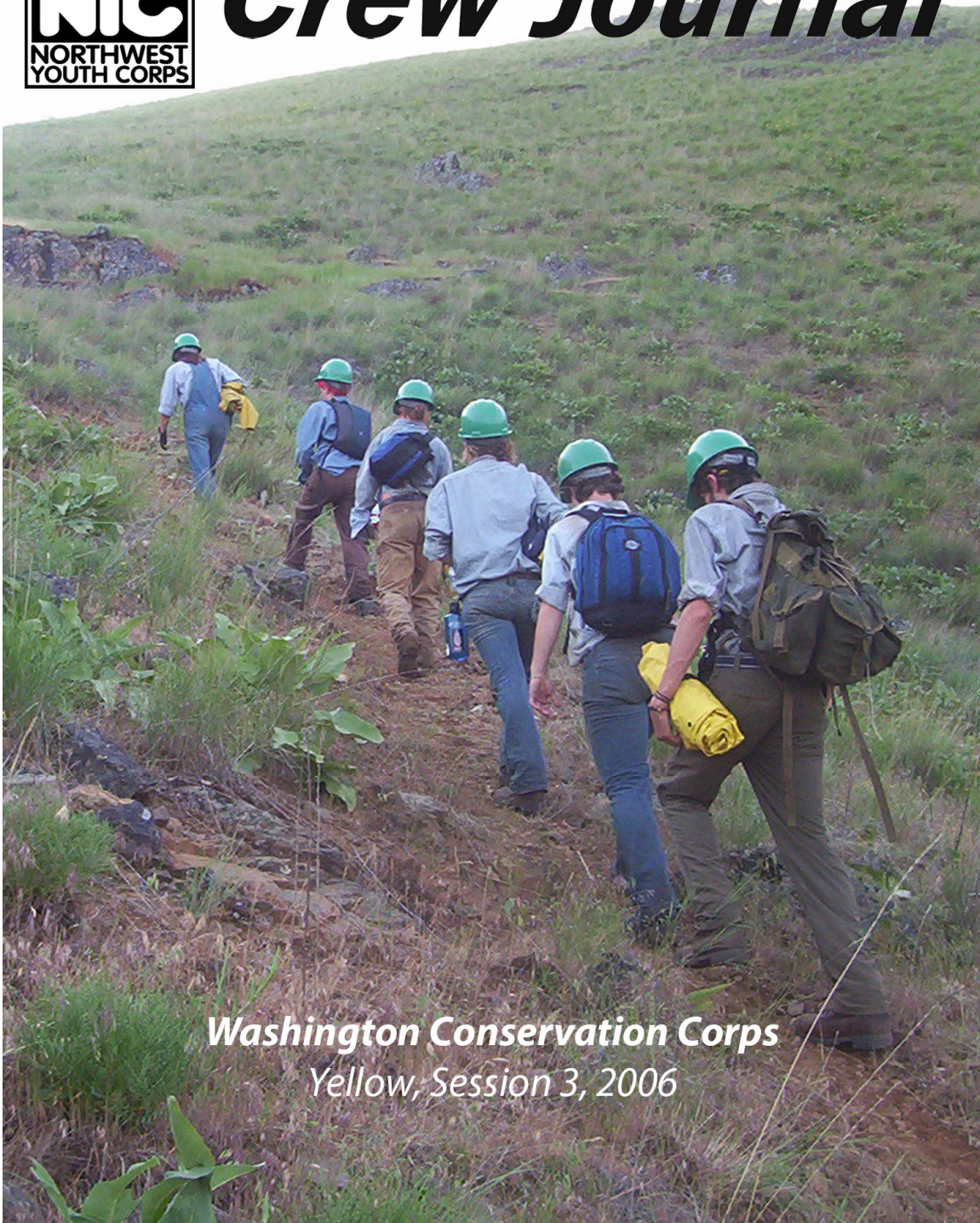




Crew Journal



*Washington Conservation Corps
Yellow, 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: Marion County
Ranger District
Project Name- Aumsville**

Week 1: Date July 31st-Aug 4th

Sunday: Positive First impression of the crew: A majority of the other people have done this before, so I know they'll be positive hard workers. Everybody seems really nice, friendly and willing to be friends with the rest of the crew. It took awhile to get to know some of the quieter people, but I can tell already that they will work hard and make for some awesome friends. Our crew leaders are very friendly and energetic, which will only enhance the experience and make it that much more enjoyable! -Chloe S.

