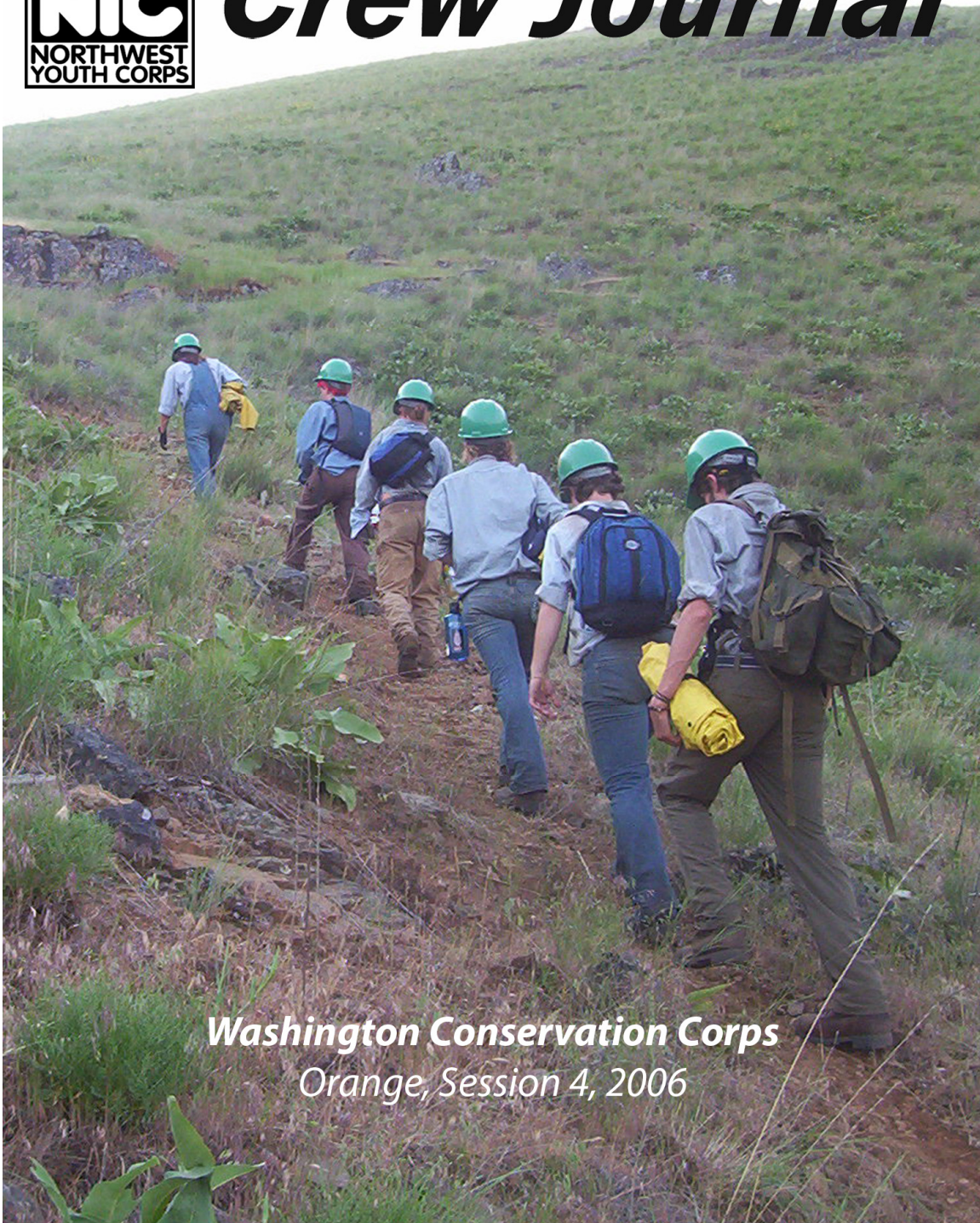




Crew Journal



*Washington Conservation Corps
Orange, 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: Salem BLM
Ranger District:
Project Name- Mololla River Trails**

