



Crew Journal



*Washington Conservation Corps
Yellow, 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 positioned over a light blue rectangular background.

Joe Waksmundski
NYC Field Director



**National Forest or area that the work took place: Table Rock Wilderness
Ranger District
Project Name- Eatin Chicken on the Table**

Week 1: Date July 31st-Aug 4th

Monday: We're off to a great start. Working hard, moving along smoothly. The crew is really friendly and they work expediently. Our crew leaders are really helpful and encouraging. Conversations seem to be learning towards Hillary Clinton and "if you" type questions. We haven't bust out the trail games yet, but we'll be there soon! Lunch was pretty good. -Cat

Tuesday: This morning we tried as breakfast crew to awake the crew with the Lion King song. It worked fine, not the most beautiful rendition. As a team we knocked out 1-5 switch backs today and a lot of rocky trail. We learned a lot about US foreign policy and worked together well as a family. Tomorrow is a bright new day. -Trill and Tommy

Wednesday: Today we almost finished our re-route with the help of our woods boss Tom and with Mike the tech support guy. I was on breakfast with Alex this morning we prepared frosted flakes for the crew. Nobody ate the Sheppard's pike that Mike brought. Today we learned how to handle and work with crosscuts (misery wipes) but only Thomas got to use it today. Then we transferred rocks, and dirt to even out the trail!!!!!! We almost lost a tool twice but we found it. Hurray! -Brian M

Thursday: Today the crew went to work and Jason went to his custom made complex corner that he has spent countless hours on. Every one worked pretty hard. We worked on Dart for the whole day. The day seemed long but some of the crew seemed to spend the day playing games like lost and Jason finally finished his rainstorm complex corner. Finally matt cut down a tree while explaining the love of his life, the one and only Miss. Mississippi. –Kyle

Friday: Wu tang killer bee's made it through the week! We woke up to the brush? Musical styling of public enemy fight the powers. We drug our tired limbs out of bed and then had to hurry and get all the gear we've called our home for the last week into the car/van/NYC vehicle. We then consumed some blueberry muffin slabs before heading up to the trail for the last time. We only worked four hours. By the time we were finished we were for the most part exhausted, but happy. We were 1/5 toward the end. -Alex

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Okanogan
Ranger District
Project Name- Diamond Jack**

Week 2: Date Aug 7th-Aug 11th

Monday: Breakfast children woke us up with a heavenly serenade entitled “food morning.” They prepared mushi aid. After everyone had finally finished we walked to our worksite. The breaks were oddly slow, which is a good thing, but moral went down when a tool went missing. –Alex
M

Tuesday: Today we did a lot of lopping! We also pulled up a lot of baby trees! When we started today we weren't past the campsite and by the end of the day we were quite a ways past the campsite. We had a lot of fun making up the story of Ted and Ned, and we got a lot of work done today!!! -Lougee.

Thursday: Woke up bright and early to a good hearty breakfast. Then we headed off to work half of the crew, Elizabeth, Kat, Trillium, Kyle and I dug dirt out of several holes to pile in a big step that took most of the day, then we finally went up farther up the trail. We finally made it to the first junction where we ate then the end of the day came everyone was dirty and sweaty so Tommy went swimming in the creek for a bath. I ate soup for dinner. –Thomas

Friday: Today we had a day off. We got to hang out at camp and some people went for a hike. Did chores! O ya!! And had some interesting conversations! -Melissa

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Okanogan
Ranger District
Project Name- Diamond Jack**

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

Sunday: Today the crew worked hard. Melissa worked on a drainage and after a few brakes and a few long hours, Tom and Cat were playing a game. The time went by and Trillium came by with a broken ax. Don't ask me I don't know.

Monday: Today's highlight was Tom bringing a new crew member. The downfall of the sunny happy Tom feeling was that mail for swamper was not forth coming. Blast. We worked in the burned out section of the Psayten wilderness area on the diamond Jack trail. Tomorrow we hike further in. We'll hike out the other side in a week and half on Thursday. –Cat

Wednesday: Today the crew hiked our way up, then down hill to our new camp site. After finding our new camp site we worked 6 hours moving rocks and roots. After our first break I learned to leave the crewleaders alone. A couple hours later we finished work and loaded to camp after we got things organized we cooked dinner and ate. –Kyle M.