Monday: This weekend we oriented with other people in WA-3 and had some big fun. Sunday morning we found out what crews we were in. Alright Yellow crew! Afterwards we packed up and headed down the road. Our crew will be spending the week in Aumsville building retaining walls and an entire bridge. -Mike J.

Tuesday: This week we are building a bridge in Aumsville. Currently we are working on building a bridge and creating a sort of rock ramp on both sides for the other. These ramps and the bridge we are helping construct will allow everyone to enjoy the park in Aumsville. -Jaunita

Wednesday: Kristian's set goals for today are to make a ramp towards the first bridge on both ends. The first side is finished, but some trouble has been added to the furthest end with the rock wall. Another goal set by Kristian was to make a whole bridge from scratch and then an approach on either side. So far most of the bridge is finished though more problems were crossed

and they will be over come hopefully tomorrow. The crew is awesome and worked extremely hard today and should keep up the good work. –Aaron.

Thursday: Our crew learned how to do rock work for the bridge. I was surprised how many returners didn't know how to do rock work. Part of the crew learned how to do the bridge work on the south bridge, too. I think this crew is sweet and everybody is nice and works hard. This will be a good session. –Kenny D.

Friday: Oh lay oh lay oh lay oh lay. Oye oye. –Sean P.

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

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

Sunday: (If you had to pick a theme song for yourself what would it be? Explain: I would choose I've been workin on the railroad." Because I've been actually working on an old railroad site, plus I like trains. –Jaunita F.

Monday: If you had to have a hero (who was not your family) who would it be? If I had a hero it would have to be Jet LI. Li is my hero because his martial art skills are amazing compared to any other person, except Bruce Lee of course. He became more of a hero for some reason when he died during his nearest movie, but all of his movies were awesome, none the less, I wish he could have made it through this accident, unfortunately he died only about an hour after the injury from what I've heard. –Aaron

Tuesday: What is the cutest thing you've see this week while dishing out leftovers I noticed a gap in the circle. Someone was missing. It was Aaron hiding behind a tree with his hoody over his head looking almost scandalous. He was spotted and given all the leftovers DOH he ate with the serving spoon sulking.

Wednesday: My most embarrassing moment or best childhood memory. My best childhood memory is when I was 6. I was riding my blue little tricycle and I rolled over onto my back and back onto the wheels and kept on riding. –Thomas

Thursday: What super hero do you most identify with? Justice guy....because he sees no difference in anybody and everybody get who they deserve. Or maybe homeless guy, because he never has to count to anything. Actually is really the flash. Because hes so unknown and underestimated. –Joe D.

Friday: Wind flys by over a steep rocky cliff and I am rolling down it. Written by Kyle A. and Juanita F.

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

Week 3: Date Aug 14th-Aug 18th

Monday: (Lesson you've learned over the years that can be passed on.) Don't procrastinate. Once you do it, it's really hard to get out of the rut. Being responsible and completing tasks in a timely manner is an important life skill. There are so many benefits to being responsible and none for procrastination. –Chloe

Tuesday: Sunrise or Sunset? Why? Sunrise for a few reasons. The sunrise brings a new day, a new opportunity each day to start over and live happily. It awakens the world and encourages it to thrive to its fullest potential. It brings warmth and joy after a cold night. The sunrise is the bringer of opportunity and success. –Sean P.

Wednesday: Where do you see yourself in ten years? I see myself living happily married with children and perhaps becoming well known for music, but I don't know if I want the fame of a celebrity or not. I will probably be working on a career or something so I don't have financial problems later in life. I believe I will be happy in ten years from now. –Kenny D.

