




Southwest
Conservation
Corps

CONSERVATION
legacy

**CONSERVATION LEGACY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FY2018 REPORT**

ANCESTRAL LANDS PROGRAM

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CONSERVATION LEGACY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FY2018 REPORT

National Park Service Report FY2018

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

Albuquerque Open Space
Arapaho Nation
Arizona Conservation Corps
Aztec Ruins National Monument
Acoma Pueblo
Blackfeet Nation
Bandelier National Monument
Bernalillo County, NM
Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
Bureau of Indian Affairs
BIA Eastern Navajo Agency
BIA Navajo Region
BIA Western Region
Bureau of Reclamation
Canyon de Chelly National Monument
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument
Chaco Culture National Historical Park
Chamiza Foundation
Chemawa Indian School, ,
Chiricahua National Monument
Colorado Plateau Foundation

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation
Conservation Lands Foundation
Crow Nation
Devils Tower National Park
Eastern Shoshone Tribe
El Malpais National Monument
El Malpais National Conservation Area
El Morro National Monument
Escalante River Watershed Partnership
Flagstaff Area National Monuments
Glacier National Park
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Glen Canyon Natural History Association
Grand Canyon National Park
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Grand Teton National Park
Great Basin Institute
Hopi Tribe
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office
Hopi Education Endowment Fund
Hopi Foundation
Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture Institute
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
Joshua Tree National Park
Knife River Indian Villages NHS
La Plazita Institute
McKinley County, NM
Mesa Verde National Park
Montana Conservation Corps
Montezuma Castle National Monument
Muir Woods National Monument
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Parks Foundation

Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress
Navajo National Monument
Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands
New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission
Northern Arapahoe Tribe
Northern Arizona University
Northwest Youth Corps
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Parametrix
Petrified Forest National Park
Petroglyph National Monument
Pueblo of Acoma
Pueblo of Zuni
Rainbow Bridge National Monument
Rio Grande
Del Norte National Conservation Area
Saguaro National Park
Society of American Indian Government Employees
Southwest Conservation Corps Ancestral Lands
Southwest Exotic Plant Management Team
Transition Habitat Conservancy
Tumacácori National Historic Park
United States Forest Service
Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
Walnut Canyon National Monument
White Mountain Apache Tribe
Yellowstone National Park
Zuni Youth Enrichment Program

INTRODUCTION



FOSTERING CONSERVATION SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES & ECOSYSTEMS

LOCAL ACTION. ENDURING IMPACT.

CONSERVATION LEGACY IS A PURPOSEFUL AND STRATEGIC ORGANIZATION, OPERATING A NATIONAL CADRE OF CORPS AND SERVICE PROGRAMS THAT:

Engage Young Americans 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 targets a diversity of participants, reflective of their community, to engage as participants.

Conserve, protect & promote 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.

Build 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.

Conservation Legacy operates and supports 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, Conservation Legacy programs include Arizona Conservation Corps, Conservation Corps New Mexico, Great Appalachian Valley Conservation Corps, Southeast Conservation Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, Stewards Individual Placements and Preserve America Youth Summit. In addition to these regional programs, Conservation Legacy manages unique program models such as Ancestral Lands and the Veterans Fire Corps.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Providing paid opportunities to serve communities and work on public lands, partnered with personal and professional development—authentic on-the-job experience—has proven to be successful in supporting individuals in building a foundation for program participants. 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.

Meeting Department of Interior Priorities

The Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps project was an effective means to respectfully engage Native American Youth to address the Department of the Interior (DOI) and National Park Service priorities in 2018.

The project addressed the DOI Infrastructure priority by completing important conservation projects at National Park Service sites throughout the country. Projects completed included infrastructure and trail maintenance and construction, game and fisheries habitat restoration, invasive vegetation mitigation, fire fuels mitigation, and historic resource protection.

The projects addressed the DOI Jobs priority in FY2018 by employing over 120 socially and economically disadvantaged Native American youth living primarily in rural tribal nations/communities. The projects addressed the DOI Stewardship priority by teaching Native American young adults about the importance of natural and cultural resource stewardship while working on mission focused NPS infrastructure projects and resource stewardship initiatives. Over 90% of surveys collected reflected participants deeper understanding of National Park Service, its mission and land stewardship. The summary of participant surveys also illustrate increases in workforce skills, education and leadership development.

The program supported the department's commitment to tribal prosperity and to helping address challenges in the areas of rural economic development and education by providing a combined total of over 2 million dollars in wages, salaries, and living allowances and education awards in FY2018.

The FY2018 Ancestral Lands program to date:

- Maintained trails, improved recreation infrastructure, improved fish and game habitat and improved critical water resources by removing invasive species
- Provided jobs, hands on work experience and national service opportunities to young adults in rural communities
- Completed important infrastructure improvement projects while connecting Native American young adults to stewardship, their heritage and cultural values
- Provided workforce, job training and leadership development opportunities for rural Native American young adults through real world and hands on experience on resource management projects
- Encouraged the sovereignty of Native American communities by providing jobs, work skills and leadership development opportunities for young Native Americans
- Engaged young people, communities, tribal leadership and visitors in shared land stewardship while promoting greater private and public partnerships with the National Park Service



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, historic and prehistoric preservation and cultural/language immersion. Total funding in addition to the \$530,000 WASO contribution in 2018 exceeds three million dollars in partner and in-kind contributions.

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 23 partner projects.

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.

NATIVE YOUTH LEADING OUR NATIONS BACK TO ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL WELLBEING.

PROGRAM SUCCESS

The Ancestral Lands program has significant impacts on the individuals that participate in the program and the communities in which work is done. Participants learn about their history and the significance of the places they work, strengthen connections to their ancestors, culture, language, and traditions.

All participants participate in technical skills trainings that help prepare them for the service projects. This training can include chainsaw training, wilderness first aid trainings, CPR, leadership development and risk management. This program has helped individuals find their voice, create community and develop communication, leadership and job skills needed for a successful future.

2018 was another incredible year for Ancestral Lands Programs. In collaboration with Arizona Conservation Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, Montana Conservation Corps, Northwest Youth Corps, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps-Taos, and La Plazita Institute, 301 Native American youth and young adults were engaged through crew and individual placement programming.

Economic Impact: In wages, salaries, AmeriCorps Education Awards & living allowances alone, the Ancestral Lands program has provided over 2 million dollars in economic development throughout Indian Country in FY2018.

