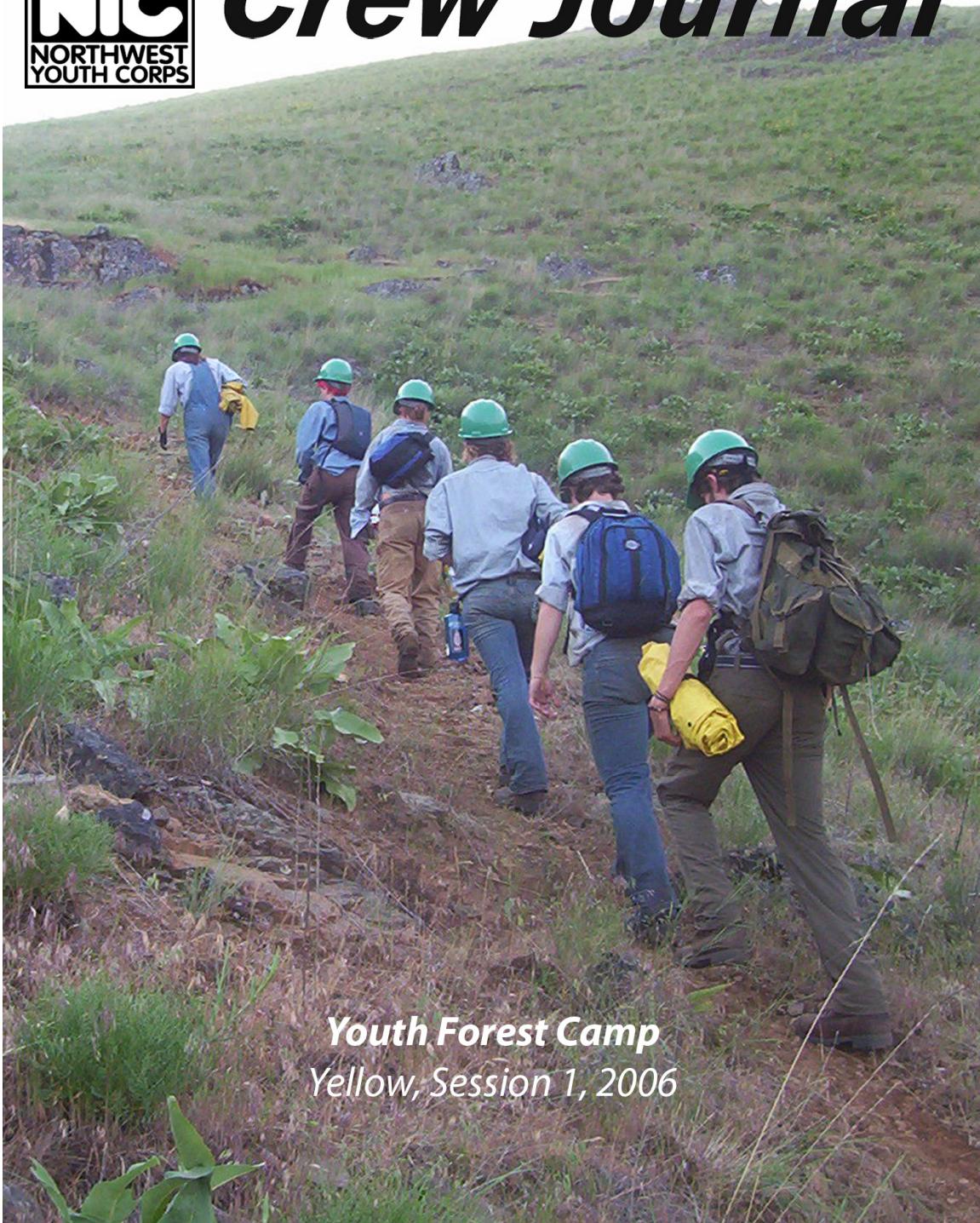




Crew Journal



*Youth Forest Camp
Yellow, 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: Bureau of Land Management
Ranger District: Coos Bay BLM
Project Name- Hunter Creek ACEC**

Week 1: Date June 19th-June 23rd

Monday: Well, Saturday we didn't have our crew together so that doesn't really work. Sunday we drove then hiked out to our campground. Today we made 24 piles, 14 piles above our quota *yay!* A lot of actual friendships not just acquaintances were formed today. I hope my new boot aren't too stiff. -Helen J.

