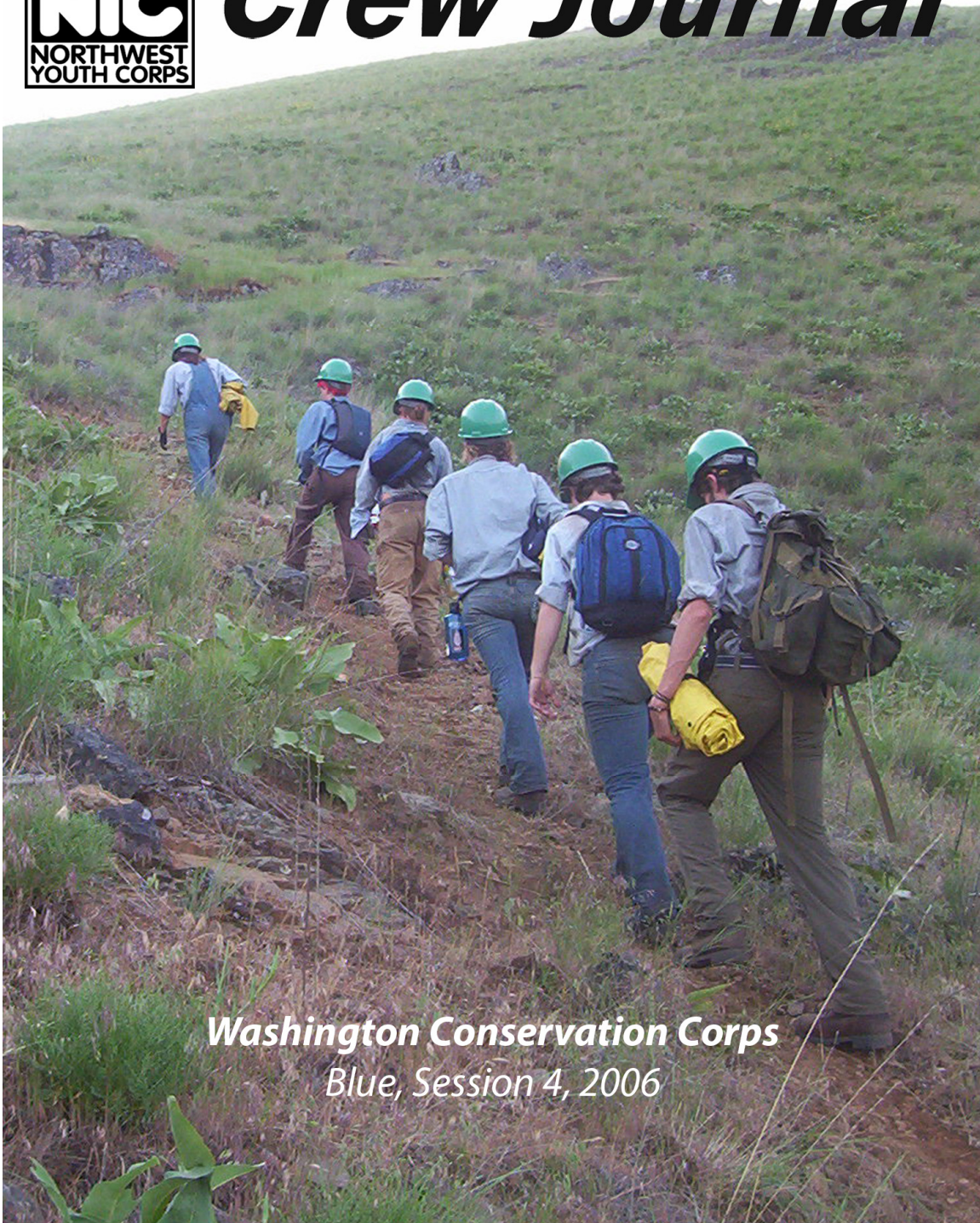




Crew Journal



*Washington Conservation Corps
Blue, Session 4, 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: National Park Service
Ranger District: Lewis and Clark National Historic Monument
Project Name- Lewis and Clark Trails**