BY THE NUMBERS

CREW PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

22 MILES OF FENCE REPAIRED OR BUILT

119 ACRES IMPROVED OR FULLY RESTORED

4.5 MILES TRAIL BUILT OR MAINTAINED

32,201 TOTAL PROJECT HOURS

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Overall Ancestral Lands Participants: 442
WASO funded Participants: 339

GENDER

31% Female, 69% Male

AGE

11% under 18
72% 18 – 24
11% 25 – 30
6% 31 – 35

RACE IDENTITY

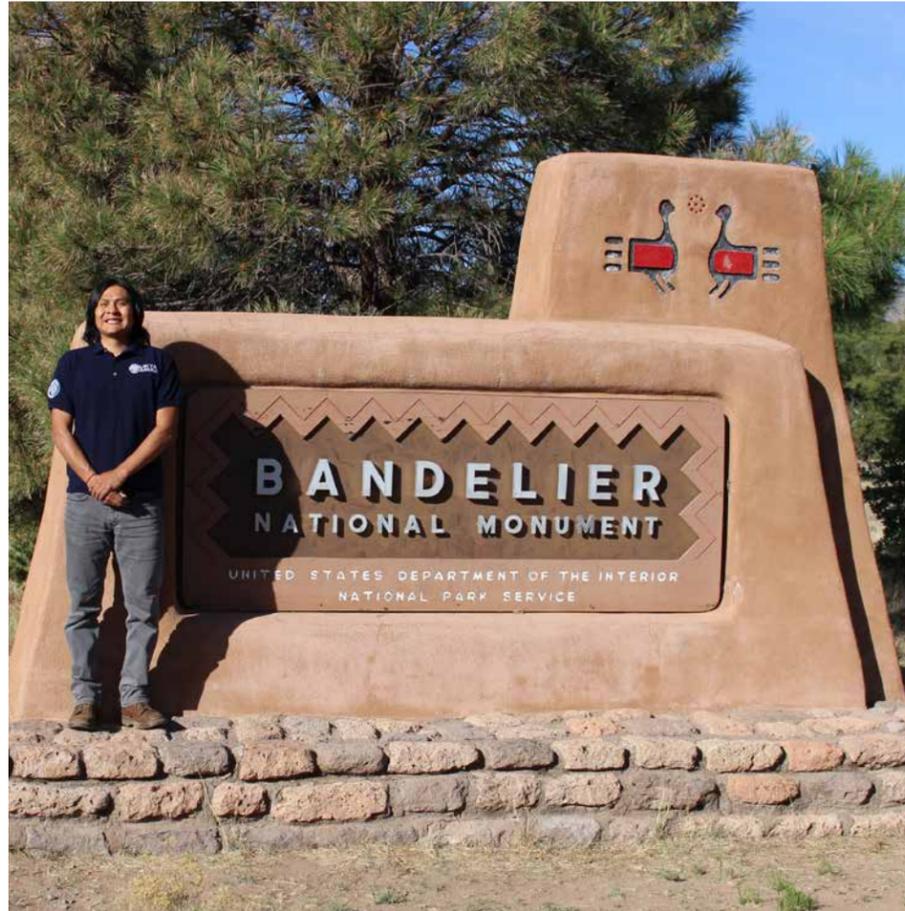
3% Other
3% Prefer Not To Answer
3% More Than One
91% Native American

WASO FUNDED PARK LOCATIONS

Aztec Ruins National Park
Bandelier National Monument
Canyon De Chelly National Monument
Grand Canyon National Park
Glacier National Park
Grand Teton National Park
Yellowstone National Park
Devils Tower National Monument
Pecos National Historic Park
Tuzigoot National Monument
Chaco Cultural National Historical Park
El Malpais National Monument
El Morro National Monument
Fort Laramie National Historic Site
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
Joshua Tree National Park
Kalaupapa National Historical Park
Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
Mesa Verde National Park
Muir Woods National Monument
Navajo National Monument
Petroglyph National Monument



ANCESTRAL LANDS AMERICORPS VISTA HIGHLIGHTS



In late 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 have worked hard 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 have spent much of 2018 learning about career opportunities with the National Park Service, shadowing local corps programs and completing conservation projects at parks near their communities. As part of their service, the VISTAs, similar to previous interns, 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.

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.



“The work that Conservation Legacy is doing, especially with Ancestral Lands, is powerful.

We as native people want there to be opportunities for us and having these programs in our own communities makes that possible.”

—Marisa Joe,
Ancestral Lands AmeriCorps VISTA

KAILE LUGA, KALAUPAPA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Kaile's service year is distinctly different from most AmeriCorps VISTAs, in that she supported and served every National Park in Hawai'i during her service term. Based with the non-profit KUPU, Kaile was tasked with engaging Hawai'i's National Park system to gauge interest and garner support for KUPU's Cultural Enrichment Corps. This idea is not unlike that Ancestral Lands model, which works to include culture, history, and diversity into the conservation corps movement.

Utilizing her trips to the mainland and the professional development opportunities with her host site, Kaile was able to learn about this model of corps, creating and collaborating with her community to build a structure and present the Cultural Enrichment Corps model to The Corps Network.

In addition to her main Corps project, Kaile was also successful in her service year through projects such as coordinating a youth service trip at Kalaupapa National Historical Park, creating a media project for the Valor of Pacific World War II National Historical Monument, attending the 2017 ServiceWorks Boot Camp, 2018 SAIGE Conference, and hosting an MLK Jr. Day of service with KUPU.



“I had the privilege of assisting with the recommendations to the Corps Network in regards to accreditation standards for a Cultural Enrichment Corps. As I set out on this task, I consulted a few of my colleagues at Kupu. Towards the beginning, our conversations centered on the task of defining what “culture” is. It seemed to be an endless discussion, since we all believed that everything we did was cultural – especially when it came to our own interactions in land stewardship in Hawaii. For us, the very act of caring for the land was a “cultural practice”.

One day, in one of our passionate discussions on the matter, one of my colleagues said, “Culture is the “why”. It is why we care for the land. It is why we do conservation. Culture is the “why” behind all the work that we do.” For me, this was an “Aha!” moment. It made me realize that what I do in conservation, what I do to help better steward resources here in Hawaii, it is all to perpetuate our culture here.”

TASIA QUAM, EL MORRO NATIONAL MONUMENT

In her service term, Tasia served most closely with the SCC Ancestral Lands Zuni staff, spending much of the summer collaborating on crew development including working with the Zuni Farm Crew, Zuni's Hiking Club, and the Zuni Education and Career Development Center to interest and engage local Native youth and young adults. Those resulting engagement events lead to placements on a Chipping Crew, trail restoration crew and five general corps crews.



Tasia hosted a well-attended Youth Learn, Serve, Play event, did frequent park visitor engagement sessions at El Morro National Park, and researched, wrote, submitted, and was awarded over \$30,000 in grant funding. Tasia notes her grant writing work as the most challenging but biggest success of her service year.



She hopes to continue her service with El Morro as a staff member, where she can stay connected with NPS, local Native communities, and youth, but also hopefully work with crews through the park in the future.

ANCESTRAL LANDS AMERICORPS VISTA HIGHLIGHTS



CHRIS HONAHNIE, VISTA SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

Chris's AmeriCorps VISTA year was one filled with challenges and successes, some expected and some not. As is with most of the Ancestral Lands AmeriCorps VISTAs, Chris was tasked with growing support for and establishing within Arizona Conservation Corps an all Native crew program, built on the Ancestral Lands model.

Chris began his year focused mainly on building relationships with local tribal leaders and attending a variety of tribal events hosted by multiple tribes. Although accessing these events was not difficult, receiving attention and being given space to hold his engagement sessions proved time consuming and often frustrating. But with patience and respect, Chris was able to begin and continue conversations about his service and later to have gained allies and partners working toward his goal. Chris reflects: 'After almost every event, I am given leads to present at other places. One such instance resulted in the creation of a new partnership with a local middle school with a sizable native student population.

Chris successfully established, recruited, and helped train and support Crew #118, a four person, all Native crew, also lead by a Native crew leader. They participated in both conservancy and historical preservation duties around the area.

Chris's secondary project allowed him to include his own community traditions and skills along with those used in community learning and engagement events. As a partner with the Native Seed/SEARCH program, Chris helped to develop a native youth traditional farming program. Dozens of youth, aged 10 through 25 participated, learning traditional farming methods and learning the historical and cultural meaning behind the crops they planted and harvested.

