



CONSERVATION LEGACY ANCESTRAL LANDS FY2017 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT



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Report Term: October 2016–September 2017

Master Agreement: P15AC00024

Task Agreement: P17AC00675

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Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa
 Conservation Lands Foundation
 Crow Nation
 Eastern Shoshone Tribe
 El Malpais National Monument
 El Malpais National Conservation Area
 El Morro National Monument
 Escalante River Watershed Partnership
 Flagstaff Area National Monuments
 Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
 Grand Canyon National Park
 Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
 Grand Teton National Park
 Gulf Islands National Seashore
 Hopi Tribe
 Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
 Joshua Tree National Park
 KEEN©
 Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
 La Plazita Institute
 McCune Foundation
 Mesa Verde National Park
 Mississippi River National River and Recreation Area
 Montana Conservation Corps
 Muir Woods National Monument
 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 Navajo Nation
 Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands
 Northern Arapahoe Tribe
 Northern Arizona University
 Northwest Youth Corps
 The Outdoor Foundation
 Pecos National Historical Park
 Petrified Forest National Park
 Petroglyph National Monument
 Pueblo of Acoma
 Pueblo of Zuni
 Rio Grande Del Norte National Conservation Area
 River Restoration Adventures for Tomorrow
 Saguaro National Park
 Society of American Indian Government Employees
 Southwest Conservation Corps- Ancestral Lands
 United State Forest Service
 US Fish and Wildlife
 Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
 White Mountain Apache Tribe
 Zuni Pueblo

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Conservation Legacy would like to thank the National Park Service staff, Cooperators and Partners who have made the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps a continued success. We absolutely could not do this without you!

NPS WASO Leadership Staff
 NPS WASO Youth Programs Division Staff
 NPS WASO Agreements Staff
 NPS Intermountain Regional Office
 NPS CIRCLE

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
 Arapaho Nation
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Aztec Ruins National Monument
 Acoma Pueblo
 Blackfeet Nation
 Bandelier National Monument
 Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
 Bureau of Indian Affairs
 BIA Navajo Nation
 BIA Navajo, Southwest and Western Regions
 Bureau of Land Management
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Canyon de Chelly National Monument
 Casa Grande Ruins National Monument
 Chaco Canyon National Historical Park
 Chimney Rock National Monument

INTRODUCTION



FOSTERING CONSERVATION SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES & ECOSYSTEMS

LOCAL ACTION. ENDURING IMPACT.

Conservation Legacy is a national organization dedicated to fostering conservation service in communities and ecosystems by operating and supporting programs that provide service and work opportunities for a diverse group of individuals to complete important conservation and community projects for the public benefit.

Founded in 1998 to continue the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s, Conservation Legacy programs include Arizona Conservation Corps, Conservation Corps New Mexico, Great Appalachian Valley Conservation Corps, Southeast Conservation Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, Stewards Individual Placement Program and Preserve America Youth Summits. In addition to these programs, Conservation Legacy manages unique program models such as Ancestral Lands, Corps River Restoration and the Veterans Fire Corps.

CONSERVATION LEGACY IS DEDICATED TO:

ENGAGING YOUNG AMERICANS AND VETERANS IN SERVICE:

Conservation Legacy provides service, training, education and employment opportunities for community members, including low income and disadvantaged youth and veterans. Each of its programs engages a diverse set of participants, reflective of their community.

CONSERVING, PROTECTING AND PROMOTING EACH COMMUNITY'S GREATEST GIFTS: Conservation Legacy maintains, restores and enhances public and tribal lands and waters as well as natural, cultural, and historical resources and treasures that meet locally identified needs.

BUILDING AMERICA'S FUTURE: Conservation Legacy helps develop a generation of skilled workers, educated and active citizens, future leaders, and stewards of natural and cultural resources and communities.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Providing paid opportunities to serve communities and ecosystems, partnered with personal and professional development- authentic on-the-job experience- has proven to be successful in supporting individuals in building a foundation for future employment and success. Rooted in the culture and heritage of local tribal communities, the power and impact of Ancestral Lands programming is due to the community investment and support for each program tribally and locally, combined with the network of operational support from Conservation Legacy. Ancestral Lands supports local offices that are staffed and operating crews directly connected with a tribal community, supports external corps programs that are implementing tribal crews and places VISTAs working to develop programs where there is interest and need.

Conservation Legacy's Southwest Conservation Corps operates Ancestral Lands offices supporting young people from the Pueblo of Acoma, the Pueblo of Zuni, Navajo Nation, Hopi Nation, and in Albuquerque, NM with

La Plazita Institute. Our Arizona Conservation Corps program operates programming out of the White Mountain Apache community. Through the support of the National Park Service, Conservation Legacy partners with other corps to provide opportunities across the country. 2017 corps partners include Montana Conservation Corps working with Blackfeet, Shoshone and Arapahoe, Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa working with Ojibwe and urban native youth, and Northwest Youth Corps working with Warm Springs, Yakima, Umatilla, and Nez Perce.

Ancestral Lands Crews and VISTAs work at various park units in collaboration with local or adjacent tribal lands to develop partnerships, coordinate Youth Play Learn Serve (YPLS) events for native youth, and determine potential for continued service, education, and local community engagement. Conservation crew work builds off of relationships which 2016 Ancestral Lands interns developed at various sites, and where connections between partners and Native communities have been established.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE



An all-Native American Ancestral Lands program was established within Conservation Legacy in 2008 based at Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico, and has supported the expansion and replication of that program to multiple Native American communities since. Ancestral Lands programs complete projects that include traditional farming, riparian restoration, invasive vegetation assessment, inventory and monitoring, invasive species removal and habitat restoration, fuels mitigation, trail construction, historical and pre-historical preservation and cultural/language immersion. Total funding in addition to the \$562,500 ALCC NPS WASO contribution in 2017 exceeds 2.2 million dollars in partner and in-kind contributions.

Through Ancestral Lands programming, Conservation Legacy supports the self-empowerment of Native American communities through the further development of program models across Indian Country that provides jobs and experience for local Native American youth, connects youth to their heritage and cultural values, completes important conservation and interpretation projects at National Park Service units and for native communities and exposes Native American youth to potential careers with public land management agencies.

The purpose of the Ancestral Lands approach is to build a solid foundation for creating sustainable native-led programming in tribal communities across the nation. This year, WASO funding supported crew and VISTA projects at 20 National Park Service project sites. This funding has been leveraged with other partner funding to support young adults working in 16 additional National Park Service sites and 22 partner projects.

