



# 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Initiative Project Slate | 2014 – 2016

The goal of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) Initiative is to support organizations across the country that engage youth in the conservation and enhancement of natural resources on our nation’s public lands. The 21CSC Initiative supports organizations that employ youth and veterans in activities such as trail maintenance, watershed restoration and forest regeneration. Through the projects highlighted below, youth and veterans are actively participating in creating a healthy environment while learning essential skills that foster careers in natural resources.

Projects were solicited through the Department of the Interior’s 21CSC grant program and the Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists grant program managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The projects support restoration and recreation activities on public lands in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Forest Service.

From 2014 – 2016, more than \$10.75 million was awarded to 224 21CSC projects across the country. Grantees provide additional leverage to the projects bringing the overall conservation impact of the projects to \$26.43 million. The projects result in public land employment and mentoring opportunities for close to 4,200 youth and veterans. As impressive, over 145,000 acres of public lands throughout the country are being restored or improved through this program. Project descriptions by state are below.

## Alabama

<b>Establishing a Mobile Conservation and Resiliency Corps (AL)</b> Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium / Dauphin Island Sea Lab	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$250,000
	Matching Funds:	\$250,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

*Project Description:* Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium / Dauphin Island Sea Lab working with the Student Conservation Association will help establish the Alabama Coastal Conservation and Resiliency Corps while providing full-time on-the-job education and training to a target population of 12 urban, disadvantaged young adults, ages 18-25 in the Mobile, Alabama area. The project will put to work 2 team leaders and 10 Corps members, restoring 3 miles of stream, riparian buffer, and wooded wetlands within the Three Mile Creek watershed and in other areas of the coast to improve environmental conditions for species including, but not limited to, the Red Belly Turtle, Yellow Crowned Night Heron, Anhinga, Wood Duck, Menhaden, and American Alligator.

*Project Location:* Mobile, Alabama

## Alaska

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<b>Youth on the Land: Alaska Summer Interns (AK)</b> Bureau of Land Management	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$15,000
	Matching Funds:	\$15,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

*Project Description:* The BLM will partner with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and the Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center to hire 10 local young adults (ages 16-25), and one local SCA intern to participate in meaningful hands-on projects that will increase their skills and knowledge of a variety of natural resource management and environmental education-related careers. Youth interns will complete a minimum of 80 hours during the summer working on projects that will help enhance and maintain the Campbell Tract for users and wildlife. The SCA intern will work full-time for 17 weeks, helping Science Center staff mentor the youth interns in the field as they work biomonitoring, habitat restoration, and trail maintenance projects and assigning relevant readings in science and environmental education and leading discussion sessions based on those readings. The SCA intern will also help organize and lead volunteers in stewardship projects during National Trails Day.

*Project Location:* The Campbell Tract in Anchorage, Alaska.

<b>Southcentral Alaska Natural Resource Management Internship Program</b> Prince William Sound Community College, University of Alaska	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$74,895
	Matching Funds:	\$75,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$149,895</b>

*Project Description:* The Prince William Sound Community College will partner with the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the Alaska Fire Service, and the National Park Service, along with many other state and local natural resource management agencies, to meet the critical need for the development of career pathways for targeted youth and returning veterans to replace an aging workforce. Prince William Sound Community College will work with several Southcentral Alaska natural resource professionals to create a training program that will prepare students to become the next wave of employees by filling internship positions at various locations throughout the Copper Basin. Expected outcomes from this project include the engagement of 12 youth, 6 of whom are expected to be veterans, and potential conservation outcomes such as reforestation, landscape and watershed restoration, watershed analysis, and invasive species removal.

*Project Location:* The Cordova-Valdez Census area in Southcentral Alaska

<b>Alaska Native Science &amp; Engineering Program (ANSEP)</b> University of Alaska Anchorage	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$50,000
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$25,000
	Matching Funds:	\$75,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

*Project Description:* The University of Alaska Anchorage will partner with the US Forest Service through the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP), focusing on the ANSEP components aimed at bringing Alaska Native students into the University academically and socially prepared for degree

programs leading to conservation careers. This project will provide funding for 2-3 high school graduates to participate in the ANSEP Summer Bridge program and will provide direct compensation for 3-5 ANSEP university students to complete an internship with practicing USFS professionals. This project also introduces ANSEP students to USA Jobs, assists them in creating applicant profiles, expands ANSEP students' familiarity with the variety of careers in the Forest Service, and seeks out Forest Service subject expert mentors and Human Resource contacts for ANSEP students who are interested in applying for Forest Service jobs.

*Project Location:* Chugach National Forest; Tongass National Forest; Anchorage, Juneau, and Auke Bay, Alaska

<b>Advancing the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program</b> University of Alaska Anchorage	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$76,000
	NFWF-FWS Funds:	\$4,763
	Matching Funds:	\$150,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$230,763</b>

*Project Description:* University of Alaska Anchorage will partner with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska to provide conservation career exploration through academic enrichment activities and internships. The project will help students complete the science and math coursework in high school that is necessary for success at the university, and upon high school graduation, team them with practicing conservation professionals working in hands-on internships that continue throughout their university experience. Alaskan natives will work one-on-one with natural resource professionals from the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete hands-on internships in the conservation field, preparing them for in-state employment in conservation careers.

*Project Location:* Anchorage, Alaska.

<b>Yakutat Youth Community Corps Project (AK)</b> City and Borough of Yakutat, Alaska	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$39,994
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$10,000
	Matching Funds:	\$237,530
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$287,524</b>

*Project Description:* City and Borough of Yakutat will partner with AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and the Tongass National Forest Yakutat Ranger District (YRD) to employ a 10-person NCCC youth crew in meaningful, hands-on conservation projects in coordination with multiple project partners. This project will treat invasive plants along the Yakutat Forelands, maintain trails to repair damaged fish and wildlife habitat, cleanup marine debris and trash from shorelines and waterways, and educate the local community about the restoration work. The project will benefit the Yakutat Community, and will be carried out in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, City of Yakutat, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Department of Transportation, Yakutat School District, National Park Service, and the Rasmuson Foundation.

*Project Location:* Yakutat on the northern coast of the Gulf of Alaska.

## Arizona

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<b>Gila Watershed Youth Employment in Conservation (AZ)</b> Bureau of Land Management	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$74,800
	Matching Funds:	\$192,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$266,800</b>

*Project Description:* BLM will hire a recent college graduate with a resource management background to help develop and integrate BLM and Arizona Gila Watershed Partnership (AGWP) projects and programs which will engage local high school and college students, Southwest Conservation Corps members, and community volunteers in conservation and stewardship activities. Twelve young adults will be paid to implement restoration work at sites that include Eastern Arizona College’s Discovery Park Campus and the Our Neighbors Farm Community Garden Projects. Activities will include propagation of native plants, installation of native pollinator hedgerows, removal of invasive species (primarily tamarisk), incorporation of water harvesting opportunities to reduce erosion and support native plants, and planting native vegetation for improved riparian and upland habitat.

*Project Location:* Gila River, San Simon watershed, and Gila Valley, Arizona.

<b>STEM: BLM Riparian Studies and Habitat Restoration (AZ)</b> Arizona BLM Safford Field Office	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$74,420
	Matching Funds:	\$82,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$156,420</b>

*Project Description:* BLM’s Safford Field Office will partner with Eastern Arizona College, collaborate with the Spring Stewardship Institute and the FWS, and provide data to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency’s Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program by employing 23 youth to conduct natural resource assessment, restoration, and monitoring projects. Undergraduate and graduate students will build science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills by collecting water quality data, conducting plant community characterization for bosques and galleries and habitat restoration, assessing springs, and engaging in surveillance for rare plant and animal species. Planting events to install native plants will include middle and high school student and volunteer participation. These efforts will contribute to ongoing long-term monitoring and habitat restoration efforts in southeastern Arizona and provide mentorship and training opportunities to explore conservation career pathways.

*Project Location:* Navajo, Graham, Greenlee and Cochise Counties; Gila River, Sky Islands, and the San Simon Valley, Southeastern Arizona.

<b>Navajo High School Crew (AZ)</b> Conservation Legacy	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$25,000
	Matching Funds:	\$12,459
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$37,459</b>

*Project Description:* Conservation Legacy worked with Bureau of Indian Affairs to lead an eight-person Native American-youth crew in completion of natural resource conservation projects on the Navajo Nation. The BIA Navajo Crew, comprised of six crew members (high school students ages 16 to 18) and

two crew leaders, worked alongside another crew on Gray Mountain successfully completed .6 miles of fencing and installed 2 H braces. The crew then worked for two weeks at Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site doing stream restoration of the Ganado Wash. Their primary focus was repairing and installing induced-meander structures to help restore the natural meanders of the stream, slow down its flow, stabilize the bank and allow for the return of native vegetation and wildlife habitat. The crew worked eight hours a day for two weeks to complete 2.25 miles of restoration work along the Ganado Wash repairing and improving 20 baffle structures and building one new baffle.

*Project Location:* Ganado, Arizona, and Tuba City, Arizona, on the Navajo Nation

<b>Agua Fria National Monument (AZ)</b> American Conservation Experience	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$15,000
	Total Project Funds:	\$15,000

*Project Description:* American Conservation Experience (ACE), in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Arizona Hassayampa Field Office employed two full-time, 10-week interns to conduct wildlife, vegetation, range inventory and stewardship, and riparian habitat monitoring and restoration on the Agua Fria National Monument and along the Aqua Fria River. The ACE interns gained job skills related to the management of public lands by working directly with BLM Wildlife Biologists and Resource Specialists on variety of ongoing research and habitat/natural resource monitoring and management projects on public lands. Specific projects accomplished during this season included: Wildlife water monitoring; construction and implementation of barriers and fencing for habitat protection and restoration; riparian monitoring and stream/fisheries surveys and wildlife monitoring surveys for the endangered Desert tortoise and Yellow-billed cuckoo on BLM public lands and rangeland assessments.

*Project Location:* Agua Fria National Monument, Arizona

<b>Audubon Arizona's River Pathways (AZ) - II</b> National Audubon Society, Inc.	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$62,350
	Matching Funds:	\$62,500
	Total Project Funds:	\$124,850

*Project Description:* National Audubon Society will partner with the Bureau of Land Management, the Tonto National Forest and the Arizona Game and Fish Department on Audubon Arizona's River Pathways program. The program consists of a five-module, standards-aligned high school curriculum followed by a field trip to the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center in Phoenix where students will practice simple riparian habitat monitoring techniques. River Pathways students are invited to apply for summer internships with Audubon Arizona to engage in surveying for yellow-billed cuckoos on public lands, and to apply for BLM's Field School, at which youth get college credit and earn work-related certifications (i.e. fire-fighting, etc). NFWF funding will enable Audubon to more than double current survey efforts by hiring recent Field School graduates as field crew leaders and increasing the number of high-school internships offered to 13.

*Project Location:* The San Pedro, Agua Fria, Hassayampa, Gila and Salt rivers ; Tonto and Pinto creeks, in Arizona

<b>Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area (AZ)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$10,000
American Conservation Experience	Matching Funds:	\$11,080
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$21,080</b>

*Project Description:* American Conservation Experience (ACE) and the Kingman Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) partnered to employ a crew of seven youth and one crew leader to perform trail construction in the Cerbat Mountains near Kingman, AZ. The opportunity to perform trail construction provided an ideal setting to train ACE corps member in the discipline of sustainable trail construction. The Cerbat Trail is a continuation of the trail system designed and managed for non-motorized use. The trail system is intended to provide recreation opportunities for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians, with an emphasis on mountain biking.

*Project Location:* Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area, Arizona

<b>The Arizona Conservation Corps San Pedro Project with the Bureau of Land Management</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$5,000
Conservation Legacy	Matching Funds:	\$3,962
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$8,962</b>

*Project Description:* Arizona Conservation Corps will hire a crew of five young adults to provide cut-stump treatment of tamarisk on the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. A Bureau of Land Management wildlife biologist will identify treatment locations and work hand-in-hand with Arizona Conservation Corps on a daily basis during project implementation. The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area is located in southeastern Arizona, bordering the Mexican State of Sonora. The San Pedro River originates in Mexico and runs north approximately 140 miles to the confluence with the Gila River, with the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area containing about 50 miles of the river.

*Project Location:* San Pedro area, south of Tucson, Arizona

<b>Restoration of Public Use Trails in Saguaro National Park and the City of Tucson’s "A" Mountain Park (AZ)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$40,000
Arizona Conservation Corps	Matching Funds:	\$40,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>

*Project Description:* Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC) will have a crew of six persons, including five young adults (ages 18 to 25), performing much needed trail maintenance at Saguaro National Park and the City of Tucson “A” Mountain Park, Arizona. AZCC will work with up to 20 volunteers over 10 weeks to complete these projects. Saguaro National Park (SAGU), the Western National Parks Association, Arizona Conservation Corps, the National Park Service (NPS) Urban Fellow for Tucson, and the City of Tucson will collaborate on this project. The work performed will consist of resurfacing mixed use recreation trails, closure of social trails and restoration of public use trails in both Saguaro National Park and the City of Tucson “A” Mountain Park. Education and service learning components will connect 4,000 years of history at Tucson’s birthplace to 100 years of National Parks and historic sites along the Santa Cruz river.

*Project Location:* Saguaro National Park and the City of Tucson “A” Mountain Park, Arizona



<b>Harquahala Peak Pack Trail (Harquahala Wilderness)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$20,000
<b>Maintenance and Restoration Project (AZ)</b>	Matching Funds:	\$25,000
American Conservation Experience	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>

*Project Description:* American Conservation Experience (ACE) will collaborate and work with Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Arizona Hassayampa Field Office (Phoenix District Field Office), to connect youth to public lands through hands-on professional volunteer internship opportunities working alongside BLM Resource Specialists on trail maintenance and habitat restoration projects. These projects will take place along the Harquahala Peak Pack Trail in the Harquahala Wilderness. ACE will hire and mentor four to eight youth interns (ages 18 to 25) from all backgrounds to further their education and training in resource management. Youth will gain tangible field skills and experience while making a substantial contribution to Arizona’s public lands. ACE will recruit youth that have recently graduated from the BLM Phoenix District Youth Initiative Program.

*Project Location:* Harquahala Peak Pack Trail in the Harquahala Wilderness, Arizona

<b>Verde River Habitat Improvement Project (AZ)</b>	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$49,765
Friends of Verde River Greenway	Matching Funds:	\$53,013
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$102,778</b>

*Project Description:* Friends of Verde River Greenway (FVRG) is partnering with the Coconino Rural Environment Corps (CREC) and Prescott National Forest (PNF) as part of the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition (VWRC), a public/private collaboration working to improve riparian health on a watershed scale while providing young adults with job skill training and education. The project will engage a crew of six corps members and two crew leaders for 2,240 hours of conservation service for seven weeks. The crew will use hand tools, chainsaws and herbicide to remove and treat target non-native invasive tamarisk, tree of heaven, Russian olive and giant reed. The Verde watershed is a priority watershed in the Walton Family Foundation's Freshwater Conservation Initiative which supports the training and employment of conservation corps crews while restoring rivers in the Colorado River Basin.

*Project Location:* Chino Valley Ranger District of the Prescott National Forest.

<b>Ancestral Lands Conservation Program (AZ)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$74,400
Conservation Legacy		

*Project Description:* Conservation Legacy will work with the National Park Service to place an Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps crew on the North Rim of Grand Canyon. The shortened visitor season on the North Rim, and park-wide reductions in staffing over the last five years, has led to the development of a large backlog of deferred maintenance needs across all divisions. Potential projects for 2016 include a vegetation program, visitor and resource protection and interdisciplinary cultural resources program, and wildlife habitat improvements and re-vegetation projects located on the North Rim.

*Project Location:* Toroweap Overlook, Tuweep Ranger Station and other sites at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

**Copper Mountain Loop (AZ)**  
Student Conservation Association

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$40,000

*Project Description:* In partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, as Student Conservation Corps team, comprised of five young adult members and one leader, will assist in the construction of new trail as part of the Black Canyon National Recreation Trail (BCNRT). The proposed new trail area is the Copper Mountain Loop at the northwestern end of the BCNRT, where the team will complete four weeks of work to assist the Hassayampa Field Office. This loop trail will serve to concentrate impact in a recreation area that is rapidly increasing in popularity and will provide valuable training and experience for SCA corps members. Work projects may involve one or more of the following activities: using hand tools/chainsaws to clear vegetation from trail corridor, construction of new tread consistent with required standards, installation of water drainage structures as necessary, and addition of new signage.

*Project Location:* Copper Mountain Loop at the Black Canyon National Recreation Trail in Arizona.

**Native American Conservation Corps (AZ)**  
Arizona Conservation Corps

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$48,400

*Project Description:* Arizona Conservation Corps will engage Native American participants and crew leaders in paid conservation service work on public and Tribal lands and waters in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Corporation for National and Community Service. A crew of five Native young adults ages 18-24 and one Native crew leader will spend 22 weeks camping, working and travelling together, working on 30-40 hours of recreation and reforestation projects each week, to meet the region's highest priority conservation needs. Project work is anticipated to include desert restoration, recreation, and trail improvements with the Tonto National Forest and maintenance and construction of trails in municipal parks across Maricopa County.

*Project Location:* Tonto National Forest; Maricopa County, Arizona.

**Removal of Invasive Buffelgrass (AZ)**  
Arizona Conservation Corps

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$14,000

*Project Description:* Arizona Conservation Corps will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to engage 8-10 youth in the removal of invasive buffelgrass at the Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area. Reclamation will benefit from this project by decreasing the risk of fire at the Wildlife Area through control of this invasive species of grass. The absence of buffelgrass would promote the growth of native grasses and understory plants, which provide habitat for species of concern, such as Arizona cotton rat.

*Project Location:* Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area, Arizona.



<b>Riparian Restoration Practical Training and Support</b> Arizona Conservation Corps	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$23,000
	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$18,000
	Matching Funds:	\$42,903
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$83,903</b>

*Project Description:* Arizona Conservation Corps will restore riparian habitat in the Gila and Verde River watersheds in Arizona by engaging 16 young people on two crews. Crews will receive technical training and support from agency experts on species identification and the mechanical and chemical treatment of invasives species such as salt cedar, giant reed, tree of heaven, and Russian olive. Crews also will work to establish native species. This project will restore 85 acres of habitat.

*Project Location:* Five project sites in the Upper Gila Watershed that span the Gila Valley from Geronimo to Pima, Arizona.

<b>Youth Engaged Stewardship (YES!) at the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area in Southeast Arizona</b> Cienega Watershed Partnership	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$28,192
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$10,000
	Matching Funds:	\$53,450
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$91,642</b>

*Project Description:* Cienega Watershed Partnership will select up to 38 youth to train in team-building skills, learn to assess site issues in critical grasslands of southeast Arizona, and design and implement restoration projects at the Bureau of Land Management Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. YES! participants will monitor study plots and watershed health indicators, test specific treatments to restore threatened riparian sacaton grassland and enhance aquatic wetland habitats which support native species including the Chiracahua Leopard Frog, Mexican Garter Snake, and native fish through removing non-native vegetation, transplanting natives vegetation and creating micro-habitats for ponds. Mentors and scientists will train youth in topics pertinent to restoration on public lands, including stakeholder involvement, ecosystem components, mapping and monitoring, hydrological systems, indicator species, restoration techniques, and land management.

*Project Location:* Las Cienegas National Conservation Area near Sonoita, Arizona.

## California

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<b>Taking Flight: Youth Make A Difference In Condor Recovery (CA)</b> American Conservation Experience	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$74,891
	Matching Funds:	\$120,097
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$194,988</b>

*Project Description:* The American Conservation Experience (ACE), in partnership with the BLM and Pinnacles National Park, will connect youth to public lands through an innovative, multi-scale conservation project that will provide jobs and applied job skills training to local and tribal youth. ACE will hire 23 youth to work on a large conservation program that includes endangered species protection, habitat restoration, community building, and environmental interpretation that will benefit BLM lands managed for conservation. The youth will have job shadowing opportunities with professional natural resource managers and educators at the BLM field office in Hollister, the Condor and Habitat Restoration

programs, and the University of California, Santa Cruz Environmental Toxicology Lab. Thirty-two project volunteers from surrounding communities will also carry out activities in the field to directly enhance California condor survival and restore their habitat.

*Project Location:* San Benito, Monterey, and Fresno Counties, California.

<b>Watershed Stewards Project (CA)</b> California Conservation Corps	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$59,988
	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$23,810
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$16,190
	Matching Funds:	\$1,748,457
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$1,848,445</b>

*Project Description:* The California Conservation Corps (CCC) will partner with various federal, state, county, tribal, and non-profit organizations to work together to revitalize priority watersheds throughout California, as identified by BLM and Reclamation. Twenty youth (aged 18-25) will be hired for the CCC’s Watershed Stewards Project to address watershed and fish habitat restoration needs through the implementation of a five-part strategy: Watershed Protection and Recovery, Watershed Education, Community Outreach, Volunteer Recruitment, and Member Development. Activities will include restoration and/or monitoring of stream, riparian, and upland habitat and outreach presentations to schools and community groups to inform and engage community members in anadromous fish watershed restoration projects. The Real Science curriculum will increase participant knowledge of watershed processes and placement partners will provide training in natural resource management and other topics to better prepare the youth for professional careers in related fields.

*Project Location:* The Watershed Stewards Project partners with various organizations who work in watersheds in California. Current partners are located as far north as Yreka and as far south as Santa Monica.

<b>Rancho Breisgan Riparian Habitat Restoration Project (CA)</b> River Partners	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$74,999
	Matching Funds:	\$163,733
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$238,732</b>

*Project Description:* River Partners will partner with BLM to restore 306 acres of riparian habitat on Rancho Breisgau, located at the confluence of the Battle Creek and the Sacramento River in California. Battle Creek is the largest Sacramento River tributary north of the Feather River. Its headwaters originate in Lassen Volcanic National Park. BLM’s 426-acre Rancho Breisgau property lies three miles downstream of the Coleman National Fish Hatchery, the largest anadromous fish hatchery in the contiguous 48 states, which releases over 12 million Chinook salmon and Steelhead into Battle Creek annually. The project site is also located adjacent to the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project, the 18,500 acre Sacramento River Bend Area of Critical Environmental Concern and the BLM National Recreation Area.

*Project Location:* Confluence of the Sacramento River and Battle Creek in California.

<b>Los Angeles River Restoration (CA)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$100,000
Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Total Project Funds:	\$100,000

*Project Description:* Los Angeles Conservation Corps will hire and train five youth as River Corps stewards to implement restoration strategies along and within the Los Angeles River as it flows through some of the most underserved communities in Los Angeles, California. With assistance from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge staff, the River Corps stewards will develop the skills necessary to conduct nature-based educational activities intended to promote community involvement and long-term stewardship of the open spaces being developed along the Los Angeles River. Through this effort, the River Corps members will cultivate important job skills, many of which will be applicable to future conservation-based employment opportunities.

