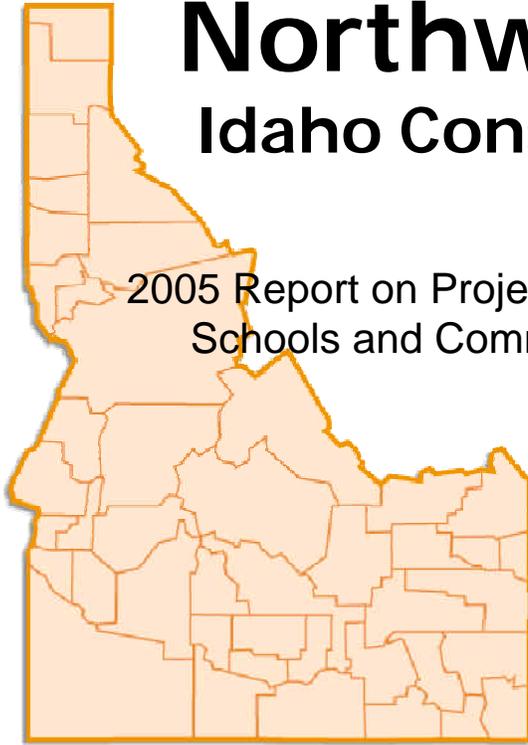




# Northwest Youth Corps Idaho Conservation Corps Program

2005 Report on Projects Funded by Title II of the Secure Rural  
Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000

November 28, 2005





## CONTENTS

BACKGROUND.....	1
FUNDING.....	2
PROJECT LOCATIONS.....	3
PROJECT SUMMARY.....	4
SERVING YOUTH.....	6
EDUCATION OUTCOMES.....	8

November 28,2005

In cooperation with Forest Service project partners, Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) applied for and received funding from both the North Central Idaho and Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committees (RAC's). With this funding youth crews in NYC's Idaho Conservation Corps Program completed a variety of conservation projects including fence construction, hazardous fuels reduction, trail maintenance and trail construction. Although NYC has developed successful partnerships with a number of RACs in Oregon and Washington, 2005 was the first year that NYC has worked with Idaho RACs.

In addition to producing on the ground results, RAC grants support local youth development by funding challenging conservation projects. While completing these projects youth learn the value of teamwork, communication, responsibility and safety as well as taking an active role in contributing towards area land managers' stewardship objectives.

This report provides a summary of Idaho RAC funded projects as well as information about NYC's efforts to recruit local youth and provide a meaningful education experience.

## **PROJECTS**

### **NEZ PERCE NF AND HELL'S CANYON NRA PROJECTS**

Forest Service Partners: Nez Perce National Forest and Hells Canyon NRA

Contact: Laurie Doman, Trails Program Manager (208) 983-1950

Cost: \$87,480

Status: *complete*

### **MONUMENTAL CREEK TRAIL MAINTENANCE**

Forest Service Partner: Payette National Forest, Krassle Ranger District

Contact: Patti Stieger, Trails and Recreation (208) 983-1950

Cost: \$88,012

Status: *scheduled completion in 2006*

## **BACKGROUND**

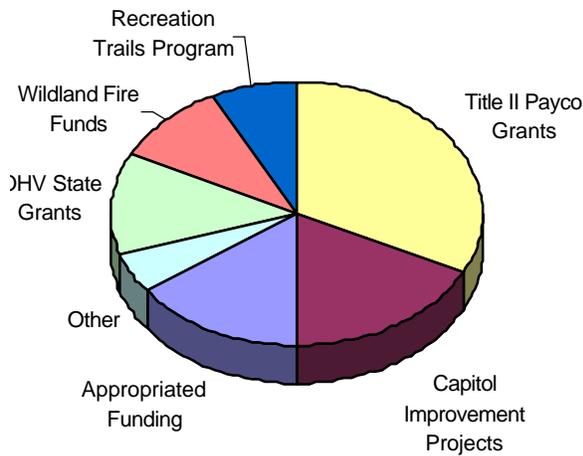
Since it was established in 1984, NYC has worked in partnership with land management agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, BLM and National Park Service to employ local youth in completing a variety of conservation projects. NYC's residential Youth Corps Programs use challenging experiences as a metaphor for personal growth. Crews of ten youth develop communication skills, teamwork, self-confidence, a sense of responsibility, and a strong work ethic which will help them to become productive members of society. Programs are available for all youth ages 14-19 and vary from 4-6 weeks per session. Corps members work 30-35 hours per week on the project and earn a stipend that is competitive with minimum wage. After the work day is over participants engage in educational activities from NYC's accredited curriculum which focuses on outdoor living skills, environmental education and social development.

