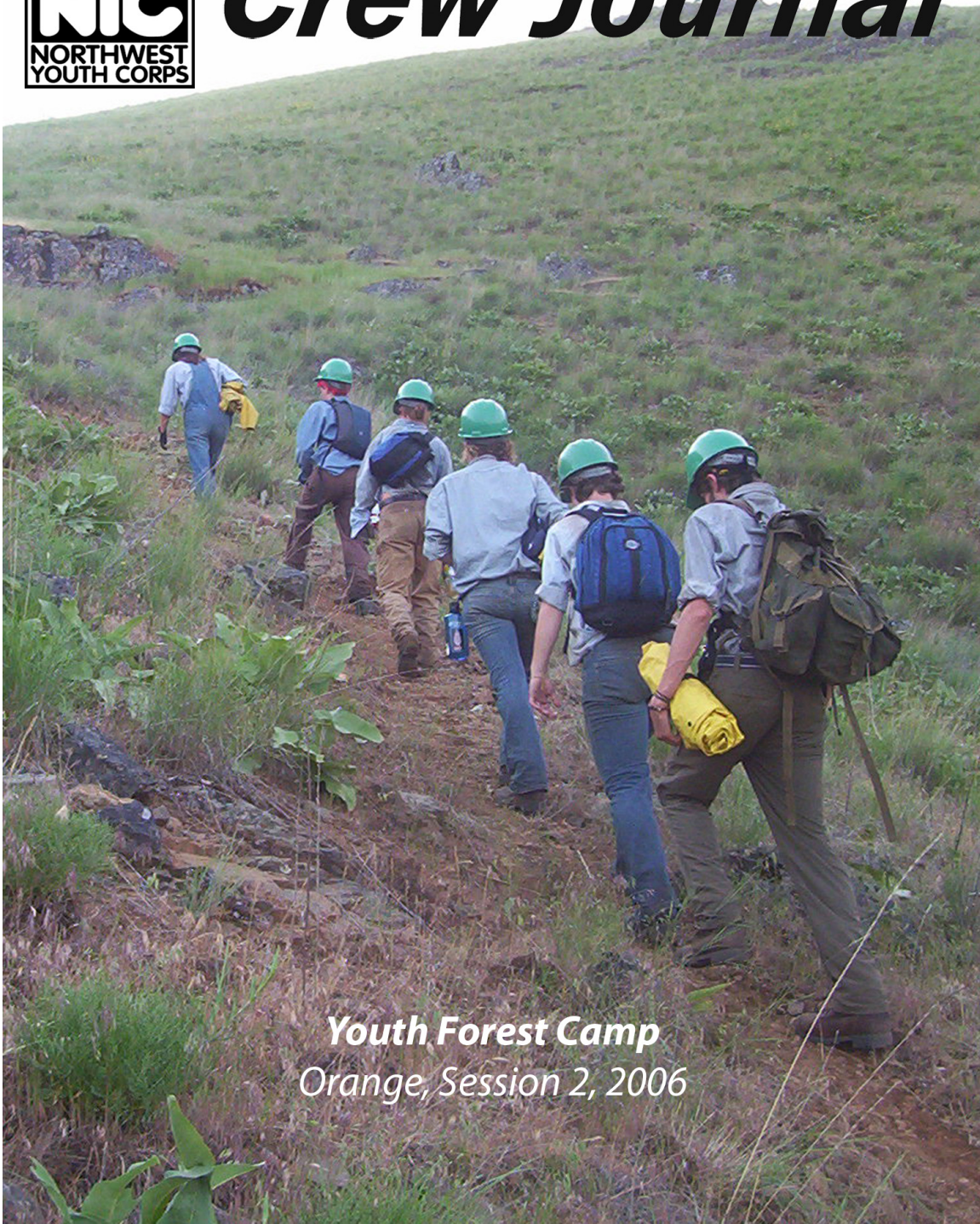




Crew Journal



*Youth Forest Camp
Orange, Session 2, 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: County Parks
Ranger District: Linn County Parks
Project Name- River Bend County Park**

Week 1: Date July 31st-Aug 4th

Monday: Since this was our first week at NYC, we had plenty of orientation. Most of it was on Saturday, and we got to meet all of the people that are participating in NYC this year. On Sunday we had a little more in depth orientation with our crew leader and our rover. On Monday we had our first day of work, and it was difficult but we got through. – Amanda V.

Tuesday: We cut down the tree and trails. We are in base camp and trail rocks. –Charles N.

