



CONSERVATION  
**legacy**

THREE *hundred*  
& *sixty* FIVE  
.....  
**DAYS**  
OF POSITIVE  
IMPACT  
.....

2014  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



**7,777 ACRES WERE  
IMPROVED OR CLEANED.**

**OUR CREWS  
WORKED  
307,924  
PROJECT  
HOURS.**

**857 MEMBERS  
SERVED IN 39  
STATES AND  
TERRITORIES.**

**10%  
OF OUR  
MEMBERS  
WERE  
VETERANS.**



**943.8 MILES OF TRAILS AND  
RIVERS WERE CLEANED,  
IMPROVED OR CREATED.**

**WE HOSTED 64  
VOLUNTEER  
EVENTS.**

## **CHALLENGE**

Adversity is best faced through hard work and collaboration. Challenge is opportunity for growth.

## **INTEGRITY**

We walk our talk; as an organization and as individuals we commit to standing by our mission with action and intent.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Our programs foster responsibility and leadership for environment and community.

## **COMMUNITY**

We represent diversity, inclusiveness and other-centeredness joined in a shared vision and commitment to action.

## **DEDICATION**

The tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps inspires us to provide impactful experiences for our members, staff, partners and communities.

**WHAT IT  
TAKES**

**AND WHAT WE KNOW.**

# WHO WE ARE:



CONSERVATION LEGACY OPERATES AND SUPPORTS PROGRAMS THAT EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THEIR LIVES, THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

## PROGRAM DETAILS:

• **Arizona Conservation Corps:** Since 1997  
**Locations:** Tucson, Flagstaff and the White Mountains, Arizona  
**Geographic Focus:** Arizona and Southern New Mexico



• **Environmental Stewards:** Since 2009  
**Location:** Durango, Colorado  
**Geographic Focus:** National



• **Southeast Conservation Corps:** Since 2013  
**Location:** Chattanooga, Tennessee  
**Geographic Focus:** Southeast



• **Southwest Conservation Corps:** Since 1998  
**Location:** Durango and Salida, Colorado and Acoma, New Mexico  
**Geographic Focus:** Southern Colorado and NW New Mexico



• **VISTA Teams:** Since 2002  
**Location:** Beckley, West Virginia  
**Geographic Focus:** National



• **Preserve America Youth Summit:** Since 2007  
**Location:** Denver, Colorado  
**Geographic Focus:** National



| Individual Placements | VISTA Placements | Adult Conservation Crews | Urban Conservation Crews | Youth Conservation Crews | Historic Preservation | Veterans Fire Corps | Ancestral Lands | Youth Summits |
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EACH PROGRAM INCORPORATES ONE, SOME OR ALL OF THESE FOUNDATIONS:

✦ CONSERVATION CORPS ✦ INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS ✦ YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ✦ COMMUNITY IMPACT



# Member & Alumni HIGHLIGHTS

## Arizona Conservation Corps Crews and the Gila Watershed Partnership

Adult and Local Conservation Crews based out of Tucson and Safford, AZ have been working with the Gila Watershed Partnership (GWP) since February of 2014, completing projects to restore the Gila River Corridor.

The crews have been working in Discovery Park on native plant propagation and along the river removing an immense amount of invasive Tamarisk vegetation. The work being done through this partnership will improve the Upper Gila Watershed and enhance the environment for all users.

These projects are a collaboration between Arizona Conservation Corps, the Gila Watershed Partnership, Eastern Arizona College and the Safford BLM. Not only are we proud to have our crews working on such an important project, we are also happy to be working with formers crew members and leaders as project partners with the GWP.



## Juana "Giessell" Aguilar: NPS RTCA Fellow • Washington, DC

Juana "Giessell" Aguilar is a great example of an Environmental Stewards success story. During her term of service she worked on numerous projects, but highlights a Hiker/Biker Trail Assesment at Oxon Cove as her favorite project.



Oxon Cove is a Superfund site that had been neglected for years. Juana made it her goal to put a trail plan for Oxon Cove back on the radar and realized that step one was to organize cleanup events to collect and remove litter and garbage. She notes that the fellowship with the National Park Service "helped her gain knowledge of herself and of leadership techniques that she needed in order to grow and excel in her career". All of her hard work and dedication paid off as she was offered and accepted a term position with the National Park Service as a biologist at Manassas National Battlefield in Virginia.



## Miriam Gillow-Willes: AmeriCorps Alums National Leadership Award winner

We are excited to announce that our alumnus, Miriam Gillow-Willes, was one of five recipients honored with the AmeriCorps Alums National Leadership Award!

Miriam served as a Western Hardrock Watershed Team (WHWT) VISTA in 2009/10 in Durango, CO. Miriam generated over \$20,000 in in-kind resources for her site and engaged hundreds of community members. Miriam developed skills that taught her how to work with diverse groups of people and how to address issues related to poverty and economic development. Regarding her term, Miriam said, "I definitely could not have gotten to where I am today, and won this award, without Allan, April, and the WHWT." Miriam is currently the Executive Director of the Southwest Colorado Council of Governments.