Over the past 21 years NYC programs have expanded beyond Oregon to serve communities across the Pacific Northwest. In 1992 NYC began operating in Idaho with the creation of the Backcountry Leadership Program (BLP). Open to only 20 youth per year, the BLP continues to provide additional training to youth as they complete projects in remote areas including the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. In 2002 The Idaho Conservation Corps Program was created as a four crew module to further increase opportunities for Idaho youth. During NYC's field season the Idaho Conservation Corps offers two 5 week sessions employing 40 youth during each session.

**FUNDING**

NYC programs are able to offer youth a paid educational experience by working with various land management agencies to complete fee-for-service projects. As federal and state budgets for recreation and conservation projects continue a downward trend, our project sponsors have looked to a variety of instruments to fund their projects. Grants made available through the Title II provision of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Payco) have become a major component of NYC’s project funding base. During the last few years Resource Advisory Committees (RAC’s) in Oregon and Washington have supported NYC through Title II project grant awards. However, this year was the first year that NYC applied for funding from Idaho RAC’s. A grant from the North Central Idaho RAC supported 10 crew weeks and 3 crew weeks were supported with funds from the Southwest Idaho RAC.

The chart below shows the variety of funding sources that contributed to the 2005 Idaho Conservation Corps’ project schedule which totals 40 project weeks.



**2005 PROJECT PARTNERS**

In addition to assisting NYC in securing project funding, our project partners provide support in many other ways including but not limited to: logistics coordination, pack-support, on-site instruction, supervision and education lessons. NYC would like to thank those land managers who contributed their time and energy to making the 2005 field season a success. Their efforts help form the connection between the youth, the work and the greater stewardship goals that we hope to achieve through our partnership.

**PARTNER AGENCIES**

USFS—Region 1  
 Nez Perce National Forest  
 Hells Canyon NRA  
 Idaho Panhandle National Forest

USFS– Region 4  
 Payette National Forest  
 Salmon-Challis National Forest  
 Sawtooth National Forest