Wednesday: Although this is the first week I think that everyone has been doing a good job, it isn't an easy job and I think everybody has been doing the best work they can. Being away from the stuff that everybody loves is a big turn around in life. Out here we have no electrical items of any such sort and we learn what is most important to us all in life and I believe it's a good life learning experience. –Marissa M

Thursday: Today was an extremely exhausting and utterly satisfying work day! We are a day away from finishing our first project and seeing the difference from beginning to end is so great! True, my feet hurt and I can't wait to get to sleep tonight but I feel I am doing something really worthwhile. Go Orange Crew!

Friday: Today was a very satisfying day, having gotten all of our work finally finished! We completed our re-route at the trail at base camp, as well as finished graveling and pruning another section of trail. Graveling was an especially hard part of the whole project, but with David and Tony working their butts off, and Juliette and Cary cheering us on, we worked our way through it. It was a pretty satisfying day, getting to shower and do laundry and go to the store, especially after completing our first project and first week, I know we had it easy this week, but hopefully it will have properly broke us in for the weeks to come. –Caitlin B.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Umpqua NF
Ranger District: Diamond Lake RD
Project Name- Diamond Lake Maintenance**

Week 2: Date Aug 7th-Aug 11th

Monday: Today we started a new project near Diamond Lake. Our job was to clear out cross country skiing trails of trees in the way. We cleared out about 2 miles of trail and we have about 4 more miles to go. It was also our first day with our new crew member Thierra who has worked at NYC 3 times precisely. –David T.

Tuesday: The project we have been doing is clearing out trails with loppers, saws and other tools. It is beautiful out here, I believe that all of us have been working the hardest we can, although it may get really hard out here we are the Orange crew and we rock we are a team, and it takes a whole group to keep us all together and only one to keep a smile on everybody's face. –Marissa M.

Wednesday: Today we had the honor and privilege of working on and finishing the ski trails in Umpqua National Forest. The Orange crew and I are extremely excited to begin the dread and terror trail. Our goal is to give 110% and succeed in the completion of the maintenance required. While applying ourselves in our daily work we often sing songs, we sing anything from Eagles to Classics to Maroon 5 to Disney songs. We enjoy each other's company via singing and laughter while appreciating the fruits of our labor. –Anthony P

Thursday: Today describe what your crew learned this week...Tree and rock; role; rain; water. –Charles N

Friday: This week was fun, we were at Poole Creek Campground in the Umpqua National Forest. We worked on several cross country ski trails and we worked on a hiking trail called the "dread and terror" trail. It was a pretty strenuous, yet fun. On Thursday night we slept out under the stars and it was beautiful but cold.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Willamette NF
Ranger District: Sweethome RD
Project Name- Browder Ridge Trail

Week 3: Date Aug 14th-Aug 18th

Monday: This weekend was the first parent's day and since yellow crew was gone and red and blue crew went rafting, orange crew (our crew) was given the task of dinner, so we prepared sub sandwiches and some delicious potato salad! The meal worked out with all the people though we were squished and there was a lot of bees (well...yellow jackets) but we managed, overall, we pretty much rocked! –Caitlin B.

Tuesday: This week we are doing re-routing with several switchbacks in a place called Browder Ridge. We are doing it because the current trail falls right on the fall line making the trail into a trench. –Amanda V.

Wednesday: Today our crew worked on Switchbacks. We did some clearing, and rolled some logs out of the trails. It was hard work but that made the day and the week go by fast. It's really great to work with a crew who is so friendly. We're in a good location too. It's not too far from our work. Strangely enough, I can actually say that I'm glad to be here, rather than being at home. Being bored, Orange crew is really, really, really, really ridiculously good looking. – Rachel h.

Thursday: Our crew has been working on the Browder Ridge trail. It was being eroded by the water run off so we have been constructing switchbacks this week. I have to admit I didn't think I would have this much fun working my Butt off! We sing, tell jokes and just have awesomely chill eating contests! I will be sad to leave the crew in two weeks and I definitely will never forget this awesome experience. –Ava S.

Friday: We, the orange crew have faced many grueling challenges. From creating a song for the weekend to the development of switchbacks and climbing turns. We have sweat and bled and dealt with the internal pain all in the name of preserving nature. Our crew has created a network of trust and respect that has kept us together, tried and true. The appreciation and friendship provides us with the strength and courage to pass through the week and complete our tasks to the best of our abilities. The Orange crew is really really really really ridiculously good looking! - Anthony P.

National Forest or area that the work took place: County Parks
Ranger District: Linn County Parks
Project Name- McDowell Creek County Parks

Week 4: Date Aug 21st-Aug 25th

Monday: Well, it depends on when you believe the weekend begins. For me it started this Monday. But for the slightly less than exuberant it started on Friday night. When we awoke on Saturday we enjoyed each other's company as we labored over chores. Then we basked in the sun and relished the free time. We performed our songs for our joyous parents. –Anthony P.

