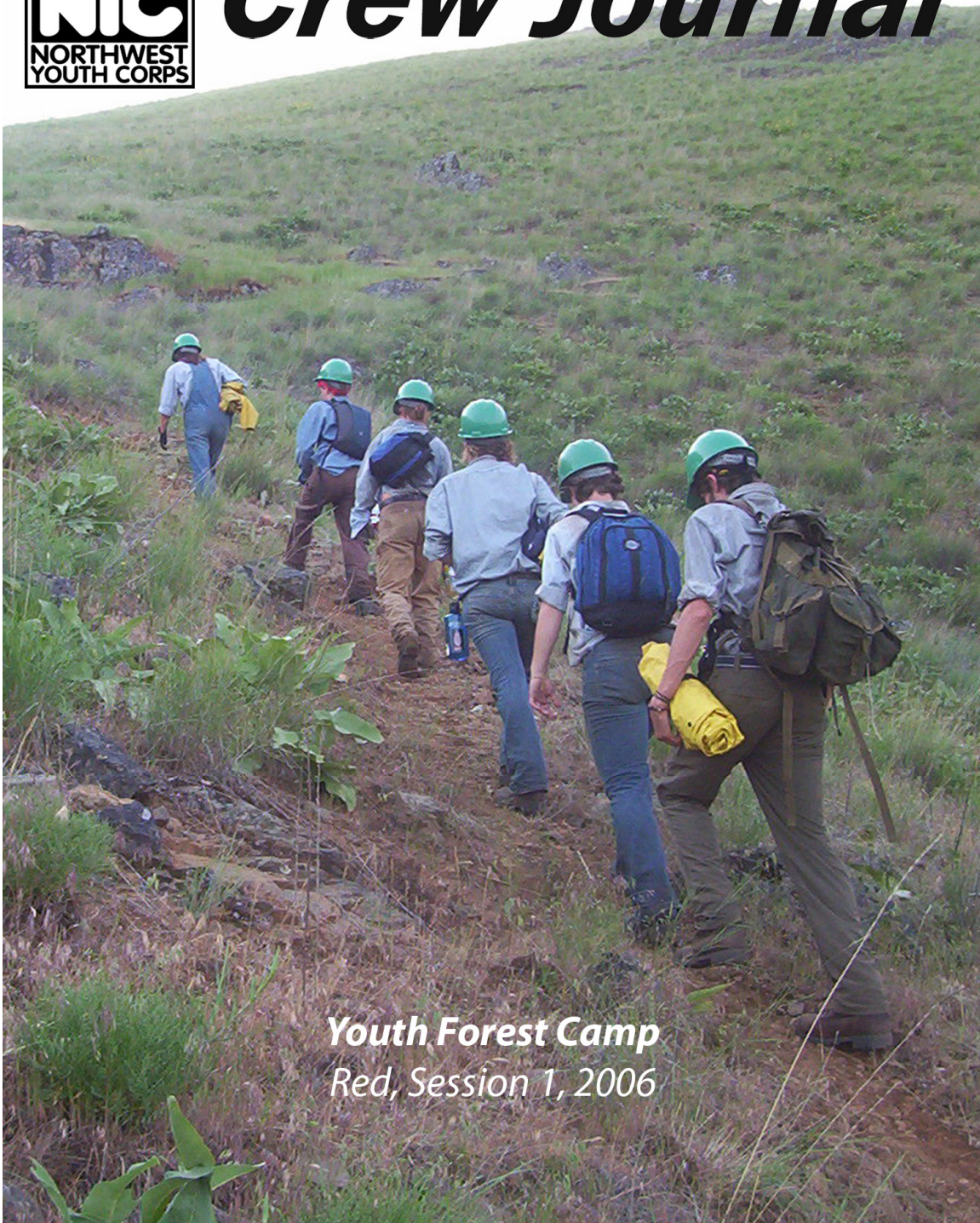




Crew Journal



*Youth Forest Camp
Red, Session 1, 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: BLM
Ranger District: Coos Bay BLM
Project Name- Hunter ACEC

Week 1: Date June 19th-June 23rd

Monday: This weekend we did our orientation on Saturday and on Sunday we did a big hike. We each had about a 30-40 lb pack on our back and hiked about 3 miles to our campsite. It was very hard because the packs were so heavy and hurt our backs. Overall I think we learned a lot though it was our first weekend. –Sarah S.

Tuesday: This week we are slash piling in a meadow near Gold Beach. We are slash piling to preserve the meadows for an endangered butterfly. We are making 18-20 piles a day sometimes more. We will be here for 2 weeks making around 200 slash piles. We are here to make the meadow more open for the butterflies. –Adra

Wednesday: We are finishing up some slash piles and learning to be more efficient plus use the tools better! Aight. Peace! –Austin D.