Thursday: Today was a good day over all for our crew. We maintained a ton of trail, and kept a consistent pace through the day. On the way down we made good use of the new forest service pulaskis chopping roots and digging rock. Along the way, we encountered a couple of crosscut projects and a long stretch of trail that needed to be mended to round out the day. We did some intense uphill QC that included some special drainage and more maint. The coolest project of the day was a rolling fjord to take care of some massive drainage issues near the top of the trail. –Jen H.

Friday: Today we had extremely yucky water. Luckily we only worked for 7 and ½ hours today. Never mind that was yesterday. But Lizzy and I (Thomas) cross cut several logs which was fun. Today we did get fresh clean water. It was way good. Hopefully tomorrow will be a good hike. Should be fun. Goodnight! -Thomas

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Okanagan
Ranger District
Project Name- Diamond Lake**

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

Monday: We went half way back up the hill and put in drainages and pulled out rock's and boots and fixed the trail up. The day went all in all good. It went fast. –Melissa

Tuesday: My crew went up the hill and once again today went fast. We pushed and pulled and rock at least 4 times. Everyone worked pretty hard. –Kyle M.

Wednesday: We awoke earlier than usual for food! Then, we stretched and hiked up to work. Many faces were made, and lunch was thrown around. The cookies were oddly good, but everyone was sad about lack of sandwiches. Two people drank water and got it up their nose and at least one other person got a bloody nose.

Thursday: My crew's challenges and accomplishments that we had were....the crew worked for 1 hour. Then we had breakfast. Our hike lasted at least 11 miles after completing that we arrived back and some of the crew went swimming. After many hours we arrived at the trail head, the crew was excited. –Kyle M.

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

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

Monday: After being evacuated, living at that nice little camp near blue crew's van and working with Mr. Tom for a few hours, the lovely Yellow crew drove off to Twisp Washington and surrounding town for a gas, propane, van check-up and peaches. We then drove off to the small weekend site where we, the first group to arrive, prepared everything that needed to be prepared. After a few hours, we were greeted by the two other crews...except, blue crew, who's out in the woods somewhere.

Saturday after chores, we all went on our Rec. trips. The trips involved a river for most and a lake for some. Around four, when we returned to the weekend site, a few of us were re-united with parents and for Cat, her dearest boyfriends. We ate a glorious dinner and participated in the "Olympics." We won the "chugging" contest and Kyle won for yellow the Pulaski hold up contest.

Sunday we were told what we'd be doing for our last week. We, right now, are working in north eastern Washington and living with Red crew. For several hours today we brush piled-finished, drove to a new worksite and worked with red crew pulling plants, preparing a trail that apparently we'll be working on tomorrow. What great fun. -Christina

Tuesday: "Today: Best Day Ever" Today was a great day. It wasn't great though, because it was amazing! The day started out right with chocolate pancakes. We then headed to the worksite amidst a chorus of Disney theme songs. PMA was mentioned in safety circle when we arrived. We thought there might be a lack of it because of our project, graveling. However, as the work day began, we realized that lack of PMA was definitely not going to be a problem. Excessive amounts of PMA were shown from everyone! People were shoveling, barrowing and spreading at speeds unheard of by any NYC crew, anywhere. We attacked our project like a bear mauls a deer. It was amazing PMA was also obvious through the banter of the crew throughout the day. Tom, in all the excitement, forgot that we were putting dirt in the wheel barrows instead of people's pockets. One could easily understand his error in dirt placement. Another unique part of the day came after our last break! Although everyone was sore and tired, we all gained a second wind (especially trillium) The crew is so impressed with the work we've done today. We joined together to accomplish tons of work-with a ton of sunshine crew pride. -Jen H.

Wednesday: Today was spectacular. Yellow crew won our gravel race in the first hour of work. For the rest of the day we took it easy. Not because we exactly wanted to, but because Dan ran out of work for us. After combining forces with Red crew for a couple of hours, graveling and fairy dust shoveling, yellow got in the van and drove to a lovely trailhead about 5 minutes away. Wow. A terror of pine needles on the path which we bravely swept away and the log retaining wall. It was great!

Thursday: Today was the last day of work for the session. We worked with red crew. We put a white covering over the gravel and spread out more gravel and completed the trail. At the end of the day we went over to their head quarters and they gave us pizza and pop and watermelon. Then

we got group pictures and went back to camp and started packing. –
Melissa E.