Week 1: Date July 31st-Aug 4th

Monday: We first got loaded up into the van and then we were on our way to our work site. We stopped 3 times along the way. We are now here getting ready for tomorrow's work day. –Julian

Tuesday: This week we are at Mololla River Trails. We get to build turn pikes and bridges. Today we had to take supplies up to the trail we are working on. Tomorrow we will build the turnpike and bridge. –Ryan

Wednesday: Some of our goals include taking out a pesky root that we were hacking at. We also need to finish filling in the culverts and the holes. The rebar needs drilled but the drill bits keep breaking and getting stuck. We will get the turn pike and puncheon finished by at least tomorrow. Last and not least our goal is to sing beans during work along with Ole. –Mike

Thursday: we learned a lot, like how to build a proper turn pike and puncheon. We also got a good lesson in team work and also why we shouldn't drop rocks when people's backs are turned. –Mike

Friday: This week our challenges were hauling the gravel up and down hills and from one end of the trail to another, choosing the right rocks for the perfect fit. Plowing trenches out, and finally making a puncheon. Our accomplishments this week were completing each task every day knowing that what we're doing will be appreciated by others and by the end of the day seeing everything turning out. –Elizabeth P.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Wenatchee
Ranger District: Leavenworth
Project Name-

Week 2: Date Aug 7th-Aug 11th

Monday: We arrived at the little Wenatchee trail head and we unpacked the van then packed our bags then started to hike. After hiking 3 miles we camped at a spot that our rover Jason camped last time he was up here. –Mike C.

Tuesday: Our project this week is to repair the PCT. Right now we are 5 or so miles from the camp site/work site. We are resting our back in the shade because it is hot. –Mike

Wednesday: Tom came in and told us that he was not working with us but he brought us some food. I'm glad that the crew came together fast. –Tawnie (Brownie)

Friday: We woke up early in the morning to break down camp so we could move to our new camp because we have been working very fast, so we moved up so we didn't have to walk a mile or half a mile to the worksite. We built 53 or more drain dips.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Wenatchee
Ranger District: Leavenworth
Project Name- Cody Pass PCT

Week 3: Date Aug 14th-Aug 18th

Sunday: This weekend we sat around all day and ate a lot of food. We made a cheese cake that tasted like bleach. We could not find the out where the taste came from. Today two tools broke, both hazel hoes. –Ryan B.

Tuesday: The Orange crew is starting our adventure on the P.C.T in the Wenatchee. For the most part were just doing basic trail maintenance such as drain dips, tread work and brushing. Were doing this so people can comfortably hike, and see all the beauty this place has to offer. –Phoebe W.

Wednesday: Our goals for this week include finishing digging drainage ditches to the end of the trail. We also want to move rocks or any obstacle in the trail out of the way. Our min goal is to make the trails safer for hikers and horse back riders. –Julian

Thursday: My crew has learned how to mine the gorp and rolling rock's down hills. We also learned how to make drainage. –Tawnie P

Friday: Challenges this week include: Finishing the whole hard hat of food (we learned that we should never let mike cook again :-).) Moving Rocks. We learned that in order to move the rock we had to work as a team. Dealing with the weather in general; Bugs; gaining the knowledge of how to do drainage: learning the terms, getting the hang of it etc. Living together for 2 weeks with the same people. Confronting people: trying not to avoid conflict. Aka communication; motivation-self motivation. Doing hard work. Lighting the camp stove.

Accomplishments this week include: Completing over 200 drainage dips; the hike up; working as a team when needed to; making/serving a decent meal; getting more accomplished than what was expected for 2 weeks; these also represent the challenges that were faced and met.

National Forest or area that the work took place
Ranger District
Project Name-

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

Sunday: We had a scavenger hunt through town. We also had to help out a van and follow them back to camp. –Tawnie P.

Monday: Our project this week is the reduction of forest fire fuel in the Little Pen Orielle Wildlife Refuge. Today we piled slash and stacked fire wood to help with our project objective.

Wednesday: Our goals for this week include working better as a working team and a living team. Thinning the forest were working on and better understanding the wildlife refuge.

