



# *Crew Journal*



*Washington Conservation Corps  
Red, 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: Willamette  
Ranger District:  
Project Name- Blue Lake**

Week 1: Date July 31<sup>st</sup>-Aug 4<sup>th</sup>

Monday: Well today what Red crew did was hiked 3 miles to our work site than Lewis, our awesome crew leader and our awesome rover Hazel showed us how to make check dams and other trail work. The view is really good, you can see three fingered jack really well, I think that this crew is really awesome and easy to get along with. –Matt B.

Tuesday: Well we did a lot of projects like check steps, water bars and drain dips and we also did a lot of brushing and used the cross-cut saw. We ate at Blue Lake right where we can see a perfect view of three fingered jack and we are working hard and working as a team because Red crew is the best. –Eben H.

Wednesday: Red crew has multiple goals for this week. Not only are we going to work harder and slam more work than any other crew, but we are also going to work together as a team. Our main goal is to place a genocide upon the evil, hell-born, flying, little nasties that go by the name of mosquitoes.

Thursday: I learned how to pet butterflies and not go swimming with my clothes on; and me and Josh learned to push rocks up a big hill and I learned how to make a big rock water bar. We learned fat people can hike to and not to mess with Hazel because she can yell. Over all it was a chill day. –Keegan P.

Friday: On Friday Red crew had a 4 hour work day that was thoroughly intense. Everybody was tired. Then we had a 3 mile back pack trip and it was just as hard as Monday. The only real challenge this week was the will to work but we did so and did very well. We maintained about 2 miles of trail and it looks absolutely fantastic.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: USFS**  
**Ranger District: Little Pend Orielle**  
**Project Name- Slash Piling**

Week 2: Date Aug 7<sup>th</sup>-Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>

Monday: We went to get fresh fruit and went to stone hendge. Then went to the lake to swim. After that we went to Fred Myer for some stuff. Landon, Ebon and I went to follow Bell then went back to camp. –Kegan

Tuesday: Well this week we are doing slash piling and we are in the Orielle wildlife refuge and on Wednesday we are picking weeds and we are doing this because of fuel reduction so that grass and brush can really catch on fire so that trees and other stuff don't catch on fire. –Eben H.

Wednesday: We want to finish all of our hours before Friday so we could drive to the weekend site sooner. Today we worked 10 hours and it's looking like we aren't going to work Friday. – Josh B.

Thursday: We completed hours before Friday! Yay!! Today while working it started to drizzle, which was nice. We are having Enchie Pie tonight! Whoop Whoop.

Friday: For the past week Red crew has been staying in the Little Pend Orielle wild life refuge. During the course of our stay we have been doing slash piling. Slash piling can be fun, at times it was hard and tiring. At the end of the day we would be distracted easily and sometimes we got mad. We got a lot of work done and stacked hours so that we didn't have to work today.

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

Week 3: Date Aug 14<sup>th</sup>-Aug 18<sup>th</sup>

Monday: Well what Red crew did this last weekend was drive around and go to the Grand Coulee Damn and walk around the visitor center for our rec. trip. Sat. we got up later than normal. On Saturday night we went to the Grand Coulee damn light show. We played lots of hackie sack a lot. Also we got free bait from this guy that was in a bass fishing contest. –Matt B.

Tuesday: We are at Mt. Rainier National park. And are brushing trails with loppers and saws. We are brushing the trail so there's more room for hikers to walk. I get to look at the beautiful scenery behind us which is Mt. Rainier. Our camp is really rocky but we have lots of trees overhead. The mountain has oval shaped top with mostly rocks but some snow. Still on the fly and mosquitoes are bad. There's a lot of bees and the trail is really nice. Along the trail there were many streams and waterfalls.

Wednesday: The crew's goals for the week are simple and mandatory: Meet project hours with nobody quitting or fired. This seems relatively easy, but everybody is getting tense and as of yesterday we are short 1 rover so all we have to do is work hard, work long and keep the peace. We'll be just fine. –Kenneth

Thursday: Today was a great day. We had to hike up Mount Rainier and maintain some trail. It had an awesome view. After the day was over we went for a swim in a lake. –A.P.

Friday: Red Crew's challenges for this week consisted of not being drained of life by the diabolical mosquitoes, keeping ourselves entertained while brushing trail, having to choke down some terribly rancid food, resisting to throw certain people in the lake, learning how to get a tan while wearing a long sleeved work-shirt. Our accomplishments were in such great quantities that I can't even begin to name them all but here are a few: Professionally brushing about ¾ mile of a frequently used trail, making absolutely fantastic mac & cheese and mastering the concepts of being a crew. –Cody T.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Wenatchee  
Ranger District: Wenatchee River  
Project Name- Cady Pass PCT**

Week 4: Date Aug 21<sup>st</sup>-Aug 25<sup>th</sup>

Monday: On Friday Red crew drove to the weekend site at Ice Sickle creek, which was about a 3 hour drive. The scenery wasn't bad, especially around the weekend site. Saturday was fairly relaxed. We all went on rec. trips as usual. There was a scavenger hunt as well. Then we came back to camp and socialized with our family, the next morning we stuffed our gear in the van, no thanks to the fact that the trailer was broken. We had a 1 hour drive then unloaded our stuff in the Wenatchee National Forest. Then we started our 5 miles hike to the campsite.

Tuesday: We are in Wenatchee National Forest. We're doing trail maintenance. We are building drain dips. We are cutting the banks; we have a 2 mile hike to our work site which is a beautiful meadow in the midst of many trees. The hike there is very beautiful. There are mountains all around us and the air is nice and cool up there.