*Project Location:* Communities adjacent to the Los Angeles River and its tributaries in the urban core of Los Angeles, California

<b>Golden Gate National Recreation Area (CA)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$10,000
Student Conservation Association	Matching Funds:	\$40,569
	Total Project Funds:	\$50,569

*Project Description:* The Student Conservation Association partnered with the National Park Service and Golden Gate National Recreation Area (NRA) by engaging a local, community-based, six member youth crew at a new unit of the NRA known as Rancho Corral de la Tierra. The GGNRA Community Crew spent five weeks conducting extensive trail work at Rancho Corral de Tierra. The youth repaired existing trails to make them safer for horses and hikers that frequent the area, rehabbed old trails that were badly degraded by illegal off-road vehicles, and created a new stretch of trail featuring a stunning view of Pillar Point and Mavericks. The crew members were underserved youth from Dale City who had never worked a full time job prior to participating in the project. The crew participated in regular team-building activities and diversity trainings.

*Project Location:* Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California

<b>Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands Project (CA)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$15,000
California Conservation Corps	Matching Funds:	\$ 2,235
	Total Project Funds:	\$17,235

*Project Description:* A California Conservation Corps crew consisting of 15 young adults, ages 18 – 25, and a crew leader, performed maintenance and improvement activities on Point Arena-Stornetta, public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) along the Northern California coastline. The crew eradicated 30,000 square feet of exotic plants, rehabilitated 600 linear feet of trail, installed 200 feet of new fencing, removed 6 trees, and cleared 16 cubic yards of brush. The youth received training on the job from their supervisor and fellow crew members.

*Project Location:* Coastal Point Arena, Ukiah, California

<b>New Melones Recreation and Habitat Restoration (CA)</b> California Conservation Corps	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$49,200
	Matching Funds:	\$23,280
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$72,480</b>

*Project Description:* The California Conservation Corps and Bureau of Reclamation New Melones Lake Recreation Resources Branch will implement an innovative conservation service program for urban, minority and other young adults with limited previous experience in the outdoors. This grant will benefit multiple wildlife species, the youth engaged to complete the work, volunteers, and the visitors who recreate on the Federal Glory Hole Recreation Trail system. Project activities will include repairing and rehabilitating deteriorating trails, and allowing BOR to complete much needed trail restoration work, provide enhancements to wildlife corridors, and create habitat for ground nesting avian species and small mammals.

*Project Location:* New Melones Lake Recreation Resource, Mid-Pacific-Central California

<b>CCC-BOR Folsom Lake Shaded Fuel Break (CA)</b> California Conservation Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$12,500
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>

*Project Description:* A crew of 12 California Conservation Corps (CCC) corpsmembers developed a shaded fuel break along four acres of the urban-wildland interface between New York Creek and Mormon Island Cove within the Folsom Lake SRA to mitigate for fires and make it easier for fire crews, engines, and air resources to suppress potential fires. Bureau of Reclamation staff prioritized this project location by fuel characteristics, topography, residential density, strategic location and accessibility, defensible space-activities and neighborhood participation in fire safe activities. The CCC corpsmembers thinned vegetation to inhibit fire from moving from the ground to the tree canopy. The crew thinned dense fuels and limbed up trees. They piled up thinned fuels and chipped 140 cubic yards. The crew also removed 262 trees.

*Project Location:* Folsom Lake State Recreation Area is located in the Sierra-Nevada foothills about 25 miles east of Sacramento, California

<b>Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail Restoration (CA)</b> Los Angeles Conservation Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$26,018
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*Project Description:* Los Angeles Conservation Corps utilized an eight member youth crew to restore approximately 18,208 linear feet of trail along various sections of the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail system. The crew opened and widened sections of trail while performing tread maintenance. The crew also installed 66 dip drains for water diversion and erosion control. NPS Trail Supervisors trained the youth in the latest water diversion and erosion techniques.

*Project Location:* Trail restoration work will take place near the Ventura and Los Angeles County line by the City of Calabasas – Little Sycamore Canyon Road and Mulholland Highway, California

<b>John Muir National Historic Site Stewardship and Restoration (CA)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$41,490
American Conservation Experience		

*Project Description:* American Conservation Experience (ACE), a nationwide nonprofit youth conservation corps, and Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB), a nonprofit youth conservation corps serving the North Bay of San Francisco, in partnership with National Park Service (NPS) will employ highly skilled and motivated youth corps members and interns, ages 18-25, to accomplish a variety of habitat restoration and site stewardship projects at the John Muir National Historic Site. CCNB will provide a conservation crew of five trained youth corps members, plus a field supervisor for a total of 576 hours to directly contribute to the restoration, conservation, and preservation of the cultural and natural resources of John Muir National Historic Site.

*Project Location:* John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez, California

<b>Sampling Salt Ponds and Surveying Birds at USFWS Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge (CA)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$6,250
Conservation Legacy	Matching Funds:	\$8,329
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$14,579</b>

*Project Description:* Conservation Legacy hired an intern to conduct surveys for shorebirds and waterfowl abundance, distribution, and behavior. The intern, Hannah, worked at the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge for 12 weeks, sampling salt ponds and surveying birds. Through this project, the U.S. Geological Survey is working with don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge assisting in processing benthic invertebrate samples to determine food availability in newly restored habitat for resident and migratory shorebird and waterfowl populations. The project seeks to return acres of former commercial salt ponds to tidal marsh, ultimately providing habitat for native California marsh vegetation and endangered and threatened marsh birds, such as the Ridgeway’s Rail and the Black Rail. Hannah collected 35 water samples and 350 samples related to land and water management plans.

*Project Location:* Eden Landing Ecological Reserve in the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, north of San Jose, California

<b>Joshua Tree National Park (CA)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$58,000
Farmworker Institute of Education and Leadership Development (FIELD) Institute	Matching Funds:	\$9,436
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$67,436</b>

*Project Description:* Farmworker Institute of Education and Leadership Development (FIELD) Institute will assess and restore illegal off-road routes in Joshua Tree National Park in a unique nine week local community program for 40 youth. FIELD crews, between the ages of 16-25 are Hispanic, Native American, or African American and reside in the underserved rural communities of Eastern Riverside County including Coachella, Indio, Mecca, North Shore, Oasis, and Thermal as well as the Cabazon, Agua Caliente, and the Torres Martinez Indian Reservations. FIELD crews will identify the size, location, landscape, and the presence of historic mining camps that once existed at the Park. This project provides engagement opportunities in environmental conservation as well as historical and cultural education.

*Project Location:* Joshua Tree National Park, California

<b>Greys Mountain Meadow Restoration Project (CA)</b>	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$25,000
American Conservation Experience	Matching Funds:	\$36,199
	<u>Total Project Funds:</u>	<u>\$61,199</u>

*Project Description:* American Conservation Experience, in partnership with the USFS – Sierra National Forest and Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council, will recruit and hire eight local and tribal youth to work on a multi-tiered conservation program that includes endangered species protection, habitat restoration, and community building. The youth will work with the USFS to restore 18 acres of meadow and five miles of stream channel in four montane wet meadows with unstable channels and compromised hydrologic function. Activities will target the most critical needs for repairing and stabilizing meadows and include constructing rock step-pool or log-fabric step-falls structures at headcuts in eroded streams and living willow revetments and/or brush mattresses along unstable channel banks. These efforts will reduce sediment input in sensitive aquatic habitat suitable for Sierra Nevada Yellow legged frog and Yosemite toad and will improve terrestrial habitat for the Great Grey owl and American marten.

*Project Location:* The project is located in the central Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, on the Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District.

<b>San Gabriel River Watershed Rangers Program (CA)</b>	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$40,000
Watershed Conservation Authority	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$10,000
NFWF Project #: 47414	Matching Funds:	\$268,800
Project Status: Active	<u>Total Project Funds:</u>	<u>\$318,800</u>

*Project Description:* Watershed Conservation Authority will partner with the US Forest Service to deploy a 6 person crew of at-risk youth to conduct roaming outreach at high-use locations along the east, north, and west Forks of the San Gabriel River, providing additional in-field capacity for land managers and exposing youth to land management and career opportunities in conservation. The ‘Watershed Rangers’ will conduct outreach by speaking with the recreating public about the importance of sustainable recreation, and highlighting best management practices and applicable USFS regulations related to the dispersed recreational use. Other activities will include direct habitat conservation efforts to combat recreational impacts, as well as monitoring to gauge ‘where we are’, and ‘where we are going’ in achieving the outcome of healthy watershed that supports sustainable recreation. The project is expected to restore 4 miles of riparian habitat through trash removal.

*Project Location:* Within the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument of the Angeles National Forest in Los Angeles County, California

<b>Auburn Shaded Fuel Break (CA)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$25,000
California Conservation Corps		

*Project Description:* California Conservation Corps will engage youth to develop and maintain a shaded fuel break (SFB) atop the American River Canyon along the urban-wildland interface zone between the



City of Auburn and the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA). The entire project totals 250 acres and encompasses the entire eastern border of Auburn. The fuel break will consist of a fuel modification zone up to 300-horizontal feet from a habitable structure situated on private or public lands, within the urban-wildland interface. This project is a multi-agency effort that has relied on close collaboration between federal, state, local government, and private partnerships.

*Project Location:* The Auburn Shaded Fuel Break (ASFB) is a fire/fuel-reduction project located in the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA), situated above the North Fork American River, atop the American River Canyon.

<b>Engaging Youth in Fuel Breaks Restoration (CA)</b> California Conservation Corps	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$59,000
	Matching Funds:	\$23,085
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$82,085</b>

*Project Description:* California Conservation Corps will partner with the Bureau of Reclamation, Folsom Dam Unit, to engage 12 young adults in developing a shaded fuel break at the Folsom Lake and Granite Bay State Recreation Areas to reduce the potential for fires. The shaded fuel break will provide fire protection to nearby homes and lessen the potential for habitat destruction and water quality by reducing the wildfire intensity.

*Project Location:* Folsom Lake State Recreation Area along the border of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area in El Dorado County, California.

<b>King Range Stewards (CA)</b> Mattole Restoration Council	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$49,963
	Matching Funds:	\$60,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$109,963</b>

*Project Description:* Mattole Restoration Council will restore and manage coastal prairie, riparian, and forest habitat in the King Range National Conservation Area and adjacent Mattole River Watershed. Two local, underserved young adults will work with restoration professionals and agency staff to develop skills and implement restoration and stewardship projects. The projects are designed using existing management plans, include extensive input from technical advisory committees, and are implemented using best management practices.

*Project Location:* King Range National Conservation Area and surrounding watershed, in northwestern California.

<b>New Horizons: Steward Endangered Species in the Face of Climate Change (CA)</b> American Conservation Experience	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$74,231
	Matching Funds:	\$121,773
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$196,004</b>

*Project Description:* American Conservation Experience will connect 20 youth to public lands through an innovative, multi-scale conservation project that will provide jobs and applied job skills training to youth. Project activities include: (1) radio tracking California condors; (2) habitat restoration (invasive plant control and out-planting); (3) public speaking and presentations on conservation; and (4) mentoring all

youth participants to build their career skills. Youth will receive skills training to carry out work that will enhance endangered species survival through habitat restoration.

*Project Location:* San Benito, Monterey, and Fresno Counties, California.

<b>Western Klamath Youth in Restoration (CA)</b> Mid Klamath Watershed Council	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$34,262
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$10,000
	Matching Funds:	\$54,421
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$98,683</b>

*Project Description:* Mid Klamath Watershed Council will partner with the Six Rivers and Klamath National Forests to hire four teenage stewardship interns, three college-aged and minority fisheries technicians, and one full time restoration intern to participate in hands-on restoration projects occurring through the nationally recognized Western Klamath Restoration Partnership. Natural Resource Specialists from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources, and Mid Klamath Watershed Council will regularly work with and train all youth participants on natural resource restoration techniques and job hazard analysis. By training and involving youth in instream and upslope restoration activities this project will benefit salmon fish passage and habitat, remove priority invasive weeds from national forest lands, and implement prescribed burns.

*Project Location:* Humboldt and Siskiyou counties in an underserved tribal region of Northern California.

## Colorado

<b>Crown and Hardscrabble Fence Removal and Build fence on Vasten Homestead Common (CO)</b> Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$12,600

*Project Description:* Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) will collaborate with Bureau of Land Management to employ 20 camping crew members who will remove an old boundary fence and build a new fence on Vasten Homestead Common to extend enclosure to protect water resource and aid in control of cattle. Each RMYC corps member will receive a weekly stipend and eligible corps members have the opportunity to earn an AmeriCorps Education Award. RMYC program staff partner with local youth serving agencies, schools, and mentoring programs across northwest Colorado to engage diverse youth in all RMYC programs.

*Project Location:* Vasten Homestead Common in Colorado.

<b>Eagle County Watersheds Inventory, Restoration and Enhancement Project (CO)</b> Eagle River Watershed Council	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$9,189
	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$3,000
	Matching Funds:	\$41,489
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$53,678</b>

*Project Description:* Eagle River Watershed Council will create two youth conservation internships, ultimately allowing the interns to gain invaluable hands-on experience while also conducting essential restoration and inventory work that will protect unique wildlife habitat on rivers, remote streams and

springs. The interns will receive training from and be mentored by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Eagle County Open Space and Eagle River Watershed Council staff. The interns will work alongside these professionals to remove tamarisk and Russian olive trees before these non-natives can invade 50 miles of riparian habitat along the Upper Colorado and Eagle rivers. They will collect eDNA samples from remote streams in Eagle County, which will guide Forest Service and Colorado Parks & Wildlife staff in the protection of the endangered greenback cutthroat trout and its habitat.

*Project Location:* Eagle County, Colorado.

<b>Grand Junction Wildlife Area Cottonwood Habitat Improvement (CO)</b> Tamarisk Coalition	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$45,051
	Matching Funds:	\$45,500
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$90,551</b>

*Project Description:* Tamarisk Coalition will employ 10 youth to thin planted cottonwood trees on approximately 20 acres at Grand Junction Wildlife Area. Through thinning and subsequent shrub planting, the Bureau of Reclamation hopes to improve riparian wildlife habitat by increasing tree size, improving branching patterns, and diversifying the shrub understory.

*Project Location:* Near Grand Junction in Mesa County, Colorado.

<b>Veterans Green Corps and Bureau of Land Management Quarry Trail (CO)</b> Colorado Youth Corps Association	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$11,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>

*Project Description:* Colorado Youth Corps Association led an seven member Veteran Green Corp (VGC) crew in the construction of a new eight-mile trail system in Stone Quarry, Colorado, on Bureau of Land Management land. The crew worked on new trail construction, cleared corridor, and maintained read along the Stone Quarry trail. Additionally, the crew built rock cairns along trail, multi-tier rock walls and banked turns for mountain bike use.

*Project Location:* Stone Quarry, Colorado

<b>Trail Maintenance in Western Colorado</b> Colorado Youth Corps Association	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$12,600
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*Project Description:* Colorado Youth Corps Association supported a twelve member Western Colorado Conservation Corps Trail Crew for two weeks. The crew assisted Bureau of Land Management’s Grand Junction Field Office with recreational trail maintenance. The crew worked for a week to maintain the Sarlaac trail by building 96 drainages, 22 rolling dips, two retaining walls and a few smaller structures on two miles of existing trail. In the second week, the WCCC crew worked on the Zippidy-do-da, Chutes and Ladders, and Zipp off trails in the popular 18-Road mountain bike trail system. The crew developed 600 feet of new trail, improved 70 feet of existing trail, revegetated 500 feet of existing trail, and built 51 drains and four rolling dip structures.

*Project Location:* Western Colorado

<b>Colorado Mountain Club Collaborative Restoration Project: Protecting and Improving Riparian Habitat in the Rio Grande Natural Area (CO)</b> Colorado Mountain Club	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$59,966
	Matching Funds:	\$61,084
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$121,050</b>

*Project Description:* The Colorado Mountain Club will engage a Stewardship Team of three natural resource conservation professionals who will work in the Rio Grande Natural Area for eight weeks to oversee this habitat restoration project. The team will work with the BLM and local youth conservation corps crews to construct 16 barbed-wire fence enclosures to prevent stock and feral horses from further damaging the stream banks and riparian vegetation. Additionally, the CMC stewardship team will begin stream bank restoration including bank stabilization, native plant restoration, and willow planting. Upon completion, this project will actively protect and directly enhance more than 10 acres of sensitive wildlife habitat for species including the Southwest Willow Flycatcher. The project will create eight jobs for local youth and establish a new, innovative partnership between the BLM, Colorado Mountain Club, and local volunteer organizations.

*Project Location:* Rio Grande Natural Area, Colorado

<b>Veteran Crew Tamarisk Removal in Dry Creek (CO)</b> Colorado Youth Corps Association	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$11,000
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*Project Description:* Colorado Youth Corps Association will contract with Southwest Conservation Corps-Four Corners veteran chainsaw crew to employ seven veterans for one week focusing on the removal of tamarisk located in Dry Creek, a drainage located in Dry Creek basin, San Miguel County, Colorado. Dry Creek basin is proposed as “occupied” critical habitat by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and represents the largest contiguous area of habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse outside of the Gunnison basin. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tres Rios Field Office has been working to improve the Dry Creek drainage in cooperation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The grouse population in Dry Creek basin has declined dramatically over the last 15 years and the quality of habitat, particularly brood-rearing habitat, is thought to be a primary factor in this decline.

*Project Location:* Dry Creek Basin area of San Miguel county Colorado, on lands managed by BLM. Habitat restoration in the form of tamarisk removal will occur on the Dry Creek drainage in areas on either side of Colorado State Highway 141.

<b>Trail Maintenance in North Fruita Desert and Bangs Canyon (CO)</b> Colorado Youth Corps Association	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$7,000
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*Project Description:* The Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) trail crew worked in partnership with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Junction Field Office to perform much needed maintenance on the Gunny Loop trail near Grand Junction, Colorado. The Gunny Loop is a heavily trafficked trail, managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the Bangs Canyon area. The nine crew members worked diligently to construct water diversion structures, such as water bars, to significantly increase the sustainability of the trail. The crew also performed critical maintenance to

ensure the trail can endure its level of usage. The WCCC worked under the guidance of BLM staff and volunteer experts to build structures that will last and will be desirable to recreational users.

*Project Location:* North Fruita Desert Special Management Area and Bangs Canyon Special Recreation Area located in the Grand Junction Field Office in Mesa County, Colorado

<b>Lake Estes Recovery Projects (CO)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$13,000
American Conservation Experience		

*Project Description:* This project was a cooperative endeavor between Estes Valley Recreation and Parks District, Bureau of Reclamation and American Conservation Experience to conduct flood recovery repairs to trail and riparian areas following damage sustained in the floods of 2013. The project employed a crew of nine youth and one crew leader for a period of 8 days to complete bank erosion projects including, dry stone wall construction, stone stair construction, backfilling effected bank sites and topsoil addition to affected areas. The crew restored a significant portion of the .5 miles of trail that are most critical to the stabilization of Lake Estes Trail.

*Project Location:* Lake Estes, 690 Big Thompson Avenue, Estes Park, Colorado

<b>Oil Well Flats Trail Project (CO)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$11,000
Colorado Youth Corps Association	Matching Funds:	\$2,750
	<u>Total Project Funds:</u>	<u>\$13,750</u>

*Project Description:* Southwest Conservation Corps-Los Valles “Veteran Fire Corps” crew partnered with the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office to open corridor for a new trail in the Oil Well Flats area near Canon City. The twelve-member crew (three civilians and nine veterans) cut juniper and pinon from the proposed trail tread and hauled the downed material away from the trail. Ultimately the crew prepped over 13,000 feet of trail corridor for new tread. This trail is part of a community trail system that provides outstanding value to the Canon City community, and the location’s proximity to Fort Carson makes the veteran engagement particularly meaningful.

*Project Location:* Canon City/Buena Vista Community Trail System, Colorado

<b>Penitente Canyon Trail Project (CO)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$12,600
Colorado Youth Corps Association	Matching Funds:	\$1,890
	<u>Total Project Funds:</u>	<u>\$14,490</u>

*Project Description:* Southwest Conservation Corps-Los Valles crew worked with the Bureau of Land Management to construct a brand new, highly sustainable trail named “Sunshine Kitty.” An eight-person trail crew from the Southwest Conservation Corps, based in Salida, served for two weeks on this project. The crew began by clearing corridors before constructing new single-track tread. The crew removed obstacles from the trail bench, constructed cairns, and installed water-diversion/single-track structures such as check ramps, retaining walls, banked turns, and water bars. After the project, the BLM-managed Penitente Canyon Recreation Area Trail System hosted the inaugural year of a 12-hour endurance mountain bike race called “12 Hours of Penitence”.

*Project Location:* Penitente Canyon Recreation Management Area, Colorado

<b>West Dolores Fire Project (CO)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$11,000
Colorado Youth Corps Association	Matching Funds:	\$2,750
	<u>Total Project Funds:</u>	<u>\$13,750</u>

*Project Description:* Southwest Conservation Corps-Los Valles “Veteran Fire Corps” crew worked with the Bureau of Land Management to create a fuel break along a heavily used road corridor. The SCC-Los Valles Veteran Green Corps crew finished bucking and limbing downed trees on the Bureau of Land Management West Dolores project site for two burn units. The crew cleared and/or treated 70 acres of low-density vegetation and created 100 slash piles resulting in a significantly reduced fire threat for the area. This project employed nine veterans.

*Project Location:* Dolores and San Miguel Counties, Colorado

<b>Hogback Open Space Restoration (CO)</b>	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$73,742
Garden Park Paleontology Society	Matching Funds:	\$169,000
	<u>Total Project Funds:</u>	<u>\$242,742</u>

*Project Description:* The Garden Park Paleontology Society, in partnership with the Mile High Youth Corps of Colorado Springs, will restore and enhance the Hogbacks Open Space area. The area has been degraded by previously uncontrolled motorized use, miles of social trails, invasive weeds, and improper water drainage. Although the Hogbacks area no longer supports motorized use, it is still open to a variety of users to enjoy its unique geological features and natural environment. A crew of 8-12 youth will be hired to close off over 6 miles of user-created trails and restore ecological function, enhance 5.5 miles of existing trails, and create 2.5 miles of new trail to provide users with outdoor recreational opportunities. Selected areas in the Hogback will be re-seeded to boost the growth of native flora, barriers and culverts installed to define and improve trail conditions. These activities align with and provide a foundation for the BLM’s Healthy Lands Initiative focus on watershed improvements and landscape restoration in the Upper Arkansas River basin and desire to work with community partners to achieve their conservation goals.

*Project Location:* The Hogbacks Open Space, City of Cañon City, Upper Arkansas Basin, Colorado.