**NATIVE YOUTH LEADING OUR
NATIONS BACK TO ECOLOGICAL AND
CULTURAL WELL-BEING**

BY THE NUMBERS 2017

PARTICIPANTS:

TOTAL UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ON ALL ANCESTRAL LANDS PROJECTS IN 2017:

166

PROJECT SITES

OPPORTUNITIES ON ANCESTRAL LANDS NPS PROJECTS:

PAID POSITIONS: **83**

UNPAID YOUTH PARTICIPANTS: **39**

TOTAL 2017 ANCESTRAL LANDS NPS PARTICIPANTS:

122

DEMOGRAPHICS:

GENDER:

Male: 59%

Female: 41%

PROJECTS

TOTAL NPS WASO FUNDED PROJECTS:

20

TOTAL NPS SUPPORTED ANCESTRAL LANDS PROJECTS:

36

OTHER PROJECTS/PARTNERS/ LOCATIONS:

22

ADDITIONAL PARTNERS: Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Confederated Tribe of Siletz, Wind River, Fort Hall, Zuni Pueblo, Acoma Pueblo, Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture Institute, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Bureau of Reclamation, Fort Apache, White Mountain Tribe and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Conservation Lands Foundation, Colorado Plateau Foundation, McCune Foundation, The Outdoor Foundation, La Plazita Institute, Crow Nation Eastern Shoshone Tribe, Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands, Northern Arapahoe Tribe, Northern Arizona University, Rio Grande Del Norte National Conservation Area, River Restoration, Adventures for Tomorrow, United States Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife, Northwest Youth Corps, Montana Conservation Corps, Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa, Arizona Conservation Corps.

PARK LOCATIONS

Including current and planned WASO funded and leveraged projects and special event sites.

AZTEC RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT
BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT
CANYON DE CHELLY NATIONAL MONUMENT
CASA GRANDE RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT
CHACO CANYON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
EL MALPAIS NATIONAL MONUMENT
EL MORRO NATIONAL MONUMENT
FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
FORT LARAMEE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK
GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK
HUBBELL TRADING POST NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK
KALAUPAPA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK
MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
MUIR WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT
NAVAJO NATIONAL MONUMENT
PECOS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK
PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT
RAINBOW BRIDGE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM SUCCESS

2017 was another incredible year for Ancestral Lands Programs. In collaboration with Arizona Conservation Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, Montana Conservation Corps, Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa, Northwest Youth Corps, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps-Taos and La Plazita Institute, Native American youth and young adults were engaged through the following programs:

ARIZONA CONSERVATION CORPS CREW AND VISTA PROGRAM:

AZCC fielded a crew of eight participants from White Mountain Apache working at Petrified Forest National Park. The crew installed over a mile of new, wildlife permeable fence and repaired over four miles of existing fence, protecting park resources and visitors from encroaching cattle. The crew also constructed a Yurt deck that will support years of future project staff performing additional protection or research work in a remote part of the park. Arizona Conservation Corps is supporting one Tribal Resiliency AmeriCorps VISTA in at Saguaro National Park.

CONSERVATION CORPS MINNESOTA AND IOWA CREW PROGRAM:

In 2017 the Conservation Corps worked very closely with the American Indian community in the Twin Cities to provide a unique opportunity for Native youth. The new program, called the "Restoring Relations Youth Corps", utilized the infrastructure of the Conservation Corps and the knowledge of Indigenous best practices for youth development of partners in the community. As a result, five Native youth and one young adult leader completed a variety of work and educational projects.

MONTANA CONSERVATION CORPS CREW AND VISTA PROGRAM:

Montana Conservation Corp placed one crew at Grand Teton National Park and one crew at Glacier National Park. These crews worked on a variety of projects on trails and with cultural and preservation teams within the park. Montana Conservation Corps also supported one Tribal Resiliency AmeriCorps VISTA placement at Grand Teton National Park.



NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS CREW AND VISTA PROGRAM:

Northwest Youth Corps has partnered with the Fort Vancouver National Monument and local tribes and affiliated agencies to provide a conservation work and education program to ten Native American youth in the Portland area. In addition, Northwest Youth Corps plans to support an individual placement at Fort Vancouver National Monument in late 2017.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH CORPS-TAOS VISTA PROGRAM:

RMYC-Taos will place one Tribal Resiliency VISTA at Bandelier National Park in the spring of 2018.

“SO FAR, EACH JOB WE HAD EXCEEDED OUR PARTNER’S EXPECTATIONS. IN TUMACACORI THEY WERE EXPECTING US TO PULL INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES AND WATER COTTONWOOD TREES. LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THAT WE WOULD COMPLETE THOSE TASKS IN TWO DAYS WITH FOUR WORK DAYS TO SPARE.”

-SHANE CLAW,
ANCESTRAL LANDS CREW MEMBER

SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION CORPS CREW AND VISTA PROGRAMS:

HIKING CLUBS:

Acoma and Zuni youth took part in two hiking clubs over the summer months, providing culturally significant and immersive outdoor recreation programs in local National Parks units and on other sacred ancestral lands. These hiking clubs were supported and lead by two individual placements at each Acoma and Zuni program.

ZUNI ROVING CREW:

A five-person crew spent four weeks working at El Morro and El Malpais National Monuments completing historic preservation with the Vanishing Treasures Crew.

HOPI ROVING CREW:

The SCC Ancestral Lands Hopi Office will be fielding two crews utilizing WASO funding to reconnect youth and young adults with their traditional cultural properties. One crew will be spending a two week hitch at Navajo National Monument conducting trail repair on a historic section inside the monument. The second crew will be working at the Grand Canyon National Park for two weeks on the North Rim.



LA PLAZITA INSTITUTE BARRIO CORPS:

For the fourth year in a row, SCC-AL has partnered with La Plazita Institute to engage urban Native American youth and young adults in conservation work. La Plazita brings a strong background in working with people returning from or currently involved in the criminal justice system. They are a non-traditional leadership development program, that believes that our indigenous cultures and traditions offer us the communities and resources that we need to heal ourselves.

This year, the Native Barrio Corps engaged 5 youth from 5 Tribes in 8 months of project work. Beginning in April, the crew helped to prepare certified-organic gardens that would provide free and low-cost produce to families in need, as well as to local schools and the detention centers that some of the crew have been incarcerated in. Funding for the early part of the program was from the Kellogg Foundation. The crew later moved to Petroglyph National Monument, where they completed important invasive species removal, fence repair, and fire mitigation. The crew also worked with the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge to conduct community outreach and engagement and fence construction and repair. Later this fall, the Native Barrio Corps will complete trail work in Albuquerque's Bosque, along the Rio Grande.

Many of the participants of the Native Barrio Corps have been adjudicated or incarcerated. Through this program, they are able to complete valuable projects that help them connect in positive ways to their surrounding community, get valuable job experience, and receive healing for themselves and their families. The program began in 2014 with a four week hitch, and has since expanded to an eight-month long program. We hope to continue to grow the program into a year-long experience and to add a component focused on engaging high-school youth.



INDIVIDUAL INTERN PLACEMENTS



ANCESTRAL LANDS VISTA AND INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT SITES:

BANDELIER NATIONAL PARK
EL MORRO AND EL MALPAIS NATIONAL MONUMENTS
FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK
INTER-MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE
KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
KALAUPAPA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK
SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

In 2017 Conservation Legacy's Stewards and Ancestral Lands Programs developed a partnership with the AmeriCorps Tribal Resiliency program to place 12 individual year-long Native American AmeriCorps VISTAs (Volunteer In Service To America) in sites across the Nation, nine of which were placed at NPS sites. These VISTAs work to build relationships and capacity for National Park Units and Native American Communities of need. Many of these VISTAs are hosted by National Park Units in partnership with local conservation corps, who can offer assistance, guidance and support on-site. In addition to learning about NPS park units and providing project support, the VISTAs participated in a week of orientation with Conservation Legacy, the annual Society of American Indian Government Employees Conference and the Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress.