Thursday: During this week red crew was pushed to there limits. We hiked in our supplies to our back country camping site. We learned how to put up tents. We also learned how to build slash piles and how to make a

bear hang. I learned how to get a long with people from different backgrounds. This crew is one of the best crews I have been in, in the last three years. We have made lots of slash this week. Eric, Kaleb and I made 2 monster slash piles in less than 18 minutes. So for this week we have made over 80 slash piles. Our camp site is located in Oregon in Hunter Creek. The camp site is in a beautiful meadow. The grass is so soft. We are going to be staying here for 2 weeks with no showers and no laundry.

Friday: We had a lot of small challenges from Paul, like two piles to get done before lunch break, or one and a half in thirty minutes. We are trying to make between 150 and 200 piles in two weeks. Paul wants us to make over 200 piles in the two weeks that we are here. We have almost 100 piles made so far this week. We are also ahead on SEED and we have accomplished FUN! We play lots of games! NYC is fun! Woohoo! – Jennifer H.

National Forest or area that the work took place: BLM
Ranger District: Coos Bay BLM
Project Name- Hunter Creek ACEC

Week 2: Date June 26th-June 30th

Monday: This weekend we hiked back out to the van to re-supply our food. We invited yellow crew to come join us for dinner and we went and hung out at the creek. On Sunday we went down to the creek, it was about 102 degrees. We also drank 18 gallons of water that day. That's more than 1 gallon each. –Adra

Tuesday: This week we are in the same place as last week because our project is two weeks long. Hunter Creek is ok, it's kind of boring. I mean there's the creek to "swim" in and the field to play in but besides that there's nothing else to do...sleep...that's about it. –Cody M.

Wednesday: Our goals were to get more than 100 slash piles and we achieved 143 oh yeah! Red crew is the best ever. But we also wanted to see an old cabin and get more than 20 piles in a work day and we got something like 23 piles so we achieved that also. But for more goals we got through the hard part of our crew bonding so we achieved a lot actually, but really can't remember all the goals but we had a lot. –Kaleb W.

Thursday: Our crew learned how together each to deal with the heat because some people really do not know how to work with each other. We learned stuff about SEED how clouds and sun works all around us. –Eric

Friday: Our crew's challenges were to beat Yellow crew in a slash pile competition and to finish between 150 and 200 slash piles in 2 weeks. We accomplished all of these with 154 slash piles. We also impressed the contact guys with our work in the last 2 weeks. We also had lots of fun and worked very hard. We are also getting closer as a crew and we are all mostly getting along. – Jennifer

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Bureau of Land Management
Ranger District: Roseburg BLM
Project Name- Roseburg pruning lower dompier**

Week 3: Date July 3rd-July 7th

Monday: On Saturday we went on Rec. trips. The choices were going to the beach, to the lake, to a lighthouse or going to the park. On Sunday we packed our trailers and left on a four hour ride to our campsite. Also this weekend was parent's weekend. So parents came and Red crew (Us) made dinner. We made hoagies with basically everything on it. It was a great meal and we worked together great making it. –Sarah S.

Tuesday: The project this week is to prune trees. We are just out of Tiller, Oregon up a mountain on a tree farm. The reason we are pruning the trees is simple. We are doing it because it reduces the fuel for forest fires and it improves the quality of the wood that will be sold to companies seeking such products. –Neil S.

Wednesday: The crew's goals this week were to learn how to prune trees, to get 5 seeds in, and to get all of our hours in. It hasn't been much fun, but we're getting paid for it plus it's easy. Peace Out Homies! –Austin D.

Thursday: We learned about being responsible during and after work because we don't have a rover. Well, I learned to be responsible. I'm not so sure about the rest of the crew! We also learned how to use a key to identify trees, which was fun. We also learned about rocks and geology type things. All we learned during work was how to prune trees for nine hours a day! We are getting big muscles though! Wahoo!! Wait...wait... "1-2-3- HOORAH!" –Jennifer

Friday: Where to start? At the beginning is best, I suppose. Paul was solo (no rover) this week, so that was a huge challenge for him, having to keep us in line and motivated and get all his paperwork done and evals given. As for work, the straight up hills were a thrill. No sprained or twisted ankles, or any serious falls. A huge feat! Pruning is dull, repetitious work, so keeping us on task and working as fast as we did was pretty amazing.