<b>Urban Youth Conservation Career Ladder (CO)</b>	NFWF-FWS Funds:	\$20,000
Groundwork Denver, Incorporated	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$10,000
	Matching Funds:	\$39,710
	<u>Total Project Funds:</u>	<u>\$69,710</u>

*Project Description:* Groundwork Denver, Incorporated will provide 18 low-income urban youth with natural resource education, training and mentorship, and hands-on conservation and restoration work experience on public lands through its Groundwork Denver Green Corps Conservation Career Ladder Program. The program takes place at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and the Pike National Forest in Colorado. The youth, including 16 trained Green Corps youth and two youth leaders (ages 18-25), will work at the Refuge and National Forest to improve five miles of bison fencing and prairie dog barrier fencing, collect 10 pounds of short grass prairie native seed, remove invasive



plants from 160 acres, restore four miles of riparian habitat by removing invasive plants, stabilize banks, plant native plants, and recruit and manage 100 volunteers at two volunteer days to engage the local community.

*Project Location:* The work will take place at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and the Pike National Forest near Denver, Colorado.

<b>Wildfire Restoration Tree Planting on the San Juan National Forest (CO)</b> Conservation Legacy	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$45,800
	Matching Funds:	\$185,243
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$231,043</b>

*Project Description:* Conservation Legacy will team up with the San Juan National Forest (SJNF) and Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) to replant forest areas devastated by the Missionary Ridge Fire complex of 2002, planting about 260,000 trees on 700 acres in 3 phases. This project will provide jobs for 1 intern and 24 young adult Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) members as it will be implemented in 2 phases (Fall 2015 and Spring 2016) with 2 crew assigned to each phase so that trees can be planted quickly, improving anticipated survival rates. The SJNF will provide technical oversight, mentorship of the crew and the trees for planting. SCC will provide the labor for the project as part of its Sustainable Forestry Team (SFT) crew model as well as the needed tools and equipment to complete the project. MSI will support an eleven-week intern position, supervised by the SJNF, who will install and monitor carbon plots as part of post planting monitoring requirements.

*Project Location:* National Forest System lands in La Plata County, Colorado

<b>Putting Diverse Youth to Work for Conservation Statewide (CO)</b> Colorado Youth Corps Association	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$75,860
	Matching Funds:	\$75,880
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$151,740</b>

*Project Description:* Colorado Youth Corps Association will engage three Colorado Youth Corps Association-accredited youth crews – 58 individuals in total – in restoration projects in partnership with Bureau of Land Management field offices. These projects will employ youth from diverse backgrounds in riparian and instream habitat restoration work. The project will restore habitat along the Arkansas River through willow plantings and will restore sage grouse habitat through invasive removal, plantings and fence modifications.

*Project Location:* Five project sites in Colorado: Rincon Recreation Site near Salida; Burns Area west of Bond; Fish Park south of Mack; Chance Gulch in Gunnison; and Indian Creek near Whitewater.

## Florida

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<b>Next Generation of Gulf Coast Environmental Ambassadors and Leaders (FL)</b>	NFWF-Non-Federal Funds:	\$100,000
<i>Conservation Legacy</i>	Matching Funds:	\$392,121
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$492,121</b>

*Project Description:* Conservation Legacy will provide paid internships and environmental conservation training to at least 30 socio-economically disadvantaged students to gain workforce skills which will allow them to become competitive candidates for employment with land management agencies/organizations and environmental education organizations. The project will help protect sea turtles along 160 miles of Gulf Island National Seashore in Pensacola, Florida while also promoting public awareness by leading environmental conservation summer camps and citizen science activities such as; monitoring sea turtle nests, conducting native bee surveys, leading phenology trail observations, surveying ambient light transects, and leading public outreach programs.

## Georgia

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<b>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site (GA)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$49,000
Greening Youth Foundation		

*Project Description:* This is the second historic preservation project that Atlanta Youth Corps (AYC) Program has worked on within the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. This project will engage five youth corps members from the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood. In addition to the work of youth corps members, a community volunteer day will be hosted, where residents from the neighborhood will volunteer their time for the benefit of historic preservation. This project not only helps to ensure the preservation of this historic structure, but it also allows youth to receive further training and experience in this field, which will have a great impact on their lives for years to come.

*Project Location:* Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, Georgia

<b>Blue Ridge Diverse Youth Conservation Exposure (GA)</b>	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$45,831
Greening Youth Foundation	Matching Funds:	\$46,270
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$92,101</b>

*Project Description:* Greening Youth Foundation will partner with the US Forest Service to engage 6 diverse youth in paid conservation work. The youth will be recruited from the metro-Atlanta area and its northern suburbs, and recruitment will target demographics typically under-represented in conservation and natural resource management fields. The youth, consisting of one Team Leader and five members, will be recruited and housed at a partnering educational institution for the duration of the ten-week project. The youths will be involved in sustainable trail restoration activities, native plant restoration, non-native plant removal and eradication using mechanical and chemical treatments, trout habitat restoration, black bear habitat assessment, dispersed recreation site assessments and rehabilitation along trout streams,

interpretive education, and general maintenance activities. Expected outcomes from this project include 2 miles of trail improvement and 10 acres of habitat restoration.

*Project Location:* Blairsville, Georgia

## Hawaii

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<b>Haleakala National Park (HI)</b> Kupu	DOI 21CSC Funds: \$57,000
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*Project Description:* The Haleakala Summer Conservation Corps Program is part of Kupu’s statewide program that empowers youth to serve their communities through character-building service learning and environmental stewardship opportunities that encourage integrity with “akua,” meaning “self and others.” This project will serve 20 to 25 youth to improve the ecosystem of the park. Projects will include endangered species management, invasive species removal, maintenance and repair of wilderness cabins, and interpretation needs of the park.

*Project Location:* Haleakala National Park, Hawaii

<b>Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps (HI)</b> Kupu	FWS Funds: \$20,000
	Matching Funds: \$21,768
	<u>Total Project Funds: \$41,768</u>

*Project Description:* The Kupu will work with the FWS on Hawaii Island (the ‘Big Island’) to engage youth in meaningful conservation and habitat restoration work. The project will provide a seven-week conservation work opportunity to five youth during the summer of 2015. The youth crew will work outdoors learning the principles of natural resource stewardship while gaining valuable experience, knowledge, and job skills. The youth will engage in watershed restoration, surveying, native species planting, and clearing areas of invasive weeds to establish a more desirable habitat for native plant and wildlife across 83,961 acres of land with benefits for endangered birds, bats, and plant life. Project activities will take place on the Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, established to conserve endangered forest birds and their habitats, which are threatened by invasive exotic plants, animals, and disease. At least 40 rare taxa were identified in this area, which is home to 11 endangered bird species and one insect.

*Project Location:* Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii

<b>Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps (HI)</b> Kupu	DOI 21CSC Funds: \$70,000
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*Project Description:* Up to 50 youth will participate in stewardship projects on National Park Service and Fish & Wildlife Service assets including but not limited to Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, Kalaupapa National Historic Park and Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National

Wildlife Refuges. Activities will include invasive species removal, native out-planting and trail restoration.

*Project Location:* Ala Kahakai National Park

## Idaho

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<b>Bridging the Divide</b> Shoshone-Bannock Tribe	DOI 21CSC Funds:     \$15,000
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*Project Description:* Shoshone-Bannock Tribe will engage eight students from the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming and 15 students from Fort Hall, Idaho, by reintroducing them to their ancestral skills while incorporating environmental and cultural resource management, through the Bridging the Divide Field Camp. The program invites and encourages tribal elders, parents, or other interested tribal members to participate. This year, the Camp’s educational emphasis is on riparian ecosystems. The students perform riparian work including vegetation transects, invertebrate sample collection, and electrofishing to remove brook trout from endangered west slope cutthroat trout habitat. The project team will include a Bureau of Land Management archaeologist and tribal coordinator as well as a botanist, cultural resource managers and educators, and teachers, among others.

*Project Location:* University of Montana-Dillon Birch Creek Outdoor Education Center, Ft. Hall, Idaho

<b>Upper Salmon Basin Habitat Restoration, Conservation Education and Youth Opportunity (ID)</b> The Youth Employment Program	NFWF-BLM Funds:             \$75,000 NFWF-Reclamation Funds:     \$7,190 <u>Matching Funds:</u> \$237,666 Total Project Funds:             \$319,856
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*Project Description:* The Youth Employment Program (YEP) will partner with BLM, Reclamation, and 10 local partners in the Upper Salmon Basin of Idaho to provide employment opportunity and experiences promoting habitat and species conservation over 8 projects to 18 young adults who are either underserved and at risk, or students pursuing degrees in natural resources. YEP crews will remove or reconstruct over 13 miles of fence to exclude livestock from 1616 acres and 16 miles of sensitive stream and riparian areas and allow wildlife to move safely and freely. Two miles of eroding trail will be reconstructed. Over 5,000 feet of a stream restoration project on the Yankee Fork will be revegetated. A crew will collect samples and survey for Rare Forest Carnivores including wolverine, fisher and Canada lynx in winter months. Included in all of these activities is the commitment of local professionals to present species biology, ecology, conservation, and restoration education and site visits.

*Project Location:* Lemhi and Custer counties, central Idaho

<b>BOR: Lake Cascade Habitat Management and Youth Development (ID)</b> Northwest Youth Corps	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$47,195
	Matching Funds:	\$64,511
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$111,706</b>

*Project Description:* Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) will partner with the Idaho Bureau of Reclamation and Idaho Department of Parks and Reclamation to support crews as they carry out a total of 1,824 hours of paid conservation projects through a eight week program. Crews will restore up to 35 acres of habitat around Lake Cascade, in accordance with the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan, as part of a larger wetland restoration, erosion control, and habitat improvement project. Thinning dense undergrowth and brush will also restore and enhance forest health, improve biodiversity, enhance carbon sequestration, and reduce the risk of Epps beetle and other insect infestations and wildfires, to prevent erosion and vegetative loss. Program participants will also benefit from 240 contact hours of daily field education and mentorship, supplemented by talks by diverse resource management professionals, for which youth can earn high school credit.

*Project Location:* Lake Cascade, Idaho

<b>Croy Creek Trail Reconstruction (ID)</b> Great Basin Institute	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$12,000
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*Project Description:* Great Basin Institute will engage five youth to support the Croy Creek Trail network restoration. The network is located three and a half miles west of Hailey, Idaho. It was constructed between 2009 and 2011 and receives approximately 20,000 visitor days per year. The 2013 Beaver Creek Fire burned over most of the non-motorized portion of the Croy Creek Trail network. The fire and immediate post fire rain events resulted in mud and debris sheet flowing across almost nine miles of the trail system. Use of a youth conservation corps crew helps with the finishing work and provides a great learning experience for youth including the opportunity to work with some of the best trail builders in the world, a chance to work alongside local volunteers, the opportunity to work on a project that is very important to the local community, exposure to working outdoors in the natural resources, and experience constructing a trail while addressing and minimizing impacts to the natural resources.

*Project Location:* Croy Creek Trail network, west of Hailey, Idaho

<b>Croy Creek Trail Maintenance and Restoration (ID)</b> Great Basin Institute	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$15,000
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*Project Description:* The Croy Creek Trail Maintenance and Restoration project will reestablish 8.8 miles of trail, of which 8.3 miles are purpose-built cross-country mountain bicycling trails. These trails are covered by mud and debris from the 2013 Beaver Creek Fire and the area is closed to entry through June 30, 2015. Through the course of this project, five youth will be employed to complete tasks. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Shoshone Field Office has entered into an assistance agreement with the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) to reconstruct the Croy Creek Trail network in the spring of 2015. Trail construction equipment will be used but the trail needs to be “finished” using hand tools. Finishing the trails is the final critical step in the trail construction process.

*Project Location:* Croy Creek Trail network, west of Hailey, Idaho

<b>Boise District Collegiate Monitoring Program (ID)</b>	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$11,500
Bureau of Land Management	Matching Funds:	\$22,500
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$34,000</b>

*Project Description:* BLM will employ two student monitoring teams of five youth each made up of well qualified university students seeking a degree in range management to conduct habitat assessments and monitoring in priority sagebrush steppe habitats and riparian areas on BLM lands throughout the Boise District. Participation in this program will enable students to see the uses and implications of their field research as they share the information they collect, make data presentations, and engage with grazing permittees, BLM specialists, and other interested members of the public. The students will be further involved in the process as BLM incorporates the data into assessment reports and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents to make management decisions that enhance and maintain valuable habitats which are critical for threatened species such as sage-grouse.

*Project Location:* The project is located in southwestern Idaho on ~4 million acres of BLM administered lands within the Boise District.

<b>Lake Cascade Habitat Management and Youth Development (ID)</b>	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$49,946
Northwest Youth Corps	Matching Funds:	\$35,683
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$85,629</b>

*Project Description:* The Northwest Youth Corps, Reclamation, and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation will create a youth conservation program based around education, conservation and land management and hire six underserved youth as part of a larger effort to expand opportunities for 100 Idaho teens (ages 16-19) and connect these youth to the outdoors through habitat restoration and other conservation related projects at Lake Cascade. Crews will work in a designated Conservation Open Space (COS) and will restore up to 70 acres of habitat around Lake Cascade, in accordance with the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan, as part of a larger wetland restoration, erosion control and habitat improvement project on two sites of 45 and 25 acres respectively. These projects are located approximately 1.5 miles south of Donnelly and approximately 13 miles north of Cascade, Idaho.

*Project Location:* Lake Cascade in Western Idaho.

<b>Council Rural Environmental Stewardship (ID)</b>	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$18,380
Council School District #13	Matching Funds:	\$52,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$70,380</b>

*Project Description:* The Council School District will increase the stewardship ethic and inspire Idaho youth to pursue careers and employment in natural resource management and conservation. Sixteen rural, predominantly low-income youth will participate in summer crews to obtain natural resource job skills by carrying out established watershed work plans to improve 24 acres of habitat in the national forest and restore four miles of ranchland riparian habitat. The youth will work with natural resource professionals and private landowners and also serve as young adult mentors for stewardship and environmental educational projects that will benefit an additional 250 youth. The impact of the youth will



be increased by sharing their stories with the greater community via the digital Youth Voice program of the Payette Children's Forest and through local newspaper articles.

*Project Location:* Payette National Forest and adjacent private lands, Idaho

<b>Council Rural Environmental Stewardship Team (CREST) Program: Gateway to Natural Resource Employment and Conservation Leadership (ID)</b> Council School District #13	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$34,410
	Matching Funds:	\$72,700
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$107,110</b>

*Project Description:* Council School District will partner with the US Forest Service to increase the stewardship ethic in over 240 K-12 rural Idaho youth while inspiring high school youth to pursue natural resource college education and conservation employment. During the 17 month project period, 16 rural, predominantly low income youth will participate in the paid 21CSC Council Summer Work crew to obtain natural resource job skills by following established watershed work plans to improve habitat on 54 national forest acres, improve 32 miles of national forest trail, 12 miles of riparian habitat, 2 miles of BLM river corridor, monitor 34 acres of invasives and enhance habitat at a 1 acre city pond.

*Project Location:* Multiple project sites in Idaho: Council, Krassel and Weiser Ranger Districts in Payette National Forest; City of Council; private land in Adams County in Weiser River and Little Salmon River watersheds; Lower Salmon River Corridor

<b>Boise Community Conservation Corps (ID)</b> Northwest Youth Corps	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$25,349
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$4,500
	Matching Funds:	\$169,677
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$199,526</b>

*Project Description:* Northwest Youth Corps will partner with the Idaho Conservation Corps, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bogus Basin Recreational Association, and the Bureau of Reclamation to employ 66 youth in high-priority conservation projects in Natural Areas near and in Boise, Idaho. Youth will learn about natural resources, receive high school credit, and learn job skills to prepare them for careers in conservation through Idaho Conservation Corps' accredited field education program. They will also complete conservation projects such as invasive plant removal, stream restoration, tree and shrub planting, and native seed collection along with trail building and maintenance. Youth crews will plant 10 acres of riparian trees and shrubs and collect three pounds of native seeds while helping to restore at least 10,000 feet of streambank.

*Project Location:* Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, Bogus Basin, Bureau of Reclamation lands near Boise, and state and local lands in and around Boise, Idaho.

<b>The Lake Cascade Habitat Management and Youth Development Project (ID)</b> Northwest Youth Corps	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$25,000
	Matching Funds:	\$41,511
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$66,511</b>

*Project Description:* The Lake Cascade Habitat Management and Youth Development Project bring together the Northwest Youth Corps, Idaho Conservation Corps, Bureau of Reclamation, and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to engage six Idaho youth ages 16-24 in conservation activities. Crews will carry out a total of 1,824 hours of paid conservation projects through a eight week program. Crews will restore up to 50 acres of habitat around Lake Cascade, in accordance with the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan, as part of a larger wetland restoration, erosion control, and habitat improvement project. Program participants will also benefit from a total of 200 hours of daily field education and mentorship, supplemented by talks by diverse resource management professionals, for which youth can earn high school credit. Participants will finish the program with a heightened respect of stewardship, new job skills, and an AmeriCorps Education Award.

*Project Location:* Bureau of Reclamation lands jointly managed with the Lake Cascade State Park, north of Lake Cascade, Idaho.

<b>Wilderness Trail Maintenance (ID)</b> Student Conservation Association	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$6,000
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*Project Description:* Student Conservation Association will work with the Bureau of Land Management to engage a youth conservation corps to start tread work on a seven-mile long trail cleared of brush in 2015 within Owyhee Canyonlands. This next step will enable the trail – the longest and closest to the greater Boise metro area – to be able to be used by the public.

*Project Location:* Boise, Idaho.

## Indiana

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<b>Indiana Dunes Trail Maintenance (IN)</b> Student Conservation Association	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$26,155
	Matching Funds:	\$285
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$26,440</b>

*Project Description:* The Student Conservation Association partnered with the National Park Service to deploy a four-person Leader Team (Student Conservation Association members who have previous Student Conservation Association experiences and training) at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The SCA Leader team completed a variety of trail projects that decreased the amount of erosion, runoff, and sedimentation of nearby water sources throughout the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. SCA crew members rehabilitated and built various new trail structures including boardwalks and added trail erosion prevention structures such as water bars. The work that they accomplished enhanced the resource management strategies of the park and created a greater visitor experience.

*Project Location:* Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

## Louisiana

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<b>Connecting Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and New Orleans Neighborhoods through Green Infrastructure Training Projects (LA)</b> Groundwork New Orleans	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$60,000
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*Project Description:* Groundwork New Orleans and Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve will engage 15 youth and two youth leaders to install at least one rain garden at a high-visibility location at one of the Jean Lafitte units (French Quarter Visitors Center, Barataria Preserve or Chalmette Battlefield). The garden will include raised beds, rain barrels for water catchment, and benches for seating. Landscape architects and other professionals with relevant expertise from the Groundwork New Orleans board of directors will provide designs and engineering plans for both project components. Professionals will assist with construction oversight as needed and provide career mentoring to the participants. Groundwork New Orleans uses the volunteer services of retired veterans who guide youth in tool and site safety.

*Project Location:* New Orleans/ Jean Lafitte National Park in Louisiana.

<b>New Orleans Urban Youth Conservation Internship Program (LA)</b> Limitless Vistas, Inc.	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$110,000
	Matching Funds:	\$112,725
	Total Project Funds:	\$222,725

*Project Description:* The New Orleans Urban Youth Conservation Internship Program will provide twenty-four paid three-month internships to local urban, disconnected, predominantly minority youth. Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI), the interns and Bayou Sauvage NWR personnel will develop and facilitate a community-driven restoration event and develop an informative and educational social media presence. The interns will gain a better understanding of conservation principals, nature and coastal ecosystems and the need for community support to preserve, restore and maintain our fragile coast. Three community-driven restoration events and the internships will collectively restore a minimum of 30 acres of wetlands, 30 acres of invasive species will be mitigated and a minimum of 300 volunteers will participate in a Bayou Sauvage NWR identified priority restoration project. The New Orleans Urban Youth Conservation Internship Program will strengthen the established partnership between LVI and the Southeast Louisiana Wildlife Refuge Complex, which includes Bayou Sauvage NWR.

*Project Location:* New Orleans, Louisiana.

## Maine

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### **Youth Internships in Acadia National Park (ME)**

Friends of Acadia

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$50,000

Matching Funds: \$52,644

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Total Project Funds: \$102,644

*Project Description:* Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park hired 16 young people to work on projects with the National Park Service during the summer and fall of 2014 as members of the Acadia Youth Technology Team (AYTT), the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps (AYCC), the Ridge Runners (RR), and the Raptor Intern (RI). The AYTT examined uses of technology that would enhance rather than detract from the visitor experience at Acadia. Technology studied included webcams, QR codes, educational gaming applications, etc. The AYTT also turned over to the park a digital media interpretation kit to enable visitors to be better able to see the nesting peregrine falcons. The RR contacted 5,736 visitors on Acadia's trails to encourage them to practice Leave No Trace principles. They also administered 400 visitor surveys, built/rebuilt 132 cairns, and completed 6 visitor use censuses. The RI educated 5,828 visitors about the nesting peregrine falcons at the Precipice trailhead and helped 2,979 visitors learn about migrating raptors at Cadillac Mountain in the fall.

*Project Location:* Acadia National Park, Maine

### **WaYS Forward: Restoring Native Habitat (ME)**

Penobscot Indian Nation

NFWF-USFS Funds: \$35,733

NFWF Non-Federal Funds: \$10,000

Matching Funds: \$51,024

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Total Project Funds: \$96,757

*Project Description:* Penobscot Indian Nation will partner with the US Forest Service to offer Wabanaki students a chance to assess their own interests and prospects for a career in conservation science and habitat management through employment in a hands-on, place-based learning environment. WaYS Forward provides instruction and mentoring from cultural experts and scientists in Summer 2015 through the Fall 2016. 8 students will work as field technicians at the Penobscot Experimental Forest, Bradley, ME, where a valuable long-term USFS study of forest management is at risk from encroachment by invasive plants. In this collaboration between the Penobscot Nation, USFS, and University of Maine Wabanaki Center, the overarching outcomes will be to develop natural resource professionals for critical roles in the Tribe and accomplish 12 acres of habitat restoration. The project will strengthen partnerships between the Penobscot Nation, Department of Natural Resources and other federal and state natural resource institutions and agencies.

*Project Location:* Penobscot Experimental Forest in Bradley, Maine

## Maryland

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**Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Site**  
Parks and People Foundation

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$49,000

*Project Description:* This project will build and expand a youth green jobs training program, called BRANCHES, **B**uilding **R**esources **A**nd **N**urturing **C**ommunity **H**ealth and **E**nvironmental **S**tewardship, in Baltimore, Maryland, by providing part-time employment for 34 youth (ages 16 to 25) as well as six Team Leaders, and two Assistant Team Leaders. The team is based in the Greater Mondawmin neighborhood. They will conduct community forestry work, invasive removal, tree plantings and garden creation during the summer and after school during the fall season. The landscape plans for the site include rain gardens, native plant gardens, and a natural trail that covers the nine acre site – all of which will be used to teach people from across the city and region about the natural environment, community forestry, gardening, and stormwater management.