Friday: It's been a great day full of limited accomplishments and rolling fields as Glamorous as they are extensive. We are 6 corps members short of a Mohawk brigade now that Alex, Jen and Kyle are all sporting bald/shaved side scalps. Our disheveled and smelly crew is heading to Rufus Oregon for an evening of revelry with Orange, Blue and Red crew. Matt and Lewis are heroically driving us eight hours today. Lewis has coffee, Matt has a peanut butter and chocolate milk shake. The crew has, as stated before a funk that permeates the van. As we roll onto I-90, we see a ridiculous convertible with a even more ridiculous graphic plastered to it's backside. A rearing bronco stands tall amidst a backdrop of somewhat unspectacular mountains. -Trillium

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

When our crew went back country for three weeks and every day I asked myself, what am I doing here. –Kyle

My most challenging day was a day during the last week when there was a lot of conflict going on and we avoided dealing with it for too long. –Kat

When we hiked 10 miles into the B.C –Jen

The last day, our the hike into the treacherous back country. –Alex

Not one challenging day in particular, but a few challenging issues....such as: the idea of communal showers, living with B.O in back country for 2 and ½ weeks and being called the wrong name the same wrong name many times –Christina

My most challenging day was the second to last day at NYC, when I was really tired from the day before when we busted out and worked real hard. –Elizabeth

Well almost everyday when we had to hike to work and when we had to do trail work. –
Thomas G.

Making drainage. –Melissa

When we hiked into B.C. –Trillium

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

The first week was hard because you have to get used to getting up early and working long hours that never end. –Kyle

We had two crews working on the same gravel spreading job and Red and Yellow raced to the center for a prize. Yellow won, it was fantastic. –Kat

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of week 5. –Jen

Mohawk, the pizza stuff and something else I have to be cryptic about, but I have many more. –Alex

All SEEDS and P.H.s, the whole of back country and most of the last work week. –Christina

The SEED about stereotypes, it was fun. Working, especially taking out gigantic rocks! And the last Tuesday of NYC when we raced Red crew and worked so hard. –Elizabeth

Throwing huge logs, pulling out 2 ton plus rocks and great friends made Thomas G.

Race between my crew and Red crew, working with Mike and Tom, hanging out with my crew. –Melissa

Alex's Mohawk, Rock walls with Hazel and Tuesday of Week 5. –Trillium

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Learning to live with 9 other people that I had the greatest time of my life. –Kyle

Judgements others pass on me don't have to effect of affect how I behave or respond. When others are apathetic I can keep sympathy /empathy. –Kat

The Workday Tuesday of week 5. –Jen

This entire experience. –Alex

I will always remember every day spent on this NYC program/trip/work experience. –Christina

I will always remember all the great friends I made and the work we accomplished. –Elizabeth.

I will remember everything. –Thomas G.

The last week. –Melissa

I will always remember the rocks. The really big rocks. –Trillium

From Now On I Will Always...

Learning about what to buy and I have to think about how this is going to affect the world and the next generation. –Kyle

Considering the consequences of my absences will be fore front in my mind. While I was away with NYC much happened. Though NYC is a meaningful and important experience I must be more responsible at home. –Kat

Remember the joy which come from a truly hard day's work and strive for that. –Jen

This is trite, but I'll be more appreciative. –Alex

Eat five times a day, cook my own food, be more comfortable with myself, appreciate a whole lot more and spend more time living life. –Christina

I will be more conscious about how I spend money and what I do to the environment. –Elizabeth

The food and how it tastes so much better after a long hard day at work.

Appreciate everything. –Melissa

Be nice to my mother. –Trillium

At NYC I Learned...

Changing my self from the old way to the new. –Kyle

I learned a lot more about myself then I expected. I also learned much about many crisis' going on in the world right now. For instance the carrying capacity of the world for human population is overloaded which I seem to strive to forget out of sheer depression. –Kat

That my home is a near utopia paradise and I am a spoiled brat for complaining about it. –Alex

I am someone worth knowing, life can be hard and cassette tapes are certainly worth buying if one doesn't have a CD player in their car. –Christina

I learned many things, about my personality, about nature, cooking how to work well with others, knots and many other useful things. –Elizabeth

I learned more about my personality, nature and how to work with others better. –Thomas G. –Melissa

I learned all about water sheds, the fragileness of Pulaski's and human life. -Trillium