Thursday: This week our crew learned how to slash pile sticks. We also walked along the road and cut down any branches that we can reach that were hanging over the road. After that we would swamp the cut down branches. –Julian

Friday: This week we met many challenges. We had to pile slash all day in the hot sun. On Tuesday we also had to saw branches with the mid-reach. We have accomplished a lot despite our challenges. One day we managed to make 65 complete slash piles. Over all I'd say we had a good week working and I feel we are ready for our last project next week.

National Forest or area that the work took place
Ranger District
Project Name-

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

Monday: This last weekend we were camped at Twisp in Northeastern Washington. For a recreation trip we went to the local farmer's market. We then played a game of dodge ball and then kickball. Overall I'd say we had an excellent weekend with a good rec. trip.

Tuesday: This week we are at the Okanogan National Forest. Doing more trail work, more and more drainage and a little bit of lopping and swamping for the one handed crew member. We are also pulling loose rocks out of the trail to prevent any sliding of any kind. The purpose of this is to help maintain the trail. –Karla C.

Wednesday: To finish our project, don't get burnt to death with the two fires around us and to get to the weekend site then to get to big clean, and graduate. –Ryan

Thursday: We have learned how to work in the cool weather. We also kept each other warm. –Tawnie P.

Friday: This week our challenges could be that of many. Our group faced things of internal and external conflict. I hope we can all walk away with something positive although I know most of us can't see it now. From Tuesday night till early Thursday morning the weather was our biggest challenges. Still learning how to live with new people. This week our accomplishments are cooking a great 5 out of 5 dinners, talking to hikers and not mining the gorp until the second to last night and not getting hurt (physically.) I'll say for the last week things didn't get better but there became an understanding of things and we'll leave it at that. Thanks, take care.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

Let's see my most challenging day...would have to be week 2, Sunday. It's backcountry week for Orange crew. This week is going to be hard for me, because I have never done this before. We arrived at the trail head of the little Wenatchee. We started unloading the van and loading up the packs for a 7 mile hike. I think this was the toughest day of NYC. –Mike C.

The most challenging day at NYC was the day that we hiked in for back country at the Pacific Crest Trail. I've never had to actually carry a backpack up a seven mile hike. At first the backpack didn't seem like it weighed that much but with every step that I took it just got harder and harder until I was allowed to take the pack off. Not only was the hike physically challenging but also mentally challenging proving to myself and motivating myself to keep going and not giving up took a lot of strength. SO I would say that back country hike was the most challenging both physically and mentally day at NYC. –Karla

My most challenging day at NYC was Monday of week two when we backpacked five miles, three and a half of which we climbed a couple thousand feet in elevation. I found that day especially hard due to the unbalanced and bulky packs we had and because I carried two yellow tops for much of the distance. Although that hike took all day and though I carried the yellow tops for only part of the hike, I am still proud of my accomplishments of that day. –Matt A

My most challenging day here at NYC could be one of many days, physically, I would have to say hiking in with gear on at the time, the trail felt very challenging. It's something I've never done before or even really tried. Socially it was dealing with my crew mates. You'd never think living and working with eight other people with different backgrounds, beliefs and genders would be challenging, but at times it was. Mentally it was pushing myself to work harder. Emotionally, oh today....spiritually a challenging moment was up in the Wenatchee forest on the PCT and I was surround by blue skies (2nd week) tops of mountain and slow growth pines. –Elisabeth P.

This Northwest Youth Corps session has provided me with many challenging days and even more challenges. These challenges have been physical, mental and even social. My most challenging day brought all three types of challenges to me. This day was sometime in week 3 when my crew was moving camp on the PCT. We woke up to cold fog and rain. This proved to be a huge mental and physical challenge. Mentally, hiking with a huge pack in freezing weather was the last thing on earth I wanted to do. The weather would also make the already challenging 2 mile hike into one of the biggest crucibles, I've ever faced. The social challenge of the day was not exploding on the other crew members who weren't pulling their weight, while I was hiking as fast as I physically could to get to our site and set up camp for them. With all these challenges the day we moved camp in the backcountry with heavily weighted packs and supplies and frigid weather proved to be my most challenging day. –Max H.