USFS—Region 6  
 Colville National Forest

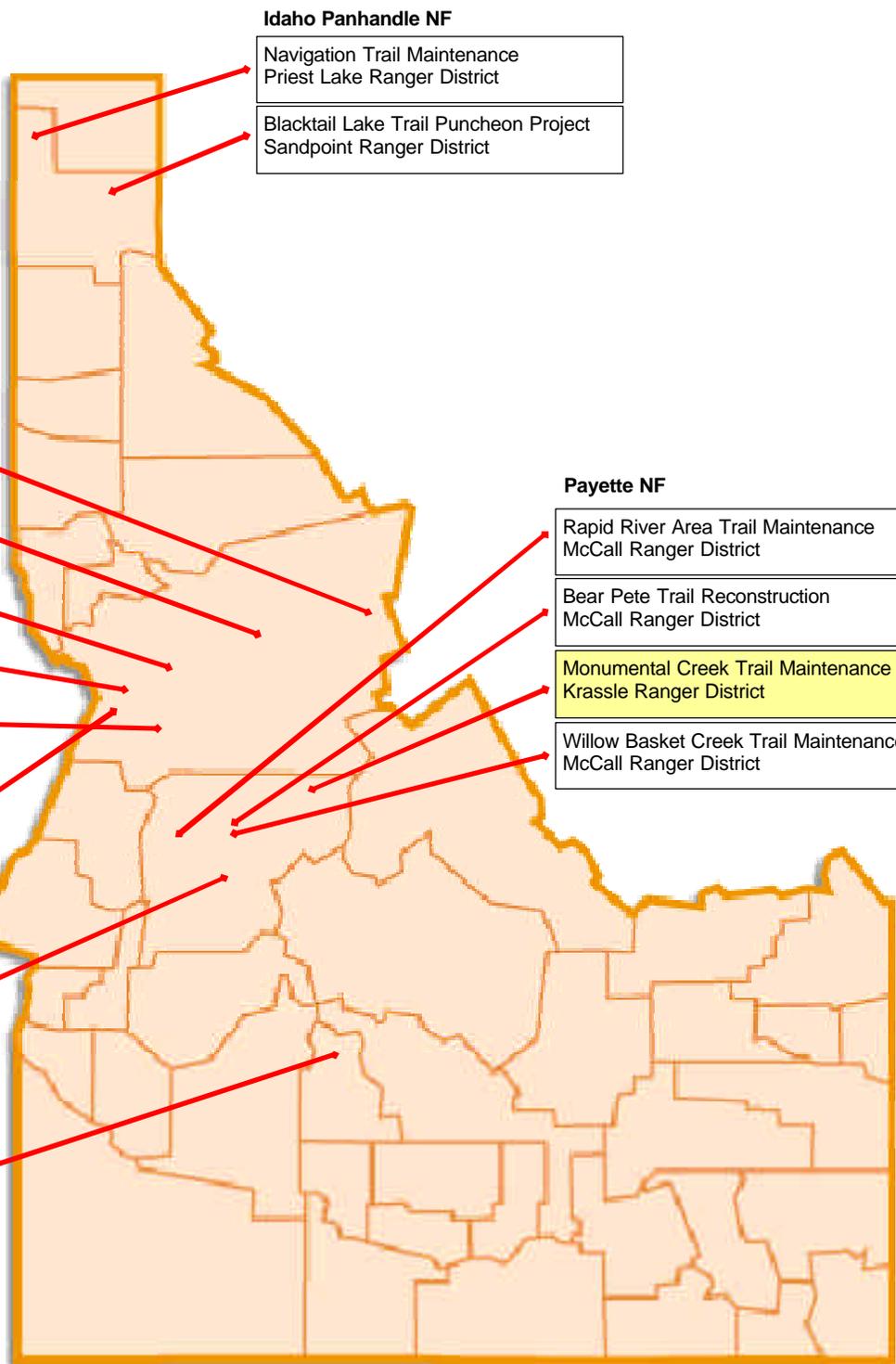
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
 Sumpter Valley Dredge State Park

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Little Pend Oreille NWR



**PROJECT LOCATIONS**

The Idaho Conservation Corps crews worked on projects from the Idaho Panhandle south to the Sawtooth Mountains. Most projects were in North and Central Idaho. Some crews had the opportunity to work in Washington and Oregon. Projects highlighted in yellow were made possible by Title II grant funds.



**Idaho Panhandle NF**  
 Navigation Trail Maintenance  
 Priest Lake Ranger District  
 Blacktail Lake Trail Puncture Project  
 Sandpoint Ranger District

**Nez Perce National Forest**  
 East Moose Trail Maintenance  
 Moose Creek Ranger District  
 Meadow Creek Trail  
 Moose Creek Ranger District  
 Adams Camp Fuels Reduction  
 Salmon River Ranger District  
 Silvers Station Fence Reconstruction  
 Salmon River Ranger District  
 Sheep Creek Trail Relocation  
 Red River Ranger District

**Payette NF**  
 Rapid River Area Trail Maintenance  
 McCall Ranger District  
 Bear Pete Trail Reconstruction  
 McCall Ranger District  
 Monumental Creek Trail Maintenance  
 Krassle Ranger District  
 Willow Basket Creek Trail Maintenance  
 McCall Ranger District