Thursday: If you had to change one something about yourself what would it be and why? I would like to have more confidence. –Thomas

Friday: What did you like best about your last 2 weeks in the backcountry? Worst? What I like most about the last 2 weeks is the feeling of satisfaction I got every time I went to work. I love pushing myself to new challenges and I felt satisfied with my work overall, at moments, or some days I know I could have improved but for my first, (not my last) time. I thought I pushed myself well. I loved the area of which we were in. It was beautiful waking up every morning and going to bed every night. The site that I saw took my breath away. These past two weeks made me see much clearer at things in my personal life that I can make better. I do believe that I'm coming away from Mt. Baker with a more positive outlook on life. Most of all I loved the leaders and crew members, getting to know everyone was my favorite part coming to Mt. Baker not really knowing any of them and now I feel close to all of them and I don't think I'll very have better leaders in my entire life. Honestly they are the best! I love you all!!

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

Week 4: Date Aug 21st-Aug 25th

Monday: If you had to be a tree what kind would you be? If I was a tree I would be a "purple heart." Only because it is so unique from all others in that it has purple mark in the middle. – That Crazy Guy Joe

Tuesday: What would be your dream job. I don't really have one dream job that I'd like to do. Three of my dream jobs that would correspond to each other would have to be; drawing, writing and game designing. I'd like to be an artist because I am good at it and it is rewarding to be a writer for about the same reasons. Last of all I would like to be a game designer because I like to play video games and I want to make one on my own. –Aaron

Wednesday: What does the fog/mist over the lake and through the trees remind you of? The fog over and through the trees and lake reminds me of a creepy movie. Looking out at the lake now I imagine a ghost ship passing by. I hope I don't have a nightmare tonight. –Mike J.

Thursday: All the worlds a stage and you are purely a player. Please describe your interpretation. I am behind the scenes. I help others and help things go smoothly. Many don't see me or know what I do but I know that I play my part on the "stage" -Sean P.

Friday: Things NYC has made you hate. (for example I now hate time, questions PB & J rules....you cannot steal my answers.) Expensive things, fast food even though I never really did NYC has made me hate it more. –Inez F.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Snoqualmie
Project Name- PCT-Bear Gap**

Week 5: Date Aug 28th-Sept 1st

Monday: If you had to be a lawyer a stay-home parent or a teacher what would you be? I would be a teacher. I think education is one of the most valuable things to possess and being able to give others that necessity would make me feel very useful in the world. The reward of teaching other would make me love my career. –Sean P.

Tuesday: Please write a Haiku
We all worked hard all day long
We swam after work
Now I'd like to go to bed

Wednesday: What does it mean to be independent. I think independence means that you know how to take care of yourself without the help of others and it can also be a part of solitude. –Kyle A

Thursday: If you could change one thing about yourself what would it be? I would have excellent balance because then I wouldn't fall and I would have less bruises and wouldn't cause people to run after me. It sucks filing a heavy pack. –Juanita

Friday: What are you thing right now in that seat on this bus after 5 weeks in the woods? Right now I'm thinking about all the great friends I've made in a months time, I'll miss the good times. I'm also contemplating about the upcoming school year and the goals I now have set for myself. -Mike

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day this session was the first day of our last project. We hiked seven miles overall and it was very difficult to keep the crew motivated and productive. –Sean P.

My most challenging day was when I had to confront my crew about our poor work ethic and quality of what they did. I really hate having to be negative. –Joe D.

My most challenging day was when I had to be leader of the day, because that day was rather bad weather and everyone was depressed and it was hard to keep up PMA. – Kenny D.

My most challenging day was my second attempt at leader of the day. I was feeling blue and didn't feel that I did everything I could to make sure our crew was doing great and enjoying the day. –Mike J.

The second week I had to hike and had an asthma attack. I wanted to give up, but that's all I used to do was give up. I remember that was a challenging mental moment and I can't believe I overcame it. –Inez F.

My most challenging day at NYC was Monday of week two. We had to build new trail on a steep hill and I was afraid of rolling down the hill, but I got over it and it turned out to be pretty fun. –Jaunita F.

My most challenging day was the hike in on the fourth week. I didn't think I would make it. –Tom Tom

My most challenging day at NYC was the day in week two when our crew started falling apart because a lot of people were getting hurt. I didn't want to work extra hours. –Kyle A.

My most challenging day in NYC was Wednesday of the fifth week because I started to think about home and my dad. I wanted to see him but I was so close to finishing the program I didn't want to leave. –Aaron N.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Taking break over a gap and seeing Mt. Rainier so close; drinking mate on the way to the weekend site listening to Sean Paul and Kristian's chainsaw wake up. –Sean P.