Week 1: Date July 31st-Aug 4th

Sunday: It's the second day of being at NYC right now for everybody. Everyone seems really curious and looking forward to tomorrow. Because it will be our first day of work. The trip to our site which is at the tip of Oregon almost was a very interesting trip. Everyone seemed to enjoy the cassette tapes that our crew leaders provided for us to listen to. It's good that everyone is getting along on the first day. So I'm hoping it's going to be a good five weeks for everyone. I hope everyone will be able to remember everyone else's name by the end of tomorrow. I think everyone is going to get something good out of this session, and find out a lot of things about themselves that they have never known before. I'm definitely looking forward to pushing my self harder than last year and to make the best of it. -Janelle B.

Monday: So today was the 1st day of work, I'd say for the most part we all got along nicely. We spent the day in a relay of sorts, shoveling gravel in wheel barrows and passing it along from person to person until the end of the line where the gravel gets spread upon the trail. All in all this was a pretty good first day for blue crew. -Kaylynn C.

Tuesday: Our project this week is moving gravel down a scenic path and laying new gravel on the path. We are in the middle of somewhere near the beach. We are fixing the path to make it easier to walk on. People will appreciate these nice acts of kindness because we have worked hard for long hours. The path is of better quality now and will just get better over the time we are here! -Justin R.

Wednesday: Our goal is to gravel to the bottom of the trail and do it safely and effectively. Our goal is to come closer to our crew so that the rest of our session isn't done with lot's of sour feelings toward our group and our crew leader and all of the rest of our crew. Another one of our goals is to have all of the chores memorized so that they can be done quickly. – Casey D.

Thursday: We learned how to properly use a shovel and use a McCloud, hazel ho and a wheel barrow. We also learned how to effectively. This week our crew learned what work truly is. We also learned a great deal about teamwork and hardships. We did safety circle all week so we learned a lot about how to be safe on the worksite. Through personal histories and living together we are slowly learning more and more about each other. We also have learned various things with seed and our trip to Fort Clatsop.

Friday: Today we finally reached our biggest goal of week 1, to get to the closest boardwalk. For the first time our crew has actually got a long 8 new best friends. Basically like your family and they will listen to whenever you need to get something off your back. Any-who, ya it's really cool completing our first mission it took a while but we did it crew good work, now let's keep on working like this for the next 4 weeks. – West T.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Eugene BLM
Ranger District: Eugene BLM
Project Name- Whittaker Creek ADA Bridge**

Week 2: Date Aug 7th-Aug 11th

Sunday: NYC life is hard and no one said it would be easy even though the crew has finally united we have our problems and stuff. Today we drove from the weekend site. It took forever but we made it. It was so hot in the van after awhile I started to go to sleep. We had our last store stop and I got Doritos. We set up camp and started dinner, and people started their chores and stuff. After dinner we are supposed to have PH and I guess that's it for now. –Quincy

Monday: At last, the weekend has finally arrived. On Saturday we slept in then did our chores. Next we got to go on an activity trip. I got to swim and relax in the sun and get a full body sun burn. Then we got back and had dinner. Yeppee, yay. On Sunday every one had to pack the vans and we got 2 new rovers, Mike and Sarah. Then we drove 4-and -a-half-hours to get to the campsite making store stops on the way. –Josh S.

Tuesday: Basically today was a very slow day. First we worked, then we worked and then we worked some more. Then we came back and had free time so I decided to take a nap, but that wasn't possible because the mosquito's kept trying to bite my head, so Janelle and I tried to pretend to sleep, but that didn't work because Casey wouldn't let us because we had to do chores. -Karina C.

Wednesday: Wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, That's today, half way through the week, hump day. Well blue crew plans on working brilliantly hard to finish the wondrous trail. Thanks to the help of the roving rover tech. Dude Mike and the awesomely great Sarah we have accomplished a good amount of work. TGIAF. Thank Gosh it's almost Friday! -Kaylynn C.