*Project Location:* Baltimore, Maryland

## Massachusetts

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**Urban Archaeology Corps Program (MA)**  
Groundwork Lawrence

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$50,000

*Project Description:* Groundwork Lawrence will build on its existing partnership with the National Park Service to design and implement curriculum for the Urban Archeology Corps (UAC). The curriculum will support UAC's goal of engaging youth from diverse communities in explorations of urban and community cultural heritage. A team of eight youth will be supported by a team leader/project archaeologist, one paid youth mentors, and three volunteers. Youth will conduct archeological tasks and historical inquiry around a central question pertinent to understanding Lawrence and its diverse identity. Participants will conduct interdisciplinary investigations through site visits and park improvement projects, historical research in archives and museum collections, mapping using GIS technologies, oral histories with community members, and archeological investigations with National Park Service staff.

*Project Location:* North Canal Historic District, part of the Essex National Heritage Area; Salem Maritime and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Sites; Royall House throughout Massachusetts.

## Michigan

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<b>Employing Youth to Promote Conservation and Implement Restoration throughout the Hiawatha National Forest (MI)</b> Superior Watershed Partnership	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$34,431
	Matching Funds:	\$35,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$69,431</b>

*Project Description:* Superior Watershed Partnership will employ 12 targeted regional (including tribal) youth to complete restoration and stewardship-based priority projects in the Hiawatha National Forest. The Great Lakes Conservation Corps crews will work with U.S. Forest Service staff to implement cost-effective priority conservation projects involving stream restoration, riparian restoration, and trail construction/improvement throughout the forest. This project is expected to restore 2 miles of instream habitat, 1 mile of riparian habitat, and 1 mile of trail.

*Project Location:* Within the Hiawatha National Forest in the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior watersheds of the Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

<b>Urban Youth: The Future of Conservation Leadership (MI)</b> The Greening of Detroit	NFWF-FWS Funds:	\$39,962
	Matching Funds:	\$40,600
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$80,562</b>

*Project Description:* The Greening of Detroit will employ 37 underserved youth in conservation positions to assist with the restoration of essential wildlife habitats at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Gateway and adjacent Humbug Marsh Units, federally protected lands along the Detroit River. This project will improve habitat quality and biological diversity while teaching essential green industry labor skills and conservation education to urban youth. Green Corps participants will receive education in the biology and ecology behind their stewardship activities in order to expand their environmental understanding and appreciation of natural places like the Refuge Gateway and Humbug Marsh. Restoration activities will include planting and maintenance of trees and shrubs, trail maintenance, wetland stewardship activities, invasive species removal, and shoreline cleanup.

*Project Location:* The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge's Refuge Gateway and the adjacent Humbug Marsh Unit outside of Detroit, Michigan.

<b>Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (MI)</b> Conservation Legacy	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$8,000
	Matching Funds:	\$15,791
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$23,791</b>

*Project Description:* Conservation Legacy worked with the National Park Service to monitor beaches at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for the presence of dead birds and fish, while quantifying the amount of algae accumulated on the beaches. The Two AmeriCorps Members, Keith Ferguson and Laura Makielski spent 8 weeks each with the Great Lakes Science Center, conducting research and data. The Great Lakes were impacted by closings due to water quality concerns and bacterial contamination, and were littered with fish and bird carcasses during botulism outbreaks. Additionally they completed 114 surveys on wildlife, trees and plants related to land management, and collected 208 water samples.

*Project Location:* Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Michigan

<b>Green Connections Conservation Careers Program (MI)</b> The Greening of Detroit	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$59,749
	Matching Funds:	\$254,820
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$314,569</b>



*Project Description:* The Greening of Detroit, a charter member of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, will hire ten low-income Detroit youths to participate in the Green Connections Conservation Careers Program, an employment program designed to develop the next generation of conservationists and inspire further involvement, continuing education, and careers in conservation. Green Connections members will participate in conservation skills training, work projects, educational, and career development and enrichment activities over a period of 16 weeks for 32 hours each week between June and September 2014. Activities will include: the planting and care and maintenance of 1,600 trees over 2.5 acres of riparian habitat at Rouge Park, a 1,184 acre park that is largely comprises Detroit’s last remaining virgin forest ecosystem; and the eradication of 50 acres of invasive plants on Belle Isle, a 982 acre municipally-owned park partially designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, in the Detroit River.

*Project Location:* Rouge Park and Belle Isle, Wayne County, Michigan

<b>21CSC Metamorphosis: Turning Youth into the Next Generation of Conservationists (MI)</b> SEEDS	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$42,141
	Matching Funds:	\$45,812
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$87,953</b>

*Project Description:* SEEDS will hire ten youth conservation corps members to work with conservation professionals from the Huron-Manistee National Forest Service on openland and savannah restoration within the White River, Otto and Hayes Road Management Units on federally-endangered Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) recovery goals, non-native invasive plant (NNIP) removal, native plant restoration, trail construction in the White River Foot Travel Area (WRFTA) and boardwalk replacement at the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary. Project outcomes will include 10 acres of woody vegetation removal, installation of educational signs and barriers to protect 50 acres, wildlife surveys on 400 acres, planting of 350 nectar plant plug plots and 54 acres of seed plots (total 110 acres), 21 acres of NNIP removal, construction of 5-10 miles of trail within WRFTA and KBB Management Unit, and removal and installation of 350’ x 4’ boardwalk in the LLWS. Youth will be hired for 8-10 weeks of full time employment.

*Project Location:* Lake, Mason, Newaygo, and Oceana counties within the boundaries of the Huron-Manistee National Forests in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan.

## Minnesota

<b>Restoring Relations Youth Corps (MN)</b> Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$25,000
	Matching Funds:	\$24,930
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$49,930</b>

*Project Description:* Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa will support American Indian youth and communities through the development of a Native American Conservation Corps that will: 1) provide jobs and conservation experience for Native American youth in the St. Paul – Minneapolis, Minnesota metro area; 2) connect youth to their heritage and cultural values; 3) complete important conservation projects on sacred sites, tribal lands, and neighboring public lands and waters; and, 4) introduce Native American youth to career pathways with public land management agencies. The Conservation Corps, in

partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Forest Service, and the Corporation for National and Community Service, will engage six Native American participants and two Native crew leaders in paid conservation service work on sacred sites in the Twin Cities, within the Superior National Forest, and/or Tribal lands and waters.

*Project Location:* St. Paul – Minneapolis, Minnesota

## Mississippi

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<b>Employing America's Youth to Restore Critical Habitat in the Delta National Forest (MS)</b> American Conservation Experience	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$100,000
	Matching Funds:	\$51,206
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$151,206</b>

*Project Description:* American Conservation Experience will employ 13 youth, with oversight from U.S. Forest Service personnel, to restore 6 miles of multi-use trails in order to increase sustainability. Crews will improve drainage in water-logged soils, which includes; constructing and installing turn-pikes, trail user education, installing signage, and repairing fencing to mitigate adverse impacts from illegal trail use (social trails). The blocking of illegal trails will include the repair and maintenance of 3 miles of fence line to reduce the likelihood of misuse and to reduce the displacement of soil within the Delta National Forest.

*Project Location:* Delta National Forest in Mississippi.

<b>Training Southern MS Youth in Restoring Critical Habitat for Endangered Species</b> Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$4,576
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$45,000
	Matching Funds:	\$50,371
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$99,947</b>

*Project Description:* The Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain proposes to recruit and train 20 underserved youth from South Mississippi on restoration and research of endangered species critical habitat located in Harrison County, Mississippi. The youth will be trained in mapping using GPS devices and GIS software, as well as mentored by university researchers, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists in identification of native and invasive plants and animals and identification of endangered species habitat (dusky gopher frog and the gopher tortoise). These trained youth will then implement the actions learned from their training to map and restore critical upland habitat adjacent to one of the last remaining breeding ponds of the endangered dusky gopher frog in DeSoto National Forest. This ultimately will result in restored critical habitat that is managed to provide better habitat conditions to uplands inhabited by the endangered dusky gopher frog.

*Project Location:* A 270-acre property containing critical habitat for the dusky gopher frog (*Rana sevosia*), in Harrison County, Mississippi.

## Montana

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<b>Big Sky Watershed Corps (MT)</b> Montana Conservation Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$10,000
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*Project Description:* As part of the Bureau of Reclamation’s outreach efforts and technical resources and programs, a grass-roots collaborative effort among local, state and federal agencies, and the Montana Conservation Corps has facilitated efforts to develop and implement sustainable water resource practices to impact resilient landscapes amidst changing climatic conditions. This initiative is based out of the Great Plains Region, Montana Area Office. The Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) program activities include: identifying technical, resource and data needs (such as measuring devices), deploying teams to collect or monitor stream flows, water, snowpack, or soil moisture data and implementing specific water conservation projects (i.e., flumes).

*Project Location:* Great Plains Region, Montana Area Office.

<b>Billings Recreation Projects (MT)</b> Montana Conservation Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$18,000
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*Project Description:* Montana Conservation Corps will work with the Bureau of Land Management to engage multiple crews throughout Montana. One field crew will work to stain the boardwalk leading up to Clark’s Signature and the top of the Pompey’s Pillar National Monument, which is essential to visitor access, and the ability for visitors to see William Clark’s signature, dated July 25, 1806. A second field crew will sign the routes in Pryor Mountain and work to remove fences. A third field crew will provide 5 miles of bike trail improvements at Acton Mountain, which will serve the greater Billings area which is located within a short drive from town. The youth crews, along with local volunteers, may participate in National Trails Day and/or National Public Lands Day event at the site.

*Project Location:* Pompeys Pillar National Monument, approximately 30 miles east of Billings, Montana.

<b>Engaging Youth to Reduce Sage Grouse Mortality through Livestock Fence-Flagging in Montana</b> National Wildlife Federation	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$55,005
	Matching Funds:	\$57,992
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$112,997</b>

*Project Description:* National Wildlife Federation will employ 19 tribal youth sage grouse conservation teams whose fieldwork will measurably improve habitat and reduce mortality for the greater sage grouse in Montana. This project will reduce the extensive mortality associated with sage grouse collisions with wire fences through a concentrated fence-flagging initiative in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Sage Grouse Initiative. Crew members will receive supplemental experiential learning and exposure to conservation careers as part of their work on this project.

*Project Location:* BLM land throughout Montana.

<b>Youth Forest Monitoring Program (MT)</b> Montana Discovery Foundation	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$25,000
	Matching Funds:	\$42,600
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$67,600</b>

*Project Description:* Montana Discovery Foundation will engage 15 youth in a seven-week summer internship program where they will train alongside forest scientists, working in teams to monitor forest health, and present their observations and recommendations in a final report and presentation. This project will equip youth with the skills and knowledge needed for seasonal and permanent employment with the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest. Youth will collect data on land that has been impacted by mining, grazing, wildfire, recreation, and mountain pine beetle infestation. Forest scientists will teach the youth about local ecology, natural resource management, and field monitoring techniques.

*Project Location:* Helena National Forest in central Montana.

<b>Montana's 21st Century Nature Corps</b> Montana Conservation Corps, Inc.	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$55,000
	Matching Funds:	\$86,297
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$141,297</b>

*Project Description:* The Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) will partner with the Bureau of Land Management to address critical habitat restoration projects on Montana’s Northern Great Plains and the Rocky Mountain Front portion of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem. Through hands-on service and education, youth will develop the knowledge, skills, and values to serve as the next generation of conservationists. Sage grouse, grizzly bear, and pronghorn antelope have their niche on Montana’s 38 million acres of public lands. MCC will enlist 56 youth as stewards of these lands by engaging them in 80+ hours each on 22 weeks of projects to restore 787 acres of habitat, restore 18 miles of wildlife corridor, improve 10 miles of fence, and complete monitoring on 50 miles of river habitat.

*Project Location:* On the Northern Plains and in the Rocky Mountain Front region of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem in Montana

<b>Acton and Four Dances Recreation Trails (MT)</b> Montana Conservation Corps, Inc.	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$7,000
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*Project Description:* Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) engaged 18 local youth as stewards of local outdoor recreation resources. MCC crews worked with BLM staff at the Acton and Four Dances locations on a variety of activities. Eight members of the youth crew and eight adult crew members worked at these sites. Activities included fence removal, building 19 trail drainage structures and turnpikes, installing 14 sign, removing debris, decommissioning half a mile of road and completing trail maintenance on 10.8 miles of trail. The goal of the Acton and Four Dances Trails Project was to engage diverse youth in Montana with the construction of new recreational trails at two BLM recreation sites that are in close proximity to Billings, MT. The new trails were developed in response to the high demand for additional mountain biking opportunities in the Billings area.

*Project Location:* Four Dances Natural Area and Acton Recreation Area, Billings, Montana

<b>Willow Creek Bitterbrush Restoration (MT)</b> Montana Conservation Corps, Inc.	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$4,500
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*Project Description:* Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) engaged six youth in a Bitterbrush restoration project while teaching the youth wildlife management and habitat restoration techniques. The project was located in the Upper Willow Creek drainage approximately 15 miles west of Phillipsburg, Montana. The area was previously treated through the application of a timber sale and prescribed fire. The project was designed to improve big game winter range habitat, which had deteriorated due to plant succession. The crew helped to restore 300 acres of habitat through the planting of bitterbrush seedlings, which are a preferred browse for elk and deer. The crew successfully planted over 3,000 bitterbrush seedlings in the area.

*Project Location:* Upper Willow Creek, a tributary to Rock Creek, west of Phillipsburg, Montana

<b>Pompey’s Pillar National Monument (MT)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$15,000
Montana Conservation Corps	Matching funds:	\$35,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

*Project Description:* Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) will partner with the Bureau of Land Management and local support organizations including the Backcountry Horsemen of America (Beartooth Chapter), the Pedal United chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), and Friends of Pompeys Pillar to engage 20 youth and over 100 volunteers in developing trails and recreation sites near Billings, Montana. Youth corps members will discover and improve diverse recreation resources near Montana’s “Magic City” over five weeks of project work. They will develop single-track trails at Billings’ new and premier mountain-bike destination at the Acton Recreation Area, and restore hiking and horse trails at the Face of the Mountains, Lily Pad, and other popular nearby recreation sites.

*Project Location:* Billings, Montana

<b>Youth in Restoration (MT)</b>	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$20,753
Missoula County Weed District	Matching Funds:	\$28,604
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$49,357</b>

*Project Description:* The Missoula County Weed District will provide at least five high school students with career mentorship and on-the-ground experience in natural resource restoration work through its Youth in Restoration Program. High school students will work 30-40 hours per week for approximately 8-9 weeks implementing projects for public and private land management agencies. The project directly supports priority vegetation and natural resource management objectives of stewardship organizations, which include the Five Valleys Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, City of Missoula Open Space, and Swan Ecosystem Center, and builds and strengthens partnerships. The Youth in Restoration program offers expanded educational and job training opportunities to high school students, while providing a creative and cost effective solution for accomplishing a portion of the participating organizations vegetation management work.

*Project Location:* Headwaters of the Columbia River watershed, encompassing the Bitterroot, Clark Fork and Blackfoot Watersheds within Western Montana.

<b>Northern Great Plains Restoration Corps (MT)</b>	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$50,000
Montana Conservation Corps, Inc.	FWS Funds:	\$15,000

Matching Funds:	\$100,843
<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$165,843</b>

*Project Description:* The Montana Conservation Corps, Inc. (MCC) will partner with the BLM, the USFS, and others to employ 26 youth for 28 weeks of varied and needed habitat restoration work. The multi-agency partnership program will expose youth to exceptional locations and a wide variety of conservation issues in the Northern Great Plains. As participants in MCC’s Northern Great Plains Restoration Corps, the youth will contribute valuable services, learn about prairie wildlife and careers in conservation, and receive job skills training and mentorship from natural resource professionals. On-the-ground restoration projects will result in: 45 miles of fencing improved, installed, or removed; 665 acres of wildlife habitat improved; 3,500 acres monitored or inventoried; 16 miles of unauthorized roads closed and restored; and 400 transects completed to benefit species of special concern that include pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, black tailed prairie dogs, and upland game birds.

*Project Location:* Sites include the Upper Missouri N.M., the C.M. Benton Lake, and Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge in Montana.

<b>Yaak Valley Watershed Restoration Partnership (MT)</b>	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$5,600
Yaak Valley Forest Council	Matching Funds:	\$5,600
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$11,200</b>

*Project Description:* The Yaak Valley Forest Council (YVFC) will collaborate with the Kootenai Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Cutthroat Trout Foundation, Montana’s Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the FWS, and the Kootenai National Forest on a summer pilot program to protect and improve fisheries in the Yaak River basin. Building on prior road de-commissioning, trail creation, stream surveys for sediment sources, culvert maintenance work, and fish monitoring and assessment, the existing program capacity will be doubled with the hiring of two youth to conduct further sediment source surveys in Yaak River tributaries, stream thermograph monitoring, trail maintenance and restoration on previously decommissioned road prisms, and non-toxic weed treatment on the banks of the Yaak River.

*Project Location:* Yaak River valley, Yaak and Lincoln County, Northwest Montana.

<b>Wilderness Conservation Corps, Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex (MT)</b>	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$49,999
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation	Matching Funds:	\$139,679
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$189,678</b>

*Project Description:* The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, Inc. (BMWF) will partner with the USFS to employ youth crews for 15 weeks of varied habitat restoration work. The partnership program will expose youth ages 15 to 25 to a variety of projects that will work to restore trails, remove invasive species, and monitor critical habitat in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex – the Crown Jewel of the Wilderness System. The project will engage a crew of four college students as “Wilderness Stewardship Interns” lead by an experienced Crew Leader. A second Crew Leader will be employed to engage 64 youth volunteers. The youth will contribute valuable services, learn about the Rocky Mountain Ecosystem, careers in conservation, and receive job skills training and mentorship that may qualify them for jobs as Wilderness Rangers or other related Forest Service careers. On-the-ground restoration projects



will result in 100 miles of trail maintenance and repair in watersheds with endangered Westslope cutthroat and bull trout, 20 to 30 acres of invasive species treated in areas with habitat critical for Elk and in riparian areas.

*Project Location:* Flathead, Lewis and Clark, Teton, Missoula, and Powell Counties in northwest Montana

## Nevada

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### **Coyote Springs Restoration (NV)**

Nevada Conservation Corps

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$8,000

Matching Funds: \$5,967

Total Project Funds: \$13,967

*Project Description:* Nevada Conservation Corps will work with the Bureau of Land Management to engage 14 crew members to help clean-up and reduce impacts of a recreational shooting range within the Coyote Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The Nevada Conservation Corps deployed three restoration crews to construct 1.89 miles of fencing, a combination of smooth wire and post and cable, along a jeep road. This effectively closed approximately 2 miles of road incursions in critical tortoise habitat by deterring further degradation of approximately 2 acres of currently disturbed habitat. In addition, crews decommissioned an illegal motor vehicle road leading to a shooting range within the habitat, and picked up trash in the shooting range area.

*Project Location:* Coyote Springs, Las Vegas, Nevada

### **Las Vegas Desert Cleanup (NV)**

Great Basin Institute

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$5,000

*Project Description:* This project, administered by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with coordination between internal staff and volunteers, will provide funding through the Desert Cleanup Project to pay five youth to remove household trash construction debris, tires, and abandoned vehicles from the public lands. After the initial cleanup, the public lands are signed appropriately, restored/ stabilized, and monitored to ensure that these areas stay free of litter.

*Project Location:* BLM public lands adjacent to developed areas in and around the Las Vegas valley and Southern Nevada District, Nevada

### **Copper Basin, Shoshone and Hickison Campgrounds (NV)**

Great Basin Institute

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$10,000

*Project Description:* The Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Area provides public access to petroglyphs created by prehistoric people living near Hickison Summit at the north end of the Toquima Range and the south end of the Simpson Park Mountains in Nevada. The recreation areas, maintained by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), are 24 miles east of Austin along U.S. Route 50. The park features a self-guided tour along a half-mile trail with multiple petroglyph panels, high-desert flora, and views of the Toquima and Toiyabe mountain ranges and the Big Smoky Valley. Amenities include 16 campsites, a day-use area, toilets, grills, picnic tables and trash cans, but no water. Essential improvements to these campgrounds will be accomplished with a five person youth corps.

*Project Location:* Copper Basin, Shoshone, and Hickison Campgrounds, Nevada

<b>Las Vegas Area Desert Cleanup Program (NV)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$3,000
Great Basin Institute		

*Project Description:* Nevada Conservation Corps (NCC) crews will work with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) personnel to address the growing need to monitor and remove illegally dumped waste materials on public lands around the public/private land interface in the Las Vegas Valley. Crews will provide physical removal of waste, and support efforts to remove the waste to appropriate waste management facilities. Material collected will be measured by volume, contributing to the goals of the BLM Southern Nevada Districts Desert Cleanup Program, and areas treated will be measured as acres of public lands restored.

*Project Location:* Las Vegas Valley, Nevada

<b>Wetlands Park Fuel Reduction, Cultural Site Protection, and Road Restoration (NV)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$13,500
Great Basin Institute		

*Project Description:* Annual visitation at the Clark County Wetlands Park (of which over 11,00 acres are owned by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)) topped 250,000 for 2014. The Exhibit Hall at the Nature Center saw another 25,000 visitors come through its doors. This Park is adjacent to several neighborhoods and is only seven miles from the Las Vegas Strip. It hosts six trailheads and over 20 miles of multi-use trails. Five events on these trailheads have engaged volunteers in the removal of graffiti, clean up of trash and debris, and painting shade shelters. A partnership with the Clark County Wetlands Park is already in place and may be maximized through a volunteer event in conjunction with the NCC work.

*Project Location:* Clark County Wetlands Park, Nevada

<b>Youth Restoration of Forest and Rangelands in Nevada</b>	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$75,000
Bureau of Land Management	Matching Funds:	\$260,124
	<u>Total Project Funds:</u>	<u>\$335,124</u>

*Project Description:* The BLM will expand its successful partnership with the Nevada Conservation Corps (NCC) and local Native American tribes to employ, train, and mentor tribal and other youth to restore forests and rangelands in Northern Nevada. This project entails employing a 10-person NCC crew to accomplish approximately 400 acres of sage-grouse habitat enhancement and forest and woodland restoration projects on Carson City District (CCD) BLM lands. In addition to conducting job skills training needed for accomplishing the on-the-ground work, the youth will utilize seminars, outreach activities, and shadowing of BLM specialists in a variety of disciplines to gain a broad understanding of conservation issues and natural resource restoration and management approaches. NCC crew members will also select a special topic of interest and conduct verbal or written outreach on this topic. The goal of this project is for NCC crew members to be inspired and trained to a level that would allow them to further their career in Natural Resources.