VISTAs will spend the year learning about career opportunities with the National Park Service, shadowing local corps programs and completing conservation projects at parks near their communities. They will build support networks between potential tribal partners/communities and NPS sites to explore the potentials of starting and supporting Native American focused programming at

the local level. As part of their service the VISTAs, similar to previous interns, will introduce local Native American youth to the National Park Service through Youth Play, Learn, Serve projects. Additionally, VISTAs utilize relationships with local tribal members and agency partners, working to identify infrastructure necessary to catalyze Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps in their communities.

The program supports the self-empowerment of Native American communities by providing jobs and experience for Native American youth, connecting youth to their heritage and cultural values, completing critical conservation projects that directly benefit the community and exposing Native American youth to potential careers with public land management agencies. VISTA sites are identified through a joint effort between the NPS and Conservation Legacy based on critical needs of the community and park unit, park unit and community willingness, readiness and ability to support and host the VISTA participants.

In addition to the Ancestral Lands VISTA Team, Ancestral Lands are also supporting three Ancestral Lands Internships in 2017. These interns are focused on personal career development within the National Park Service as well as connecting Ancestral Lands alumni to agency positions. They include:

- 1 Individual Placement serving at Knife River Indian Villages, Duration: 25 weeks
- 1 Individual Placement serving at Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Duration: 26 weeks
- 1 Individual Placement serving with the NPS Intermountain Regional Office in Denver, CO, Duration: 26 weeks.



NATIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

In 2017, Conservation Legacy created a new position to support this potential expansion through WASO, Conservation Corps and Tribal Partners. The National Program Coordinator position provides critical capacity to manage the site selection, recruitment, AmeriCorps management and partner relations necessary to support the VISTAs on the ground in partnership with Conservation Legacy's Stewards Program.

The Ancestral Lands National Program Coordinator Anthony 'Chako' Giocco joined SCC Ancestral Lands in 2012, leading ecological restoration crews on the Navajo Nation. Chako is of the Mvskoke Nation, Tokvpyvce tribe, Hotvkvylke clan and calls Oklahoma, Colorado and New Mexico home. After graduating from CU Boulder he worked in his local Mvskoke (Creek and Seminole) communities doing language revitalization and Indigenous food sovereignty work. Chako's instrumental role in the development of the Ancestral Lands Navajo Office has positioned him well to support and catalyze tribal conservation corps programs nationwide.

One of Chako's primary roles has been working with the Ancestral Land VISTA team. This includes planning the VISTA positions by bringing together NPS Sites, Tribal communities and Conservation Corps—all interested in the potential development of tribal corps programming. Chako has worked alongside these partners in recruiting and selecting the AL VISTAs cohort. Chako will support the VISTAs throughout their terms in mentoring them in how to work with their respective NPS sites, Conservation Corps and Tribal partners with the aim of developing sustainable tribal corps programs. In addition, Conservation Legacy is partnering with BIA and Fish and Wildlife Service to place three additional VISTAS under this program.



**“IT WOULD
MAKE ME FEEL
ACCOMPLISHED
KNOWING THAT
MY PEOPLE ARE
WALKING AROUND
PROUD, WITH
COMPETITIVE SKILL
SETS THAT ALSO
HELP TO SUSTAIN
AND IMPROVE OUR
EARTH.”**

**-SIARRAH GOMEZ-BOYIDDLE,
INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT**

TRIBAL RESILIENCY VISTA SPOTLIGHTS



**CHRIS HONAHNIE, VISTA
SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK**

Nu' Chris Honahnie yan pahan matsiwa put iwa Lomakuyva yan Hopi matsiwa. I am 22 years old and a member of the Hopi tribe. I was born and raised in Tuba City, AZ which is located on the border of the Hopi and Navajo reservations. I have been raised and taught as a farmer, student, and mentor. I am currently in the process of obtaining my bachelors' degree in Sustainable plant systems at the University of Arizona. I am passionate about reinvigorating indigenous farming practices as a means of promoting local food sovereignty. I wish to accomplish many goals that involve obtaining a better understanding and respect for the indigenous peoples of southern Arizona and to learn from and help the Indigenous communities of southern Arizona.

Chris Honahnie is working with Saguaro National Park and Arizona Conservation Corps to develop tribal conservation corps programming to serve Urban Native youth in the Tucson Phoenix area as well as Apache, Tohono O'odham, and other surrounding tribal communities.



**MIKE TSOSIE, VISTA
GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

My name is Michael Martin Tsosie and I was born in Gallup, New Mexico. I'm one of seven children in my family. I've traveled and moved around a lot as a child. I graduated from Gallup High School and right after I graduated I joined the United States Marine Corps as a rifleman/machine gunner. Saw combat in O.I.F. 2005 and 2006 and then left the Marines in 2008 and traveled and spent time in Europe in 2009. I moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 2010 where I worked as an automotive/diesel mechanic as well as a roofer/welder. I moved back to Gallup in 2013 and studied construction at University New Mexico-Gallup. During that time, I worked for Veterans Association, helping set up vets with their G.I. Bills and also working with police dispatch. I then started working with Cornerstones Historical Preservation out of Santa Fe, New Mexico and decided it was time to get off the road and try to stay closer to home for a change. I took a job as a VISTA for Ancestral Lands out of the Gallup office and am now looking forward to see what this change brings. I want to make a difference in at least one person's life; to help the Native youth, showing them that there is an alternative to alcohol and drugs.

Mike Tsosie is working with Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and the Southwest Conservation Corps Ancestral Lands Navajo office to engage western Navajo communities at Glen Canyon NRA, create resources for AL Navajo alumni, explore new partnerships and funding sources to support the AL Navajo office.





**KAILE LUGA, VISTA
KALAUPAPA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

'O Kaile ko'u inoa, 'o O'ahu ku'u one hanau. 'O Waipi'o ka 'aina i hanai 'ia ia'u. My name is Kaile, I was born on the island of O'ahu and raised in the ahupua'a of Waipi'o. My background is in Hawaiian archaeology and cultural resource management. I applied for this position to better serve my community and engage more with our many resources. I hope to meet with Native Hawaiian communities to better assess the communities needs and how we can engage with our resources within the NPS to address such needs. I also hope to help build positive and stronger relationships between the NPS and Native Hawaiian communities.

Kaile is working with KUPU to explore ways to engage Indigenous Hawaiian perspectives and practices at Hawaiian NPS Sites and develop program models and resources to engage remote Hawaiian's communities into KUPUs conservation corps programs.

“BY WORKING WITH OUR FUTURE LEADERS WE CAN HELP FIGHT ISSUES IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BUILD A STRONG NATION TOGETHER.”

**KELLI JONES, VISTA
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK**

Ya'at'eeh, shi ei Kelli Jones yinishye. Ta'neezahnii nishli, Kinyanii bashish-chiin, Ta'baaha da shi cheii, Dibe lixhini da shi nali. I am from Kayenta, AZ on the Navajo Nation. I graduated from Fort Lewis College with a degree in Exercise Science. I am passionate about fighting diabetes in our Navajo communities. What motivated me to accept this job is getting more engaged with helping tribal communities and tribal youth to be more active in preserving their land by keeping our native culture alive. By working with our future leaders we can help fight issues in our community and build a strong nation together. I hope to get Ute youth involved with Mesa Verde National Park. Engaging with other tribes around Mesa Verde will also help build more community development with Mesa Verde.