My most challenging day at NYC was my 3rd week in back country I got in a argument with a rover. I said I quit because I was mad. Later that day I got happier and I stayed at NYC. –Ryan B.

My most challenging day at NYC was the 1st Friday in back country when we had to wake up early to break down camp in the cold fog, and wind. But I guess I can say it taught me any situation is what you make of it, plus the hike turned out to be pretty fun. –Phoebe W.

My most challenging days at NYC was when we went backcountry for two weeks. The other most challenging day was when we got snowed on. –Tawnie P.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Slash piling in the Pend Orielle; The van ride on the first week and coming back from back country. –Mike

Talking and getting to know my fellow crew members; finishing back country and working with the contact, Dan on the slash piling. –Karla C.

My return form a two week back country project; working and relaxing with my crew and van rides between projects.

Back country; moving around from one project to another and bump line. –Elizabeth P.

Becoming comfortable with my surroundings, people and places; first seeing my campsite in the backcountry, talking off my pack and laying in the sun; receiving my E.P getting recognition for all my hard work. –Max H.

Seeing our first weeks puncheon finished; the relaxing van rides after the weeks work and completing our 2nd week back country. –Phoebe W.

Being done with two week back country; seeing my mom after the back country and the crew that I was with was great. –Tawnie P.

Being able to sleep in a tent with four other people for 5 weeks; making it past a 2 week backcountry and making all 5 weeks. –Ryan B.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

My 2 week back country experience. –Mike C.

One thing I will always remember is the conversation that I carried with my fellow crew-members. All the laughs and just the stupid funny songs that wee sung. Getting to know each and every crew member in a different way. –Karla C.

One thing I will always remember at NYC was the laughs shared during the making of dinner, van rides, working, safety circle and late nights. –Elizabeth P.

One thing I will always remember is all the crazy bets I took.

I will always remember the first time I backpacked up a ridge. It was very memorable because of the challenges and rewards it provided me. –Max H.

I will always remember the fun nights in the tents and the people I've met. –Phoebe W.

I will always remember the good times I had with my crew and my crew leaders. – Tawnie P.

I will always remember the great conversations in the tents. –Ryan B.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always! Eat out of a hard hat. –Mike C.

From now on I will always learn to think about what I am going to say do, or plan. Before I do it. Somehow just plan ahead, know what you're doing before you do it. Be confident in yourself. –Karla C.

From now on I will always respect mother nature. –Elisabeth P.

From now on I will always think about who cooked the food before I eat it. –Matt B

From now on I will always look at a situation very closely before I act. –Max H.

From now on I won't judge people based on age, back ground, or looks. I think I've really learned I may be missing out on a lot of amazing people when I choose to judge others. –Phoebe W.

From now on I will not put people down. I will also help people if they need help. –Tawnie P.

Leave chip-monks alone because they will attack you. –Ryan B.

At NYC I Learned...

How to touch birds; I learned how to dig a cat hole; you dig a 6 to 8 inch deep hole, poop, and cover. Repeat as needed; also how to borrow energy from the earth by sitting and engaging your growing roots. –Mike C

Terms and the knowledge at drainage, puncheons, turn pikes etc.; usage of tools, pulaski's McCloud, hoe, etc; deal with the problems at work and at the camp-site in a mature way. –Karla C.

At NYC I learned how to make a drain dip and trail work. I learned more about myself and hard work. –Elisabeth P

At NYC I learned new ways to use a shovel, how to use a Pulaski and that iodine is bad for your digestive tract. –Matt

I learned that I must always turn to myself for a challenge and the strength to pull through that challenge. I learned a lot of technical information about trail work. I learned about the relationship between myself and others.

I learned that some of the best people are people I may have never talked to if it weren't for NYC. I learned how a puncheon is built and how to make trail drains and I learned how to accept people's differences and learn from what others say. –Phoebe W.

At NYC I have learned how to deal with my problems and deal with other kinds of people. –Tawnie P.

At NYC I learned to eat more and not to bend my back while working. –Ryan B.