*Project Location:* Carson City District BLM lands near Carson City, Cold Springs, and Austin, NV.

<b>Vegetation and Habitat Monitoring in the Walker Basin (NV)</b> Great Basin Institute	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$74,996
	Matching Funds:	\$76,210
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$151,206</b>

*Project Description:* The Great Basin Institute, in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, will educate youth about important conservation work that is occurring in the Walker basin and watershed and employ a seven member youth crew and one crew leader. Skills attained by the field personnel will support development of natural resource professionals. Collecting data using the Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) protocol will educate field technicians in contemporary vegetation/habitat sampling techniques developed for nation-wide use at multiple landscape scales. Technicians will see how vegetation and habitat data collected using these methods can help guide proper treatment design, provide a baseline data set against which treatment effects may be measured, and enrich currently existing datasets.

*Project Location:* Five sampling sites within the Walker River watershed in Nevada will be sampled: Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area, the Pine Nut Mountains, Long Doctor project site, China Camp project site, and Spring Peak Fire site.

<b>Walker River Restoration and Noxious Weed Removal (NV)</b> Smith Valley Conservation District	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$30,248
	Matching Funds:	\$15,235
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$45,483</b>

*Project Description:* The Smith Valley Conservation District will employ and train two youth to assist with abandoned farmland restoration efforts as a result of water acquisitions during the 2015 field season. This project will provide paramount assistance in establishing native and drought tolerant species on properties associated with the NFWF Walker Basin Restoration Program. Youth will gain experience in noxious weed identification, GPS/GIS data collection, native plant establishment and drip irrigation operation, repair, and maintenance on 280 acres. These tasks are critical to establishing native plants and eradicating noxious weeds in the basin. Through this project, nearly five miles of drip irrigation will be installed in early 2014 for the establishment of approximately 1,300 native shrubs. The

youth will also help to inventory a 1,100 acre parcel where the first known infestation of medusahead has occurred in a Smith Valley pasture and help create a management plan, develop herbicide treatments for the infestation, and re-seed 10 acres of a treated area with desirable plant species along the riparian corridor of the Walker River.

*Project Location:* The project will occur on abandoned farmland in Mason and Smith Valleys as well as along the riparian corridor of the Walker River and irrigated pasture.

<b>Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists in Mason Valley (NV)</b> Mason Valley Conservation District	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$49,560
	Matching Funds:	\$17,040
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$66,600</b>

*Project Description:* Mason Valley Conservation District will partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to employ two youth to assist with abandoned farmland restoration efforts as a result of NFWF water acquisitions during the 2016 field season. Youth will gain experience in noxious weeds, GPS/GIS data collection, native plant establishment and drip irrigation maintenance. These tasks are critical to establishing native plants and eradicating noxious weeds in the basin. Expected outcomes from this project include 70 miles of riparian corridor restoration, using herbicides to control tall whitetop in order to increase flow in the river and deliver more water to Walker Lake, a Desert Terminal Lake.

*Project Location:* Adjacent to the East and West Forks of the Walker River in Nevada

<b>Edwards Creek Lek Phase I Pinyon-Juniper Removal Project (NV)</b> Great Basin Institute	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$49,837
	Matching Funds:	\$53,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$102,837</b>

*Project Description:* Great Basin Institute will partner with the Bureau of Land Management to employ a 10-person Nevada Conservation Corps (NCC) crew to restore roughly 750 acres of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. By focusing on phase I encroachment, the crews will be able to treat a larger volume of habitat and make a greater impact on the most recently disturbed areas. The NCC actively recruits young adults (age 18-25) pursuing higher education or careers related to natural resource management. This project will allow the NCC to employ 10 young adults for 13 weeks of service while providing unique educational opportunities for the crew members. The NCC believes a holistic approach to project implementation increases member interest and investment in the project, thereby yielding high quality results, and helps educate and train the crew members in the application of research and management strategies.

*Project Location:* Churchill and Lander Counties, Nevada

<b>Youth Restoration of Forests and Rangelands in Nevada</b> Bureau of Land Management - Ely Field Office	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$74,974
	Matching Funds:	\$442,088
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$517,062</b>

*Project Description:* The Bureau of Land Management Ely Field Office will employ a 10-person Nevada Conservation Corp (NCC) crew to accomplish approximately 400 acres of sage-grouse habitat enhancement and forest and woodland restoration projects on Carson City District (CCD) BLM lands. The CCD currently partners with the NCC on several projects that have been implemented in the last 5 years. This project expands on this already successful partnership by recruiting local Native American youth to become NCC crew members. The Great Basin Institute (GBI) will actively recruit and train local Native American youth to accomplish land management activities in addition to utilizing current NCC members on BLM projects. In addition to learning the skills needed for accomplishing on-the-ground work, this project will utilize training, seminars, outreach activities, and shadowing of BLM specialists. GBI has an active education program and receives funding for on the job training and seminars.

*Project Location:* BLM lands near Carson City, Cold Springs, and Hawthorne, Nevada

<b>Agai Dicutta (Trout Eaters) Youth Working to Enhance the Walker River for our Agai Pah (NV)</b> Walker River Paiute Tribe	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$50,000
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*Project Description:* Walker River Paiute Tribe will engage four tribal youth in the removal of willows and trees from the bank along the Walker River, the planting and monitoring of native plants, the removal of small tamarisk plants, and the collection of seeds for replanting. This project will allow for better surface water flows, enhanced water quality, and efficient monitoring of planted areas and birds. Youth will learn how to use GPS units to map the areas they are working in, which will help to identify the number of acres and river miles restored. The youth will work closely with conservation resource professionals, attend training sessions at a Job Opportunities in Nevada location where they will receive assistance in different aspects of job training and career development, and attend local trainings offered by the Tribal Employment Rights Office.

*Project Location:* Walker River Paiute Reservation in Mineral County, Nevada.

<b>Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists at Summit Lake (NV)</b> Summit Lake Paiute Tribe	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$50,000
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*Project Description:* Summit Lake Paiute Tribe will engage two youth in internship opportunities offering training in data collection and field survey techniques through participation in a variety of natural resource conservation projects at the Summit Lake Reservation. Youth will participate in projects including Lahontan Cutthroat trout population assessments, sage grouse monitoring, watershed assessments, noxious weed identification/management, water quality monitoring, riparian restoration, or rangeland assessments. This project will further the protection and conservation of Summit Lake, benefitting fish and wildlife populations, while providing training for youth in natural resource management.

*Project Location:* The Summit Lake Indian Reservation in northwestern Humboldt County, Nevada.

<b>Invasive Noxious Weed Species Reduction Grant Proposal</b>	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$50,003
	Matching Funds:	\$154,041

(NV) Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Total Project Funds:	\$204,044
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*Project Description:* Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe will employ youth crews in effective treatment control eradication methods and techniques of invasive noxious weed species in the Lower Truckee River. Youth will learn vital skills in identifying and assessing areas of high infestation, developing a listing for treatment, enacting the treatment method, observing the response and evaluating the effectiveness of the techniques used. This project will restore vital native vegetation along the lower Truckee River, while teaching tribal youth the importance of treatment techniques and conservation efforts.

*Project Location:* Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation northeast of Reno, Nevada.

<b>Yerington Conservation Crew: Connecting Youth with Nature (NV)</b> Walker Basin Conservancy	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$50,000
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*Project Description:* Walker Basin Conservancy will partner with the Yerington Conservation Crew to engage seven youth in restoration projects within the Walker Basin. Youth will implement numerous restoration, re-vegetation, and trail maintenance projects while developing teamwork skills and a lasting connection to the outdoors. This project will restore critical habitat within the Walker Basin through riparian and upland restoration efforts. Youth from rural communities will learn about natural resource management through pre-professional development and exposure to career opportunities in conservation.

*Project Location:* The Walker River Basin between Smith and Mason Valleys in Lyon County, Nevada.

## New Mexico

<b>Albuquerque Native American Urban Crew (NM)</b> Conservation Legacy	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$25,000
	Matching Funds:	\$40,266
	Total Project Funds:	\$65,266

*Project Description:* Conservation Legacy worked with Bureau of Indian Affairs to hire, train and employ a crew of nine local urban Native American youth who worked on various conservation-related projects with the newly designated Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge and local non-profit La Plazita Institute (LPI). Projects carried out at Valle de Oro involved assisting with birdbanding research, readying a former farm house for refuge improvements, painting a mural, creating trails to research sites, and removing old fencing. Projects completed with LPI were repairs and maintenance of a communal sweat lodge and the preparing of La Plazita gardens for cold farm installation and planting. Eight of the nine members successfully completed the program and moved on to opportunities in the conservation corps and non-profit world as well as opportunities to continue their education.

*Project Location:* Albuquerque, New Mexico

<b>Pine Tree Loop Trail Rehabilitation (NM)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$12,000
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Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	Matching Funds:	\$12,000
	Total Project Funds:	\$24,000

*Project Description:* Rocky Mountain Youth Corps led a crew of eight New Mexico youth in rehabilitation of the four-mile Pine Tree Loop trail within the Organ Mountain Desert Peaks National Monument. Crews received basic training and orientation including Sustainable Trail Building techniques, conflict resolution, team building, CPR/First Aid and wilderness skills. The crew completed two eight-day spikes at the Monument rehabbing social trails, clearing rock debris, and creating rock structures to mitigate erosion.

*Project Location:* Organ Mountain Desert Peaks National Monument, New Mexico

<b>Statewide Wilderness Study Areas (NM)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$10,000
Student Conservation Association	Matching Funds:	\$34,408
	Total Project Funds:	\$44,408

*Project Description:* A four-person, Student Conservation Association Conservation Corps crew spent eight weeks under-taking various restoration and stewardship projects in Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and a national monument spread across eight BLM Field Offices in New Mexico. The team’s service projects consisted of habitat restoration and trail maintenance. Habitat restoration work consisted of de-compacting soils impacted by illegal OHV incursions, collecting dead plant material and then placing the material into the incursion area (vertical and horizontal mulching), and creating seed pits throughout the incursion area. The trail maintenance projects involved installing erosion control features to stabilize head cuts and prevent down trail water movement with rock or soil, building retaining walls and rock steps, and building water bars to control water flow.

*Project Location:* Multiple locations throughout New Mexico

<b>Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NM)</b>	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$40,142
Conservation Legacy	Matching Funds:	\$35,000
	Total Project Funds:	\$75,142

*Project Description:* Conservation Legacy will partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to engage 5 Native American young adults in vegetation monitoring and habitat assessment on 28 miles of BOR right-of-way in northwest New Mexico, prior to construction of portions of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP). The Southwest Conservation Corps-Ancestral Lands Program will select and train one leader and four members, who will mobilize for ten weeks of work and training. Corps staff will coordinate project site visits, plan projects, and provide resources (such as AmeriCorps education awards). SCC-AL will recruit and hire members and leaders, ages 18-25, from Navajo communities. BOR will supply expert staff to guide crews in proper inventory and data collection techniques, providing important job skills, education, and support.

*Project Location:* Farmington, New Mexico to Gallup, New Mexico

<b>Pine Loop Trail Stage II (NM)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$10,000
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## Rocky Mountain Youth Corps

*Project Description:* A Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew of eight youth will continue the rehabilitation of four miles of the Pine Loop Trail, Stage II, within the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument was established on May 21, 2014, by Presidential Proclamation, and is managed by Bureau of Land Management. The National Monument includes four distinct areas: the Organ Mountains, Desert Peaks, Potrillo Mountains, and Doña Ana Mountains. Located northwest of Las Cruces, New Mexico, the National Monument is an area of rugged canyons, arroyos, and distinct Chihuahuan desert grasslands of the Sierra de las Uvas Mountains and the striking views.

*Project Location:* Pine Loop Trail is located in the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in southern New Mexico. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crews are gathered from throughout New Mexico. Crew completing the work will be based in the Albuquerque area.

<b>Maintaining and Restoring Keystone Ecosystem Functions at Bandelier National Monument (NM)</b> Conservation Legacy	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$12,500
	Matching Funds:	\$19,087
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$31,587</b>

*Project Description:* The Jemez Mountains Field Station is a collaboration between National Park Service land managers and U.S. Geological Survey researchers. Current research focuses on the rapid landscape scale disturbances in northern New Mexico. The interactions of fire, drought, and bark beetle outbreaks, have lead to widespread loss of many dominant ecosystem species. This creates opportunities for successional vegetation communities to alter ecological trajectories away from a return to the pre-disturbance forest. One paid youth will support research to understand what systems will take the place of forests, and the subsequent impacts those systems will have on the broader landscapes and ecological processes, such as habitat diversity, wildfire potential, and hydrology.

*Project Location:* Bandelier National Monument, central New Mexico

<b>Restoring Relations Youth Corps (MN)</b> Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$50,000
	Matching Funds:	\$295,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$345,000</b>

*Project Description:* Through the Middle Rio Grande Urban Conservation Corps, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) will recruit and employ 24 youth on two summer youth crews (ages 16-19) and one six-month young adult crew (ages 18-25). The youth crew will work on trail construction in the Sandi Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest, trail maintenance at Petroglyph National Monument, ecological restoration on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) land adjacent to Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, hazardous fuels reduction in the wilderness urban interface at Petroglyph National Monument, and additional community improvement projects across federal partner lands. In addition, the crews will participate in four volunteer days, with a goal to engage 45 additional individuals.

*Project Location:* Petroglyph National Monument, New Mexico

<b>Youth Crew Restoration Outreach Along the Bosque</b>	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$17,322
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Talking Talons Youth Leadership	NFWF-FWS Funds:	\$5,000
NFWF Project #: 42507	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$25,000
Project Status: Active	Matching Funds:	\$50,002
	Total Project Funds:	\$97,324

*Project Description:* Talking Talons Youth Leadership, in partnership with the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Reclamation, the New Mexico State Land Office, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program, Amigos Bravos, Friends of the Valle de Oro, and Friends of the Sandia Mountains, will provide 560 hours of paid employment for urban and minority youth in conservation work that benefits the public lands and mission of the Valle de Oro NWR, Reclamation, and State of New Mexico. A six member youth crew will receive in-depth education and training in diverse aspects of environmental restoration, monitoring, and stewardship, job and skill development in event management, networking and facilitation of community outreach events.

*Project Location:* Valle De Oro National Wildlife Refuge and adjacent Reclamation and State lands, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

<b>Trail Maintenance in Picacho Mountain Recreation Area (NM)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$10,000
Arizona Conservation Corps	Matching Funds:	\$13,127
	Total Project Funds:	\$23,127

*Project Description:* Picacho Peak is a 4,959-foot high peak just northwest of Las Cruces and within the newly designated Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. The recreation area has over 15 miles of mountain biking, hiking, and equestrian trails. The trail system lacks appropriate signage and hikers/bikers often get confused about how to navigate the trails. Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC) will hire a crew of eight persons, including six young adults (ages 18 to 25) to install new signs and perform much needed maintenance as they work through the trails. AZCC plans to work with volunteers from the New Mexico Trails Alliance and BLM staff to complete this project.

*Project Location:* Approximately 10 miles northwest of Las Cruces in southcentral New Mexico

<b>Expanding Youth Outdoor Education and Employment (NM)</b>	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$38,735
Forest Guild, Inc.	Matching Funds:	\$80,000
	Total Project Funds:	\$118,735

*Project Description:* The Forest Guild, Inc. will recruit, hire, and provide education and training in forestry, ecology, and natural resource management for a six member youth crew to work with the Cuba and Jemez Ranger Districts in the Santa Fe National Forest for nine weeks during the summer. The crew will receive a diverse array of training that will include First-aid/CPR, chainsaw safety (for 18 years old only), cross-cut saw safety, trail maintenance and inventory techniques for critical areas, wilderness and leave-no-trace ethics, range assessments, use of GPS products, user route assessment and mitigation, erosion issues and mitigation, and assessment of riparian areas using proper functioning condition guide. Activities in the field will include: closing user created routes in the forest, repair and construction of fencing to protect riparian habitat, assessing and mitigating headcuts and gullies in streams, and improvement of 10 miles of degraded trails where they intersect with important springs resources.

*Project Location:* The Cuba and Jemez Ranger Districts of the Santa Fe National Forest in Sandoval County in New Mexico.

<b>Giving Youth Voice Through Participation and Education in Conservation (NM)</b> Talking Talons Youth Leadership	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$50,000
	Matching Funds:	\$55,468
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$105,468</b>

*Project Description:* Talking Talons Youth Leadership (TTYL) will partner with the US Forest Service to elevate youth and the community to become effective advocates and ethical stewards of themselves, wildlife, habitats and the environment. TTYL will employ, train and educate a 6 person youth crew to carry out hands-on conservation and stewardship projects deemed important by the USFS and in partnership with other local and state agencies. This project will provide youth with opportunities to discover the natural world and career opportunities available in conservation through conservation education and hands-on implementation of conservation projects. Expected outcomes from this project include 5 acres of habitat restoration and 5 miles of trail maintenance.

*Project Location:* The Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest in New Mexico

<b>Continuing to Give Youth Voice Through Participation and Education in Conservation (NM)</b> Talking Talons Youth Leadership, Inc.	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$40,000
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$10,000
	Matching Funds:	\$54,358
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$104,358</b>

*Project Description:* Talking Talons Youth Leadership (TTYL) will partner with the U.S. Forest Service to provide urban, minority and tribal youth with conservation employment and participation opportunities in connection with the Cibola National Forest. A total of five youth will be employed on the TTCC with one as crew leader. Four TTCC members will be employed for eight weeks of fieldwork. The youth crew leader will be employed for eight weeks of fieldwork and four additional weeks of crew management training, crew hiring, and follow-up project reporting. TTCC conservation work will be conducted in the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest. Work includes, but is not limited to, restoration and enhancement of the Forest Service’s Capulin Spring recreation area in partnership with Friends of the Sandia Mountains of up to five acres of mixed-conifer forest habitat, maintaining up to 10 miles of trail, and removing invasive species on up to two acres of mixed-conifer forest with Forest Service guidance.

*Project Location:* The Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest in New Mexico.

<b>Restoration, Construction and Maintenance at the Refuge (NM)</b> Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$150,000
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*Project Description:* Through the Middle Rio Grande Urban Conservation Corps, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps will recruit and employ eight youth crew members (ages 16-25) for the summer of 2016, five part-time crew members from fall 2016 to spring 2017, and eight crew members for a three-month young adult crew (ages 18-25). Crew members will serve as youth ambassadors, providing environmental education and outreach at community locations to develop awareness and connect the community with Valle de Oro

National Wildlife Refuge and public lands. Additionally, the young adult crew will work on fence construction at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, ecological restoration on Reclamation land adjacent to Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, trail construction in the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest, trail maintenance at Petroglyph National Monument, cultural resource protection work at neighboring Isleta Pueblo, and additional community improvement projects across federal, local, and tribal partner lands.

*Project Location:* Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest, Petroglyph National Monument in New Mexico.

<b>Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge and Bureau of Reclamation Partnership (NM)</b> Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$15,000
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$45,000
	Matching Funds:	\$96,904
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$156,904</b>

*Project Description:* Rocky Mountain Youth Corps will engage nine urban youth in a breadth of conservation-related service opportunities and learning experiences. Crew members will install 3.5 miles of wildlife-friendly fencing on Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge and adjacent Bureau of Reclamation property to protect owls, waterfowl and low-flying birds such as grouse. Through RMYC programming, crew members also are connected with federal partner mentors, who they email weekly and meet with biweekly. These relationships foster discussions of potential career opportunities. Through this unique partner-crewmember relationship, federal partners are able to deeply engage with urban youth learning and growing through a transformative corps experience. Members are able to learn from adults who have chosen conservation-related careers, and to receive career advice from understanding and compassionate professionals who are dedicated to supporting youth.

*Project Location:* Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the heart of the Middle Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico.

## New York

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<b>Gateway National Recreation Area (NY)</b> Groundwork USA	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$47,028
	Matching Funds:	\$19,073
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$66,101</b>

*Project Description:* Groundwork USA partnered with the National Park Service to restore a historic beachfront structure at the Jacob Riis unit of Gateway National Park. Groundwork engaged 27 youth volunteers (ages 16 – 18) from Yonkers New York. The building the youth restored was in a state of significant decline, exacerbated by damage from Hurricane Sandy. The building had sat vacant for three years. Groundwork Hudson Valley organized the youth in teams to refurbish the building interior and exterior, and contracted with an electrician, plumber, and overhead door company to ready the building.

*Project Location:* Yonkers, New York

<b>Shore Corps: Green Stewards Youth Workforce</b>	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$5,000
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<b>Program (NY)</b>	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$44,999
Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, Inc.	Matching Funds:	\$60,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$109,999</b>

*Project Description:* The Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, Inc. (RWA) will expand its successful Shore Corps, a workforce training program for underserved youth in Far Rockaway, Queens, New York. In collaboration with USFS, the internship program will build leadership, stewardship, and job skills of 20 young people over an 18-month period and expose them to mentors and careers in conservation and environmental science and education. The youth will lead a tree inventory and install non-invasive native salt tolerant trees, shrubs, and grasses to create a natural dune buffer along areas that suffered severe damage during Hurricane Sandy. Students will also plant wooden shims as part of a “biomimicry” project to help build up sand, a technique used to fortify the fragile dunes of Cape Cod. Program partners will collaborate with RWA environmental educators to provide training and internships for the students that provide pathways to employment opportunities.

*Project Location:* Arverne Dune Preserve and Arverne East site, Far Rockaway, Queens, Beach 32nd Street to Beach 74th Street, along the Atlantic Ocean in New York.

## Oregon

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<b>NYC Native Conservation Corps Program (OR)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$25,000
Northwest Youth Corps	Matching Funds:	\$22,266
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$47,266</b>

*Project Description:* Northwest Youth Corps in collaboration with the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Willamette National Forest, Fremont National Forest, and Lomakatsi Restoration Project engaged four youth in the Native American Conservation Corps (NACC) to perform eight weeks of rehabilitation and restoration projects. Work sites stretched from southwestern Oregon to Central Washington. Specific project accomplishments included eradicating 4 acres of noxious weeds, pulling 2,635 invasive plants, created 20 slash piles to reduce the risk of wildfire, built 420 feet of puncheon, and 9 drainage structures. Northwest Youth Corps programs exposed youth to diverse careers within federal agencies and enhance better public understanding of agency mandates, organization, and mission. Youth increase their understanding of how agencies such as the Forest Service operate and how youth can continue being involved in community service with these agencies.