Tuesday: Our work today consisted of pile building again. We did less today but we were much more careful about making the piles the way they need to be (less sloppy than yesterday.) Our group also made a list of rules/values that we would like everyone in the group to abide by. Although we may not refer to them very often, it was a good confirmation of this groups stability to have everyone agree on how they want to treat others. It definitely built a stronger sense of community for our crew. It is amazing to see how close we are all growing. Although individual friendships are being made, which is great, there is also a very strong sense of equality and friendship between everyone. Everyone has something great to contribute to the crew's sense of fun and hard work. This is a great crew! -Katie V.

Wednesday: We made more brush piles today than yesterday. Bigger too. 15 in all. If we keep up the learning curve maybe we can do 18 tomorrow. Our goal is to get through this and keep up or improve our pace. When we began our projected goal was 10 burn piles a day, now we figure

we can do at least 15 a day and maybe more later on in the week. Nellie told us all about “hump days” i.e. the middle of the week day and how we would get some fabulous exiting surprise every “hump day.” Then she told us how that wouldn’t happen for us. It was kinda funny really, but she says we will just have a big surprise next Friday.

Thursday: Today we worked a seven hour day. It was really short, or maybe it just seemed that way. Today was the first day I felt really stuffed from food. I definitely got enough. In the afternoon after work we all enjoyed our extra hour of free time. Our campsite is perfect for free time. We have a cool creek to the right and to the left we have a big rock to climb up which is very hot. From the rock you can get a great view of the ocean. –Vincent.

Friday: Ahhh...Friday, sweet test. We in my mind did not actually accomplish anything great. We got 3 piles done as I recollect, but it was an awesome day because we only had to work 5 hours. I enjoyed our breaks because we had real bread, none of this bagel/tortilla stuff. I have definitely enjoyed this day the most so far. Till next time I overtake this endeavor. -Guthrie

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

Week 2: Date: June 26th-June 30th

Monday: We hung out. Went to red crews camp and ate dinner with them. Went on a hike to the vans to get food for the rest of this week. Built a dam in a creek to make a pool to swim in. The dam was built with rock and moss. The moss was for plugging up the holes in between the rocks. There is a joke. There was a house with no windows and no doors with a man in side with a barrel and a mirror how does he escape? He took the mirror. Saw what he saw. Took a saw, cut the barrel in half. Two halves make a whole. He climbed out the hole. –Zach P.

Tuesday: Our work has slowed down for several reasons. 1) it is really hot out. 2.) our trees are bigger, therefore our piles are bigger. 3) we spend more time cleaning up. Yesterday, a bear came into camp. It was about 7 feet tall and came face to face with Nellie in a 2 hour battle. Finally around midnight Nellie punched the bear in the face and after it ate off her hand, the bear ran away. Nellie’s had a hard time doing chores but we are surviving. Actually, she threw a rock at it’s face last night and we haven’t seen it since. But what is life if you don’t jazz it up a little. –Katie V.

Wednesday: Over these two weeks back country our crew has had many goals, but with so little time before we leave we only have one....finish our project we have a few more piles to build and brush to clean up but we have to do it exceptionally well. –Chris

Thursday: Bears, Bears, Bears. This week we learned that bears are a nuisance. We learned that when a bear comes you should yell and scream and hit pots and pans, man it’s fun. This week we also learned about the rock cycle and the water cycle. SEED is very informational. I think it is nice to work and then be able to relax and learn a few more things that I didn’t know. The rocks and water things were very interesting. –Elliot M.

Friday: Today was a most excellent day as far as work went. The reason we had very little! Today was the last day of a two week back country trip in which we made 47 piles of trees. The day started out at 9 am like most and because we rationed our food very well these last two weeks we have been feasting like kings in order to have a light load on the hike out and also to fill us up. The work we did was hard but it was definitely worth it seeing how the butterflies will have more habitat for now I am satisfied.

“haiku”

Gorp, wonderful gorp

Oh luscious food of the woods

Who at my gumdrop?