Thursday: Huh, what did we learn this week? I learned that shoveling dirt is boring. That was the day that we worked really hard and we brushed a million feet and we found a dead mole named Henry and nobody knows about him but us. Then we saw a big old growth tree that was sky high. I was sweating, and we didn't come down for our break because it was such a long walk. Supercalafrajalisticexpialadocious. -Aubrey E.

Friday: Today we went to Ape Cave. It was awesome then Tom got kinda angry but we didn't get in trouble. We went volcano diving and Casey fell in the lava but he was okay. Tom played Casey's guitar!! -Quincy

National Forest or area that the work took place: N/A

Ranger District: N/A

Project Name- Pruning

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

Monday: Hmm...Well this weekend blue crew was solo, with yellow and orange crews being back-country and Red being incredibly far away. We were left along to have a weekend site at Mt. St. Helens. Along with woods boss Tom. To the ape cave and the lake we went, it was golden. The project for the week is pruning. We are powerless yet again but today we had super uber roving tech guy mike again. It was awesome. Today was great. Nikki and I also made up a song, it goes like this...oooh ya it's blue crews time, we drove to the forest with our saws inside the ole' crew drinkin iodine singin this will be the day that we shine! -Kaylynn C.

Tuesday: The project this week is in Vernonia sort of and is to prune trees all week in 200 acres of timber. The reason is because the land is ready to be logged so we have to prepare it. -Wes

Wednesday: Our goals for the week are to finish forty acres of pruning. Today we hiked and took breaks and hiked some more. We also fell a lot and got hurt a lot. After all that happened yesterday will all of the threats and arguing we managed to pull it together and get done what we needed and still had a lot of fun. -Casey

Thursday: Our crew learned that pruning trees is pretty hard but there's harder things out there than pruning. Also we learned that our attitudes influence everything so that means it can be fun for some and others it can be challenging. -Wes

National Forest or area that the work took place: Okanogan
Ranger District: Twisp
Project Name- Sawtooth Trails Restoration

Week 4: Date Aug 21st-Aug 25th

Monday: We drove for like seven hours to get to our weekend site. At the site we set up camp. The next day we went to Leavenworth for our rec. trip. We did a scavenger hunt. Then we lost the suspension in our van and had to go back to camp for the rest of the day.

Tuesday: We took a six mile hike back country and everyone was dehydrated. We got paid for the hike and it was awesome. These next weeks are gonna test our ability to survive and work hard. Today me and the boys and gals destroyed rock, refined the trail. The marmots keep screaming at each other. The streams are really pretty. –Quincy

Wednesday: Well the goal for the week is to finish an awesome trail which was burned in the 70's. What we are doing is drain dips to clear the water carving out the trail too much. Taking down trees, brush and other obstacles that are in the way and we are taking out small to humongous rocks out of the way. Sad news. Tomorrow Alissa will kill a chipmunk with a rock. –Justin B.

Thursday: Rocks, rocks and more rocks. Big ones small ones and normal sized ones too. We dug out rocks from the trail. Karina made prettyful drainage dips. We are all covered head to toe in dirt and I'm sure we ate at least a cupful. Dirt. It's all over my shirt; my face and all in my space; my skin is brown; I have a dirt frown; I even have a dirt tan, but wasn't that the plan? - Kaylnn C

Friday: One of the challenges we faced this week was the re-route of a trail through a thicket and over a creek bed and taking out rocks the size of buses. Our biggest accomplishment this week was finishing the re-route and all the drainage dips. Another challenge we faced was saying goodbye to Boe and Morgan and we are running out of food but we will be just fine.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Okanogan
Ranger District: Twisp
Project Name- Sawtooth Trails Restoration

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

Monday: This weekend our lovely Shilo (most beautiful man in the world) took the crew and I to Alpine Lake. It was pretty cold but very refreshing and the hike both ways was awesome. Then before all that we stayed the night at a place called high camp with some freaky hippie ladies around. –Wes

Tuesday: Blue crew still resides in the same spot doing the same work. Rock removal is the funnest job in the world! Well it's been great and the session is almost over, it's sad but I'm also glad. Bitter sweet, I'm tired and kinda hungry but not that hungry. I can't wait to sleep. Anywho yup basically that all folks. –Kaylynn C.