*Project Location:* Tribal lands of the Grand Ronde and Siletz and/or Warm Springs peoples (southwest and southeast of Portland respectively) and Federal public lands near Tribal land in Oregon

<b>NFWF- 21st CSC Mountain of the Rogue Trail and Youth</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$10,000
	Matching Funds:	\$ 4,556



**Development Project (OR)**

Northwest Youth Corps

Total Project Funds: \$14,556

*Project Description:* Northwest Youth Corps in collaboration with the Medford District BLM and International Mountain Biking Association performed two weeks of trail construction and maintenance on the Mountain of the Rogue trail system in southwestern Oregon. Twelve youth and three staff members assisted in the completion of the project. Specific project accomplishments included 1,470 feet of new trail constructed, 2,615 feet of trail maintained, two climbing turns installed, and 17 feet of retaining wall built. Youth corps members participated in 170 hours of education. Northwest Youth Corps programs exposed youth to diverse careers within federal agencies and enhance better public understanding of agency mandates, organization, and mission. Youth increase their understanding of how agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management operate and how youth can continue being involved in community service with these agencies.

*Project Location:* The project will take east/northeast of the town of Rogue River on the Butte Falls Resource Area of the Medford BLM in southwestern Oregon.

**Wildwood Recreation: Youth Outdoor Learning through Work and Play (OR)**

AntFarm YouthCore

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$7,000

Matching Funds: \$1,400

Total Project Funds: \$8,400

*Project Description:* AntFarm YouthCore partnered with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to hire a crew of eight Native American boys, ages 16 to 18, to work in the Wildwood Recreation and Sandy Ridge Trail system. The crew focused on high use trails with general drain maintenance, reparation of ruts, and water flow management priorities. The crew installed advanced drainage features throughout the trail system. In a few heavy flow areas rock features and stone pavers were used to prevent degradation of trail surface. Other reroutes occurred at selected locations to improve trail flow, rider visibility, and increase the overall level of trail sustainability. Lastly, the crew placed "chokes" at key points along the trails to encourage users to stay on the designated trail path. The crew mitigated hazards (fallen trees/dangerous snags, cleared line of site for users), improved tread quality, and strengthened trail sustainability.

*Project Location:* Wildwood Recreation site is located 39 miles east of Portland on Highway 26 near Welches, Oregon. Sandy Ridge is located 32 miles from Portland on US Highway 26 near Brightwood Oregon. The sites are within five miles of each other.

**Umpqua Natural Resources Pathway (OR)**

Phoenix School of Roseburg

NFWF-BLM Funds: \$55,235

Matching Funds: \$56,562

Total Project Funds: \$111,797

*Project Description:* Phoenix School of Roseburg will partner with the Bureau of Land Management (Roseburg District), Umpqua Community College, Pacific Rivers Council, Umpqua Watersheds, and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to engage the youth of Douglas County, Oregon to 'Learn, Serve, and Earn' towards natural resources related careers. Phoenix School of Roseburg will hire local youth to serve as Oregon Youth Conservation Corps crew members to work on Roseburg District BLM

lands during the summers of 2015 and 2016. Youth will perform technical fieldwork such as snorkel surveys of salmonids, noxious plant mapping & removal, downed wood & snag surveys, and photo points of prior stream restoration sites. These activities will have dual benefits and outcomes: 12 youth will gain life-changing experiences in natural resources technology as they assemble important ecological data for agency scientists.

*Project Location:* The Umpqua Basin in Douglas County, Oregon

<b>Oregon Coast Stewardship Project</b> Northwest Youth Corps	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$10,914
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$40,000
	Matching Funds:	\$291,548
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$342,462</b>

*Project Description:* Northwest Youth Corps will partner with BLM, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, SOLVE, local nonprofits and land trusts, and the Cities of Astoria, Lincoln City and Seaside to provide training, education, and a stipend for diverse youth coming from varied and underrepresented communities on the Oregon Coast. For five weeks during the summers of 2015 and 2016, youth will complete high priority conservation projects such as invasive plant removal, stream restoration, riparian fence construction, and monitoring along with trail building and maintenance. In addition, teens will spend five to ten hours a week taking part in Northwest Youth Corps’ accredited field education program, where they will learn about natural resource conservation, leadership, teamwork, and other valuable jobs skills. One hundred youth will take part in the Oregon Coast Stewardship, completing at least 200 acres of invasive plant species removal, building or maintaining 50,000 feet of trail, constructing 10,000 feet of riparian fence; and restoring 25,000 linear feet of stream or stream banks.

*Project Location:* Coastal Oregon between Astoria and Bandon.

<b>Nestucca Wildlife Habitat Management Project (OR)</b> Tillamook School District No. 9	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$60,374
	Matching Funds:	\$69,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$129,374</b>

*Project Description:* Tillamook School District will partner with the Bureau of Land Management on the Nestucca Wildlife Habitat Management Project, a 15 month joint project to gather data that will drive BLM wildlife habitat and forest management practices. The program will begin in June 2015, extend through the 2015-16 school year and conclude in August 2016. The Wildlife Habitat Project will employ a crew of one adult leader and five youth members during two summer sessions to gather coarse woody debris data on a number of forest stands on Nestucca watershed. Additional project work will be accomplished by district students and staff during the school year. In order to broaden students’ experience to other parts of the state, the project includes an opportunity for crew members to perform similar conservation work in Lake County, Oregon, each summer. The Nestucca Wildlife Habitat Management Project will offer youth summer employment opportunities in conservation efforts, important management data to BLM field staff, and excellent educational experiences for school district teachers and students.

*Project Location:* Within the Nestucca watershed in Tillamook, Oregon

<b>Restoration in the Rogue River Basin: Preserving the</b>	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$64,480
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<b>Endemic Dwarf Woolly Meadowfoam and Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp Habitats on the Table Rocks (OR)</b> Rogue Workforce Partnership	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$10,000
	Matching Funds:	\$85,600
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$160,080</b>

*Project Description:* The Rogue Workforce Partnership will work with regional BLM partners to provide conservation-based employment to 50 youth (ages 16-25), with priority services given to low-income, disadvantaged, and at-risk youth. Seven high-priority projects would take place in the Table Rocks Management Area (TRMA), four additional projects have been identified across the Rogue River Basin. Eight special status plants, two threatened animal species and six types of plant communities stand to benefit from completed project outcomes. Outcomes will include 202 acres of invasives removed, 88 acres planted, 126 acres of wildfire prevention, 2 miles of migratory barriers removed, 40 acres monitored for endemic species, 6 miles of trail constructed, 5 miles of trail repaired, 1 acre of Monarch butterfly way station installed and maintained, cone collection and wildfire prevention for the northern most stand of Baker Cypress (IUCN vulnerable), and 5 miles of fence repaired to protect Salmonid spawning grounds from grazing.

*Project Location:* In the Rogue River Basin within Jackson and Josephine Counties, Oregon

<b>Rogue River Valley Youth Development and Vegetation Management (OR)</b> Northwest Youth Corps	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$47,195
	Matching Funds:	\$62,271
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$109,466</b>

*Project Description:* Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) will work with Medford District BLM and numerous affiliate partners on the Rogue River Valley Youth Development and Vegetation Management Project (“Rogue Valley Project”). Project activities will build upon NYC’s existing conservation programs, to expand opportunity and job skills training for youth, ages 18-24, including youths from minority and urban backgrounds. NFWF funding will provide support for crews to carry out a total of 1,824 hours of paid conservation projects through an eight-week program. Crews will work on a combination of private and public land within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Crews will restore over 40 acres of habitat around the communities of Wimer and Rogue River in southwestern Oregon. Program participants will also benefit from 240 contact hours of daily field education and mentorship, supplemented by talks by diverse resource management professionals. Youth will finish the program with a heightened respect of stewardship, new job skills, and a non-taxed educational award for further educational opportunities in the future.

*Project Location:* Rogue River and Wimer communities in southwestern Oregon

<b>Portland Stewardship Corps (OR)</b> Northwest Youth Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$100,000
	Matching Funds:	\$39,440
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$139,440</b>

*Project Description:* Portland Stewardship Corps is a collaboration between the Northwest Youth Corps and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide training, education, and a stipend for diverse youth coming from varied and underrepresented communities in the Portland Oregon region. For five weeks during the summer of 2015, youth will complete high priority conservation projects such as invasive plant removal, stream restoration, riparian fence construction, and monitoring, along with trail building and maintenance.

Teens will spend five to ten hours a week taking part in Northwest Youth Corps’ accredited field education program, where they will learn about natural resource conservation, leadership, teamwork, and other valuable jobs skills. A total of 40 youth and six leaders will take part in the Opportunity Corps, completing 70 acres of invasive weed removal, 5,000 feet of habitat fence construction or maintenance, five miles of trail building and maintenance, and five acres of litter removal from Natural areas. The work will be focused primarily at Ridgefield and Tualatin River national Wildlife Refuges.

*Project Location:* Ridgefield and Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuges, Oregon

<b>Cobble Beach Intertidal Area in Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area</b> Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$7,000
	Matching Funds:	\$8,500
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>

*Project Description:* The Bureau of Land Management Tidepool Cadet Leadership program employed four students to serve the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area in 2015. The Cadets attended a professional week-long Rocky Shores Workshop, a multi-agency training program in tide pool science. The Cadets also spent a week shadowing Bureau of Land Management Rangers as they performed the role of tide pool hosts. During the summer, the Cadets presented demonstrations of low-impact tide-pooling skills for site visitors at the entrance to tidepool areas. The Cadets enhanced the visitor experience and reduced damage to the vulnerable tidepool ecosystems. The Cadet Rangers’ informational hosting engaged the public in a direct, hands-on way that fostered a personal and emotional connection to the tidepools and surrounding environment.

*Project Location:* Newport, Oregon

<b>Growing Job Skills for Youth and Native Plants in NW Oregon</b> Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$74,875
	Matching Funds:	\$89,280
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$164,155</b>

*Project Description:* The Tillamook Bay Watershed Council will coordinate Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP) activities to engage approximately 90 young adults from the Oregon Youth Authority, Columbia River Youth Corps, and Tillamook Options Program School in the propagation of native plants to restore riparian, wetland, and upland landscape in northwest Oregon. NORP oversees the propagation of over 75,000 native plants annually for landscape-scale watershed restoration projects implemented by its partners on private, state, and public lands in Oregon. The service area of NORP covers approximately 6,800 square miles in eight counties (Tillamook, Clatsop, Lincoln, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill, Polk, Benton). Students will be involved in all aspects of native plant propagation and restoration and will learn valuable on-the-job skills for a career in landscape restoration. By participating in hands-on, community-based conservation work, students will also gain important life skills allowing them to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

*Project Location:* Private, state, and public lands in Tillamook, Clatsop, Lincoln, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill, Polk, and Benton Counties, located in Northwest Oregon.

<b>Umpqua Resource Pathway (OR)</b>	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$45,223
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Phoenix School of Roseburg	Matching Funds:	\$49,802
	Total Project Funds:	\$95,025

*Project Description:* The Phoenix School of Roseburg will expand upon their 20+ year partnership with the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, through partnerships with the BLM Roseburg District, USFS Umpqua National Forest, Umpqua Community College, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and Umpqua Watersheds, Inc., to train and employ 12 youth through a program entitled Umpqua Natural Resources Pathway during the summer of 2015. A multi-year, tiered pathway will allow youth in Douglas County to gain career-specific skills in the natural resources field while progressing through a gradually more rigorous course of training and education. Youth crews will work as a team to broaden their skills on several projects with local and regional professionals on the Umpqua National Forest lands. These activities will have dual benefits: 12 youth will gain life-changing experiences in natural resources technology as they assemble important ecological data and will also offer a pathway to higher educational opportunities in natural resources through a partnership with Umpqua Community College. The outcome of the program is to ensure a pathway towards natural resources careers for at-risk youth through a “Learn, Earn, and Serve” model of education, skillset development, and work opportunities.

*Project Location:* Umpqua Basin, Douglas County, Oregon.

<b>Tomorrow's Conservationists: Youth At Work in Central Oregon</b> Heart of Oregon Corps Inc	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$49,500
	Matching Funds:	\$56,143
	Total Project Funds:	\$105,643

*Project Description:* “Tomorrow’s Conservationists: Youth at Work in Central Oregon” is a 21CSC collaborative project of Heart of Oregon Corps (HOC) and the USFS. The innovative project hires two crews of high school youth (16 youth total) from rural areas and 50% from minority backgrounds, including native youth. Youth will complete projects which will restore, rehabilitate, and enhance aspen stands across four watersheds on the Ochoco National Forest. Corps members will also contribute to wildlife habitat improvements on the Crooked River National Grassland, one of twenty in the United States. The two crews funded through this grant add to the greater scope of the Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (COYCC) program, which aims to employ 200 youth total over two years and to achieve 65,800 hours of boots-on-the-ground environmental conservation work on over 2,000 acres of public lands.

*Project Location:* This project takes place in four watersheds on the Ochoco National Forest, and on the Crooked River National Grassland, both located in the central region of Oregon State.

<b>Blue Mountain Youth Ride for Bull Trout (OR)</b> North Fork John Day Watershed Council	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$31,083
	Matching Funds:	\$37,080
	Total Project Funds:	\$68,163

*Project Description:* The North Fork John Day Watershed Council will partner with the US Forest Service to connect 16 - 20 young adults, aged 14 to 24 from a low income county, with restoration action and learning with understanding of the requirements, impacts and pleasures of recreation. The young adults will perform maintenance on established bicycle trails enhancing safety, ride-ability, and signage.

Participants will create protective stream crossings in bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) supporting streams where those streams are intersected by bicycle trails. This program integrates employment, conservation and fun. The students will maintain trails, enhance bull trout habitat, and culminate the program with a guided ride on the trails and forests which they protect. Expected outcomes include 18 acres of invasive removal, 3 miles of bull trout habitat protection, and 28 miles of trail maintenance.

*Project Location:* Logan Valley, Prairie City Ranger District, Malheur National Forest in Grant County, Oregon

<b>Deschutes River Stewardship Program</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$6,200
Heart of Oregon Corps		

*Project Description:* The Heart of Oregon Corps will engage up to 10 youth corps members through education and conservation activities on a three day, two night trip down the Deschutes River in Central Oregon. This educational trip will engage youth through hands on learning and exploration of natural resources while completing meaningful restoration and recreation maintenance activities on the highly used river. It will expose youth and encourage a lifelong personal connection to our public lands and conservation. The project will take place in late summer/early fall when impacts from recreation have significantly impacted the riparian area and recreation sites.

*Project Location:* Deschutes River in Central Oregon.

<b>Growing Job Skills and native Plants in NW Oregon - II</b>	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$76,269
	Matching Funds:	\$76,269
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$152,538</b>
Tillamook Estuaries Partnership		

*Project Description:* Tillamook Estuaries Partnership will engage young adults from local communities in job skills training opportunities and mentorship opportunities with conservation professionals through a partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon State Parks, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed councils, land trusts, local schools, and communities. The youth will grow native plants for watershed restoration projects on public, state, and private lands. They will be involved in all aspects of native plant propagation and restoration and will learn valuable on-the-job skills for a career in landscape restoration. By participating in hands-on, community-based conservation work, students will also gain important life skills allowing them to make meaningful contributions to their communities and to the environment.

*Project Location:* Tillamook, Clatsop, Lincoln, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill, Polk, and Benton Counties in northwest Oregon.

<b>Native American Youth Corps (OR)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$51,600
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## Northwest Youth Corps

*Project Description:* In partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Corporation for National and Community Service, Northwest Youth Corps will engage Native American youth participants and crew leaders in paid conservation service work on public and tribal lands and waters. This program will provide hands-on training and experience to two crews of nine Native youth, ages 15-18, who will work together for five weeks. The program also will provide training and experience to five additional Native American young adults, ages 18-24, and one Native crew leader, who work together for eight weeks. Participants will complete 30-40 hours of recreation and reforestation projects each week. Project work will include thinning, slash piling, trail work and habitat restoration on or near tribal lands of the Grand Ronde, Siletz and/or Warm Springs peoples in Oregon.

*Project Location:* On or near tribal lands of the Grand Ronde, Siletz and/or Warm Springs peoples in Oregon.

<b>Natural Resource Youth Leaders in the Coos Watershed (OR)</b> Coos Watershed Association	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$41,931
	Matching Funds:	\$42,771
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$84,702</b>

*Project Description:* Coos Watershed Association will host two summer youth programs that focus on habitat restoration, endangered coho salmon life cycles, and natural resources on the Oregon coast in Coos Bay. These programs will provide local at-risk youth with conservation employment and education opportunities within their local watershed while fostering a sense of environmental stewardship and conservation. The Bridge Program students will focus on salmon life cycle monitoring, watershed restoration, forestry practices, sustainable resources, and plant identification. Outcomes include improved watershed health, 15 trained youth in natural resource and restoration-focused work, and high school students with a jump start to college through a natural resource internship.

*Project Location:* Coos County, Oregon.

<b>Prairie City: Conservation Youth Crew (OR)</b> North Fork John Day Watershed Council	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$42,023
	Matching Funds:	\$58,467
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$100,490</b>

*Project Description:* North Fork John Day Watershed Council will employ six youth who will learn from natural resource professionals in order to implement field construction projects and scientific surveys designed to protect and conserve: declining aspen stands, riparian habitats, degraded recreation trails, and motor-vehicle impaired habitats on the Prairie City Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest. Project activities will include maintenance on 5 miles of recreation trails, fence construction to protection of 50 acres of declining aspen, wildlife survey data using state of the art electronic recording devices, and improvement of 6 miles of riparian habitat. This project will result in comprehensive habitat enhancement for anadromous fish species, neo-tropical songbirds, and large game animals.

*Project Location:* Squaw Creek and Logan Valley of the Malheur National Forest in Oregon.

## Pennsylvania

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**Flight 93 National Memorial Youth Initiative Mined-Land Reforestation Project (PA)**

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$25,000

Green Forests Work, Inc.

*Project Description:* Three partners (Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, Green Forests Work, and the Appalachian Coal Country U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement/VISTA and U.S. Department of Interior/VISTA Teams) will establish a youth leadership team to assist with a three-day tree-planting event involving volunteers of all ages on reclaimed mine lands at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania. This proposal will create a leadership team of 20-30 youth (18 to 24 years old) for special tree planting activities at the 2015 planting in April. About 250 acres of mined land is to be reforested at this location and there exists long-term potential for quality youth participation at the Flight 93 National Memorial. Anticipated outcomes include provision of meaningful, hands-on, educational field experiences for up to 150 young people (the 20-30 youth leadership team members and approximately 120 additional youth under age 24 who traditionally comprise 20 percent of the annual tree planting volunteer corps) by involving them in planting 22,000 trees and related reforestation activities.

*Project Location:* Flight 93 National Memorial is public land managed by National Park Service, located in Somerset County, Pennsylvania

**John Heinz National Refuge (PA)**

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$100,000

Student Conservation Association

Matching Funds: \$241,000

Total Project Funds: \$341,000

*Project Description:* Student Conservation Association (SCA) youth crews and interns will enhance the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge’s environmental education program and community greening projects. Educating and engaging youth will nurture an appreciation of nature and develop an environmental ethic through playing, learning, serving, and working outside. More specifically, 108 SCA crews and interns (primarily high school students) will be engaged; 44 in year-round service and 64 during the summer. Through Refuge special events, more than 700 volunteers will be engaged throughout the year at the Refuge and in the surrounding community by working with community groups like Tree Philly and City Lights and by engaging hundreds of youth through the environmental education outreach program.

*Project Location:* John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Pennsylvania

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## South Dakota

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<b>Engaging Tribal Youth in Wildlife Habitat Restoration on Fort Pierre National Grasslands (SD)</b> Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$21,211
	Matching Funds:	\$23,011
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$44,222</b>

*Project Description:* The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe will work with the USFS to enhance landscape conditions for wildlife on Fort Pierre National Grasslands, South Dakota. Nine tribal youth between the ages of 15-25 will work on projects that benefit wildlife conservation and environmental stewardship. Projects will include fence modification to improve passage for pronghorn antelope, manual and mechanical control of invasive weeds, planting native shrubs and re-seeding of native grasses in select areas. Vegetation will be planted in areas disturbed by water development projects to restore conditions for grassland birds and other wildlife species. Throughout this project, tribal youth will interact with Tribal and USFS biologists who will lead discussions on career opportunities and awareness of the natural world.

*Project Location:* Fort Pierre National Grasslands, which is a sub-unit of the Nebraska National Forest, located in central South Dakota.

## Tennessee

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<b>Chimney Tops Trail Maintenance and Restoration (TN)</b> American Conservation Experience	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$45,640
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*Project Description:* This project was a cooperative endeavor between National Park Service and American Conservation Experience for the trail maintenance/rehabilitation of the Chimney Tops Trail located in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The project employed a crew of 10 youth for a period of 7 weeks to complete extensive trail reconstruction using traditional skills and natural materials on 0.75 miles of this trail. This effort engaged a new generation of American youth in the value of hard physical work while benefiting a greater good for their country. They will be a part of an outstanding legacy project in the Park that will be enjoyed for years to come.

*Project Location:* Great Smokey Mountains National Park, Tennessee

<b>Rehabilitation of the Alum Cave Trail (TN)</b> American Conservation Experience	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$120,000
	Matching Funds:	\$270,218
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$390,218</b>

*Project Description:* The Trails Forever trail crew in partnership with the Friends of the Smokies and two crews from the American Conservation Experience (ACE) will begin a two-year rehabilitation of the very popular Alum Cave Trail to Mt. Le Conte. The plan is to address various sections of the trail that need restoration work after the nearly 80 years since its initial construction and the many years of public access the trail has provided to the summit of Mount Le Conte. It will be a great experience for the ACE youth corps crews to mirror the efforts of the original “youth” work force of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) utilizing many of the same techniques and tools that were used to originally construct the trail. The

youth will be working each day with very experienced National Park Service trail workers. The work will consist of re-establishing trail tread, constructing rock steps and retaining walls with native stone, and using black locust logs to construct steps and drainage features where no stone is available.

The project will include over 20 youth ACE Corps members. The goals of this project are to teach youth skills involving trail maintenance, use of chainsaws and primitive tools to construct log structures, staircases, and masonry skills. ACE Corps members will be instrumental in assisting Great Smoky Mountains National Park Staff in rehabilitating the Alum Cave Trail.

*Project Location:* Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee

## Texas

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<b>Texas Conservation Corps at San Antonio Missions (TX)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$26,140
American YouthWorks		

*Project Description:* Sixteen youth and young adults will be enrolled in the Texas Conservation Corps (TxCC) program at American Youthworks. In partnership with National Park Service, TxCC participants will receive training to introduce them to basic conservation and natural resource topics as well as additional skill trainings such as trail maintenance to assist them with restoring diverse parts of San Antonio Missions National Historic Park. Work will include restoring two acres of the grounds of the new Spanish Colonial-Era Demonstration Farm as well as approximately one mile of trail restoration at the Mission’s ranch property, Rancho de las Cabras.

*Project Location:* Training will occur at Texas Conservation Corps, Austin, Texas. On-the-job training and work will be at the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park in San Antonio, Texas.