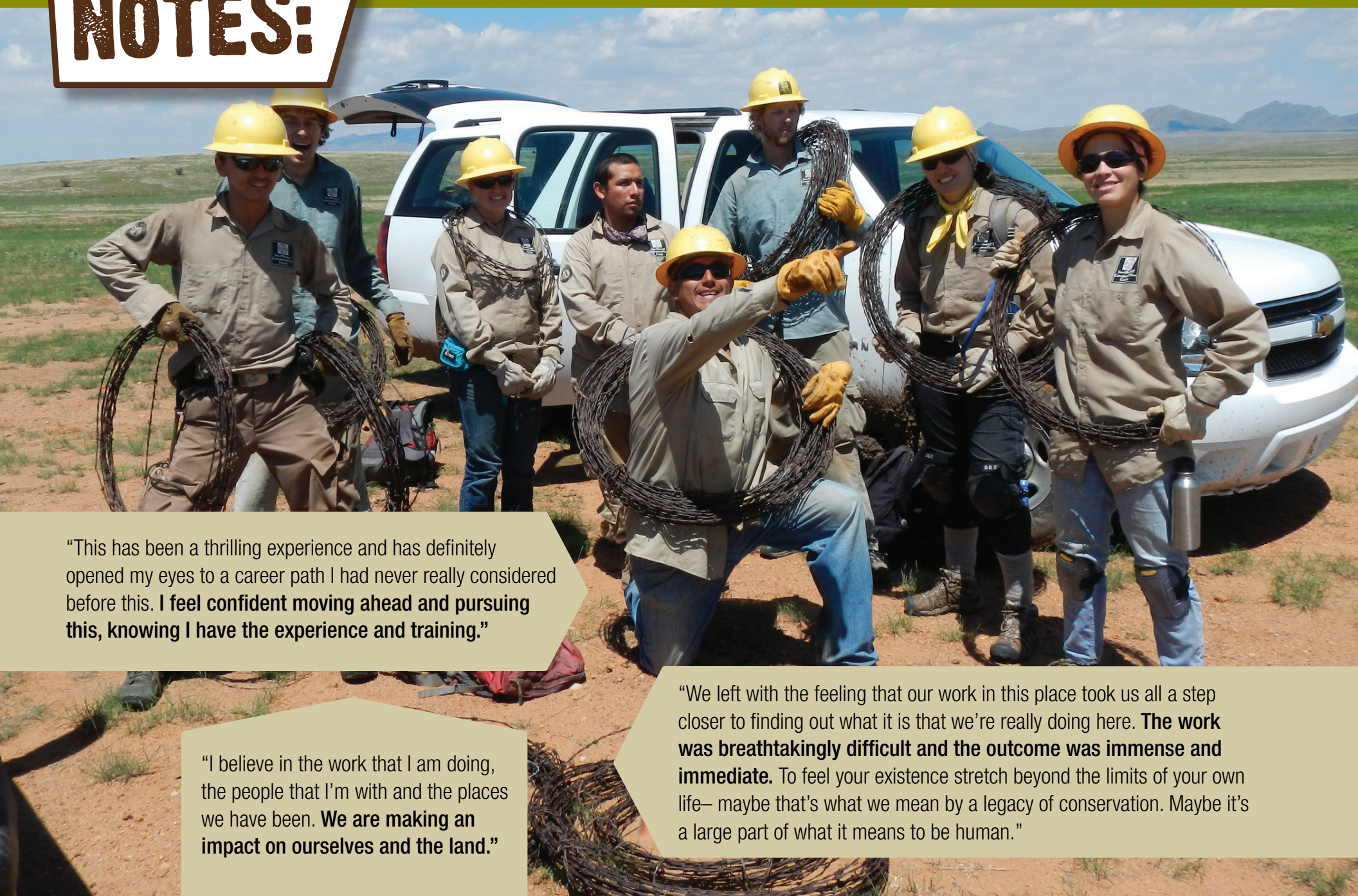
Members of the WHWT VISTA team continue to work to revitalize communities with a history of mining in the Mountain West. During 2014 the members of the WHWT VISTA Team secured over \$300,000 in grant funding, recruited 11,200 hours of volunteer service, and engaged nearly 8,100 youth in an educational setting.



# FIELD NOTES:

See and hear more of our stories, photos and videos at [www.facebook.com/conservationlegacy](https://www.facebook.com/conservationlegacy)

## REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CONSERVATION CREW MEMBERS



“This has been a thrilling experience and has definitely opened my eyes to a career path I had never really considered before this. **I feel confident moving ahead and pursuing this, knowing I have the experience and training.**”

“I believe in the work that I am doing, the people that I’m with and the places we have been. **We are making an impact on ourselves and the land.**”

“We left with the feeling that our work in this place took us all a step closer to finding out what it is that we’re really doing here. **The work was breathtakingly difficult and the outcome was immense and immediate.** To feel your existence stretch beyond the limits of your own life— maybe that’s what we mean by a legacy of conservation. Maybe it’s a large part of what it means to be human.”