Wednesday: Today it rained for the first time all session. The whole crew can't believe it's almost over. We have all come so far together it's going to be hard to say goodbye. We have become more than a crew we are the true meaning of what a family is. We may fight a lot but when it comes down to it we all care deeply about one another and will have each others back no matter what. I think I speak for everyone when I say thank you Alyssa for being there for us when we needed her. For being more than just a leader but a wonderful faithful friend. –Nikki S.

Thursday: Well... this week the crew learned that hiking sucks and when you work together you can accomplish really hard tasks and maybe more. We also learned that even if tough times roll through our lives staying with family is the best thing to do. One thing I learned is friends are important also. Stick with em' and I will remember you all after NYC and I hope you all remember each other after we all go home. One last thing learned is...man eating squirrels do in fact roam this planet. I love you all. –Justin B.

Friday: The adventures of "JK" (Janelle & Karina). In these past two weeks we have completed two miles of the saw tooth trail. We dug out rocks and made a lot of drainage dips. After the rec. trip to an alpine lake on Sunday, Janelle and Karina had to go number two really bad because friends that pooh together stay together according to Shilo. On the way to the latrine Janelle encountered a bear cub. So, Janelle got scared and ran/walked really fast to Karina and "Karina bear run!" Karina said "were not supposed to run!" Then skipping on to right now which will be later, later when were reading this at dinner. The tent blew over with Karina and Janelle in it and everyone started laughing. Now it's dinner so the end. –Janelle & Karina

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was when my friends here at NYC had changed their thoughts for some reason. –Justin

The first day! -Quincy

The last day of work because I didn't want it to end. –Nikki

For me my most challenging day was one in particular. A day that Blue crew didn't get along and I found it hard to keep positive in a negative environment. –Kaylynn C.

My most challenging day at NYC would probably be the first Thursday of the week at NYC, everything went kind of crazy. –Janelle B.

Most challenging day is when everybody rags on each other over stupid things. –West

I don't know –Aubrey

The hike out of back country. –Casey

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My three favorite experiences were; meeting my crew, working backcountry and enjoying rec. trips. –Kaylynn C.

Three of my favorite NYC experiences were: accomplishing a hard day at work, the rec. trips and meeting new people. –Janelle B.

Getting through the workday, meeting friends and especially hearing about life back home. –Karina C.

Finishing the program, not working and Eating –Josh S.

Finishing; Road trips and meeting new people -Wes T.

Football, friends and work. –Aubrey

Finishing the program; swimming, the bbq. –Casey D.

The bbq, finishing NYC and xbox and showers. –Justin B

Finishing; car rides, mail. –Quincy

Hard work, rec. trips and laughing with friends.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember the friends I made. –Josh S.

I will always remember my friends and the road trips. –West

I will always remember my brothers –Aubrey

Allisa gives push ups for cursing. –Casey D.

I will always remember Quincy W. –Justin B.

Me in the forest. –Quincy

The positive influence we made on the world. –Nikki

Making up a Blue crew song with Nikki. –Kaylynn

I will always remember all the good friendships I made on this crew. –Janeel B.

Making friends out here. –Karina

My friends and completing the program and cracking jokes with people. –West

From Now On I Will Always...

Be respectful to elders and while I am in public. –Casey

Eat till I explode. –Josh S.

Drink water, enjoy what you have in life. –Karina C

From now on I will always be more respectful for what I have in life. –Janelle

Think about other peoples feeling before I say something. –Kaylynn

Live life to the fullest like every day is my last. Live in the city. –Quincy W.

From now on I will appreciate my life and what I have. –Justin B.

At NYC I Learned...

Be expected to eat alot; plan on getting a work out and you appreciate more in life. –
Karina C.

About spotted owls being endangered; how to build a teepee fire and predators having
binocular vision. –Josh S.

Getting along with everyone matters; I love everyone and thing –West

Puttin up with peoples stuff; bears are neat

Proper tool storage, proper tool handlings and proper protective gear. –Casey D.

I'm stronger than yesterday. –Quincy

To control my anger. –Nikki