Wednesday: Well for red crew's goals I think we want to finish about 2 miles of tread on the Pacific Crest Trail on one of the most popular trails in the Northwest and on that 2 miles of trail, we are doing drain dips, re-cutting trail and making re-routes. –Eben

Thursday: We learned how to tie a bunch of knots, we learned the sheeps head, bowline,, tautline and butterfly square knot and water knot. They were not too hard to learn. -Josh

Friday: Our crew's challenges were moving a 16,000 pound rock out of the trail and masticating the mosquitoes and or horse fly race. Our accomplishment was surviving the mosquito and or horsefly massacre.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: A cool One  
Ranger District  
Project Name-**

Week 5: Date Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>

Monday: Well we saw yellow crew for the first time in 3 weeks. We did the Olympics. Luis's weekend trip was going to the lake and farmers market and store stop in a little hick town called twisp. -Kegan

Tuesday: The day started with an early morning and a close encounter with a big smelly skunk. Then we were awakened by a commotion in the adjacent tent. (tent 2) due to obnoxious voices and later with a flash light shined in tent one. After the extravagant morning we went to work and shoveled an immense amount of gravel to cover the trail so Handicap people can use it. -A.P.

Wednesday: Wow, today was a really good day. We finished our competition with Yellow crew. Even though Yellow crew won we still had lots of fun. Later in the day we worked with Yellow crew on another part of the trail which was really cool. It started to rain on the work site. Then Yellow crew left to work on another job, then we finished up our job. We went back to our camp site to do some pruning which we made a mega big slash. After that we had free time until Yellow crew got back to camp and when they got here it started to rain again. I think both crews get along with one another pretty well. -Matthew B.

Thursday: Our crew learned how to dig into the deepest part of our souls and find a little thing called motivation and even how to use it! We also learned that  $7 + 4 = 14$  and "wise words" by Lewis and the way of the Wild and Moose! -Cody T.

Friday: Well a challenge was to keep ourselves sane and calm and an accomplishment was getting the job done when it would have taken us several weeks but I think the biggest accomplishment for Red crew is making it through the session with everyone still here. -Keegan P.

***My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...***

My most challenging day at NYC was Tuesday of week 5: We were assigned a project in which we graveled a trail, it was the first time our crew worked hard all day. -VB

Shoveling and carrying wheelbarrows of gravel and pushing myself that day. -Caleb B.

The 4<sup>th</sup> week hike in was most challenging. –A.P.

First week hike. –Keegan

My most challenging day was the very first day in back country on the hike.

The most challenging day at NYC was the hike to the PCT on the 4<sup>th</sup> week. –Matt B.

My most challenging day at NYC was the very first days hike in. –Josh B.

My most challenging moment at NYC was the 4<sup>th</sup> week back country hike in. –Eben H.

The 5 mile hike on the PCT. –Landon S.

### ***My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...***

Mongolian Death March Rec. trip; A week with Shilo, discussing parts of government with Lewis

Having fun with new people; finishing a project and carving. –Caleb R.

My first favorite experience was playing with the hacky sack toy. My second was slamming out uber amounts of work the very first week and my third would have to be having goofy conversations with Akasham and Eben. –Cody T.

First weeks trail work; second and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks with Shilo and Jason; third week atop Mount Rainier at Panorama point. –Akasham

Van rides; ghost stories; reading. –Keegan

Ghost stories; van rides; slash piling. –SHB

Meeting new people; week 2 with Shilo; van rides. –Matt B

The last day of work we got pizza and pop; the van rides and every day of work finished. –Josh B.

Van rides, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week with Jason and Shilo; last tool count. –Eben H.

Pizza; van rides; last tool count. –Landon S.

### ***One Thing I Will Always Remember...***

I will always remember Luis's anti-authoritarian approach to leadership which called upon us to take initiative.

The people I met. –Caleb

I will always remember that I can find myself within myself and nowhere else. –Cody

NYC –Akasham

One thing I'll remember is I can push my self to the may and beyond. –Kegan

I will always remember the warmth showing between core members.

The one thing that I will always remember about NYC is our crew leader Lewis. –Matt B.

I will always remember the last day of work at NYC. –Josh B.

Last week. –Eben H.

The people –Landen

### ***From Now On I Will Always...***

From now on I will always keep in mind other peoples points of view when dealing with any problem.

Think before acting and consider the consequences. –Caleb B.

From now on I will think much more about not having a trace of where I go in life. –Cody T.

I will always try to work in the most eco friendly way. –Akasham

From now on I will always think before I say something. –Kegan

I will reduce the amount of energy I consumer.

When I get a car I will try not to drive as much. –Matt B.

I will treat people more fairly. –Josh B.

Try to help the environment.

### ***At NYC I Learned...***

I wouldn't say I learned, I just gained an appreciation for selflessness, personal responsibility and work ethic, all of which were out here.

How to build trails; how to deal with new people and how to use new tools. –Caleb B

At NYC I learned that you actually can campout while it's raining and have a good time along with self-awareness and personal respect. –Cody T.

How to build trails; keeping sane in a group of 12 and group cooperation. –Akasham

I learned to hike 5 miles; brush with a pair of loppers and fill wheel barrels full of rock and sand then spread it across gravel. –Kegan

I learned to slash pile; Learned how to maintain trails and new ways to tie knots.

How to build and maintain trails; how to get along with 10 people for 5 weeks and learned to respect nature more. –Matt B.

How to tie a couple of knots; how to work on trail and how to prepare dinner. –Josh B.

How to build trail better; group cooperation and how to deal with people I don't like. –Eben

Build trail; deal with people for 5 weeks and staying busy