-Guthrie

National Forest or area that the work took place: OPRD

Ranger District: Humbug Mtn. SP

Project Name- Humbug Mountain Day Use Trail

Week 3: Date: July 3rd-July 7th

Monday: Well, we all got bitten by a radioactive spotted skunk. That was before it sprayed and then ate all our food. It's been three days and we're all getting very hungry. I hope this doesn't turn into another party. Well, looks like the crew is chasing campers and I gotta go help tackle the weak ones. Later. -Helen

Tuesday: (Describe your project this week..) Uuuuhhhh??? I'm not sure why but I think it is to re-route the trail in some places. We are building retaining walls and re-routing trail. We are at Humbug Mountain. We are camped near the Oregon Coast near the town of Port Orford. This week we are stationed at the YFC base camp. There is a skunk in our camp. -Chris

Wednesday: This Wednesday was an accomplished Wednesday. Yesterday I worked the better part of the afternoon trying to pry a big rock from the ground. Today we got it!! Even Ranger Rick helped us with the task as slightly after lunch the grand rock was shifted from the earth as me, Elliot, Chris and Rick pried our hands off trying to get it out. We almost finish 2 re-routes today and hopefully we will be able to do more tomorrow. -Guthrie

Thursday: Last night Nate gave a wonderful and splendid SEED about plants. We learned how to identify plants by narrowing our search based on leaf-shape, the edges of leaves and the fruit/bark of the plant. Already today our group has been able to identify the Alder tree around our worksite. We also learned about thigmotrophism, geotrophism and heliotrophism. Nate has given this crew a new sense of intelligence and has raised the bar intellectually for the entire crew. He encourages us all to respect our environment and protect its wonders by whatever means necessary. -Katie V.

Friday: We worked on this trail at Humbug Mountain. Some of the re-routes were really hard to do. But in the end we pumped it out and we were all really proud of our accomplishments. Other challenges included doing more chores because we are now in front country. We also have a lot less free time because we have to drive about a half hour to our work site each day. I think our biggest accomplishment is that we made it through the week. -Vincent

National Forest or area that the work took place: Siskiyou NF

Ranger District: Illinois Valley RD
Project Name- Illinois River trail maintenance

Week 4: Date July 10th-July 14th

Monday: On Sunday we hiked 6 miles into our back country campsite and finished off the last 3 this morning. The hike was really hard and we are all still recovering from our cuts and bruises but we feel extremely accomplished to have made it here and start our work on the trails. This is definitely one of the hardest things that most of us have done. I'm positive we will feel great on Friday after we have completed the project. –Katie V.

Tuesday: Our project this week is nine miles back country! The hike in was really really hard and tiring. We are building and re-routing trail. We are also improving trails and fixing land slides. We are in the Kalmiopsis wilderness on the Illinois River. There is a creek by our camp site which also over looks the river. –Chris

Wednesday: Hmmm, this week we were assaulted by several snakes while a cougar stole all of our bologna, which was fine cause it tastes gross anyway, but now we are living off of humus and jelly. We've decided that hiking is a stupid idea so we are going to float down the river on a raft made of logs and our tents. This page will not be read seeing as the paper will be used for the sail so I don't even know why I'm writing this. Something to read till we reach the van on our raft. Until later. –Helen J.

Thursday: One of the very important things we learned is that to have a good hike you must have your pack adjusted correctly. All of us were suffering injuries from our packs on the nine mile hike in to our worksite. But a few of us figured out a few adjustments on our packs that helped our backs, hips and shoulders. –Vincent

Friday: This week, Yellow crew busted out some hard core re-routes up on the Illinois River. After hiking in 9 miles, we set up camp at the most beautiful campsite! With a very nice breeze that kept the mosquitos away. We worked extra hard in the heat and on tough terrain. One of the re-routes that we did was on a very steep landslide. It was so awesome to go back across the area that was once nearly impossible to cross and see instead of neat trail. –Katie V.

National Forest or area that the work took place: OPRD
Ranger District: Valley of the Rogue SP
Project Name- Valley of the Rogue Maintenance

Week 5: Date July 17th-July 21st

Monday: Today, Yellow crew disrupted the spare time continuum because we worked so darn hard that the martians were forced to dance in their space boots. The only way to restore order in the universe is to work even harder tomorrow. Dun Dun Duunnn....In order for this to happen we will need 3 time warp transporters, 2 water cooling system, 16 gerbils, 1 cheese-it, and a helm of wrath. These items can be found on the national forest black market, except for the cheese-It which has been eaten by the skunk. –Katie