Like many of his cohort, Chris also pursued and was given the opportunity to educate his service organization on cultural competencies when interacting with those who have different backgrounds.

While presenting on Ancestral Lands programming at Tohono O'odham elementary school, Chris was surprised and excited to have a young student pick up on

“

“Before I didn't know where to go, but coming to this program really opened a lot of doors to other possibilities. Now, I know I don't have a limit. I hope I can continue to work with the land and keep gaining confidence.”

—Ile-Oso Molina,
Crew Member, Crew 118

his heritage, just from him accent. Just a minute or two into his presentation, a boy shouted out “You sound like you're from Hopi!” Laughing Chris took the moment to share a bit about himself before presenting his visual aids and sharing his stories.

Most of the students were very excited about the program and they wanted to sign up on the spot, although most would have to wait several years until they turned 18.

Once his service year ends, Chris will return to his studies. Chris hopes to continue working with Arizona Conservation Corps in some capacity and will take many of his experiences with him as he continues to grow and learn within and outside his community and culture.



ANGELA NOAH, VISTA FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Since beginning her term, Angela has been integral in a number of projects, most notably in recruiting Native youth to serve on crews as well as partnering with her own high school to create a summer program for those students. These efforts have lead Angela to a visit with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, recruitment work with the Idaho Conservation Corps, a Leadership training with the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and directed communication with both the Muckleshoot and Silo Squamish Tribes who are interested in launching summer youth programs.

These conversations and visits have led to a busy spring and summer, with Angela leading the charge in hosting three recruitment events in Tribal communities and launching the Native youth and young adult programs.

In addition, Angela has found time to attend two separate trainings with Stewards Individual Placement Program and Ancestral Lands, as well as to speak on an Indigenous panel for the People of the Global Majority ONE summit. She somehow found time to also fit in a service day with local youth over at the community farm for high school students.

For the remainder of her service term, Angela is heavily focused on the Chema-wa Bridge Program, a summer 'bridging' service term for students who cannot or choose not to head home when school is not in session, planning and hosting a Youth Play/Learn/Work event, and connecting more fully with Fort Vancouver National Park's public lands.

CULTURAL RESOURCE INTERN HIGHLIGHTS

MARYANN GUOLADDLE, INTERN FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

MaryAnn worked on two larger projects with many smaller components during her time at Fort Laramie These included booklets that had short excerpts from the letters of generals, chiefs, and others who were at Fort Laramie. She also created a display of the food that Native Americans were given as rations during the 1800's. Finally, she worked on a treaty exhibit which featured treaties that were signed and ratified by the tribes that were included in the Fort Laramie Treaties for the 150th Anniversary. Other projects included creating commemorative posters, hanging museum exhibits, staffing an interactive exhibit, cleaning exhibit rooms, and performing museum inventory.

MaryAnn reflects on her service: 'After working and visiting some of the National Parks around Wyoming and also having tribal historical ties to some of these parks I got to see how they preserve these very important areas not only to Native Americans but to the whole world. I feel that without the Park Service protecting and preserving these landmarks and historical sites that we would not have them today due to people taking over and building over them and losing all the historical data. I think that it has become important to me because I got a look inside and seeing how hard these people work to keep the parks running and how much they have to learn to perform their jobs correctly and safely.

RAYMOND MONIZ, INTERN KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The main goal of Raymond Moniz's term was to develop an oral history program. He also created a one page document on cultural sensitivity and learned oral stories which he later presented to the public. He was a great help with school functions and visitor center interactions.

ARIZONA CONSERVATION CORPS HIGHLIGHTS



SOUTHERN ARIZONA NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Crew #118 assisted for just over 11 weeks in a variety of projects at Casa Grande Ruins and other NPS Monuments across Southern Arizona. Crew members came from the communities of Tohono O’odham, San Carlos Apache and Pascua Yaqui. Project work included ruin preservation, maintaining backfill levels around compounds and sidewalk resurfacing at various locations at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. At Tumaacócori National Historic Park project work included cleaning out brush and debris along the river and work in the orchard.

The project provided young adults participating in AZCC’s program an opportunity to learn and receive hands on training in various aspects of management within the NPS system. There was a particular focus on recruiting and engaging young people from tribal communities on these projects, including those from the Tohono O’odham Nation.



Crew #118 Southern AZ National Monuments Project Accomplishments

3.7 miles fence lines brushed • 800 feet fence lines repaired
 22 tires removed from Santa Cruz Wash • 155² feet prehistoric wall patched
 9,400² feet sidewalks resurfaced • 13,200 feet corridor cleared

CORRIDOR CLEARED	NEW TRAIL BUILT	TIRES REMOVED
13,200 FT	375 FT	22



“Preserving this historic national monument and its ruins really gave us the knowledge of how our ancestors once lived and roamed the area and how the park itself has changed over the years.”

–Chavez Ventura,
 Crew 118

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE

Hailing from the White Mountains of Eastern Arizona, Crew #336 consisted of six White Mountain Apache tribal members. Throughout their term, they worked on a variety of projects from trail maintenance to facilities and rec maintenance around different parks and forests throughout Arizona.

The crew assisted in facilities maintenance at the Montezuma Well and Castle National Monuments in central Arizona. This work involved the construction of a rock wall to curtail erosion near the well. The crew conducted routine maintenance by brushing overgrowth, cleaning and restoring picnic areas, cleaning irrigation ditches and pulling weeds in and around the ancient monuments. During their time at the Montezuma Well and Castle, they were given informational tours to learn the history of the structures, the science of the Well, and the lives of the people who once lived there.

The crew also performed fence repair along the boundary of the Grand Canyon National Park. The fence was a decades-old fence that fell into disrepair from exposure to the elements, local livestock grazing and wildlife. The purpose of the project was to restore the integrity of the boundary fence in order to enclose local livestock from grazing in the park. In order to allow egress for wildlife, elk jumps and careful spacing of the barbed wire fence were installed and ensured. All in all, Crew #336 worked in conjunction with another crew to repair over eight miles of fence line in the four days of project work.

The White Mountains program of Arizona Conservation Corps strives to engage local tribal young adults in project work that is relevant to their interests and values post-service. By connecting the participants to culturally and historically relevant sites such as the Montezuma Well and Castle and the Grand Canyon, they walked away with experiences that not only befitted the greater public, but themselves as well.



“I was excited to work in the Grand Canyon. Overall, we repaired eight miles of fence. It was a cool experience, getting to teach others how to splice fence wire.”

–Shaquille Cosay,
 Crew Member, Crew 336

SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION CORPS HIGHLIGHTS



EL MORRO NATIONAL MONUMENT HEADLAND TRAIL ACOMA, ZUNI, AND NAVAJO CREWS

Beginning in 2017, Ancestral Lands crews have worked with the El Morro Vanishing Treasures team and the Historic Preservation Department to restore and improve the Headland Trail, a 2-mile loop that goes to the top of the iconic bluff and cliff top ancient pueblo site of Atsinna.

Originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, this trail provides a connection for our modern-day Conservation Corps and Ancestral Lands participants to feel the history of the movement and appreciate the layers of historical and cultural context that El Morro has to offer.

This work includes removing decades-old asphalt, restoring or rebuilding the outer curbing stones, and hauling in loads of stay StayLok material for the trail surface. To date, four Ancestral Lands crews have constructed, improved, and maintained over 1.2 miles of trail, and will continue working until December on this large project.