Tuesday: Since I have been at NYC I have experienced a lot of problems with my body. The first week I was out here I cut my finger with my pocket knife, then about three days later I had hurt my right ankle so I was putting all my pressure on my left foot and while heading to the porta potty one night I tweaked my left ankle and to make things even worse about the 3rd week out here I ended up getting a bad case of hives, but hey life goes on. –Marissa M.

Wednesday: Today was a very exciting day for Orange crew! We had a couple major rocks and logs in the middle of the trail. Four of us on the crew had to first dig a rock up, pry it up out of the ground with our hands, a hazel hoe, and Pulaski and then roll it off of the trail. It took us some time and team work to un-wedge it from the ground but we did! Afterwards we felt so accomplished and so much like a team it was great! –Ava S.

Thursday: Today we had to move a big rock, it is still at large. It defeated us as we attempted to move using feet, hands a rock bar and sheer determination. The rock needed to move out of a day muddy whole to a pre dug with about 15 feet of trail between. We were moving it in order to build an anti-erosion structure to build the tread on. Now it sits in the pre-made whole refusing to sit correctly refusing to budge or give us the satisfaction of conquering it. –Anthony and Charles.

Friday: This week was pretty good since most of us were just pumped to get things done and for the fifth week. But this week, life hated me! I had to use another girls sleeping bag because she took mine on accident when she let us, and then lost my water bottle on Wednesday, which is really disappointing! Then, when walking back from the showers today, I somehow lost three different articles of clothing! I've been having terrible luck this week when it comes to lost items. To add badness to that, my stadium chair broke in one spot and hopefully can be repaired somehow. But oh well, not much I can do beyond trying my best. Anyway, I think all of us have become very excited for this last week, as well as much closer, though we do get on each others nerves sometimes. We'll be fine though. –Caitlin B.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Willamette NF
Ranger District: Detroit RD
Project Name- Maxwell/Big Springs

Week 5: Date Aug 25th-Sept. 1st

Monday: We cut down some of the trees and bushes. We did 2 new leader and stay beside work side. Molly worked with us on Tuesday. We got lost. –Charles

Tuesday: Although we only have 2 ½ work days left, I feel like we only have one day left. Time has been flying by really fast this week. I am going to miss everyone and everything that I have experienced out here. There has been a lot of ups and downs out here but I'm holding in as well as everybody else. Were Orange crew and were a family. –Marissa M.

Wednesday: Today it rained when we were pruning a cross country ski trail. I really enjoyed it. It was a good change from the scorching sun. We did so much pruning and swamping. I liked it cause it made the time fly by real fast. I wore my rain gear all day. My friends said that they thought I looked pretty cute in it plus, I wanted to take a picture of myself looking like a silly, yellow, NYC person and show it to all my friends at home. All in all, it was a good hump day. –Racael H.

Thursday: This week was a bit of a challenge for the whole crew because of some internal conflict emotionally. But we had a big talk all together one night and a lot of issues were discussed and resolved and that made us a stronger, more tight knit crew. We also learned to bundle up the night after it rains that day because you never know when you'll wake up to below 30 degree weather and a frosty tent ceiling. –Caitlin B.

Friday: Today we left camp at Sno Park and right now we are heading back to base camp. When we get there we have to clean everything, meaning all the vans, the tools, the tables, coolers, food boxes, etc. We are all looking forward to going home tomorrow and to finally being able to sleep in our own beds, watch TV, eat ice cream, hang out with our friends and for me, to play my electric guitar. –David T.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was Monday of week three, because it was the first work day after I had noticed some back pain, which only got worse after working. On top of the pain, which was significant I couldn't stop thinking of home and all day I was thinking why am I here? I totally don't want to be here. –David T.

My most challenging day at NYC was during week 2 on a Wednesday. We were working at Diamond Lake on a particularly steep ski trail and it was very hot and sunny. We had hiked up the trail and were working our way down. The hard part was that the backs of my feet had been rubbed raw by my boots. By second break I broke down crying. I didn't want to get up on my feet again ever! –Ava S.

My most challenging day was today. I woke up with a sore throat, when work started I smashed my pinky later as it warmed up, although I was hydrated, I had a major headache, following I peed on a bees nest and got stung during all of this it was hard to work and keep up the PMA. –Anthony P.