Kelli will be working with Southwest Conservation Corps to engage Ute tribal communities at Mesa Verde National Park, with the aim of supporting the long term development of an Ancestral Lands Ute Program.

INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT SPOTLIGHT



**SIARRAH GOMEZ-BOYIDDLE,
INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT
INTER-MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE**

My name is Siarrah Gomez-Boyiddle, I am Kiowa-Apache, and I am currently the Ancestral Lands Intern serving at the Inter-Mountain Regional NPS Office in Denver, CO. Being 22 years old I've spent most of my life working within the customer service and restaurant industry. I've enjoyed my time working in team settings with customers, however I have felt a strong aspiration to do more than give a family a good dining experience. I want to give something to this world that could help enhance the overall well-being of it. After spending some time looking into my interests and passions I decided to go to school for Environmental Science and Sustainability. With that in mind, the next step was to look for a job that would be close to my school. That's when I discovered this position. The fact that this position focuses on working with other Native Americans while incorporating conservation projects, made it a job that was close to my heart. I appreciate the aspect that we are planting seeds into the future by focusing on giving Native American Youth the skills to serve, sustain and improve our environment, and all the while, incorporating traditional culture and important values into the work-lifestyle. I'm motivated to see more of my people in federal and political positions, on the face of media, and in more CEO positions. It would make me feel accomplished knowing that my people are walking around proud, with competitive skill sets that also help to sustain and improve our Earth.

Siarrah's work will focus on connecting Ancestral Lands alumni to positions within the National Park Service; this will entail creating databases tracking alumni talent pool and relevant agency positions, training workshops and other resources, as well as direct recruitment.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NATIVE YOUTH COMMUNITY ADAPTATION AND LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

The Ancestral Lands Program was honored to be given the opportunity to bring 18 participants to attend this year's Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress (NYCALC) at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. This event brings together Native youth from around the country, including Alaska, Hawaii and American Samoa, to learn about environmental issues impacting our Native communities, develop leadership and professional skills and create projects to address environmental challenges back home. Of the 18 person AL cohort to attend NYCALC, six were Ancestral Lands VISTAs. During the NYCALC gathering the six AL VISTAs participated in the Jr. Faculty tract where they underwent focused workshops and trainings cultivating their leadership roles in tribal youth programs.

As the third year running, it is no surprise that NYCALC was a huge success. With over 150 Native youth in attendance, presentations from leading experts across agencies, NGO's and Native communities, participants experienced a transformative crash course in environmental issues, group organizing, leadership and professional development in Indian Country.

The week opened up with the youth themselves taking the stage and sharing their most pressing issues from their home communities. After identifying the long list of challenges our communities face, the youth linked these together by cause, and then worked throughout the week to develop projects that will make positive impacts on these issues. The week included presentations, some outdoor recreation/education time on the Potomac River, hands on service projects, a career fair and a cultural night/powwow. The congress concluded with each student group offering formal presentations on what they had learned and the projects they designed to address their most challenging issues.

The biggest takeaway was the fact that over 100 Native youth will return to their home communities more knowledgeable and passionate about environmental issues. Many will continue on to implement their projects with start-up funding support. Many have made school and professional pathway connections through the job fair. Most of all, participants have cultivated a strong sense of ownership and empowerment when it comes to the future wellbeing of their communities. Indigenous people are deeply and disproportionately impacted by environmental issues and also disproportionately lack the capacity to face the severe hardships that are only beginning to manifest. NYCALC is one of the few spaces devoted to addressing this situation by engaging, training and empowering Native youth themselves.



SOCIETY OF AMERICAN INDIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (SAIGE) CONFERENCE

Ancestral Lands members were invited to be a part of the 2016 SAIGE Conference again this year and found it to be a transformational experience in both personal and professional growth and development. SAIGE is the first national non-profit organization representing American Indian and Alaska Native Federal, Tribal, State and local government employees. SAIGE provides a forum on issues, challenges and opportunities and works to foster a professional network among government employees. As part of this program, SAIGE offers special training sessions for veterans, youth and in Federal Indian Law. The conference gave members the chance to network with current tribal leaders, connect with peers, set goals and glean inspiration from the gathering of leadership.

Five Ancestral Lands participants attended this year's Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) Youth Training Program the week of June 4th, 2017 in Scottsdale, AZ. The AL cohort included four young Native leaders who will be working throughout the next year as VISTAs with the Ancestral Lands Program. Their work will entail engaging tribal communities at National Parks and working to develop more Tribal conservation corps programs around the country. During SAIGE, they had the opportunity to meet with various federal agencies, tribal leaders other up-and-coming young Native leaders, drawing knowledge and inspiration for their year to come. The focus on the SAIGE Youth Track is professional development; students underwent trainings in leadership, career pathways, networking and more. The Ancestral Lands National Program Coordinator also offered a short presentation to the Youth Track participants on the Ancestral Lands Program, lessons learned and takeaways for youth looking to complete their own grassroots, nonprofit and agency work in the Natural Resources sector.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK: RISING LEADERS GATHERING

In September, in partnership with Yellowstone National Park and Yellowstone Forever, Montana Conservation Corps hosted a five day gathering of young rising tribal leaders for leadership development, education about natural and cultural resources in YNP delivered by park specialists and tribal representatives, participate in conservation projects, and engage in facilitated dialogue to identify needs in their communities where they may help and leverage the conservation corps model as a resource for native communities in Montana and Wyoming. Support is being provided by the Park, Yellowstone Forever, the official non-profit partner for Yellowstone and the NPS ALCC funding.





HIKING CLUBS

ACOMA HIKING CLUB

This year, the Ancestral Lands Acoma office and the Acoma Hiking Club created a partnership with the Acoma Learning Center to provide opportunities for local youth to learn about their history and reconnect with their culture and lands through experiencing Acoma's ancestrally inhabited areas. As the original inhabitants of this land, many of Acoma's areas of historical and cultural significance held in sacred regard are now protected and preserved as National Park Service sites. Although Acoma Pueblo is located in a very rural area many, of the local youth have become disengaged from their lands due in part to a large draw to technology. Twenty local Acoma youth, ages 7 to 14, were engaged in a four-week program in which they visited and experienced places that most have only known through oral stories of Acoma's emergence. Visiting places such as Mesa Verde NHP, Bandelier NHP, El Morro NM and El Malpais NM where their ancestors lived, migrated, farmed, prayed, created, advanced and thrived allowed them to form not only a superficial connection but also a deep cultural and historical connection and perspective.

ZUNI HIKING CLUB

In July and August of 2017, the Ancestral Lands Zuni program successfully operated a local hiking club led by two adult leaders that connected 19 Zuni youth to their surrounding lands. The program ran two consecutive nine-day sessions with ten and nine hikers in each group. The goal of these hikes was to expose our Zuni youth to local and National Park Service trails that also are in areas culturally significant to the Zuni People, as well as to teach the value of active lifestyles through traditional practices. We did so by finding trails to hike, partnering with the Zuni Cultural Education Program and a community adviser to provide consultation during our outings. Our educators taught that places like El Morro, El Malpais, Casa Malpais and all local landmarks and trails visited are all places spoken of in prayers and songs. It was very powerful to see and feel the reconnection to our ancestors while at these places. The hikes got our participants to see the value in staying active during the summer months. There was much gratitude by both hikers and parents, stating it would not have been possible to learn of the places visited without the hiking club.