HOPi NATIVE CONSERVATION CORPS (NCC)

The Ancestral Lands Hopi Native Conservation Corps had an amazing summer opportunity to visit our National Parks, Monuments, and Recreation Areas learning about career pathways available to them!

The Hopi NCC was created in 2013 to bring Native American High School students to the National Parks in the hopes that Park's engagement would encourage them to seek employment in the Parks.

This year, the NCC crew visited Petrified Forest National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Canyon National Park, Muir Woods National Monument, Alcatraz Island, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Each area had park representation both supporting the crew and providing insight to their position and work within the Parks.

The crew participated in projects such as graffiti mitigation via kayak, traveling up the beautiful Colorado River to support a Dragonfly Mercury sampling project, providing interpretation of one of the last remaining stands of Redwood forest and many more life changing experiences!

HIKING CLUBS:

In keeping with the Secretarial order 3366; Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Southwest Conservation Corps ran two youth hiking clubs out of Acoma and Zuni Pueblo to engage youth in multiple outings at National Parks.

ACOMA HIKING CLUB

The Acoma Hiking Club is a program under the Southwest Conservation Corps' Acoma Ancestral Lands Office which is funded by the National Park Service. In its fifth year, the Acoma Hiking Club promotes conservation and environmental awareness, healthy living and the Acoma language and culture by providing the opportunity for Acoma youth to be outdoors. Uniquely positioned, the Acoma Hiking Club reconnects the youth of Acoma to their ancestral homelands by exposing them to local National Conservation Area and National Monuments such as El Morro and El Malpais.

Thirty Acoma youth participated, and hiked around 15 miles per week, for a total of ten weeks. Half of the group had never been to any of their local public lands, now managed by NPS and other agencies.

ZUNI HIKING CLUB

The Zuni Hiking Club operated two sessions in the summer of 2018, engaging 20 local youth. The club hiked a combined total of 703 miles (including all hikers, leaders and educators) spending a total of 2,350 hours outdoors exploring public lands.

Young Zuni hikers had the opportunity to collaborate with Acoma Hiking Club, Adventures 4 Hopi, the National Park Service, Zuni Teen Health Center, Zuni Cultural Educators and an Ancestral Lands Zuni Crew. Hikers were able to kayak at Clear Creek Reservoir and some were the first group to go camping while visiting Mesa Verde National Park and Aztec Ruins National Monument.

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION HIKING CLUB

In partnership with the National Park Foundation, the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Ancestral Lands, Mike Tsosie, Ancestral Lands AmeriCorps VISTA, worked to establish a Hiking Club in Southern Utah. This Hiking Club consisted of 35 youth who spoke with rangers and experienced public lands in Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Hovenweep National Monument, Mesa Verde National Park, Natural Bridges National Park and the Canyon Country Discovery Center.

Planing for next year's Hiking Club has begun, with the hope of doubling the number of participants and growing the number of public lands participating.



"I feel more connected to the National Parks that surround me. I think that this program should continue into the future for all of our grandchildren to learn great things about their ancestors."

—Eli Benally, Hiking Club participant



MONTANA CONSERVATION CORPS HIGHLIGHTS

Overall, Conservation Legacy supported nine crew project weeks in multiple areas with Montana Conservation Corps, as well as a VISTA position based on the Wind River reservation.

Gabriel "Red Thunder" Spoonhunter, Ancestral Lands AmeriCorps VISTA partnering with the Wind River Reservation, connected with both tribes on the Wind River reservation and multiple land management agencies to assist in overall capacity building to create a corps program that operated from June-August on the surrounding ancestral lands.

In Glacier National Park, one crew served on public lands adjoining the Blackfoot Reservation. In Grand Teton National Park, two crews with youth from the Wind River Reservation and Fort Hall Reservation on culture landscape conservation projects within the Mormon Row Historic District. In Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, one crew from the Wind River Reservation completed trail construction and maintenance, installation of trail drainage structures, repaired fencing and removed noxious weeds. In Wind Cave National Park and Devils Tower National Park, one Youth Service Expedition for youth from the Cheyenne River Reservation completed infrastructure and habitat improvement projects.

Montana Conservation Corps Project Accomplishments

3 miles fencing constructed/repared • 58 trail drainage structures built
50 trees planted • 6,916 feet trail maintained/built

FENCING CONSTRUCTED	TRAIL STRUCTURES BUILT	TRAIL BUILT
3 MILES	58	6,916 FT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



NATIVE YOUTH COMMUNITY ADAPTATION AND LEADERSHIP CONGRESS (NYCALC)

The Ancestral Lands Program was honored to be given the opportunity to bring six VISTA participants to attend this year's Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress at the National Conservation Training Center 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.

"NYCALC was one of the greatest gatherings I have ever attended. It was a great opportunity to network with individuals from across the United States. I had the chance to talk with both agency representatives and Native youth about the Ancestral Lands program as well as work being done at Kupu—my local conservation corps.

Attending NYCALC gave me the opportunity to meet many indigenous people successfully making their way within the federal service, some of whom work outside of their home region. Watching the youth participants, our next generation, I had the chance to glance at the future, and it is brilliant, deeply rooted in cultural identity and community, and indeed bright." -Kaile Liga, Ancestral Lands AmeriCorps VISTA

"This year's congress was filled with positivity, challenges and fun. Each and every student brought their own indigenous knowledge and perspective. It was invigorating to see a glimpse of our future indigenous leaders and their potential to change native communities.

The opportunity to serve as Jr. Faculty during the Congress helped me to develop leadership, communication and networking skills. I was able to assist the students in developing their group projects. I tried to provide input into every discussion I was a part of. I met with indigenous professionals who reassured me that the path that I am on is the right one. The congress reaffirmed my self confidence voice, and direction." -Chris Honahnie, Ancestral Lands AmeriCorps VISTA

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“The opportunity to serve as Junior Faculty during the Congress helped me to develop leadership, communication and networking skills.”

-Chris Honahnie,
 Ancestral Lands
 AmeriCorps VISTA

UNITED NATIONAL INDIAN TRIBAL YOUTH (UNITY)

The 2018 Unity Conference “Answering the Call of Our Ancestors” took place in San Diego, California and was an opportunity for participants to connect with tribes across the country. The 2018 conference had 2,300 attendees and provided a venue for cultural sharing, workshops and regional caucuses. UNITY is for Native youth lead, by Native youth, and has been thriving since its establishment in 1976 by J.R. Cook.

“On July 5th, I had the tremendous opportunity to represent on behalf of Ancestral Lands at the largest Native youth gathering in the country, the United National Indian Tribal Youth Conference in San Diego, California. This conference is one I had my eye on since I was in high school. This organization is for Native youth lead by Native youth and has been thriving since its establishment in 1976. I attended as a presenter through a workshop, and tabling booth.

In the workshop, I had a lot of support from my Supervisors and other VISTAs. I started off the workshop with an overview of our organization and what VISTA life looked like for me. Nolan Notah, Ancestral Lands GIS Coordinator, gave a presentation about what his work entails. He explained his position as an opportunity for potential careers. He brought in maps and equipment for the youth to check out. After Nolan, Alec Feraria, current Ancestral Lands member from Arizona Conservation Corps, shared how the corps has impacted his life. At the end, we had a lot of youth interested and requesting more information.