Cramming red, Grey, Rainier, Dan and myself in a phone booth on a rec. trip; showing up to the weekend site wearing "the Yellow submarine;" Kristian's chainsaw wake up. – Joe D.

Eating lunch with Mt. Rainier for a view; The feeling when we came back to camp after 3 miles of hiking and 9 hours of work; the feeling of the last day of work. –Kenny D.

Seeing our site the fourth week in back country; having my first solo in 3 session. I enjoyed the peace; Chilling with friends after work, just talking and being listened to. – Mike J.

Being accepted for who I am by my peers; going to work everyday, pushing myself; hanging out with my crew listening to people and realizing how great this experience is. –Inez

Running after an ice cream truck and sinking into the sand; eating ice cream in front of a store on a hot day; chillin with friends everyday and making friends that last a lifetime. – Juanita F.

Working on the PCT and getting some amazing views; finishing the session, back packing into a site. –Tom Tom

Taking break in the fourth week on a hill staring at Mt. Rainier and thinking about life; pulling in to the second weekend site blaring “Yellow Submarine.”; Finishing 2 ½ miles of the PCT in one week and seeing how excited everyone was to do that. –Kyle A.

Working on the PCT especially since it is a historical trail; meeting a few people that made me laugh and that I could talk to; accomplishing my goals to finish this session of NYC. –Aaron N.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Every night after a long day of work, the whole crew would sit together and discuss topics. Now I remember to discuss topics that are important to be informed in the world. Communicate!! –Sean P.

The first day, Sean and myself went completely bezerk and our first timers were like who are these crazies. –Joe D.

Listening to SEED’s while being wrapped up in our sleeping bags with hot water in our nalgenes because it was so cold. –Kenny D.

Anytime on the worksite or off, when I could talk to someone and here about their life. I loved finding out what has happened in peoples lives and see what type of person they have become because of it. –Mike J.

The feeling of trusting a group of people talking to my crew members hearing their stories realizing how much I care about people especially my crew. –Inez F.

I will always remember all the fun times I had hanging out with my crew and how good food tastes at the end of the work day. –Jaunita

I will always remember to got a job. –Tom Tom

I will always remember all the awesome long bus rides blaring music and hearing people laughing and just enjoying the good times in life. –Kyle A.

The sites I've been to in Washington including the PCT. –Aaron N

From Now On I Will Always...

I will always look on the bright side of things and say to myself when in doubt. "It can always get worse." –Sean P.

I will look for the greatest potential in everybody I work with and try to squeeze it out if I can. –Joe D.

I will always appreciate little things like warmth or toilet paper. –Kenny D.

Think about my options, it could keep me out of trouble. –Mike J.

Push myself hard. –Inez F.

I will always persevere and try not to procrastinate. –Juanita

Think about my future. –Tom Tom

I will always appreciate the warmth of a bed and good friends. –Zack

Wake up in the morning and clean up my night things. –Aaron

At NYC I Learned...

I learned that PMA is your best survival tool in life; leadership skills are great to have under your belt; peoples hydration is key to do anything. –Sean P.

The realization that leading a group of your peers is beyond challenging; you can make a breakfast out of ramen noodles; heating the femoral artery is a great way to stay warm. – Joe

Drinking water really does make a difference; some new ways to make knots that hold; safety. –Kenny

Why when I'm motivated and attempt to be happy things work out better; initiative is the one thing I could improve; I can push myself more than expected. –Mike J.

PMA is the most valuable thing; life is what you make it; survival skills. –Inez F.

I can do anything if I try; Life's a garden dig it; Eating out of a helmet is bomb digity. – Juanita F.

I don't like everyone I meet; The people that want something to change in the world are bossy and laugh a lot and do nothing about it; I like doing work with power tools. –Tom Tom

I can be as open as I want and people will accept me; it's harder than it sounds to spend five weeks with the same 11 people 24 hours a day.; Backpacking is more of an interest than I thought to me. –Kyle A.

About the environment and its uses and misuse; people are most likely completely opposite of what you get out of first impressions; I can be vocal no matter what I'm thinking. –Aaron N.