“NEVER IN MY LIFE HAVE I SEEN YOUNG CHILDREN KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THEIR CULTURE. THIS IS WHAT KEEPS OUR CULTURE ALIVE, AS WELL AS OUR PEOPLE, TO KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS IDENTITY THAT WE HOLD CLOSE TO US. THIS PROGRAM HAS DEFINITELY CONTRIBUTED TO THAT.”

-LATIA HOOEE, ZUNI HIKING CLUB LEADER

39 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

CONSERVATION CREW PROJECTS



NPS CREW PROJECT SITES 2017

WASO FUNDED PROJECT SITES:

Southwest Conservation Corps:

Navajo National Monument
El Morro National Monument
El Malpais National Monument
Petroglyph National Monument
Grand Canyon National Park

Arizona Conservation Corps:

Petrified Forest National Park

Montana Conservation Corps:

Grand Teton National Park
Glacier National Park

Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa:

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

Northwest Youth Corps:

Fort Vancouver National Monument

OTHER NPS CREW PROJECT SITES 2017

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Rainbow Bridge National Recreation Area
Hubble Trading Post National Historic Site
Petrified Forest National Park
Joshua Tree National Park
Muir Woods National Park
Pecos National Historical Park
Bandelier National Monument
Saguaro National Park
El Malpais National Monument
El Morro National Monument
Chaco Culture National Historical Park
Aztec Ruins National Monument
Canyon de Chelly National Monument

CREW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ARIZONA CONSERVATION CORPS PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK

One crew of eight members worked at Petrified Forest National Park, building new fence on the expanded boundary of the Park over three weeks of work in the summer of 2017. The constructed fence is friendly to wildlife while also serving as a livestock enclosure boundary. After completing the new fence construction, the crew addressed some problem areas in the existing fence line, repairing sections by replacing T-Posts, re-tensioning wire, resetting braces, replacing clips and stays, and more. This project primarily involved fence-building and repair around the Puerco River as well as various facilities maintenance tasks around the Painted Desert Visitor Center. The project presented some challenges, but the crew accomplished a great amount of work.

In addition to the fence work, the crew also assisted facilities maintenance staff with various projects around the park, including construction of a Yurt in a remote area. The crew members learned how to safely use construction power tools under Park staff guidance. Many future planned projects will require a base of operations separate from park headquarters. This yurt will serve as that base for these projects in the far reaches of Petrified Forest.

Other projects included weed management around the visitor center, shelf construction for facilities maintenance shop organization and landscaping. The crew also participated in education opportunities involving paleontology and geology. They visited the park's paleontology lab and learned of a possible new species of dinosaur discovered near their worksite.

NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS FT. VANCOUVER NATIONAL MONUMENT

Northwest Youth Corps has partnered with the Ft. Vancouver National Monument, and local tribes and affiliated agencies to provide a conservation work and education program to ten Native American youth in the Portland area. The crew has worked hard to rebuild split rail fence at the monument and has helped with other projects on site such as apple harvesting, creating interpretive displays and mulching trees. In addition to their work at the park, the crew has had the opportunity to engage in over 40 hours of education both on site and around the Portland metro area. They have toured the campus and longhouse at both Portland State University and Oregon State University, spoken with volunteers about career paths and opportunities in the field and deeply explored the very site they break ground in each morning through guided tours and lessons. This is a pilot program that will hopefully flourish into the future.

MONTANA CONSERVATION CORPS GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Two crews from the Wind River Reservation (Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho) participated in a variety of projects working with the cultural preservation teams and trails crews at Grand Teton National Park. The Park provided regular ranger talk and crew education and provided opportunities for participants to job shadow for a day in areas including law enforcement, maintenance and recreation management. The park coordinated raft trips for the crews and Exum Guides donated a day of guided rock climbing instruction.

A highlight to note is that 2016 Grand Teton tribal participant, Jada Antelope, was hired this summer to participate in the Yellowstone National Park YCC program. In August, Jada was invited by former Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, to join her where Sec. Jewell was presented the Spirit of Conservation Award. As part of this award, the former Secretary was invited to recognize young rising conservation leaders. The Secretary recognized former MCC Crew leader and Dineh tribal member, Latasha Wauneka-Anderson, but also invited Jada Antelope and her family to join for the award ceremony.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Montana Conservation Corps enrolled seven Blackfeet youth in a nine week conservation corps experience. The youth conducted a variety of conservation projects on trails, habitat restoration and citizen science. In Glacier National Park, the Crown of the Continent Research Center provided training in wildlife monitoring and surveys. The crew conducted surveys for loon, pika, and mountain goats in seven lake basins. The crew also worked with the GNP Archeology Department to inventory and monitor cultural sites in the North Fork of the Flathead River drainage, documenting peel trees that were historically used as a source of food for the Salish and Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille tribes. The crews removed brush around these cultural significant Ponderosa Pine trees to reduce wildfire risks. During the program, two participants were offered jobs by project partners, one with the Iinnii Initiative, the Blackfeet Nations program to reintroduce wild bison on the reservation.



CONSERVATION CORPS MINNESOTA AND IOWA MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA

In 2017, the Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa worked very closely with the American Indian community in the Twin Cities to provide a unique opportunity for Native youth. The new program, called the “Restoring Relations Youth Corps”, utilized the infrastructure of the CCMN and IA and the knowledge of Indigenous best practices for youth development of partners in the community. As a result, five Native youth and one young adult leader completed a variety of work and educational projects.

The goal of the program is to provide jobs and conservation experience for Native American youth in the St. Paul – Minneapolis, MN metro area; connect youth to their heritage and cultural values; complete important conservation projects on tribal lands and at sites of cultural and historic significance and introduce Native American youth to career pathways with public land management agencies.

The crew completed invasive plant removal projects at various sites within the NPS river corridor, including prairie and forest habitat management, removing invasive plants, planting native plants and general grounds work. The crew also took part in general orientation and training, an educational canoe trip on the Mississippi River, an educational tour of Mounds Park in St. Paul and activities at Laurentian Ridge Environmental Learning Center

The Restoring Relations Youth Corps crew was very successful. With a few staff members changing their roles at the Corps, there were some learning curves in terms of outreach for recruitment and for scheduling educational activities. Another challenge that was encountered was attendance of participants due to multiple responsibilities of home situations in this non-residential program.

Support from NPS has allowed Restoring Relations Youth Corps to build growing support with tribes located near the Twin Cities, which also has a large population of American Indian peoples. It is anticipated that Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa will continue to build these relationships in the future so that years from now a strong, vibrant program is available to youth and sustained in the community. Although recruitment was a bit of a challenge this year, three participants in 2017 participated in programming in 2016. We hope to continue developing relationships and developing leadership opportunities for youth who want to stay connected to the program.