Our workshop was only a snippet of the connections I was able to make with the 2,300 attendees at the conference. A few of my highlights were meeting great Native role models for Indian Country. I was able to connect with elders and the selfless advisors who worked and fundraised to bring their youth councils to attend the conference. I also appreciated the aspect of Cultural Wellness.

Through the conference and all it had to offer, I was able to learn about available professional development opportunities. One was the National UNITY Executive Council where representatives work to improve the lives of Native youth across Indian Country. I am looking into how I can represent my region and to serve on this council. I am thinking of how I can come back next year to present again and apply for the Earth Ambassadors Program. Through the Earth Ambassadors Program, I will be able to represent the work I have been doing in tribal communities and our environment. I am humbled and thankful for the opportunity to grow and make these connections as I did at UNITY.” -Angela Noah, Ancestral Lands AmeriCorps VISTA



SOCIETY OF AMERICAN INDIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (SAIGE) CONFERENCE



Ancestral Lands members were invited to be a part of the 2018 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.

“This year marked the third consecutive year I have attended the SAIGE Conference. Each year brings about a different experience. There are different people, ideas, foods, and challenges. The atmosphere of the conference is unique in that native people make up the majority of attendees. During this conference, elders are recognized and respected, songs are sung, people are smudged, and people laugh. It is easy to feel comfortable here.

The main reason I attend this conference is for the people. The people that attend, are always welcoming and happy to be around friends, colleagues, and relatives. During one of the last luncheons, I sat with the husband of one of the main conference organizers. He shared some insight on what it's like to plan such a conference. He, along with many others, shared important ideas that will help to shape my future.

Being able to share our VISTA experiences to the entire conference was very fulfilling.” -Chris Honahnie, Ancestral Lands AmeriCorps VISTA

PARTNER AND PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE

LLOYD MASAYUMTEWA, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
 “The Ancestral Lands organization is an exceptional partner that provides avenues to provide work and learning for indigenous youth. They in turn provide much needed help for completing various projects in our park units at Hubbell Trading Post and Navajo National Monument. Without this type of assistance, some of the much needed work in the parks could not be completed.

The benefit of having Indigenous youth is that they have intimate connections to the area, which helps in having ownership of the things they work on. In all, this unique program provides many benefits to the parks and local Tribal entities.”

TODD HISAIC-HI, RANGER, MUIR WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT
 “I very much appreciate the symbiotic relationship between the NPS and the Ancestral Lands program through the development of the Native Conservation Corps. We have been synthesizing our knowledge, resources and inspirations for shared heritage stewardship and youth development.”

MONIQUE GONZALES, SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION CORPS ANCESTRAL LANDS
 “Being a steward of the land means to be someone who has respect and cares for the land we inhabit. I love working to help preserve the land at Petroglyph National Monument for a number of reasons. One important reason is because this land is of great importance not only to my Tribe (Zuni) but to all Tribes in New Mexico. We need to preserve this land and our culture for all our future generations.”

MARISA JOE, ANCESTRAL LANDS AMERICORPS VISTA
 “Coming from the been-there-done-that community, someone who has experienced drug addiction and trauma, it’s a really big victory to get to this place. I think that the work that Conservation Legacy is doing, especially with the Southwest Conservation Corps Ancestral Lands is powerful. We as native people, we want to stay in our communities, we want there to be opportunities for us and having these programs in our own communities makes that possible.”

KANE, SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION CORPS ANCESTRAL LANDS
 “I feel much more connected to the park since I’ve spent a lot of time there, as well as taking a part in keeping this area clean. I think I will spend more time at NPS sites in the future to either work in these areas or to show other people how parks are exquisitely beautiful and how they are important to the environment.”

ILE-OSO MOLINA, ARIZONA CONSERVATION CORPS ANCESTRAL LANDS
 “Before I didn’t know where to go, but coming to this program really opened a lot of doors to other possibilities. Now, I know I don’t have a limit. I hope I can continue to work with the land and keep gaining confidence.”

CHAVEZ VENTURA, ARIZONA CONSERVATION CORPS ANCESTRAL LANDS
 “Preserving this historic national monument and its ruins really gave us the knowledge of how our ancestors once lived and roamed the area and how the park itself has changed over the years.”

DARIUS STEWART, SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION CORPS ANCESTRAL LANDS
 “I’m here for the kids, and it’s been great. I’ve gotten to see them connect with each other, come out of their shells, and be happy while outdoors. They’ve learned a lot about the landscape and the National Park Service. They’re excited about what they find and learn.”

SARAH HERVE, DEPUTY CHIEF OF INTERPRETATIONS, PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK
 “Working with Ancestral Lands has allowed the Native Conservation Corps to really blossom and provide unique opportunities. The leadership and the support the program provides is something we only dreamed of having when we started the program. Here’s to more years of building bridges together!”

CHRIS HONAHNIE, ANCESTRAL LANDS AMERICORPS VISTA
 “It was invigorating to see a glimpse of our future indigenous leaders and their potential to change native communities.

The opportunity to serve as Jr. Faculty during the Congress helped me to develop leadership, communication, and networking skills. I was able to assist the students in developing their group projects. I tried to provide input into every discussion I was a part of. I met with indigenous professionals who re-assured me that the path that I am on is the right one. The congress re-affirmed my self-confidence, voice, and direction.”

ISIAH CHAVEZ, SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION CORPS ANCESTRAL LANDS
 “This week in the Petrified National Park was like no other. When we got there, we met the Hopi crew and immediately created a bond. We ate together, worked together, and laid under the stars together. We shared about our cultures and traditions, as well as languages. We started calling each other brother and sister.”



“Ancestral Lands is an invaluable program to the National Park Service. Few other programs have achieved the same level of success and impact in parks and in communities as Ancestral Lands does through genuinely engaging and connecting Native youth and communities with parks associated with their heritages.

It is a great benefit to the NPS to have Ancestral Lands as a partner to help us achieve our mission and support parks on the front line in this way.”

BEN BALDWIN, YOUTH PROGRAM MANAGER, INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

CONCLUSION



FOSTERING CONSERVATION SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES & ECOSYSTEMS

LOCAL ACTION. ENDURING IMPACT.

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.

Ancestral Lands has been innovative since its inception, and has seen many new program models come to fruition, including working with previously adjudicated and incarcerated youth in Albuquerque, NM with La Plazita Institute; creating Hiking and Explorer Clubs for 4th graders in Acoma and Zuni and helping to seed and catalyze programs similar to Ancestral Lands in communities across the country.

Through support from the NPS Youth Programs Division, we have been able to work in areas across the United States to identify Native communities and enthusiastic partners who want to work with Native Americans and help guide and develop programs that serve Native youth. Through these catalyzation efforts, we have been able to assist in the exploration and development of new programs in Utah, Colorado Nevada, South Dakota, and Hawaii, while continuing to support and improve developed programs in the Southwest, Northern Rockies, and the Pacific Northwest.

It has been the philosophy of the Ancestral Lands program to run a marathon, and not a sprint. This means that we are invested in the long-term success of the communities with whom we work. In this spirit, we are working to create a diverse array of partnerships to support our programs; innovate new program models that broaden our impact; and continue to learn from our challenges and mistakes so that we can refine and improve our program and make an even greater impact on our participants and the communities that we serve.