My most challenging day at NYC was when I hurt my left ankle and I had to work the next day. It was extremely hot at basecamp and I was miserable, we had to lug around gravel and it hurt really bad on my ankle that was the worst day ever. –Marissa

My most challenging day at NYC wasn't a particular day, but was during the first week. It was mostly when doing graveling because it was very hot out and carrying heavy wheel barrows filled with gravel is very straining on the arms. But I toughed my way through it. –Caitlin B.

My most challenging day was during third week, we had had a hard day of work and everyone was irritable. Things kept building up and it all cumulated into a fight between 3 crew members. It was an emotionally stressful day. –Mandy

My most challenging day was waking up at 5:45. Charles N.

It was when we woke up and it was so cold I could feel my hands or toes. –Rachel H.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My favorite experiences at NYC was hanging out with all the crews at the weekend site, just playing guitar or poker or just chillin. My second favorite experiences were the rafting trips I went on, and my third favorite experience was all the trips to our work site. DT

Three of my favorite experiences at NYC were first of all the people I've met. I have met so many interesting people! Second, was working hard and being appreciated for it. Thirdly, just working together as a team with 9 other people everyday. –Ava S.

My three favorite experiences have been growing with my crew, my second favorite have been the rec. trips and my third is returning to base camp and being normally greeted by Jeremy. –Anthony P.

My three favorite experiences at NYC were the trips we took to a new job, hanging out with all the other crews at base camp and our rafting trip it rocks. –Marissa M.

My three favorite experiences were when I got employee of the week when I hadn't expected it at all, being leader of the day (twice!) and being appreciated for it and going on the rafting trip and having tons of fun getting cold, wet and numb. –Caitlin B.

Rafting was an amazing rec. trip and so was the many other rec. trips I also like rushing to finish cross cutting an enormous log before the end of work on my last day. –Mandy

My 3 favorite experiences.

The first tree I cut down, sawing a huge log in half with a cross cut and going white water rafting. –Rachel H.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing I will always remember from NYC was the family experience in the field and at base camp. DT

The family created and developed during NYC and the team work used to achieve difficult tasks have instilled in me a sense of confidence, love, respect, which I will never forget. –Anthony P.

One thing I will always remember at NYC is the family experience I loved it and the great different kinds of people out here. –Marissa M.

One thing I will always remember are the friends I've made and the hilarious things we've done together. –Ava S.

I will always remember the camaraderie and feeling of family our crew created. –Mandy

I will always remember Orange crew. –Charles N.

One thing I will always remember is the friends I've made and the long days of work that seemed to never end. –Rachel H.

One thing I'll always remember is that I can work hard and do great things, so long as I believe in myself. –Caitlin B.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always practice what I preach and believe firmly in Karma. –DT

From now on I will always respect the wilderness and respect everyone's opinions. I will always admire trails and those who strive to protect nature. –Anthony P.

From now on I will always respect the things around me and be grateful for what I have. I will always love life. –Marissa M.

From now on I will always appreciate the effort and love put in to the making of a trail and love and respect the forest for what it is. Also to try my best to help out those who rely on me. –Caitlin B.

From now on I will always appreciate what I have and know that I can live without a lot of it. –Ava S.

From now on I will always appreciate the true tranquility of nature. –Mandy

From now on I will truly appreciate sleeping in a soft bed and taking a shower every day. I now know how it feels to be in good physical and mental shape, and I'll be maintaining that shape. –Rachael H.

At NYC I Learned...

At NYC I learned to make judgment calls based on previous experience. I learned that I am capable of being a leader, working hard, making decisions for myself and that I am a strong person and no one else but myself will decide my future. –DJ

At NYC I learned to be more confident in myself and that I can be a leader. I learned that it takes many people with different backgrounds to work well as a team. I also learned that working to my full potential is a quality employers look for and feels great! –Ava S.

I had the opportunity to take and learn from NYC. The first thing I learned was how to learn community and be a part of a group. Second was how to bust out awesome trail and the third was that I can work hard or do manual labor in a full time job –Anthony P.

Three things I learned at NYC are I learned I can be a leader not a follower, I am a strong person when I put my mind to things and I can work well in a group. –Marissa M.

At NYC I learned a few things that I'll probably keep with me for life. First of all, I learned to bundle up at night because you never know when you'll wake up to frost on the ceiling of the tent. Second, everyone's feelings in a close group effect everyone else and third, our crew leader, Juliette basically rocks! –Caitlin B.

At NYC I learned that I can survive with only one shower per week and I won't be super smelly. I also learned that I am a strong person, mentally, physically, and emotionally. –Mandy

At NYC I learned that I can survive with only one shower, and teamwork and how to cut down trees. –Charles N.

I learned that I can live in harmony with strangers and end up loving them; I learned about Oregon's forests and I learned to live in the woods. –Rachel H.