<b>Connecting Youth to Coastal Habitat Restoration in Texas</b>	NFWF-Non-Federal Funds:	\$249,293
	Matching Funds:	\$249,425
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$498,717</b>
<i>Texas A&amp;M University - Corpus Christi</i>		

*Project Description:* Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi will train and employ 10 -12 urban and underserved youth in oyster reef planning, restoration, data collection and analysis, and monitoring efforts. The project will provide valuable skills and conservation experience while protecting eroding marsh and critical bird habitat at Goose Island State Park. The project will restore 2,400 linear feet and 4.5 acres of oyster reef in St. Charles Bay, Aransas County, Texas. The restoration will result in improved habitat, wave attenuation, and shoreline stabilization that will provide resiliency against future storms.

*Project Location:* St. Charles Bay, Aransas County

<b>Galveston Bay Watershed Conservation (TX)</b>	NFWF-Non-Federal Funds:	\$250,000
	Matching Funds:	\$253,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$503,000</b>
<i>Galveston Bay Foundation</i>		

*Project Description:* Galveston Bay Foundation will help establish the Coast Conservation Corps and provide jobs and skilled services to an initial 20 youth. The projects will promote conservation and restoration within the Galveston Bay watershed and along the Texas Coast. The initial crews will focus on habitat monitoring and collecting basic data related to flora and fauna throughout the watershed. The new Corps will then be available to work on larger projects such as public land improvements, disaster response, green infrastructure, coastal and wetland restoration, oyster reef restoration, and living shoreline installation to support erosion control.

<b>Texas Invasive Species Strike Team and Youth Development Program (TX)</b> <i>American Conservation Experience</i>	NFWF-Non-Federal Funds:	\$183,000
	Matching Funds:	\$222,060
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$405,060</b>

*Project Description:* American Conservation Experience will connect 18 local youth to the outdoors through accomplishing landscape-scale coastal restoration projects while working alongside resource management professionals to remove invasive species and restore coastal landscapes on National Wildlife Refuges and local soil and water conservation districts located in the eastern Gulf region of Texas. Youth crew members will participate on a 6 month career development track composed of training, experiential learning and mentoring opportunities for the purpose of advancing into careers related to conservation and environmental stewardship.

*Project Location:* Texas Gulf Coast

<b>Houston Urban: Providing and Developing Careers in Conservation (TX)</b> Houston Wilderness	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$120,000
	Matching Funds:	\$457,800
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$577,800</b>

*Project Description:* Houston Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (UWRP) is a direct result of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership Program and has completed and continues to implement projects to develop stewardship of local natural resources to help people find, connect and care for nature, directly furthering the goals of this program. These projects collectively build upon one another leveraging funds and resources, and expand the reach of fostered engagement with Houston’s regional communities for the continuance of wildlife conservation efforts. These efforts will supplement and enhance the Houston UWRPs’ network of partner organizations in furthering their individual missions and develop a connection with youth populations through exposure and experiences of conservation career opportunities in an urban environment.

*Project Location:* Greater Houston Region of Texas

<b>TX Conservation Corps in Big Bend National Park (TX)</b> American YouthWorks	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$39,000
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*Project Description:* This project will correct trail deficiencies identified through comprehensive condition assessments in Big Bend National Park. Texas Conservation Corps crews will address projects priorities which include reconstruction and repair of retaining walls, trail maintenance, rehabilitation of switchbacks, and rehabilitation of social trails. Up to 40 youth will participate in these projects.

*Project Location:* Big Bend National Park

## Utah

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### **Beaver River (UT)**

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$7,500

American Conservation Experience

*Project Description:* American Conservation Experience (ACE) and the Cedar City Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) partnered to continue ongoing restoration efforts on the Beaver River near the town of Beaver, Utah. The project allowed six youth conservation corps crew members to learn about riparian ecology and work on public lands by removing invasive Russian Olive and Salt Cedar plants. The project employed six youth for two (40) hour weeks of work. The project removed invasive plants and restored 1.5 acres habitat within the Beaver River riparian corridor.

*Project Location:* Beaver River, Utah

### **Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite (UT)**

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$5,000

Utah Conservation Corps

*Project Description:* Utah Conservation Corps employed a four-person youth crew to work with the Moab, Utah, Bureau of Land Management Field Office to build a .26 mile trail around the popular Mill Canyon dinosaur track site. Activities included building dirt tread, boardwalk, fence, and some shade structures as well as improvements on the trailhead.

*Project Location:* Mill Canyon, Logan, Utah

### **Micro-irrigation in Navajo Nation (UT)**

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$20,000

Utah/Arizona Conservation Corps

*Project Description:* Utah/Arizona Conservation Corps will partner with Bureau of Reclamation to hire 14 youth to assist Reclamation staff in the construction and installation of four micro-irrigation structures. One micro-irrigation project was implemented in Bluff Valley, one was implemented in Mexican Water, and two were implemented in Navajo Mountain. Crew duties included general labor, carpentry, and construction. The structures are 40' long by 6' wide by 12' high, with no walls and a sloping tin roof equipped with a gutter that leads to a holding tank. These structures will improve irrigation on small-scale agriculture (gardens) on the Navajo Reservation.



*Project Location:* Logan, Utah

<b>White River Clean-Up (UT)</b> Utah State University/Utah Conservation Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds: \$10,000
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*Project Description:* Utah Conservation Corps (UCC) will partner with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Vernal Field Office to remove Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) on two and a half acres along the White River in northeastern Utah. This project will take place over three weeks in summer 2015 and will employ four UCC AmeriCorps members. The UCC is a 21CSC and an AmeriCorps program with a mission to develop the conservation leaders of tomorrow through service and education. The UCC is an organization that serves over 120 youth and young adults every year. UCC adult crews (ages 18-25) are comprised of four-person teams that, through extensive pre-service training, become highly-skilled collaborators with land management agencies to address critical conservation projects. UCC adult crew members shall be recruited from a nationwide pool of applicants in the spring of the year. UCC staff shall also recruit heavily from local veterans and Utah State University student populations.

*Project Location:* White River, Utah

<b>Beaver River Riparian Enhancement (UT)</b> American Conservation Experience	DOI 21CSC Funds: \$18,400
	Matching Funds: \$10,000
	<hr/> Total Project Funds: \$28,400

*Project Description:* American Conservation Experience (ACE) will work with the Cedar City Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to augment work crews with three to eight Native American youth either as enrolled corps members or as volunteers that work alongside full-time corps crews on the Beaver River Riparian Enhancement project. Individual situations, degree of interest and personal availability will decide to which degree each volunteer will participate. Either scenario will provide the Native American youth with valuable work experience, as well as benefit the Beaver River.

*Project Location:* Beaver River, Utah

<b>Henry Mountain Fence Removal (UT)</b> BLM Henry Mountains Field Station	NFWF-BLM Funds: \$17,400
	Matching Funds: \$17,400
	<hr/> Total Project Funds: \$34,800

*Project Description:* BLM's Henry Mountains Field Station in Utah will coordinate with the Utah Conservation Corps, a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Corps organization, to provide outdoor employment and hands-on learning experiences for youth that will result in significant improvements to public land wildlife habitat. The distinguished Henry Mountains are home to world-class mule deer and bison. A three member youth crew will work with BLM staff over a period of eight weeks to improve wildlife habitat by removing approximately 8-14 miles of fence, including wire, posts, and poles, from the mountain. Other activities may include improving infrastructure and signage at recreation sites.

*Project Location:* The Henry Mountains, located between Capitol Reef National Park on the west and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area on the south and east, and south of the town of Hanksville, Utah.

<b>Youth Virgin River Invasive Species Management Project (UT)</b> American Conservation Experience	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$45,840
	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$16,268
	Matching Funds:	\$120,644
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$182,752</b>

*Project Description:* The American Conservation Experience (ACE), in partnership with the BLM St. George Field Office, will employ three youth interns and two Americorps crews of 10 youth, and engage 145 volunteers, to eradicate, control, and remove invasive Russian olive, tamarisk and giant reed. Other project partners include Reclamation, Washington County Water Conservancy, National Park Service, and National Resources Conservation Service. At least 145 volunteers will be engaged in hands-on restoration activities through six outreach events that will bring together local urban and tribal youth, scout groups, and university students. Restoration of Virgin River riparian zones is critical to the survival of the endangered woundfish, Virgin River chub, and Southwestern Willow flycatcher and improved stream and floodplain function.

*Project Location:* City of St. George and riparian zone of Virgin River north of the Arizona border to Zion National Park, Southern Utah.

<b>Escalante Watershed Restoration: Youth Corps Helping with Woody Invasive Control (UT)</b> Grand Staircase Escalante Partners	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$75,000
	Matching Funds:	\$100,800
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$175,800</b>

*Project Description:* Grand Staircase Escalante Partners will partner with the Bureau of Land Management to engage thirteen Native American and urban youth in restoration work that will provide a unique outdoor experience and conservation job training. Thirty acres of the Escalante River corridor will be restored by removing invasive Russian olive trees, directly benefitting native plant and animal species habitat. This project is part of a watershed wide restoration effort to increase the number of sustainable, healthy riparian and floodplain communities in the watershed while reducing those dominated by woody invasive species. As part of the restoration effort, conservation job opportunities for youth are being created on public and private lands, which expose young people to the natural world and to career opportunities in the conservation field.

*Project Location:* Escalante Watershed in Garfield County, Southern Utah

<b>21st Century Conservation Service Corps Called to Action Along the Colorado River (UT)</b> River Restoration Adventures for Tomorrow	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$43,253
	Matching Funds:	\$26,716
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$69,969</b>

*Project Description:* River Restoration Adventures for Tomorrow will partner with the Bureau of Reclamation, federal land managers, conservation corps, and non-profits to improve the health and resiliency of the riparian corridor along the Colorado River in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA). This project will employ teams of Native American youth from the Southwest Conservation Corps to work alongside National Park Service Staff to conduct a GPS and monitoring survey of 112 miles of Colorado River riparian habitat within GLCA. Data collected in this monitoring project will lead to the creation of a GLCA Invasive Plant Management and Native Plant Restoration Plan. This document will establish priority areas along the Colorado River and initiate a focused restoration effort to preserve critical habitat in the riparian ecosystem.

*Project Location:* Colorado River corridor from the Canyonlands National Park boundary to Hite, Utah

<b>Color Country Conservation Youth Initiative (UT)</b> Southern Utah University	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$31,185
	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$47,823
	Matching Funds:	\$112,485
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$191,493</b>

*Project Description:* Southern Utah University will engage 36 youth in wildlife and conservation career experiences on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management administered public lands in southwestern Utah. Youth crews will carry out wildlife and conservation projects on Dixie National Forest land and lands administered by the Cedar City and Grand Staircase Escalante Bureau of Land Management Field Offices. Projects include removal of invasive weeds, construction of a non-motorized trail system, fuel break work, Utah prairie dog conservation, and riparian enclosure fence construction and maintenance. Youth will work directly with fish biologists, wildlife biologists, hydrologists, recreation specialists, range specialists, and botanists to protect and restore habitat on nationally protected lands.

*Project Location:* Area between the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin in Utah.

<b>Escalante Watershed Restoration: Empowering Youth Through Conservation Work (UT)</b> Grand Staircase Escalante Partners	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$74,976
	Matching Funds:	\$90,916
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$165,892</b>

*Project Description:* Grand Staircase Escalante Partners will engage 13 Native American and underserved youth in restoration work while providing a unique outdoor experience and conservation job training. This project will restore 117 acres of riparian corridor along the Escalante River by removing invasive Russian olive trees, directly benefiting native plant and animal habitat. Removing Russian olive increases the native plant populations, creating wildlife habitat for migrating birds and other mammals. This project is part of a watershed wide restoration effort to increase the number of sustainable, healthy riparian and floodplain communities in the watershed.

*Project Location:* Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in Garfield County, Utah.

<b>Jordanelle State Park - Rock Cliff Rehabilitation (UT)</b> Utah Conservation Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$6,000
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*Project Description:* Utah Conservation Corps will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to engage four youth crew members in conservation activities at Jordanelle State Park in Utah. Youth will focus on campsite improvements at Jordanelle State Park in Utah. Work will include invasive vegetation removal; repair and reconstruction of boardwalks and railings; and cleaning up campsite concrete pads and tables for visitors.

*Project Location:* Jordanelle State Park, Utah.

<b>Thunderbird Canyons Trail System (UT)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$67,200
American Conservation Experience		

*Project Description:* The Cedar City Bureau of Land Management Field Office has partnered with the American Conservation Experience for several years to provide meaningful conservation experiences for youth conservation corps members on a variety of projects. The 2016 project will focus on and allow crews of youth conservation corps volunteers to get involved with on-the-ground resource management and provide learning opportunities for these emerging land managers by improving the Thunderbird Canyons Trail System. Youth will learn job skills, communication skills, and technical training in the safe and efficient use and maintenance of trail building tools.

*Project Location:* Cedar City BLM District, Utah.

<b>Virgin River Riparian Improvement Project (UT)</b>	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$57,650
American Conservation Experience	Matching Funds:	\$73,871
	Total Project Funds:	\$131,521

*Project Description:* American Conservation Experience will engage three youth conservation corps crews (44 youth) and local volunteers in restoration work to survey, identify, and treat populations of three target exotic and invasive weed species in the Virgin River. Eradication of giant reed, and control and removal tamarisk, and Russian olive will occur in the targeted areas identified by project partners. This project will provide meaningful training and experiential learning opportunities for youth conservation corps.

*Project Location:* Virgin River near St. George, Utah.

<b>Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps (UT)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$39,000
Conservation Legacy		

*Project Description:* Twelve Native American youth will participate in conservation projects in Petroglyph National Monument and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Crews will repair posts and cable barriers, install sand ladders, restore habitat, remove invasives, and install trail signage.

*Project Location:* Petroglyph National Monument and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

## Vermont

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<b>Green Mountain National Forest Youth Conservationists (VT)</b>	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$50,000
Vermont Youth Conservation Corps	Matching Funds:	\$67,379
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$117,379</b>

*Project Description:* The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, in partnership with the Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and White River Partnership, will provide four paid internships for young people ages 18 to 22 and paid jobs for two crews of eight youth ages 16 to 22 to complete natural resources projects on the Green Mountain National Forest. Intern and Youth Crew positions will both complete 280 hours of hands-on project work for a total of 5,600 hours of youth engagement with natural resources projects. These youth will work together using the time-tested model of completing high-priority conservation projects along with structured and unstructured educational opportunities under excellent adult leadership.

*Project Location:* Projects will take place in Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties in Vermont. All located on federal Green Mountain National Forest lands.

## Virgin Islands (U.S.)

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<b>Youth Conservation Corps in Virgin Islands National Park</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$115,000
Student Conservation Association		

*Project Description:* After several years of not having youth corps programs in the park, a new partnership is being formed between the National Park Service and the Student Conservation Association to reintroduce the program model and commit to funding it for five years. Funding provided through NFWF's Next Generation of Conservationists program will be matched by \$200,000 from NPS. NFWF's funding will go toward funding 2 crew leaders for 5 years of seasonal work while NPS funding will go toward stipends for corps members, supplies and housing costs.

*Project Location:* Virgin Islands National Park

## Virginia

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<b>Conservation Interns at Richmond National Battlefield Park (VA)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$28,470
The Student Conservation Association, Inc.	Total Project Funds:	\$28,470

*Project Description:* The five conservation interns recruited for this project will work on a variety of resource management related projects on new park lands that will give them a full experience working in a National Park. These projects include invasive vegetation mapping and control using herbicide and mechanical means in forested and riparian habitats. The interns will assist volunteers in the building of one mile of new trail in addition to the monitoring, maintenance and repair of at least five miles of existing park trail. They will also work in meadow and burn adapted forest communities to thin woody and weedy growth. They will help to coordinate volunteer groups working on these and other projects such as clean-up of dump sites and old home sites on newly acquired park land. In addition, the interns will work on a variety of biological monitoring projects such as meadow bird monitoring, annual deer monitoring and mammal monitoring using camera traps.

*Project Location:* The park is comprised of the Civil War battlefield sites in the James River watershed just outside of Richmond, Virginia.

## Washington

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<b>San Juan Islands National Monument Environmental Education and Outreach</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$13,900
Lopez Island Conservation Corps	Total Project Funds:	\$13,900

*Project Description:* The Lopez Island Conservation Corps, San Juan Islands Conservation Corps, and Orcas Island Youth Conservation Corps will partner with the Bureau of Land Management to design and implement environmental education and outreach for 12 hired youth and the visiting public. Drawing from community knowledge and specialists, the youth conservation corps expect to teach and share the diverse ecology of San Juan Islands National Monument to provide local youth with a greater understanding of the natural world and possibilities for natural resources management as a career path. The crews will conduct outreach at high use locations to share the stewardship message and strengthen community involvement.

*Project Location:* San Juan Islands National Monument, Washington



**STEM With Boots On: Conservation Tech in the San Juans**  
 Kwiaht: Center for Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea

NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$55,000
Matching Funds:	\$101,820
<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$156,820</b>

*Project Description:* The Kwiaht Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea will expand its participation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps by hiring six part-time conservation technicians to work for 10 weeks during the summer in the San Juan Islands National Monument. Program expansion will target tribal youth and regional veterans to work in close coordination with local BLM staff and alongside the Lopez Island Conservation Corps, San Juan Island Youth Conservation Corps and Orcas Island Youth Conservation Corps, and a team of community volunteers. Specialized skills training in GPS and GIS based mapping, mathematical modeling, restoration field work, plant identification, ornithology, marine fish identification, shoreline process modeling, and juvenile salmon research will be provided to the team and help prepare them for careers in conservation.

*Project Location:* San Juan Islands National Monument, Washington State.

**San Juan Islands National Monument and San Juan Island National Historical Park Youth Initiative (WA)**  
 Madrona Institute

NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$5,000
NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$39,750
Matching Funds:	\$44,750
<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$89,500</b>

*Project Description:* Madrona Institute will partner with the Bureau of Land Management, Friends of the San Juans, San Juan County Parks, San Juan Island National Historical Park and the San Juan Island, Orcas and Lopez Youth Conservation Corps, and tribal groups to conduct pre and post-monitoring of fish populations and nearshore habitat restoration activities. Primary activities will include using GPS/GIS to model traditional Salish Peoples place and resource names, foraging fish spawning sites, clam gardens, and salmon population monitoring. New signage for Department of Interior lands will be developed. This project will restore cultural identity of the Salish people and improve habitat for salmon, forage fish, Eelgrass, camas beds, orca whales, Island Marble Butterfly and other keystone species of the Salish Sea ecosystems. This project is expected to provide 18 youth hires with \$29,100 in direct compensation, engage 60 volunteers, and restore 200 acres of habitat.

*Project Location:* The San Juan Islands in San Juan County, Washington

**American Sign Language Program (WA)**  
 Northwest Youth Corps

DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$100,000
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*Project Description:* Northwest Youth Corps will work with the National Park Service to support a residential conservation corps crew, which combines youth who are deaf and hard of hearing with youth who were fluent or near fluent in American Sign Language (ASL). This program combines workplace education, resource management skill development, and a connection to the outdoors.

*Project Location:* Mount Rainier National Park and Olympic National Park.

<b>Training the Next Generation of Plant Conservationists in Washington</b> University of Washington, Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$40,234
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$20,000
	Matching Funds:	\$60,305
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$120,539</b>

*Project Description:* University of Washington’s Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation department will hire two undergraduates or recent graduates with a background in natural resources to work on rare plant conservation and management. Interns will gain valuable experience on rare plant monitoring, weed identification and management, seed collecting and testing protocols, and propagation of rare plants for reintroductions. The young adults will work side by side with botanists at Rare Care and the Bureau of Land Management and will receive hands-on training on all aspects of the work. These efforts will contribute to on-going monitoring and restoration efforts for rare native plants in Washington as well as habitat restoration and management of populations impacted by wildfires.

*Project Location:* Chelan County, Washington

<b>North Cascades Stewardship &amp; Maintenance</b> EarthCorps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$44,864
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*Project Description:* Stewardship and maintenance work proposed for North Cascades National Park will span four key resource areas prioritized by the National Park staff involving approximately 24 youth. The four areas are as follows: greenhouse nursery support, historic district maintenance, trail work, and Hozomeen Campground repairs.

*Project Location:* North Cascades National Park

## Wisconsin

<b>BLM Island Restoration Initiative (WI)</b> Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$20,000
	Matching Funds:	\$33,234
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$53,234</b>

*Project Description:* Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps will partner with the Bureau of Land Management to recruit urban, minority youth from deeply distressed neighborhoods in the cities of Milwaukee and Racine to serve in 20 Corps member positions designated as next-generation conservationists. Corps members will implement the actions on lands noted in the Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan, Ozaukee County Park and Open Space Plan, and the Environmental Assessment of Invasive Species Control Activities on BLM-Administered Land in Wisconsin. Next-generation conservationists will improve day use of 10 acres of BLM islands by removing invasive species, cutting brush, and installing enhancements for island access.

*Project Location:* 10 Bureau of Land Management islands in the Milwaukee River and nearby inland lakes in southeastern Wisconsin

## Wyoming

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### **Whoopup Canyon ACEC (WY)**

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$11,500

University of Wyoming

*Project Description:* An eight person team will assist Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with maintenance and conservation work along the routes used for public educational guided tours that interpret the Whoopup Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern petroglyphs and their cultural context. All visitation to the petroglyphs is through supervised guided tours, which are in high demand. The petroglyphs belong to the Early Hunting rock art tradition, and the oldest panels are over 12,000 years old. The petroglyphs depict methods of hunting and associated ceremonies. BLM favors youth groups to help maintain and preserve the petroglyphs because it gives the agency an opportunity to educate youth about the need for preservation of such fragile resources.

*Project Location:* Whoopup Canyon ACEC, Wyoming; BLM Newcastle Wyoming field office

### **Warren Bridge and Scab Creek Trails**

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$6,000

Utah Conservation Corps

Matching Funds: \$1,500

Total Project Funds: \$7,500

*Project Description:* Utah Conservation Corps (UCC) will employ four AmeriCorps crew members, of which one will be a Veteran, for maintenance of the Warren Bridge and Scab Creek Trails. UCC is currently working with the Pinedale Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the volunteer engagement goals. Upon completion of the project, the BLM and UCC look forward to enhanced public safety, a renewed visitor experience and a reduction of resource damage due to runoff and use.

*Location:* Warren Bridge and Scab Creek Trails near the Pinedale Field Office in Wyoming

### **Dump Clean-Up and Campsite Enhancements**

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$6,000

Utah Conservation Corps

Matching Funds: \$1,500

Total Project Funds: \$7,500

*Project Description:* Utah Conservation Corps (UCC) will employ four AmeriCorps crew members, of which one will be a Veteran, for dump clean up and campground enhancements. UCC is currently working with Pinedale Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on volunteer engagement goals. Upon completion of this project, the BLM and UCC look forward to improved recreational and aesthetic values for this site.