## Partnership SPOTLIGHT



A unique partnership has been hard at work fighting the spread of invasive plants and restoring the Dolores River watershed. The Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) is a coalition of federal land management agencies, governments, landowners, non-profits, students, conservation corps, and volunteers. The goal: a Dolores River system that is ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable.

**THE DRRP WON THE 2014 COLORADO COLLABORATION AWARD, WITH SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION CORPS MEMBERS AND STAFF PLAYING AN INTEGRAL PART IN ACCOMPLISHING THE WORK THAT EARNED THIS COMPETITIVE AND WELL DESERVED AWARD.**

Since 2009 Conservation Legacy has represented three corps in the DRRP working to restore 175 miles of the watershed with this collaborative partnership, creating over 250 opportunities for young adults and developing an internship program with BLM, effectively creating a career pathway from member to intern to federal employee. The partnership is currently 70% of the way to reaching the goal of restoring riverside habitat along the entire watershed.



## PROGRAM Spotlight

Conservation Legacy established a Native American “Ancestral Lands” program model in 2008 based at Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico, and has since worked with multiple Native American communities to expand and replicate that model.



The Ancestral Lands model is rooted in the culture and heritage of local tribal communities. The power and impact of Ancestral Lands programming is due to tribal and community investment and support for each program locally, combined with the network of operational support from Conservation Legacy. Together there are 17 different Ancestral Lands programs operating both nationally and on the local level:

- DOI/BIA Tribal VISTA team,
- Navajo Nations Programs,
- Hubbel/Ganado Programs,
- White Mountain Apache Programs,
- Southern Arizona Programs
- Albuquerque Native American Urban Corps,
- BIA Water Resources Program, & the
- Acoma Pueblo Programs.



**Anthony ‘Chako’ Ciocco honored as a White House Champion of Change**

Anthony ‘Chako’ Ciocco, now a Program Coordinator with Ancestral Lands, began as a crew leader with Southwest Conservation Corps. He was honored as a 2014 White House Champion of Change in Washington DC for his efforts in reclaiming well-being in Native communities.

A member of the Mvskoke tribe of the Creek Nation, Chako cofounded a non-profit devoted to the restoration of language and culture, worked extensively in restoring traditional food systems, and has received fellowships and grant funding from the University of Colorado to fund his work.

Chako’s work with the Ancestral Lands program and Southwest Conservation Corps is an example of the amazing work being done by Conservation Legacy’s programming on a national level.

### FROM OUR PARTNERS:

“The Ancestral Lands crew has been very beneficial to our BIA natural resource conservation projects which are implemented across the Navajo Nation. For instance, the crew has successfully completed approximately 15 miles of fencing for the western portion of the Navajo Nation boundary. This includes disassembling the existing fence line and constructing a new wildlife friendly fence.

This program has served as a valuable resource in bridging community involvement by recruiting local Navajo youths on BIA Natural Resource conservation projects. This is very beneficial by allowing the native youth to gain higher-quality job skills and making them competitive in the job market.”

-Sharon Pinto, BIA Navajo Region Regional Director



## 2014 FINANCIALS

PROGRAMS: 92%

ADMINISTRATION: 8%

EXPENSES  
\$10,594,053

OTHER: 1%

GRANTS: 21%

PROJECTS: 78%

REVENUE  
\$11,167,570

75% of our budget supports

**PEOPLE** WORKING TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE  
*environment and their communities.*

### PROGRAM LOCATIONS:

#### CONSERVATION LEGACY CENTRAL SUPPORT OFFICE

701 Camino Del Rio, Suite 101  
Durango, CO 81301

#### VISTA PROGRAM

115 South Kanawha Street  
PO Box 5513  
Beckley, WV 25801

[www.doivista.org](http://www.doivista.org)

[www.osmrevista.org](http://www.osmrevista.org)

#### ARIZONA CONSERVATION CORPS

Flagstaff Office  
2301 East 5th Avenue  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Tucson Office  
1443 West Prince Road  
Tucson, AZ 85705

[www.azcorps.org](http://www.azcorps.org)

#### SOUTHEAST CONSERVATION CORPS

403 Chilhowie Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37405

[www.southeastconservationcorps.org](http://www.southeastconservationcorps.org)

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

701 Camino Del Rio, Suite 101  
Durango, CO 81301

[www.environmentalstewards.org](http://www.environmentalstewards.org)

#### SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION CORPS

Ancestral Lands Office  
16B Lakeside Drive  
Pueblo of Acoma, NM 87034

Durango Office  
701 Camino Del Rio, Suite 101  
Durango, CO 81301

Salida Office  
701 East Highway 50  
Salida, CO 81201

[www.sccorps.org](http://www.sccorps.org)

**WWW.CONSERVATIONLEGACY.ORG**



## CONSERVATION legacy

# OUR *deepest* GRATITUDE

**A huge thank you to our partners in conservation for your continued support:** Local governments and community partners, local, state, federal and tribal land and water management agencies, our non-profit partners, board of directors, funders and everyone else who has lent a hand along the way. We are looking forward to a successful 2015!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## PROUD TO BE A PART OF:



**21ST CENTURY  
CONSERVATION  
SERVICE CORPS**