APPENDIX A: PRESS AND MEDIA

THE NEW (BIPARTISAN!) CONSERVATION CORPS IS A WIN-WIN OUTSIDE ONLINE · JANUARY 2018

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/veterans-service-conservation-corps-career-pathways_us_5a0c94a0e4b06d8966cf344d

AWARD: TUCSON MAYOR'S AWARD AND CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION

CHRIS HONAHNIE, SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK VISTA · MAY 2018
<https://stewardslegacy.org/news/member-spotlight-christopher-honahnie-ancestral-lands-saguaro-national-park-azce>

NATIVE YOUTH CONNECT WITH LAND OF FOREFATHERS

NAVAJO HOPI OBSERVER · JULY 2018
<https://www.nhnews.com/news/2018/jul/17/native-youth-connect-land-forefathers/>

AWARD: WESTERN RESOURCE ADVOCATES LEADERS IN OUTDOOR REC MARSHALL MASAYESVA

MARSHALL MASAYESVA, ANCESTRAL LANDS · SEPTEMBER 2018
<https://westernresourceadvocates.org/blog/protect-the-west-celebration-highlights-success-of-radical-collaboration/#>

VIDEO: GLACIER YOUTH CORPS 2018

GLACIER CONSERVANCY · JULY 2018
<https://vimeo.com/283076038>

AWARD: SH/FT ADVENTURE ATHLETE

MARSHALL MASAYESVA · OCTOBER 2018
<https://shiftjh.org/official-selections-announced-for-the-2018-shift-awards/>

AWARD: SH/FT EMERGING LEADER

SHONTON GREYEVES · OCTOBER 2018
<https://shiftjh.org/the-2018-emerging-leaders/>

APPENDIX B: FUNDING

Total WASO Funding: **\$530,000**

LEVERAGED FUNDING:

SCC Ancestral Lands

(total annual budget minus WASO funding): **\$1,933,616**

SCC match/in kind: **\$615,904**

Montana Conservation Corps: **\$73,000**

Northwest Youth Corps: **\$308,907**

(\$146,032 of this is match/in kind)

Pacific Crest Trail Association: **\$68,600**

USFS R6 and BLM (additional 11 weeks of native youth programming

to build native youth program): **\$94,875**

Northwest Youth Corps: (16 weeks of youth programming): **\$41,872**

Arizona Conservation Corps: **\$16,338**

TOTAL FUNDING: **\$2,947,765**

APPENDIX C: FULL PROJECT LIST

WASO Funded Projects:

El Morro and El Malpais
National Monuments
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P17AC00675

Petrified Forest National Park
Southwest Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
P18AC00176-AL

El Morro and El Malpais
National Monuments
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P17AC00675

Mesa Verde National Park
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P17AC00675

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P17AC00675

Mesa Verde National Park
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P17AC00675

El Morro and El Malpais
National Monuments
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P17AC00675

Aztec Ruins National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P17AC00675

Chaco Culture National Historic Park
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00176-AL

Mesa Verde National Park
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00176-AL

El Morra National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00176-AL

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00176-AL

Muir Woods National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00176-AL

Bandelier National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00176-AL

Navajo National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00176-AL

El Morro National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00176-AL

Grand Canyon National Park
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00176-AL

Navajo National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00176-AL

Hubbell Trading Post/
Navajo National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00176-AL

Canyon de Chelly National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00176-AL

Other NPS Projects:
Montezuma Castle National Monument
Arizona Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P17AC00769

Casa Grand Ruins National Monument
Arizona Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
P17AC01602

Grand Canyon National Park
Arizona Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
P18AC00734

Flagstaff Area National Monuments
Arizona Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
P18AC00421

Bandelier National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P16AC01598

Bandelier National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P17AC00103

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P17AC00248

Aztec Ruins National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P17AC00631

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P17AC01079

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P17AC01602

El Morro National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
P17AC01131

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P17AC00507

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00096

Joshua Tree National Park
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00035

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P18AC00283

Mesa Verde National Park
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P18AC00341

Aztec Ruins National Monument/Chaco
Culture National Historical Park
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00434

Petrified Forest National Park
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00592

National Parks Foundation Utah Hiking Club
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Park
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00581

Aztec Ruins National Monument
Southwest Conservation Corps
Support local economies and restore
community/cultural assets
P18AC00735

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P18AC00608

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
P18AC00608

Non-NPS Ancestral Lands projects:

Bernalillo County Sanchez Farm Bridge
Construction

Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Navajo Region, Chinle Agency Grazing
Permit Mapping

Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Navajo Region, Eastern Navajo Agency
Puerco River Restoration

Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Navajo Region, Natural Resource Office
Noxious Weed Forestry Inventory

Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Navajo Region, Western Navajo Region
District Boundary Fence Construction

Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Navajo Region, Western Navajo Region
Little Colorado River
Noxious Weed Inventory

Bureau of Indian Affairs,

Navajo Region, Western Navajo
Oljato Wash Restoration

Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Western Region,
Hopi Native American Conservation Corps

Bureau of Reclamation Navajo Gallup Water
Supply Noxious Weed Monitoring

City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor
Center Permaculture Field Design and
Bisque Trail Construction

Colorado Plateau Foundation
Zuni Farm Pilot Program

Conservation Lands Foundation,
Bear's Ears Historic Preservation

Friends of Cedar Mesa Historic Preservation

Glen Canyon Natural History Association

Grand Staircase Escalante Partnership
Escalante River Watershed Project

McKinley County
Zuni Mountain Trails Project

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

National Parks Foundation
Utah Youth Hiking Club

New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps
Headlands Trail Project

Pueblo of Zuni Mazon Ranch Fence
Construction and Repair

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Valle de Oro National Refuge
Restoration and Community Outreach

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Valle de Oro National Refuge VISTA

United States Forest Service Timp Springs
Restoration

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 • Bureau of Reclamation
Fort Apache • White Mountain Tribe and
the Arizona Game and Fish Department
Conservation Lands Foundation • Colorado
Plateau 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 • Zuni Youth
Enrichment Program • Transition Habitat
Conservancy • Parametrix • Bernillo
County • City of Albuquerque Open Space
• National Park Foundation Chamiza
Foundation • McKinley County • Hopi
Foundation • Hopi Education Endowment
Fund • Northwest Youth Corps • Montana
Conservation Corps • Rocky Mountain Youth
Corps (Taos, NM) • Arizona Conservation
Corps



APPENDIX D: AMERICORPS VISTA BIOS

GABE SPOONHUNTER,
GRAND TETONS NATIONAL PARK/
MONTANA CONSERVATION
CORPS

Service Term: 7/7/17 to 7/6/18

Project Highlights: Gabe (Red Thunder) was able to connect with many community and project partners to assist in building capacity for a corps program overall. His engagement lead to interactions with larger, regionally and nationally base partners and influencers, include BIA officials both in the area and in Washington, DC, attending the Corps Network conference, and will culminate as a representative of the Ancestral Lands program at the 2018 UNITY conference.

Red Thunder's work in community conversations and partnership building began locally with tribal councils and community members, which provided the initial approval for tribal contributions and community stakeholders to be included in his AmeriCorps VISTA projects.

In addition to his engagement and networking successes, Red Thunder secured a NOLS scholarship for (15) students from the Wind River reservation to receive Wilderness First Aid for no cost. He was integral in conversations with area foundations who can recommitted their partnership with Montana Conservation Corps by way of future funding for new and on-going projects.

Lastly, Red Thunder was able to see success in one of the goals he felt most passionate about, which was making access to and being a part of providing training in cultural competency to both staff and service member at the national park of corps offices.