**Hells Canyon NRA**  
 Seven Devil's Fence Reconstruction

**Salmon/Challis NF**  
 Pistol Lake Turnpike Reconstruction  
 Middle Fork Ranger District

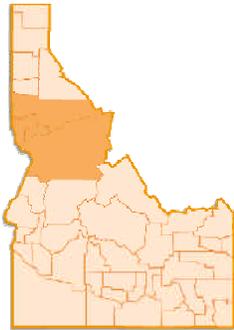
**Sawtooth NF**  
 Paradise Trail Maintenance  
 Fairfield Ranger District

**US Fish and Wildlife Service**  
 Little Pend Oreille Fuels Reduction

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**  
 Entrance Sign Construction Project  
 Sumpter Valley Dredge State Park (OR)

**Colville NF**  
 Batey-Bould Trail Projects  
 Sullivan Lake Ranger District

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**



### **NEZ PERCE NF AND HELL'S CANYON NRA PROJECTS**

The projects described in this section were made possible through a grant from the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee. Through a collaborative effort, several project managers provided logistics and organizational support for a diversity of priority projects. These projects not only provided employment opportunities for local youth, they also gave program participants a chance to learn about resource conservation management objectives and techniques.

#### **Adam's Camp Fuels Break Project**

4 Crew Weeks

Contact: Andrew Lane (208) 839-2107

Grant Expenditure: \$27,669.46

Project Hours: 1,680

Project Accomplishments: Each of the four crews in the Idaho Program's 1st session spent a week piling slash at the Old Adam's Camp Ranger Station to establish a 300-500 foot fuel break. On average crews completed 15-20 acres per week for a total of approximately 70 acres treated over the course of the project. Working in coordination with Forest Service personnel, the crews learned firsthand about wildfire hazard mitigation.

#### **Silvers Station Fencing**

1 Crew Week

Contact: Don Eckford (208) 839-2108

Grant Expenditure: \$6,917.36

Project Hours: 420

Project Accomplishments: One Crew spent a week on site constructing 1,200 ft. of new fence including 9 rock baskets. The also removed 1,200 ft of fence, plus repaired and maintained another 2,200 ft. of barbed wire fence. Working directly with Don Eckford the crew learned how to construct wire fence, even across steep and rugged terrain.

#### **Seven Devils Horse Pasture Fence Reconstruction**

2 Crew Weeks

Contact: Earl Baumgarten (208) 628-3916

Grant Expenditure: \$13,834.73

Project Hours: 840

Project Description: Over the course of two weeks, one crew removed and replaced the horse pasture fence and completed painting projects on the workstation buildings. They also worked at the Windy Saddle Campground where they disassembled the wood rail fencing, installed conduit and wire that was buried for electric fence, and removed 70 hazard trees (including bucking, stacking, and dispersal).

#### **Sheep Creek Trail #201 Relocation**

2 Crew Weeks

Contact: Gary Loomis (208) 842-2245

Grant Expenditure: \$13,834.71

Project Hours: 840

Project Description: Located deep in the Gospel Hump Wilderness, the Forest Service facilitated the project by providing jet boat transport for the crew to get up the Salmon River to their trailhead at the mouth of Sheep Creek. From there, the crew hiked into the backcountry and lived on site for the duration of the project in which they completed 1,000 ft. of new trail construction and 3.5 miles of trail maintenance.

### **Meadow Creek Trail**

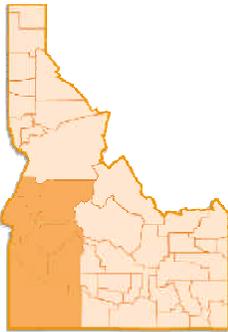
1 Crew Week

Contact Paul Christensen (208) 926-4258

Grant Expenditure: \$6,917.20

Project Hours: 420

Project Description: Located on the Selway River Corridor, this route is one of the most popular with recreationalists in the area. One crew hiked in 3 miles and established a backcountry camp for the week long project. They completed 1.75 miles of trail maintenance, constructed 150 drainage structures and replaced one culvert.



### **MONUMENTAL CREEK TRAIL MAINTENANCE**

The project described in this section was made possible through a grant from the Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee. In total funding was approved for 12 crew weeks over the course of 2 years. The objective of this project is to protect fish habitat by correcting trail problems that lead to erosion as well as providing safe passage to all area users by addressing maintenance issues.