PARTICIPANT QUOTES

“I’M PROUD TO BE CONSERVING MY BEAUTIFUL HOME LANDS AND MAINTAINING NATIONAL PARKS FOR PEOPLE TO ENJOY.”



“So far each job we had we exceeded our project partner’s expectations. In Tumacacori all they were expecting was for us to pull invasive plant species and water cottonwood trees. Little did they know that we would complete those tasks in two days with four work days to spare. They then proceeded in giving us the task of clearing the fence line and we finished almost all of it in 104 degree heat. They were all so happy. Thank you for this opportunity. It’s given me so much and we’re only a month in. I LOVE IT!”

-SHANE CLAW, AZCC CREW MEMBER

“This program has not only inspired these kids and myself but the community and our cultures have gained strength through teaching our youth the knowledge of our ancestors. Never in my life have I seen young children know so much about their culture. This is what keeps our culture alive, as well as our people, to know the importance of this identity that we hold close to us. This program has definitely contributed to that.”

-LATIA HOOEE, SCC HIKING CLUB LEADER

“I have become stronger, more focused and better with people through my term with AZCC. Before starting my term, I was thinking of going to a different state for winter or getting another retail job. Now I am looking to serve another term and hoping to work toward a position at a national park or monument. Petrified Forest was probably my favorite place we went to this term.”

-CIARA REED-ORTIZ, AZCC CREW MEMBER

“I am very proud I worked for AZCC. I learned many new valuable skills and grew as a person. I would say my most valuable skill I learned was fencing while at PEFO.”

-VALERIE BAILEY, AZCC CREW MEMBER

“I’ve got to be honest, the real reason I joined AZCC was of course to earn money. Now that I’m actually here, I’m really glad I get to be a part of the conservation corps and making positive change to the environment. AZCC means exploring new places, experiencing new things, helping the environment, and making lifelong friendships.

I’m proud to be conserving my beautiful home lands and maintaining national parks for people to enjoy. Now that I’ve experienced one term of AZCC, it changed the way I think about our community and land. I’m ready for more work.”

-MALIK BONES, AZCC CREW MEMBER

“Growing up I was always intrigued by my grandfather’s stories, especially those about the Civilian Conservation Corps and the back breaking labor they did to preserve America’s natural resources. Something about those tales of the old days stirred in my heart and inspired me to play my part in the larger story. Through my participating in AZCC, I have been able to do just that. I can say that I have played my part in removing invasive plant species, restoring ecosystems and preserving the natural beauty found across the great state of Arizona. I will forever be grateful to the Arizona Conservation Corps for the skills acquired, camaraderie experienced and memories made.

-PHILIP MARLIN, AZCC CREW MEMBER

PARTNER QUOTES

“Once again Tumacacori NHP received a outstanding crew! More work was completed than expected with the tasks being completed in a timely and professional manner (and under extreme heat conditions). Please let your staff know that they are doing an excellent job and I look forward to working with you in the future.”

-ERIC HERRERA, TUMACACORI NHP

“It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with Conservation Legacy’s Ancestral Lands Program. The quality of their work is outstanding as is their leadership, work ethic, and enthusiasm. We look forward to our continued partnership.”

-STEVE BAUMANN, EL MALPAIS AND EL MORRO NM

“The partnership with Southwest Conservation Corps’ Ancestral Lands Program and La Plazita Institute continues to be one that we truly value. Since 2015, the youth corps members and partner organizations have all gleaned both direct and indirect benefits. Through this multi partner relationship in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the National Park Service has been able to work with like-minded organizations to serve segments of the community that had previously gone unserved by the NPS. Reinforcing a land stewardship ethic among youth and connecting youth to a significant cultural landscape are purposes we are proud to serve as a unit of the national parks system in this large, multicultural urban center.”

-DENNIS A. VASQUEZ, PETROGLYPH NM

“The crew was very professional and highly motivated. [They] came prepared for fence installation and repair and did excellent fence work. They also constructed a wooden deck for a Yurt and performed exotic species removal when the fencing location was inaccessible due to heavy monsoon rains. We have [worked with AZCC] in the past and will work with them in the future.”

- KEVIN DOWELL, PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK

“CONNECTING YOUTH TO THEIR PUBLIC LANDS THROUGH CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND RECREATION IS CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AMBASSADORS. THE ANCESTRAL LANDS PROGRAM SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR PLAYING A CRITICAL ROLE IN THIS MOVEMENT.”

-LONNIE PILKINGTON, GLEN CANYON NRA



CONCLUSION



NATIVE YOUTH LEADING OUR NATIONS BACK TO ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING

Conservation Legacy is extremely enthusiastic about the opportunity to continue its partnership with the National Park Service to expand Ancestral Lands opportunities for young people to serve on public lands and to provide much-needed services in the areas of land restoration, trail maintenance and construction, vegetation management, historic preservation, wildfire prevention, community development and in other critical areas of need.

Participation in corps programming has a long track record of success and results in young people developing professional and life skills as well as an increased awareness of environmental and resource stewardship. These activities promote the mission and vision to which both the National Park Service and Conservation Legacy are committed.

In 2017, 109 opportunities were created with WASO funds and leveraged with partners to create an additional 57 positions with 36 park units and 22 other partner organizations. The success is undeniable and incredibly encouraging. As we look towards 2018, we collectively envision this effort as a movement; a movement that is conceived of and driven by tribal communities, to develop sustainable economic development opportunities, to provide their native youth new skills, aspirations and pathways to agency careers; a movement that meets local conservation needs head on and fosters an ethic of self-empowerment and sovereignty and builds a foundation for sustainable Ancestral Lands programs and growth for the future.

The physical and financial support from the National Park Service, the interns, crews, native communities, partner agencies, staff and partner conservation corps in this effort have been remarkable. Developing a model that can be successfully replicated, when done respectfully, intentionally and locally, is the key to being able to continue this critical work. Conservation Legacy and partner corps are humbled to continue to learn and grow together with native communities and to continue to provide systems, administrative and coordinating services that can build capacity at the local level to engage youth and young adults with public lands and their heritage, for the betterment of our shared future.

APPENDIX A: PRESS AND MEDIA

AZ CONSERVATION CORPS' GRADUATES 21 MEMBERS WHITE MOUNTAIN INDEPENDENT • AUGUST 29 2017

http://www.wmicentral.com/news/latest_news/az-conservation-corps-graduates-members/article_ac55bf82-c7d9-5390-9429-7f71ec26376b.html

FIRST SESSION OF TRIBAL YOUTH CORPS COMPLETES MUCH-NEEDED WORK IN GRAND TETON

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION • JULY 31, 2017
<http://www.gtnpf.org/first-session-tribal-youth-corps-completes-much-needed-work-grand-teton/>

ELECTED OFFICIALS TARGET NATIONAL PARK FUNDING KVOA NEWS 4 TUCSON • JULY 11, 2017

<http://www.kvoa.com/story/35862734/n4t-investigators-elected-officials-target-national-park-funding-problems>

HOPI TEENS MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT THE RUINS TRI VALLEY DISPATCH • JULY 5, 2017

http://www.pinalcentral.com/trivalley_dispatch/news/hopi-teens-make-a-difference-at-the-ruins/article_d097885c-570a-5bdd-8139-3d2d8086681a.html