Also we had a new guy come join us this week and we had to go through the reforming process that we'd talked about in a SEED last week. Despite all this we all worked 39 ½ hours! The only "bad" thing that happened this week happened after work today. The left rear window broke and we had to spend an hour fixing it. I can't wait to see YC's and Molly's faces when we pull into base camp with a cardboard window! Not long now we're halfway to the coast~ - Jamethiel

**National Forest or area that the work took place: OPRD
Ranger District: Humbug State Park
Project Name- Humbug Mt. day use trail**

Week 4: Date July 10th-July 14th

Monday: We had a great weekend starting with a very long drive from Roseburg to our base camp. On Saturday we had a scavenger hunt and we went to the beach each rec. trip did a skit

and we had a talent show. On Sunday we cleaned up camp and go ready for a great week of busting out trail. –Adra

Tuesday: This week we are doing trail work. So far we have been making a lot of retaining walls. We are at base camp. We are re-routing trail because in the winter the existing trial floods.

Wednesday: Our crews goals for the week were re-routing a trail that we already re-routed... We also put in 76 feet of retaining wall, which was one of our goals. We also finished a big section of new trail on a 90 degree slope. We had to carrv in to the side of the hill and that is when we figured out that we had to put in a lot of retaining walls. Overall this first part of the week has been very successful, considering that it was the first week that we did trail. We were slow on the first day but now towards the end we have torn through trail and had to go to another location to work. Johnathon C.

Thursday: We added good, solid trail building to our repitoir of skills as well as how to build retaining walls and steps. We learned a bit more about ourselves and each other, which is helpful for understanding each other. We can bust out some awesome work, even when our crew leader was busy. Last but not least we learned how to deal and treat with a cardboard window- don't touch it! –Jamethiel C.

Friday: Our crew's challenges were working in the rain. Creating 70 feet of retaining wall, getting over 100 barrel's of dirt and many steps and stairs. We accomplished all of this! So yeah, A-dizzie is out. –Austin

National Forest or area that the work took place: Siskiyou NF
Ranger District: Gold Beach RD
Project Name- Siskiyou Noxious Weed Eradication

Week 5: Date July 17th-July 21st

Monday: This weekend our crew had a blast! Well, I did. We got free showers on Friday and we fixed our van window. How exciting! We also had fun on our Rec. trips and in the NYC Olympics. We dominated in the dizzy bat competition, so we decided to be modest in the other competitions and come in second place. On Sunday we went to our awesome campsite and saw our cool toilet. –Jennifer

Tuesday: This week we are pulling weeds. We are along roads and rivers pulling things such as scotch broom and Canadian thistle. Obviously we are pulling weeds to reduce the amount in such areas. Today we worked in blackberries, so while we worked, a couple people and I had a blackberry fight. It was so FUN. –Sarah S.

Wednesday: To get a river bed of thistle out of other plants we had a lot of work and we used 112 huge bags of it so it was hard and they very hot weather . Plus we did another river bed and we got that done in less than 2 hours, and finished most of the work for our contact. –Kaleb W.

Thursday: This week our crew learned about noxious weeds that are growing and taking land from our native plants. We pulled the weeds to open space for native plants and animals. We learned about different habitats and animals that live in them. As we were weeding the banks of the Rogue River we saw an osprey, which is a native bird of prey. It was beautiful. We also saw several deer and learned about their habitat. –Adra H.

Friday: Like, oh-my-god. Where to start? The heat! We thought we had dealt with heat the first two weeks, while we were slash piling. Oh no. Pulling weeds with zero shade during the hottest days of the year and staying productive was a huge challenge for us, but we still got a ton done at our various work sites this week. We've already cleaned both our white walls, our rain gear, and readied our tools for repairing. We've pulled and bagged 90+ black garbage bags full of noxious weeds, such as Cowda thistle and milkweed. We've been having two leaders of the day each day this week, and all the pairs pretty much rocked and we've had a hugely successful week. Each person has learned about themselves and about leadership and we've all learned about fellowship which is just as important. All in all it's been a good session and while we're all eager to get home and back to daily showers, flushing toilets, and soft beds, what we've learned here in the past five weeks was by far worth all the bug bites, poison oak and the hot, dirty, sweaty days. Good luck, Red crew and may your life be eventful. -Jamethiel

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was the day we cleaned an acre and a half of sweet clover. –Neil S.

My most challenging day at NYC was the day when we hiked out and back into the 3rd meadow when we were doing slash piling. Sarah S.

My most challenging day at NYC was the day when we hiked into our meadow on our first back country project. –Austin D.

My most challenging day was to get closer to other people that I do not know who they are. Leaving home just to have a new home that was hard for me to do that. –Eric

My most challenging day at NYC would have to be the hike out of our two week back country project. We ended up hiking more out than in. –Cody M.

It was a weekend when I learned that I only had 5 days at home before I headed off east to college. Jamethiel C.

My most challenging day at NYC was the first day of the Sweet Clover removal and back country day when I didn't drink enough water. –Kaleb W.

My most challenging moment at NYC was the day we hiked out of Hunter Creek because my back pack was not being nice to me. –Adra H.