### **2005 Project Accomplishments**

3 Crew Weeks

Contact: Patti Steiger (208) 634-0659

Grant Expenditure: \$20,752.09 (Remaining: \$67,259.91)

Project Hours: 1,260

Project Description: This field season the crew began work at the Upper Monumental Trailhead and worked north along Roosevelt Lake. They completed two reroutes and then focused on tread maintenance and brushing. Accomplishments are: 1,000 ft. of new trail construction, 3.75 miles of trail maintenance, 35 ft. of retaining walls, 7 drainage structures, 1 stream ford and 2,690 ft. of trail fill.

In the 2006 field season 9 more crew weeks will be spent completing work items between the Upper Monumental Trailhead and Monumental Bar.

## **SERVING LOCAL YOUTH**

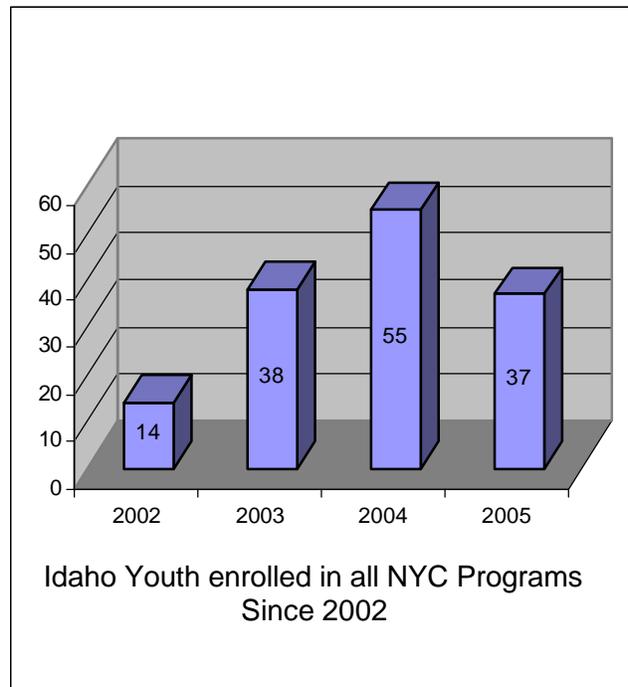
Since NYC programs are able to offer paid positions that are competitive with entry level jobs in the region, NYC attracts a diverse population of youth. While the majority of our participants come from the states of the Pacific Northwest, some travel from as far away as Florida, Alaska and Hawaii. For many NYC is a chance to participate in a challenging outdoor experience without paying the high fees associated with other adventure education programs.

In an effort to recruit local youth, NYC staff work with schools, job services agencies and place print ads in target communities. NYC receives applications each year from interested individuals. After reviewing the suitability of each applicant, NYC sends the individual a confirmation packet. At this point the individual has been offered a position. It is now the responsibility of the youth/parent to complete all required paperwork and submit to NYC with tuition payment or request for tuition assistance.

In 2005, NYC received 102 applications from youth living in Idaho, 83 applicants received job offers and 37 offers were accepted. Of those 37, most elected to work in the Idaho Conservation Corps Program, but others traveled to Oregon and Washington to work in NYC's other programs.

### **IDAHO RECRUITMENT**

NYC's recruitment department works to distribute information about opportunities for youth through a variety of methods. Approximately \$2,000 was expended on ads in several major newspapers throughout the state. Recruitment packets containing brochures, applications and an informative CD video were distributed to 20 High Schools. An NYC representative gave presentations at two schools; Salmon River High School in Riggins and Highland High School in Craigmont. Lastly, postcard invitations to apply were sent to every household with teenagers of age in 20 targeted counties. Table 1 details youth applications and hires for 2005 in Idaho by county



### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Tuition and foods expenses paid by program participants contribute to NYC's cash match allowing NYC to enter into cost-share agreements with projects sponsors. In order to minimize the financial barrier to interested youth, NYC established an endowment and solicits donations and grants to provide scholarship to applicants who demonstrate financial need. This year 6 youth from Idaho received tuition scholarships; the average award was \$105.