CHRIS HONAHNIE,
SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK/
ARIZONA CONSERVATION CORPS

Service Term: 8/8/17 to 8/7/18

Project Highlights: Chris's AmeriCorps VISTA year was one filled with challenges and successes, some expected and some not. As is with most of the Ancestral Lands AmeriCorps VISTAs, Chris was tasked with growing support for and establishing within Arizona Conservation Corps an all Native crew program, build on the Ancestral Lands model.

Chris began his year focused mainly on building relationships with local tribal leaders and attending a variety of tribal events hosted by multiple tribes. Although accessing these events was not difficult, receiving attention and being given space to hold his engagement sessions proved time consuming and often frustrating. But with patience and respect, Chris was able to begin and continue conversations about his service and later to have gained allies and partners working toward his goal.

Chris successfully established, recruited, and helped train and support a four person, all Native crew, also lead by a Native crew leader. They participated in both conservancy and historical preservation duties around the area.

Chris's secondary project allowed him to include his own community traditions and skills along with those used in community learning and engagement events. As a partner with the Native Seed/SEARCH program, Chris helped to develop a native youth traditional farming program. Dozens of youth, aged 10 – 25 participated, learning traditional dreaming methods and learning the historical and cultural meaning behind the crops they planted and harvested.

Once his service year ends, Chris will return to his studies. Chris hopes to continue working with AZCC in some capacity and will take many of his experiences with him as he continues to grow and learn within and without his community and culture.

KELLI JONES,
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK/
SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION
CORPS

Service Term: 8/18/17 to 8/17/18

Project Highlights: Kelli's service term and goals are a bit different than those of her peers, however connecting with the tribal community and strengthening some of those relationships with Mesa Verde National Park and the historically relevant land within it, carries the same mission as those who are more focused on the creation of Native corps crews. Housed within the Interpretations division, Kelli was able to focus her community engagement towards local youth and tribal community engagement in conservancy work in general.

Kelli sees her biggest successes as being her time within and connected to the Ute Mountain Ute school aged children and community in general. Although the AmeriCorps VISTA project Kelli began will not at this time continue into a second year, she has taken steps to educate and prepare Park staff and volunteers to continue those important conversations with the Native community in the region.

Kelli isn't quite sure what she'll do next, but does hope she can continue to work with public lands in some way – either in a job or as a service member.

MIKE TSOSIE,
GLEN CANYON NRA/
SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION
CORPS

Service Term: 8/18/17 to 8/17/18

Project Highlights: In partnership with the National Park Foundation, the various sections of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and Ancestral

Lands, Mike helped to establish a Hiking Club in Southern Utah. This Hiking Club would consist of Native American Youth who would talk with rangers and experience the public lands in Page, AZ, Bull Frog, UT, Arches, Canyon Lands, Hovenwheep, Mesa Verde, National Bridges National Parks, and the Canyon Country Discovery Center. Over the course of the year, Mike grew the hiking club to 60 youth and several volunteers.

Mike reported that he experienced a great deal of professional growth through his AmeriCorps VISTA year, including the opportunity to meet new people, travel to several new places, build conversations with those who are not from his community, and many professional skills. Mike notes that learning to research and write a grant and then to actually submit one was a highlight. Mike plans to return to college, but will continue his community engagement and conservation efforts.

In order to get the hiking club off the ground and engaging area youth, Mike held several meetings with each of the public lands he hoped to visit with the participants. He found the travel and remote conversations challenging and keeping those connections strong hard, but he was successful in solidifying this partnership. The Hiking Club is already planning for next year's trips and hope to double the number of participants and hopefully grow the number of public lands participating.

Mike reported that he experienced a great deal of professional growth through his AmeriCorps VISTA year, including the opportunity to meet new people, travel to several new places, build conversations with those who are not from his community, and many professional skills. Mike notes that learning to research and write a grant and then to actually submit one was a highlight. Mike plans to return to college, but will continue his community engagement and conservation efforts.

KALIE LUGA,
KALAUPAPA NHP/KUPU

Service Term: 8/18/17 to 8/17/8

Project Highlights: Kaile's service year is distinctly different from most AmeriCorps VISTAs, in that she supported and served every National Park in Hawai'i during her service term. Based with the non-profit KUPU, Kaile was tasked with engaging Hawai'i's National Park system to gauge interest and garner support for KUPU's Cultural Enrichment Corps. This idea is not to unlike that Ancestral Lands model, which works to include culture, history, and diversity into the conservation corps movement.

Utilizing her trips to the mainland and the professional development opportunities with her host site, Kaile was able to learn about this model of corps, creating and collaborating with her community to build a structure and present the Cultural Enrichment Corps model to The Corps Network.

In addition to her main Corps project, Kaile was also successful in her service year through projects such as coordinating a youth service trip at Kalaupapa National Historical Park, creating a media project for the Valor of Pacific World War II National Historical Monument, attending the 2017 ServiceWorks Boot Camp, 2018 SIAGE Conference, and hosting an MLK Jr. Day of service with KUPU. Kaile interacted with a vast majority of her native state's com-

munities, include events such as Ka Molokai Makahiki, Olelo Community media training, Hale Ulana, an Ulana Hou Lauhala mat making workshop and the La'au Lapa'au cultural competency courses with KUPU staff.

Kaile is currently pursuing additional AmeriCorps VISTA service opportunities, all based in Native/Tribal programming and programmatic support. She hopes to move to mainland USA to continue learning and growing communities outside of Hawai'i.

MARY BAKER,
KNOFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGE
NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE

Service Term: 8/28,/17 to 8/27/18

Project Highlights: Mary's service year has been focused heavily in engaging and educating local Native youth in all things conservation. As this area provides little or no access to conservation efforts or to education outside of school, Mary has been passionate about connecting the next generation to the land in a way more meaningful and impactful that many generations have. Meetings with MHA Education Department for curriculum development project has been her biggest win in terms of education.

In addition, Mary has been a part of researching and documenting local sacred sites Hidatsa people as part of her education curriculum. This research included GIS studies and recording the stories associated with these sacred places.

Mary has also been able to participate in a multitude of smaller projects including, MHA Tribal Tourism meetings, researched native plants and uses of neighboring Sioux Tribes and the planning of a community tree planting, and a GIS flyover event for local students. Mary was also honored to be a guest lecturer for a community engagement event at the NHSC Native American Studies students Mother Corn presentation.

TASIA QUAM,
EL MORRO NM/SOUTHWEST
CONSERVATION CORPS ZUNI

Service Term: 8/28/17 to 8/28/18

Project Highlights: Tasia began her service year feeling quite overwhelmed and intimidated by the task ahead. Although capable, smart, and ready to serve, she was unsure if she was up for the task. 365 days later, Tasia is a changed and very accomplished woman.

In her service term, Tasia served most closely with the SCC – Ancestral Lands Zuni staff, recruiting, placing, and supporting crew members in the field. For her first big project, Tasia revived an old project that was never completed – a Native recipe cookbook for crews to use in the field. Having researched traditional Native dishes and selecting them to be camping appropriate was a long process, but one that saw the

completion of a much needed project and one that is now being used by crews throughout Ancestral Lands crews.

Tasia spent much of the summer collaborating with staff on crew development including working with the Farm Crew, AL-Zuni's hiking club, and the Zuni Education and Career Development Center to interest and engage local Native youth and young adults. Those resulting engagement events lead to placements in a Chipping Crew, trail restoration crew, and five general corps crews.