NATIVE YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS CLEANS UP THE TRIBUNE • JUNE 15, 2017

<http://tribunenewsnow.com/native-youth-conservation-corps-cleans-up-waters-of-clear-creek/>

MORTAR HOLDS WALLS, HISTORY AND CULTURE WHITE MOUNTAIN INDEPENDENT • JUNE 13, 2017

http://www.wmicentral.com/news/apache_county/mortar-holds-walls-history-and-culture/article_06376be6-cda7-5dc5-9251-b290a80d65d1.html

CELEBRATE PARTNERSHIP TO RESTORE VISITOR CENTER WHITE MOUNTAIN INDEPENDENT • APRIL 14, 2017

http://www.wmicentral.com/news/arizona_news/celebrate-public-private-partnership-to-restore-visitor-center-at-petrified/article_967b6ec1-5ab3-5887-a5d4-2498a0c72693.html

TEEN VOLUNTEERS GET DOWN, DIRTY TO HELP ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL • NOVEMBER 3, 2016

<https://www.abqjournal.com/880813/going-with-the-flow.html>

ZUNI CREW PRESERVES ANCESTOR'S LEGACY THE JOURNAL • OCTOBER 26, 2016

<https://the-journal.com/articles/31079-zuni-crew-preserves-ancestors-legacy>



APPENDIX B: FINANCIALS

FUNDING BREAKDOWN:

Master Agreement Number

P15AC00024

Task Agreement Number

P17AC00675

WASO TOTAL 2017: \$562,500

Task Agreement Cash Match: \$119,047

Task Agreement In-Kind Match: \$263,582

Total NPS and Partner Match in Task Agreement: \$945,129

NPS FUNDING BY WASO PROJECT BREAKDOWN

AmeriCorps Tribal Resiliency VISTAs, travel and supplies (9 VISTAs): \$181,512

Zuni Camping Crew: \$25,435

Hopi Camping Crew: \$25,435

AZCC White Mountain Apache Crew: \$32,000

La Plazita Institute, Albuquerque Community Crew: \$44,000

Acoma and Zuni Hiking Club Interns and support: \$26,575

NPS Intermountain Region Intern: \$19,670

Fort Laramie Intern: \$32,500

Montana Conservation Corps Camping Crew: \$32,000

Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa: \$36,500

Northwest Youth Corps- Portland Community Crew: \$35,000

National Program Coordinator: \$31,979

Travel for NYCALC, SAIGE, VISTA: \$39,894

LEVERAGED FUNDING FROM WASO SUPPORT

SCC Ancestral Lands Leveraged: \$1,970,953

Montana Conservation Corps \$118,020

Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa \$41,555

Northwest Youth Corps \$30,984

Arizona Conservation Corps: \$55,800

TOTAL: \$2,217,312.00

APPENDIX C: **FULL PROJECT LIST**

CREW PROJECTS

Aztec Ruins National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Preservation
P17AC00631

Aztec Ruins National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Habitat Improvement
P17AC01008

Bandelier National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corp
Southwest Exotic Plants Management Team
P17AC00103

Chaco Culture National Historical Park
Southwest Conservation Corps
Preservation
P17AC00561

El Malpais National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Trails and Maintenance
P15AC01142

El Morro National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Preservation and Trails
P15AC01303

Flagstaff Area National Monuments
Arizona Conservation Corps
Recreational Access Improvements
P17AC00148

Flagstaff Area National Monuments
Arizona Conservation Corps
Recreation Access Improvements and Preservation
P17AC00771

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Southwest Conservation Corps
Lees Ferry Preservation
P16AC01039

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restoration and Escalante River Watershed Partnership
P16AC01240

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Southwest Conservation Corps
Escalante River Watershed Partnership
P17AC01079

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restoration
P17AC00152

Grand Canyon National Park
Arizona Conservation Corps
Recreational Access Improvements
P17AC00554

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
Southwest Conservation Corps
Farmland Preservation
P16AC00364

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
Southwest Conservation Corps
Traditional Farming
P17AC00248

Petrified Forest National Park
Arizona Conservation Corps
Recreational Access Improvements
P17AC00402

Petroglyph National Monument
La Plazita Institute and Southwest Conservation Corps
Fuels Mitigation, habitat and recreational access improvements
P17AC00675

Multiple Park Units
Southwest Conservation Corps
Zuni Roving Crew
P16AC00446-2

Multiple Park Units
Southwest Conservation Corps
Southwest Exotic Plant Management Team
P16AC01598

Multiple Park Units
NPS Native Conservation Corps
Southwest Conservation Corps
Research, surveys and community engagement
P17AC00722

Multiple Park Units
Zuni and Hopi Roving Crews
Southwest Conservation Corps
Recreational Access Improvements and Preservation
P17AC00675

APPENDIX D: **INTERN BIOS**

MARY BAKER, KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NHS

I am a single mother of two, pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Native American Studies from Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College. This is my second term as an intern for the Ancestral Lands Program at Knife River Indian Villages NHS. I was looking for a way to promote culture with youth within my community/communities and also to encourage them to become more self-sufficient. I hope to make a difference in the youth as far as them being able to relate to their identity. With the Ancestral Lands VISTA program, I am able to not only study more about my tribal heritage, but lead programs for youth, acquiring work experience for the National Park Service, thus getting my foot in the door for a future career.

Mary's focus will be to engage tribal community members at Knife River Indian Villages and work towards the development of an AL Corps program to serve her local tribal communities of the Three Affiliated Tribes in ND.

KELLI JONES, MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

"Ya'at'eeh, shi ei Kelli Jones yinishye. Ta'neezahnii nishli, Kinyanii bashishchiin, Ta'baaha da shi cheii, Dibe lixhini da shi nali. I am from Kayenta, AZ on the Navajo Nation. I graduated from Fort Lewis College with a degree in Exercise Science and am passionate about fighting diabetes in our Navajo reservation. What motivated me to accept this job is getting more engaged helping tribal communities and tribal youth to be more active in preserving their land by keeping our native culture alive. By working with our future leaders we can help fight issues in our community and build a strong nation together. I hope to get Ute youth involved with Mesa Verde National Park, while engaging other tribes around Mesa Verde, helping to build more community development."

BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT

One AL VISTA position is set to begin with Bandelier National Monument, supported by Rocky Mountain Youth Corps - Taos, in the spring of 2008. This AL VISTA will work to engage North Pueblo communities at Bandelier, increasing the capacity of Bandelier and RMYC to engage local tribal members.

KAILE LUGA, KALAUPAPA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

"O Kaile ko'u inoa, 'o O'ahu ku'u one hanau. 'O Waipi'o ka 'aina i hanai 'ia ia'u. My name is Kaile, I was born on the island of O'ahu and raised in the ahupua'a of Waipi'o. My background is in Hawaiian archaeology and cultural resource management. I applied for this position to better serve my community, and engage more with our many resources. I hope to meet with Native Hawaiian communities to better assess the communities needs and how we can engage with our resources within the NPS to address such needs. I also hope to help build positive and stronger relationships between the NPS and Native Hawaiian communities."