My most challenging day at NYC was when the crew pruned over 23 acres of forest. We had to hike down a long, I mean long ways. We went down a slope then we had to go back up it every day. Also every day we had to hike more and more because we worked in so far. –Johnathon C.

My most challenging day was when we worked in the hot sun and nobody could do much work because we were all very exhausted from everything and we could hardly work.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My three favorite NYC experiences were when I first got to NYC, got to meet my crew and then work with them. –Neil S.

My three favorite NYC experiences were my Rec. trip to the beach with Jennifer, going swimming with the whole crew and the day I graduated from NYC. –Sarah S.

My three favorite experiences at NYC were creek running with Kaleb, my rec. trip playing ultimate Frisbee with John and Jennifer and going swimming at the river. –Austin D.

My three favorite NYC experiences were building trails with my crew. But then I got to work with John and Kaleb for my first time. –Eric

I would have to say I enjoyed watching people swim. Having a shower after two weeks, and sleeping outside watching the stars. Cody M.

Hanging with my friends from other crews, talking with the rover Dhyana about everything and a rec. trip to Battle Rock Park. –Jamethiel C.

My three favorite experiences were Creek Running, going on my rec. trip with my friends, Troy, (aka Larry the Cable guy,) and my friend Kyle. Kaleb W.

My three favorite moments would have to be going to the beach, I got to hang out with Randy, Midget, Kyle and Zach. Also Hiking and swimming. –Adra

My three favorite moments at NYC were when Kaleb and I took out over ½ of a work sight the crew worked on all week because how hard it was. It was so fun. Meeting other members. My last one was finding out at the end that everyone made it to the last day and graduated. –John C

My three favorite moments were when Austin and I were gangster, winning capture the flag for my team and learning that I was accepted into BLP. –Jennifer H.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing I will always remember is all of the friends I made here and the fact that it was my first job. –Neil S.

One thing I will always remember is all the great people I met and getting to hang with them and be able to be myself and feel comfortable around them -Sarah S

One thing I will always remember is the friends I made like Caleb and Jennifer they were so awesome. –Austin

One thing that I always remember is meeting new people and I get to talk to people about what ever I want to so they can help me out. Eric.

One thing I will remember is sleeping outside not inside the crowded tent. Cody M

I will remember spending the day at Battle Rock and walking around with some friends in Port Orford and working on the Humbug Mountain trail. Jamethiel C

I will always remember going body surfing at Battle Rock with my good friend Zac P. that I met from my last session. –Kaleb W.

I will always remember the people at NYC especially my friend and my crew leader Paul. Oh and the old man. –Adra H.

I will always remember Paul because he is the best crew leader I've had and I am so glad I had the opportunity to work with him. –Jennifer H.

I will always remember the smells on the crew. The fun games that we play and all of the things that we accomplished together. –Johnathon C.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always be more environmentally conscious of my surroundings. –Neil S.

From now on I will always appreciate nature more and be more accepting to the people around me. –Sarah S.

From now on I will always be alert of the effect I am having on the earth. –Austin D.

From now on I will always help other when they need it at the time. I will always be alert for the effects of other people. –Eric

From now on I will try to be more social in my daily role in life. Deciding to cut back from my anti-social role! -Cody M.

I will always own my session and be aware of the differences in attitude of my crewmates. –Jamethiel C.

I will always from now on know what my actions are, what I'm doing and what I have in my life and what the history is of what I have. –Kaleb W.

From now on I will recycle and think more about my effect on the environment. Oh and speak in a lower tone of voice. –Adra H.

I will always remember the result of my actions if I don't take extra care of the earth. It is very important that I do. –Jennifer H.

I will always remember the friends that I am taking with me and also remember all the fun times I had working. –Johnathon C.

At NYC I Learned...

At NYC I learned more about our world I learned how to protect it and how to possibly reverse it. –Neil S.

At NYC I learned about nature, more skills, leadership and what a good work ethic is. –Sarah S.

At NYC I learned about the effects of my actions on the environment. –Austin D.

At NYC I have learned how to build slash piles and I learned about my environment around my body. Eric.

At NYC I learned a lot about self awareness. I also learned that even though my actions may change but it's not a large enough change. –Cody

I learned a ton about leadership, about patience and about picking your battles or just grinning and bearing it. –Jamethiel C.

I have learned that I'm a hard worker when I want to be and leadership, how to get along with total strangers and knowing that if you apply yourself you can do a lot. –Kaleb W.

At NYC I learned confidence and the ability to control my actions. I also learned to overcome many fears that I had had before NYC. –Adra H.

At NYC I learned that I can be whoever I want to be because it is always my choice. The people around me don't choose who I am. –Jennifer H.

I learned that I can follow and be a leader in the group. I also learned that what I do at my house and at my life effects the planet. So now I have to conserve energy that I take for granted. –Johnathon C.