Like many of her cohort, Tasia was able to access and participate in several trainings and conferences, including crew training, chainsaw training, Stewards AmeriCorps VISTA training, and the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) conference, to name a few. In addition, Tasia hosted a well-attended Youth Learn, Serve, Play event, did frequent park visitor engagement sessions at El Morro National Park, and researched, wrote, submitted, and was awarded over \$30,000 in grant funding.

Tasia notes her grant writing work as the most challenging but biggest success of her service year. She hopes to continue her service with El Morro as a staff member, where she can stay connected with NPS, local Native communities, and youth, but also hopefully work with crews through the park in the future.

“Working with the preservation crew 696, opened my eyes. What I mean is to see the young talented members in sync with each other and how if we work together we can make a difference. It is mind blowing to see the difference they have made within the little time that I've been here.”

RITCHIE SAHNEYAH
BANDELIER NM/ROCKY
MOUNTAIN YOUTH CORPS

Service Term: 3/19/18 to 3/18,/19

Project Highlights: Ritchie has wasted no time in jumping right into his VAD. Since starting his term in March 2018, Ritchie has engaged in conversations with area BLM officials, leadership with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and of course the staff and volunteers at Bandelier National Monument. Ritchie has been tasked with engaging local Native community members to get them move connected and to have open dialogue about the public lands within Bandelier, as well as to generate interest in Conservation Corps service.

Ritchie has also had the opportunity to immerse himself in all things Corps, attending Ancestral Lands corps training, spending time with a Native crew, interacting with other Ancestral Lands VISTAs, and attending Stewards AmeriCorps VISTA training in the spring.

Although in the early stages of his VISTA year, Ritchie has accomplished a great deal of listening, question asking, and planning to hopefully get his Native corps up and off the ground with support from Rocky Mountain Youth Corps.

ANGELA NOAH,
FORT VANCOUVER NHP/
NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS

Service Term: 11/27/17 to 11/26/18

Project Highlights: Angela, unlike many of the Ancestral Lands AmeriCorps VISTAs had come service with her host site before stepping into the VISTA position. Because of her familiarity with organization and her already engaged passions to improve the work of Northwest Youth Corps, she was able to hit the ground running, so to speak.

Since beginning her term, Angela has been integral in a number of projects, most notably in recruiting Native youth to serve on crews as well as partnering with her own high school to create a summer program for those students. These efforts have lead Angela to a visit with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, recruitment work with the Idaho Conservation Corps, a Leadership training with the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and directed communicated with both the Muckleshoot and Silo Squamish Tribes who are interested in launching summer youth programs.

These conversations and visits have led to a busy spring and summer, with Angela leading the charge in hosting three recruitment events in Tribal communities and lunching the Native youth and young adult programs with participants serving 5 week to 3 month terms.

In addition Angela has found time to attend two separate trainings with Stewards Individual Placement Program and Ancestral Lands, as well as to speak on an Indigenous panel for the People of the Global Majority ONE summit. She somehow found time to also fit in a service day with local youth over at the community farm for high school students.

For the remainder of her service term, Angela is heavily focused on the Chemawa Bridge Program, a summer 'bridging' service term for students who cannot or choose not to head home when school is not in session, planning and hosting a Youth Play/Learn/Work event, and connecting more fully with Fort Vancouver National Park's public lands.

When she returned to Oregon from that conference, a man reached out to Angela with an opportunity to be sponsored with a full ride to Washington Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Angela wrote that this offer was very humbling and that she is looking into this opportunity for school next fall as she pursues an Undergraduate degree.

TAYLOR MAKESHINE,
NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST &
GRASSLANDS

Service Term: 3/13/17 to 3/12/18

Project Highlights: Taylor was able to try her hand at many different tasks and skill sets throughout her service term. Her VAD was initially constructed to create and support an all Native crew who would help with on-the-ground habitat improvements for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Fort Pierre National Grasslands. Although she was able to do some outreach and draw attention to the need for crews within these public and tribal lands, this task proved challenging due to the vast distances between tribes within the northern great planes region. Taylor helped her site to research and identify grant funds focused on improvements and protection of the Northern Great Plains, issued through NFWF. These funds would be used to begin the tribal youth conservation work planned through this VISTA project.

Taylor was able to set aside her VISTA tasks from time to time to focus on her interest in the US National Forest work force, participating in a variety of studies, data collections, habitat visits, and shadowing sessions with staff. Additionally, Taylor was able to participate in the Native Youth Community Adaptation Leadership Congress, Groundworks USA training at Grand Tetons National park, the Stewards VISTA training, and Ancestral Lands crew training.

ROBERT SLOSS,
NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST &
GRASSLANDS

Service Term: 8/28/17 to 8/27/18

Project Highlights: Robert, like his co-VISTA Taylor was tasked with outreach and engagement connected with growing a Native youth corps in the Nebraska and Dakotas region. Working with Taylor and later taking on the key role, once Taylor completed her term, Robert was able to create solid inroads with the Lower Brule Tribe and surrounding areas. Robert was there supporting the first youth crew, comprised of tribal members. He also was able to provide them with one of their first tools – a handbook on crew work, the region, and what to expect.

Robert's other big project and noted success was in the creation of traditional coloring book for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. The coloring book, which includes tribally significant and historically relevant designs was created in collaboration with tribal leadership and the NFS staff. This project was made possible through the NFWF grant Taylor has successfully written and won.

Robert, like many of the other Ancestral Lands VISTAs was fortunate to attend a good number of events, trainings, and conferences, include SAIGE, Falcon, Stewards VISTA training, and

Ancestral Lands training. Robert has not yet decided on what he will do after completing his service term.

MARISSA JOE,
VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

Service Term: 8/21/17 to 8/20/18

Project Highlights: Marissa has helped to build local capacity with her grant efforts with Los Jardines Institute and Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. These grants are intended to support the creation and implementation of an Environmental and Economic Justice Curriculum, and includes support for paid coordinator for the curriculum. Marissa has also added much to the organizational capacity of the Friends of Valle de Oro and Los Jardines Institute by helping to complete the Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan. Marissa's roles included collaboration on writing, brainstorming, editing, and prompting. She was also the lead for this year's Environmental Justice Community Day.

Marissa has helped the refuge also in planning internal events such as trainings and staff bonding outings. Marissa has helped in the organization of these events by creating spreadsheets, considering objectives, and finding innovating solutions to engage internal audiences. These events have helped social cohesion of staff within our organization but also to bring partners closer together.

While working with La Plazita Institute she has created many ties with local native organizations including the Hiyupo Alliance and the Coruna Collectiva. These organizations empower Native People and have many constituents in the South Valley. Hiyupo Alliance is a student and teacher group working to empower young native men, while Coruna Collectiva is a social justice organization that empowers youth through bicycling.

“Anyone who really supports the capacity building of native people and really empowering us to give back to our own communities—and funding that work—that's good. We need to keep doing that and doing more of that. Because it's working. It's a beautiful thing and I'm happy to be a part of it.”

KARRIE LESTER,
WHITE SANDS NATIONAL
MONUMENT

Service Term: 7/23/18 to 7/22/19

Project Highlights: Karrie began her service term a couple of weeks into the current reporting period and has not yet submitted reporting from that time period. She is tasked with engaging the local native populations (primarily the Mescalero Tribe) to gauge interest, solicit volunteers, and build resources for the establishment of an all-Native Corps. Karrie is currently in service.



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