GABE SPOONHUNTER, GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

"I grew up in various States, mostly North Carolina, but when I came back to the Wind River Indian Reservation I really immersed myself in my family, culture, language and traditions. I eventually realized that I never want to work in an office. I began working in various different outdoor jobs. After I attended my National Outdoor Leadership School, where I received some of my certs like First Responder and others. I really enjoy this opportunity and looking forward to what I can possibly achieve for my community. I really enjoy working with Conservation corps and doing work in the outdoors. I really want to work towards having a conservation corps on Wind River Indian Reservation to make a difference in my community. It also brings back our youth and tribal people back to nature, traditional values and ways of life.

Gabe's work will focus on developing a tribal conservation corps program to serve the Wind River reservation through mentoring with Montana Conservation Corps, engaging youth from Wind River at Grand Tetons and seeking support to implement pilot crews from Wind River.

MICHAEL TSOTSIE, GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

"My name is Michael Martin Tsotsie and I was born in Gallup, New Mexico. I'm one of seven children in my family. I've traveled and moved around a lot as a child. I graduated from Gallup High School and right after I graduated I joined the United States Marine Corps as a rifleman/machine gunner. Saw combat in O.I.F. 2005 and 2006 and then left the Marines in 2008 and traveled and spent time in Europe in 2009. I moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 2010 where I worked as an automotive/diesel mechanic as well as a roofer/welder. I moved back to Gallup in 2013 and studied construction at University New Mexico-Gallup. During that time, I worked for Veterans Association, helping set up vets with their G.I. Bills and also working with police dispatch. I then started working with Cornerstones Historical Preservation out of Santa Fe New Mexico and decided it was time to get off the road and try to stay closer to home for a change. I took a job as a VISTA for Ancestral Lands out of the Gallup office and am now looking forward to see what this change brings. I want to make a difference in at least one person's life; to help the Native youth, showing them that there is an alternative to alcohol and drugs."

CHRIS HONAHNIE, SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

"Nu' Chris Honahnie yan pahan matsiwa put iwa Lomakuyva yan Hopi matsiwa. I am 22 years old and a member of the Hopi tribe. I was born and raised in Tuba City, AZ which is located on the border of the Hopi and Navajo reservations. I have been raised and taught as a farmer, student, and mentor. I am currently in the process of obtaining my bachelors' degree in Sustainable plant systems at the University of Arizona. I am passionate about reinvigorating indigenous farming practices as a means of promoting local food sovereignty. I wish to accomplish many goals that involve obtaining a better understanding and respect for the indigenous peoples of southern Arizona and to learn from and help the Indigenous communities of southern Arizona."

TASIA QUAM, EL MORRO & EL MALPAIS NATIONAL MONUMENTS

"Hi, my name is Tasia Quam, I am 26 years old from the Zuni Pueblo and my clans are Eagle and Turkey. I applied to the Ancestral Lands VISTA position because I would like to see where I could make a change in my region. I look forward to working the many youth in my region. I will also continue to keep up the awesome work they do. I can't wait to collaborate with the surrounding communities to see what we can accomplish together. I plan to challenge myself and to see what I am capable of."

Tasia's term will work to engage Zuni youth at El Morro and El Malpais National Monuments and further develop the capacity of the Ancestral Lands Zuni office by seeking new partnerships, funding support, and developing new programmatic resources.

ANGELA NOAH, FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Northwest Youth Corps alumni and 2016 Corpsmember of year, Angela Noah is set to join the Ancestral Lands VISTA team in Nov 2017 working with Northwest Youth Corps and Fort Vancouver National Historic Site to build capacity to engage local tribal communities.

SIARRAH GOMEZ-BOYIDDLE, INTER-MOUNTAIN REGIONAL

"My name is Siarraah Gomez-Boyiddle, I am Kiowa-Apache, and I am currently the Native Youth Ancestral Lands Intern at Conservation Legacy. Being 22 years old I've spent most of my life working within the customer service and restaurant industry. I've enjoyed my time working in team settings with customers, however I have felt a strong aspiration to do more than give a family a good dining experience. I want to give something to this world that could help enhance the overall wellbeing of it. After spending some time looking into my interests and passions I decided to go to school for Environmental Science and Sustainability. With that in mind, the next step was to look for a job that would be close to my school. That's when I discovered this position. The fact that this position focuses on working with other Native Americans while incorporating conservation projects, made it a job that was close to my heart. I appreciate the aspect that we are planting seeds into the future by focusing on giving Native American Youth the skills to serve, sustain, and improve our environment, and all the while, incorporating traditional culture and important values into the work-lifestyle. I'm motivated to see more of my people in federal and political positions, on the face of media and in more CEO positions. It would make me feel accomplished knowing that my people are walking around proud, with competitive skill sets that also help to sustain and improve our Earth."

APPENDIX D: (CONT.)

INTERN BIOS

AMBER M. GWIN, KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NHS

“Meedz, Hishua Nugabagish. Mii giddashads ts. Hidatsa ida nogeree, giddashadz. My name is Amber M. Gwin, I am Nueta (Mandan) and Hidatsa. I am currently enrolled at the Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College. My major is Native American Studies. Over the summer I have had many opportunities on my path. I have partaken in a Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College Science and Culture Camp. I also got to learn a lot about Native Plants in Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Being mainly stationed in Knife River Indian Villages I’ve gotten to learn a lot more about the land and also general outdoor environment. I’ve learned a lot about the processes of maintaining and preserving a historic site. I’ve also been able to help at an archeology site, which, was a great experience.”

Ancestral Lands Intern, Fort Laramie National Historic Site
In the fall of 2017 an Ancestral Lands Intern is set to begin work with the Ft. Laramie National Historic Site to aid in the production of interpretive materials for the 150th Commemoration of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie. This position is designed to deeply engage the tribal perspectives on the history of the treaty and its impact in affiliated tribal communities.



Additional support for Conservation Legacy programs is provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Conservation Legacy is proud to partner with AmeriCorps and the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to provide national service opportunities for young adults and veterans on public lands.

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APPENDIX E:

INTERN SURVEYS

American Indian: 56%
African American: 11%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 22%
Other: 11%

Attending GED: 13%
Some High School: 25%
Some College: 38%
Four Year Degree: 12%
2 year degree: 12%

What do you want senior staff at NPS to know about your experience? That it separates hard workers from people that say they work hard but just make excuses. • It’s fun to work for the NPS! • This has been a good work experience. • Continue to support programs such as the Acoma Hiking Club because it gives young adults the opportunity to explore the NPS. • Keep supporting these programs for youth AND adults because there is so much out there to learn. • We had a wonderful and positive experience and we gladly appreciate their services in providing a historically significant education for our youth. • To know that everyone here that works for the conservation corps is outstanding!

Recommendations for the Director of the National Park Service on how the Park Service can better connect with young people and diverse communities: Let the community come volunteer with our crew for a day. • More events to interact with the community! • Add more engaging activities for youth. • Keep youth summer programming!

Why are National Parks important to you? They are ancestral lands that need to be protected. • They are places of culture and tradition and are therefore very important to me. • National Parks are important to me, as a Native American, and being a descendant from my ancestors, to see their journey through history. Not only has the National Park Service allowed me to explore, it has connected my inner beliefs. • National Parks are for the people. • They are a part of our history; of who we are.

