheese cake. –Joel

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

The friends I have made and the places I have been. –Catheran H.

All of it. –Casey F.

Everyone –Mary M.

My crew. –Damon T.

How beautiful shooting stars are. –Madelinn S.

Everyone and everything. –Grey

My new family. –Michael

I will definitely never forget the eleven people I bonded with for five weeks, also the places we went and saw. It was great. R.

The laughs. –Sabrina

Remember?? As if I would forget. –Joel

From Now On I Will Always...

Be more positive. –Catheran H.

Work harder. –Casey F.

Work much harder. –Mary M

Have more respect for the forest. –Damon

Push myself further. –Madelinn

Live life to the fullest. –Grey

Lead when needed. –Michael

I will always think about living in town, way different. And living in the back country way better. Just because it's more peaceful and more quiet. –Bryce

Try to do things on time. –Sabrina M.

Live for the moment... -Joel

At NYC I Learned...

I have learned how to live effectively with 11 other people. –Catherine H.

How to cook some what, how to live well with the same people, how to not rely on technology. –Casey F.

I learned that I am capable of so much more. –Mary M.

To work as a team player. –Damon T.

I learned that people are much more likely to be your friend when you drop your own prejudices. –Madelinn S.

I learned to overcome personal challenges, how to impart my wisdom in situations that require careful judgement and how to listen to other people during any situation. –Grey P.

I learned I can lead and motivate people to push it harder than before. I love it. –Michael B.

I learned how to live and work with 11 other people for 5 weeks. Also, I learned a lot about environmental care. I learned a lot about work ethics and tool usage! -Bryce

Living with other people, knowing what needs to be done, I don't know. –Sabrina M.

How to push myself, how to eat dirt. ☺ -Joel S.