Table 1. Idaho Recruitment by County—2005

County	Applications	Offers	Hires
Ada	16	13	5
Bannock	1	0	0
Boise	6	5	3
Bonner	1	0	0
Bonneville	5	4	0
Cannon	1	1	0
Canyon	16	14	4
Elmore	4	3	2
Gem	2	1	0
Gooding	1	1	0
Idaho	7	7	4
Jerome	1	1	0
Kootenai	3	2	1
Latah	22	20	14
Lewis	4	3	1
Nez Perce	8	5	3
Owhyee	1	1	0
Valley	2	2	0
Washington	1	0	0
Totals	102	83	37



### IDAHO CONSERVATION CORPS PARTICIPANT EXPENSE AND INCOME

*Fees:*

Tuition: \$200

Food Expense: \$50 per week

*Stipend:*

Education Stipend, tax-free: \$1,000

Bonuses: up to \$250

Net: \$800/Session or \$160/week

Earnings per hour = \$6.00\*

\*no including food expense

### 2005 NYC YOUTH STATISTICS FOR ALL NYC PROGRAMS

The 2005 Field Season covers the period from mid-April to mid-October. During this period, NYC:

- Received 1,763 applications from Youth around the country;
- Offered positions to 735 of these applicants;
- Hired 546 14-19 year old youth for a conservation program
- 91% of hired youth completed the program.
- 362 male corpsmembers hired, 66% of total.
- 184 female corpsmembers hired, 34% of total.

Youth race/ethnicity for the 2005 year were:

- 89% Caucasian;
- 3% Hispanic/Latino;
- 2% African American;
- 2% American Indian;
- 1% Asian/Pacific Islander



**EDUCATION**

All of NYC’s programs schedule a portion of the day on education activities. NYC’s Something Educational Every Day (SEED) program, is a nationally accredited educational curriculum that infuses hands-on activities with discussion, research and journaling sessions. NYC corps members participate in SEED activities Sunday through Thursday each week. The 2005 revision linked to the National Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS) accreditation of NYC’s OutDoor High School, with the result being all successful graduates from an NYC conservation program earn 1.5 credits (1 PE and 1/2 Natural Sciences).

The SEED program provides focus areas in: Group Living/Communication, Outdoor Living Skills, Ecology, Job-training, Civil Action, and Alcohol/Drug Awareness and Prevention Activities. Included with the mandatory lessons are optional activities which link to sites and locations where the crew will best be able to take full advantage of the experiential nature of the program.



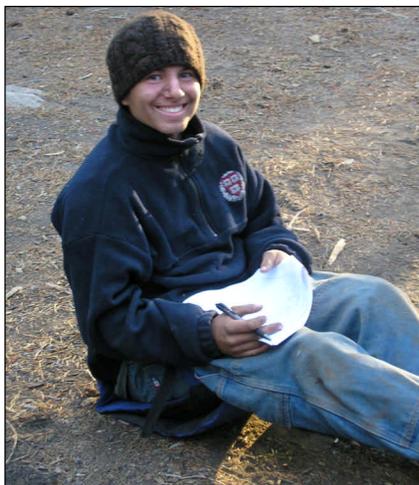
Corps members are given a Pre and Post program test, reviewing the curriculum items taught during the 4-6 week session. **For 2005, youth average increase from Pre to Post test was 31.5%.**



**Corps Member Self Assessment Data**  
**Percentage of responses indicating NYC experience increased ability to:**

• Understand environmental issues:	70%
• Work Hard:	48%
• Find a job:	70%
• Be a leader in a group:	68%
• Set and work towards goals:	47%
• Cooperate in a team effort:	40%
• Work with others:	35%

68% of NYC youth responded either with “A Lot” or “A Huge Amount” when asked if the NYC program increased their work skills.



*“NYC has been a great teacher of many things. I have learned that my life at home isn’t as bad as I had thought. I learned that with teamwork, cooperation, and a lot of passion, I can accomplish great deeds. And lastly I learned that the world is much larger than just my home town.” Eric G.*