Tuesday: Today we became the Northwest yard care crew because all we are doing in our location is trimming stuff back and moving. On the plus side, only three days left of NYC! Sad and yet oddly comforting. Hmm. The space time continuum is still disrupted due to lack of the cheese-it and the right kind of water-cooling system. –Helen

Wednesday: Today is hump day. Nellie discovered why she is a hump grump- she has Molly withdraws!! Because our crew has been without electronics for ions (5 weeks almost) some of us are transforming. Guthrie turned into a jukebox while Zach, Chris, Elliott and Vince became a video game. Although Guthrie's singing aided our music withdraws, I think our crew could use a return to civilization- it may be the last option for sanity. Otherwise we'll follow the yellow brick road to the psychotic knife wielding chicken!! –Julia

Thursday: We learned about wilderness and the government. Also I think we talked about how to be a yard crew. For our project this week we are working in a very populated area so the trail needs to be spotless so we pretend to be a yard crew and raked up everything and made the trail pretty. –Elliot

Friday: Today was our last day of work for the session! We were all exhausted and grumpy but our crew held it together and finished our project with a bang. Last night we had our appreciation and thank you circle and I think it brought our crew closer. It really is like a family and it's been wonderful having so much support from everyone on and off the worksite. We're all going home with some new wealth of something or another. We just have to figure out what it is. The countdown is finally over!! Live Strong! –Julia

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was the first day when we woke up in the morning and it was freezing. –Guthrie

I think my most challenging moment was the whole hike in and of the Kalmiopsis. –Helen

The last day. –Chris S.

The first day I couldn't help but think "oh God 5 weeks of organized fun" –Nathan B.

The last couple of days when I had to endure mad itching from my spreading poison oak. –Julia S.

The Monday of the fourth week. The 4 mile hike in the heat. –Elliot M.

9 mile hike –Zach P.

The first day of work was a shock. –Vincent

The first day of the 9 mile hike in. –Katie

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My favorite 3 experiences were doing 9 mile back country, the trail at Humbug and hanging out with my crew at the various waterholes at different campsites. –Guthrie.

My favorite all happened this last week when we were all talking and sharing stories. –Helen

My first weekend site. The nine mile back country project we did getting picked for yellow crew. –Chris

Learning, discovering, and growing. –Nathan B

Spending time with my crew, creating new trail and working hard. –Julia

Seeing a bear, completing back country projects and having a skunk in our tent. –Elliot M.

Bear, making new friends. –Zach P.

Working at Humbug Mt. making beautiful trail in a beautiful place and on the Illinois River valley. –Vincent

- 1.) Nate's SEED about plants
 - 2.) Getting mail on week 4
 - 3.) Free time to read
- Katie

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing I will always remember is when I was so dirty it looked like my face was painted black from all the dust and hard work. –Guthrie

I will remember the whole experience, everything we have done will play on my head like a movie. –Helen J.

My crew and the awesome times and wicked hard challenges we had. –Chris S.

The sound of silence. –Nathan B.

Guthrie singing cake all day. –Julia

The beautiful scenery –Elliot M.

Chasing the bear out of camp. –Zach P.

I will always remember the people. –Vincent

Everyone on Yellow crew and how we all related to each other. –Katie

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always have the impulse to sprint towards people who are clapping.
–Guthrie

Every time I get in a car and hear “seat belts!” my hand will hit the roof and Guthries, the clapping will haunt me...in a good way, I think. –Helen J.

Be more self dependant. –Chris S.

Keep my actions in mind. –Nathan B.

Try to listen and understand more. Julia S.

Be more respectful to nature. –Elliot M.

Try to get along with different people. –Zach

I appreciate the wilderness 9 miles back country. –Vincent

Try to listen and learn anything I can. –Katie

At NYC I Learned...

I learned the value of people ideas, the importance of work ethic and most importantly the appreciation of the wilderness. –Guthrie

I learned to appreciate the nature around me, silence and how to get dressed in 2 minutes instead of 5. –Helen

How to drink out of a 2 gallon jug without spilling a drop. –Chris S.

Kindness, Forgiveness, humility. –Nathan B.

I second humility. I could work on it a lot still. –Julia S.

The stages of a natural forest, how to say my name in sign language and that iodine makes you yellow. HA! -Elliot

The same from last summer. -Zach P.

I learned I could do something I didn't think I could at first. -Vincent

How much more knowledge there is for me to learn. -Katie