*Location:* Campground sites near the Pinedale BLM Field Office in Wyoming

<b>Mormon Row Historic Preservation and Trail Construction</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$41,000
Groundwork USA		

*Project Description:* Groundwork USA will work with Grand Teton National Park to complete trails and historic preservation projects at Mormon Row. The area is a high priority in the park to increase accessibility and stabilize the historic homesteading structures. The project will involve up to 25 Groundwork USA youth corps members (18 Green Team youth, 4-5 youth leaders) over the course of two weeks between mid-July and mid-August. The National Park Service education outreach team will also plan enrichment activities during non-work time to introduce the youth to other aspects of the park and park service during their stay in Grand Teton. Western Cultural Resource Center staff participate in project planning and management. The project site is a high-visibility location with heavy visitor foot traffic passing by.

*Project Location:* Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

## Multi-State Projects

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<b>C&amp;O Canal Towpath Cleanup (WV, MD, VA)</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$31,633
Citizens Conservation Corps of West Virginia	Matching Funds:	\$7,908
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$39,541</b>

*Project Description:* The Citizens Conservation Corps (CCC) of West Virginia partnered with the National Park Service to maintain improve approximately 80 miles of the 184.5 mile Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath. The crew (three youth including one veteran) worked from Georgetown, Maryland through and beyond Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Activities ranged from clearing downed trees, logs, branches, overhang and dead vegetation, and rocks from the towpath to filling potholes, picking up litter, installing pump handles on wells, and even assisting with gathering water samples. The CCC crew used chainsaws, pole saws, weed eaters, mowers, and other hand tools to complete the various tasks and work assignments. The work took place on the towpath, along stone walls, in and around multiple locks, campgrounds, picnic areas, and occasionally in the water of the canal itself. The project allowed the CCC youth corps members to engage in a meaningful work experience.

*Project Location:* Multiple locations along the C&O Canal Towpath which runs through West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia

<b>Celebrate Shorebirds (Celebra las Playeras): Engaging Latino Youth in Natural Resource Careers (AK, CA, CO, OR, WA)</b>	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$80,000
Environment for the Americas	Matching Funds:	\$110,627
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$190,627</b>

*Project Description:* Environment for the Americas (EFTA) will collaborate with U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management on Celebrate Shorebirds (Celebra las Playeras), a successful approach to engaging Latinos in natural resource careers and conservation action through internships at eight sites. The project provides paid internships to 9 Latina/o youth; incorporates a pre-internship training that prepares interns for shorebird research and education and outreach activities; engages interns as role

models in Latino communities near their host sites to share information about birds and their conservation; collects much-needed information about shorebird populations; and introduces interns to diverse natural resource career opportunities within federal agencies. Celebrate Shorebirds provides continuous mentorship of interns, including weekly conference calls, assistance with resume preparation, mock-job interviews, and regular information about post-internship job opportunities.

*Project Location:* Los Angeles and Monterey Counties, California; Lincoln County, Oregon; Chelan County, Washington; Valdez-Cordova, Alaska; and Boulder and Alamosa Counties, Colorado

<b>Rearing the Next Fisheries Cohort (AK, CA, MT, OR, UT, WY)</b> Bureau of Land Management	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$100,000
	Matching Funds:	\$125,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>

*Project Description:* Thirteen Bureau of Land Management field offices will participate in BLM's National Fisheries Program by offering an 8-week, paid internship for 25 minority and women high school juniors and seniors during summer 2015. Working with American Fisheries Society's (AFS) Hutton Junior Fishery Biologist intern program (Hutton), the students are provided with an opportunity to explore potential career options in the fisheries field in the following field offices: Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska; El Dorado Hills and Redding, California; Logan and Salt Lake City, Utah; Dillon and Miles City, Montana; Burns, Coos Bay, Eugene and Roseburg, Oregon; and Rawlins, Wyoming. Each student will receive a \$3,000 stipend. The individual BLM field offices interested in hosting a Hutton intern will be responsible for recruiting student(s) through their local high schools and providing the office space/necessary field equipment to assist with all pertinent field activities. For each student, there is critical on-the-ground aquatic and riparian conservation and restoration work, and supporting inventory and monitoring tasks and experiences, depending on the assigned field office.

*Project Location:* Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska; El Dorado Hills and Redding, California; Logan and Salt Lake City, Utah; Dillon and Miles City, Montana; Burns, Coos Bay, Eugene and Roseburg, Oregon; and Rawlins, Wyoming

<b>Vegetation and Sage-Grouse Habitat Monitoring in the Walker Basin (CA, NV)</b> Great Basin Institute	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$50,000
	Matching Funds:	\$46,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$96,000</b>

*Project Description:* Great Basin Institute (GBI) will partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to educate and inform 4 youth about important conservation work that is occurring within Bi-State greater sage-grouse habitat in the Walker basin and watershed. Skills attained by field personnel will support development of natural resource professionals. Collecting data using the Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) protocol will educate field technicians in contemporary vegetation/habitat sampling techniques developed for nation-wide use at multiple landscape scales. Technicians will see how vegetation and habitat data they collected using these methods can help guide proper treatment design, provide a baseline data set against which treatment effects may be measured, and enrich currently existing datasets.

*Project Location:* Within the Pine Nut Population Management Unit (PMU), Desert Creek/Fales PMU, and Bodie/Mt. Grant PMU in the Walker Basin watershed in California and Nevada

<b>Restoration and Protection of Bureau of Reclamation Lands in the Dakotas: Buford-Trenton Project and Dickinson and Shadehill Reservoirs (ND, SD)</b> Conservation Corps	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$28,020
	Matching Funds:	\$7,074
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$35,094</b>

*Project Description:* Conservation Corps will partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to engage youth in conservation work at three vital project sites in North and South Dakota. At Buford-Trenton, youth will remove trees and brush along and within canals and open drains, which will reduce erosion and the risk of losing water resources that are important to the region’s agricultural industry. The root systems of woody vegetation threatens to erode Buton-Trenton facilities and removing vegetation will open up canals and drains to reduce water loss. At Dickinson Dam and Reservoir, youth will construct new fencing and signage, and will repair or remove old fencing. The Shadehill Unit is important for flood control, fish and wildlife conservation, recreation and silt detention. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, under contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, administers all recreational facilities, including picnic sites, campgrounds, seasonal cabins and marina, and operates a fishery.

*Project Location:* North bank of the Missouri River and near the city of Dickinson in North Dakota; the Shadehill Reservoir in northwest South Dakota

<b>The Lake Cascade Habitat Management and Youth Development Project (ID)</b> Northwest Youth Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$15,000
	Matching Funds:	\$13,358
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$28,358</b>

*Project Description:* Northwest Youth Corps, in collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation and Idaho State Parks, performed over two weeks of hazardous fuels thinning and piling at Lake Cascade in western Idaho. A six person youth crew (five members and one leader) were hired to carry out the project. Specific project accomplishments included 6.5 acres of hazardous fuels thinned, 2 acres of slash piled, and 573 service hours. Youth corpsmembers participated in 60 hours of education. Northwest Youth Corps programs exposed youth to diverse careers within federal agencies and enhance better public understanding of agency mandates, organization, and mission. Youth increased their understanding of how agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation operate and how youth can continue being involved in community service with these agencies.

*Project Location:* Communities throughout the Northwest

<b>Montana and Wyoming Tribal Corps Partnership (MT,WY)</b> Montana Conservation Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$50,000
	Matching Fund:	\$40,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>

*Project Description:* Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) partnered with the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes of the Wind River Reservation to implement a new tribal corps program based in Ft. Washakie, Wyoming. The program employed 34 tribal youth in conservation projects on and around ancestral lands engaging 24 Shoshone and Arapaho youth and four tribal crew leaders on various natural resource and conservation projects in and around the reservation communities. All participants earned a wage and gained hands-on experience through different land management agencies for eight weeks of



their summer. The Montana Conservation Corps also led a 4-week youth corps experience with five enrolled Crow youth members and one enrolled Northern Cheyenne youth crew member. MCC leveraged additional resources through partnerships with federal and tribal agencies, supporting overall program activities and wages for crew members. Crews accomplished significant on-the-ground conservation work including 10 miles of trail maintenance, 50+ acres of habitat improvement, 11 miles of fencing improvements to protect wildlife, and the decommissioning of 7 miles of roads in the Pryor Mountain Wilderness Study Area, an area of cultural value to the Crow tribe.

*Project Location:* Montana and Wind River Reservation, Wyoming

<b>Monarch Conservation Science Partnership - Milkweed Density Estimation (MN, OK, TX)</b> Conservation Legacy	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$37,500
	Matching Funds:	\$55,726
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$93,226</b>

*Project Description:* Under the supervision of federal land supervisors, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and academic supervisors, three AmeriCorps Members will collect measurements of milkweed density on and around U.S. Department of Interior-managed lands in Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Texas for a period of six months to help inform national strategies for milkweed restoration. Each Corps Member will work with supervisors to hold one or more public workshop to introduce individuals to the proper identification of milkweed plants. As part of this workshop, participants will be introduced to Journey North’s Monarch and Milkweed sighting reporting system, which could generate a large number of citizen scientists logging monarch sightings. Interested volunteers from these workshops will be trained and encouraged to report additional estimates at specified locations (estimating up to 10 or more volunteers per site).

*Project Location:* Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Texas

<b>Celebrate Shorebirds: Celebra las Aves Playeras (AK, CA, CO, OR)</b> Environment for the Americas	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$74,803
	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$7,111
	Matching Funds:	\$127,845
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$209,759</b>

*Project Description:* The Environment for the Americas (EFTA) will expand paid internships to at least nine Latino youth and work with federal agency partners at the following BLM, USFS and FWS sites: California’s Coastal Monument, the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and Los Angeles; Alaska’s Copper River Delta Colorado’s Blanca Wetlands and Baca NWR and Boulder; and Yaquina Head, Oregon. The interns will receive conservation education and training in shorebird identification, mentoring from natural resource professionals, and exposure to research and education techniques. Intern responsibilities will include delivering shorebird conservation education programs to Latino communities; gathering information and monitoring wintering, migrating, and breeding shorebird populations; classifying land cover habitat characteristics; and quantifying invertebrate populations at Blanca Wetlands to determine habitat viability for shorebirds.

*Project Location:* Project activities will take place in four states (Alaska, California, Colorado, and Oregon) and at eight locations, including federal lands and state beaches and parks.

<b>BLM Phoenix District Youth Initiative Program (AZ, CA)</b> Bureau of Land Management - Arizona	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$50,903
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$24,097
	Matching Funds:	\$83,148
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$158,148</b>

*Project Description:* The BLM Arizona State Office will engage at least three youth in natural resource conservation and restoration through participation in its successful Conservation and Resource Management Field Certification Program (Field School), a 16-week training and education program for local, underserved youth. This award-winning youth conservation program connects urban youth with public lands in formal environmental career training and employs youth who complete actual target allocations that preserve America’s natural and cultural heritage. Program graduates may continue on to a seasonal internship with the BLM. The BLM Field School’s goal is to teach youth about careers in conservation, provide employment opportunities, and complete conservation workload targets of the BLM Phoenix District Office

*Project Location:* Projects are located on federal, state and city public land across Arizona and into California. These include lands owned or managed by BLM, USFS, FWS, Arizona Game and Fish Department, the City of Phoenix, and Maricopa County.

<b>Historic Railroad Trail &amp; Camp Davis Trail (AZ, NV)</b> Southwest Conservation Corps	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$49,600
	Matching Funds:	\$28,121
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$77,721</b>

*Project Description:* The Southwest Conservation Corps will partner with Reclamation and the National Park Service (NPS) to improve the Historic Railroad Trail at Hoover Dam using Outdoor Accessibility Standards to expand recreational opportunities at the Dam. The Historic Railroad Trail is a 2.5 mile improved surface trail that follows the historic railroad entrance to Hoover Dam. This railroad route was utilized to move material while contractors and Federal employees were constructing the Dam. The trail is open and utilized by bikers and walkers and it is a great route to see the natural landscape, cultural features, and Lake Mead. The improvements conducted through this project will allow for a better route for individuals with disabilities. Improvements include improving the grade, cross slope, and small protrusions and inconsistencies in the trail surface. In addition, signage, interpretive signs, and installation of dog-waste containers, companion seating for benches, and the installation of safety barriers along the trail drop offs. Reclamation is partnering with the NPS to build and access trail to the Historic Railroad Trail.

*Project Location:* Historic Trail is at Hoover Dam in Arizona and Nevada. Davis Camp is at Bullhead City, AZ and across the Colorado River to Laughlin, NV.

**Bird Banding Internships for Underserved Community Youth  
(CA, OR)**  
Klamath Bird Observatory

NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$40,804
FWS Funds:	\$20,000
Matching Funds:	\$73,007
<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$133,811</b>

*Project Description:* The Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) will build on a long-standing partnership with the BLM and FWS to expand its internship program and improve outreach to underserved communities, including Native American, Hispanic, and other underserved youth. The combination of KBO’s established long-term monitoring program and an intensive bird banding training curriculum foster the integration of youth engagement and professional training. Program expansion will create 4 six-month internship positions. The internships provide the opportunity for: (1) training and practical experience in bird monitoring techniques, with an emphasis on bird banding; (2) supports an academic approach to learning and a well-rounded curriculum in field biology; and (3) provide an opportunity to attain bird bander certification through the North American Banding Council.

*Project Location:* Klamath Bird Observatory headquarters are in Ashland, OR; long-term field residences are in the Upper Klamath Basin, OR. This project includes 10 monitoring sites in southern Oregon and northern California.

**Delores River Restoration: Building on Youth Corps  
Success (CO, UT)**  
Four Corners School of Outdoor Education

NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$37,748
NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$23,000
Matching Funds:	\$85,752
<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$146,500</b>

*Project Description:* The Four Corners School of Outdoor Education and its Canyon Country Youth Corps will field two youth conservation corps crews in support of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership and provide them with 20 weeks of on-the-ground work in remote wilderness areas, treating and removing invasive tamarisk and other non-native plants and re-vegetating riparian areas along the Dolores River by planting cottonwood and willow saplings and native grasses to prevent erosion of the river banks. Tamarisk, a woody invasive introduced as a bank stabilizer in the U.S. in the early 1900’s, has had a devastating effect on watersheds in the western U.S., including the Dolores River in Colorado and Utah. Invasive species have replaced floods as having the most negative impact on riparian systems. The work will restore 50 acres in the Dolores River Watershed on private and public land providing benefits to BLM and Reclamation lands.

*Project Location:* BLM offices in Tres Rios, Uncompahgre, Grand Junction and Moab and lands in Dolores, Montrose, and Mesa Counties, Colorado and Grand County, Utah.

**Career Youth Training: Conservation in the Ohio River Basin  
(IN, KY)**  
Ohio River Foundation

NFWF-FWS Funds:	\$20,000
Matching Funds:	\$20,000
<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>

*Project Description:* The Ohio River Foundation will employ three separate crews of six matriculating high school students led by a recent college graduate for 5 weeks each (21 youth at a total of 3,150 hours). The youth teams will install at least 70 projects in the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge and

Boone and Hoosier National Forests (NFs) that will protect native fauna and reduce erosion and runoff to protect and improve water quality. Activities will include invasive species removal; planting trees and shrubs along streams and lakeshores; and installing water bars and other diversions to direct water from dirt roads and paths to vegetated areas. Youth also benefit academically and professionally from spending time during the program learning from university professors and water quality expert, as well as conducting hands-on work. In addition to exposure to conservation career options, the students become better prepared to make responsible land use decisions in their communities.

*Project Location:* Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge (IN), Daniel Boone National Forest (KY), Hoosier National Forest (IN).

<b>Montana-Wyoming Reclamation Youth Corps</b> Montana Conservation Corps	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$35,000
	Matching Funds:	\$47,786
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$82,786</b>

*Project Description:* Since the early 1900’s, Reclamation has been a steward of the waters of the Upper Missouri Basin. In the 1940’s and 50’s, the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Project in Montana and Wyoming developed reclamation projects at Tiber, Canyon Ferry, and Keyhole Reservoirs. Today, these sites remain essential assets for agriculture, but also for outdoor recreation for the people of Montana and Wyoming, and they host diverse wildlife and fisheries. In partnership with Reclamation, Montana Conservation Corps will mobilize 35 youth into the Montana-Wyoming Reclamation Youth Corps as stewards of these resources.

*Project Location:* Canyon Ferry Reservoir in South Central Montana, Tiber Reservoir/Lake Elwell in North Central Montana and Keyhole Reservoir in North Eastern Wyoming.

<b>Texas Conservation Corps Sustainable Recreation (TX, OR)</b> American YouthWorks	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$10,000
	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$20,000
	Matching Funds:	\$16,576
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$46,576</b>

*Project Description:* Sixteen young adult corps members will be enrolled in the Texas Conservation Corps program at American YouthWorks (TxCC) and will receive training to introduce them to basic conservation and natural resource topics as well as additional skills trainings such as the federal S212 chainsaw certification and proficiency training in GPS and GIS technologies and software. The corps members will then travel to Reclamation’s Washita Basin Project and Fort Cobb Reservoir site. The corps members will flag and GPS the trail system, including the inventory of any important natural features and sustainable trail challenges. The corps members will return to the Texas Conservation Corps headquarters to create a GIS map, database, analysis and trail narrative for submittal to Reclamation staff for review. With approval from Reclamation, the crews will return to implement the sustainable design.

*Project Location:* Training will occur in conjunction with Reclamation's Oklahoma- Texas Office and the Texas Conservation Corps' HQ in Austin, Texas and on-the-job training and work project will be in Fort Cobb, Oklahoma.

<b>Generation Green-Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (CA, NV)</b> Great Basin Institute	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$36,370
	Matching Funds:	\$235,375
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$271,745</b>

*Project Description:* The Generation Green program is run by the USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) in partnership with the Great Basin Institute (GBI) in South Lake Tahoe, California. Generation Green is designed to engage local high school students in hands-on ecological conservation and leadership development with an integrated experience that combines year-round community service, academic achievement, environmental stewardship and career exploration outside of the classroom. Four crews consisting each of six high school students, one USFS Crew Leader and one Assistant Crew Leader spend eight summer weeks working in, and learning about, the complexities of managing natural resources and becoming future generation land stewards. These crews will help remove five acres of noxious weeds, survey 25 miles of trails, construct one new mile of trail for the Tahoe Rim Trail, and restore 10 campsites in Desolation Wilderness.

*Project Location:* This project will occur around Lake Tahoe on Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit lands in both California and Nevada.

<b>Celebrate Shorebirds Latino Internship Program (AL, CA, CO, KS, OR, WA)</b> Environment for the Americas	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$81,000
	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$10,839
	Matching Funds:	\$131,920
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$223,759</b>

*Project Description:* Environment for the Americas will offer training, mentorship, and career development for two Latino youth seeking positions in natural resources, providing interns with valuable field experiences in shorebird research. The interns will serve as cultural bridges between host sites with federal and non-governmental agencies and Latino communities, where they offer education programs about shorebirds and conservation. Interns will carry out migratory shorebird data collection and analysis, and Environment for the Americas will share the results with stakeholders in shorebird conservation efforts.

*Project Location:* Copper River Delta, Cordova, Alaska; Blanca Wetlands Recreation Area, Colorado; California Coastal National Monument, California; Yaquina Head Natural Outstanding Area, Oregon; Los Angeles, California; Wenatchee, Washington.

<b>Dolores River Restoration: Building on Youth Corps Success - II (CO, UT)</b> Four Corners School of Outdoor Education	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$73,500
	Matching Funds:	\$149,364
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$222,864</b>

*Project Description:* Four Corners School of Outdoor Education will partner with the Canyon Country Youth Corps (CCYC) and the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) to finish the last stages of initial treatment of woody invasive species along the Dolores River in Utah and Colorado. This project will provide 24 crew members and volunteers with engagement opportunities through a watershed level

restoration project that improves wildlife habitat and forage, reduces wildfire risk, improves access to the river, increases visibility along highways, and improves campsites along the river. This project will restore 70 acres of riparian habitat.

*Project Location:* Dolores River Watershed in Colorado and Utah.

<b>Environmental Stewards (CA, MT, NM, SD)</b> Conservation Legacy	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$53,560
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*Project Description:* Conservation Legacy will work with U.S. Geological Survey to engage four youth in multiple projects in California, New Mexico, Montana, and South Dakota. Work will include sampling salt ponds and surveying birds; vegetation monitoring and forage sampling, radio tracking of elk, mule deer, and black bears fitted with telemetry collars, mountain lion kill site investigations, and data collection for bear and elk habitat selection studies; aquatic invasive species surveys; and conducting capture-recapture studies of small mammals (including prairie dogs) to evaluate their annual survival rates of animals on non-managed study plots and on plots where mammals are treated with a plague vaccine or deltamethrin. \*Each project will be provided \$13,390 (one dedicated corps member for six months).

*Project Location:* Fremont, California; Valles Caldera National Preserve in Albuquerque, New Mexico; BLM lands along the Yellowstone River near Billings, Montana; Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks; and the Badlands National Park, South Dakota.

<b>Historic Structure Restoration at Gateway National Recreation Area (NJ, NY)</b> Groundwork USA	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$59,000
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*Project Description:* For the past few years, Groundwork Hudson Valley has worked with Gateway National Recreation Area on restoration projects benefitting the park. Drawing upon this experience, two additional restoration projects will be now be completed. The team will restore historic structures at the Sandy Hook and Jacob Riis Beach units of Gateway National Recreation area. Youth corps teams from Groundwork Hudson Valley (Yonkers and Newburgh, NY) and Groundwork Elizabeth (NJ) will reconstruct porches on historic military lodging at Fort Hancock at Sandy Hook and refinish interiors by installing sheetrock and wall structures at Bay 9 at Jacob Riis Beach. At least 22 youth from the cities of Yonkers, Elizabeth, and Newburgh will be recruited to complete the week-long projects during the summer of 2016.

*Project Location:* Fort Hancock at Sandy Hook, New Jersey and Jacob Riis Beach in New York.

<b>Native Youth for Habitat Restoration (ID, NV)</b> Golden Eagle Audubon Society	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$33,445
	Matching Funds:	\$70,725
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$104,170</b>

*Project Description:* The Native Youth for Habitat Restoration project will provide eight students that attend the Owyhee Combined School located on the Duck Valley Reservation the opportunity to learn about how to restore sagebrush habitat through a 100-hour work agreement. The agreement would require each student to help facilitate seed collection, propagation, and out planting activities that directly benefit an existing Bureau of Land Management restoration project in the Morley Nelson Snake River



Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. Each student would also gain training, from natural resource professionals, on the methods and techniques associated with each activity. The training will help them understand the importance and relevance of the work they are conducting. It will also enhance the student's ability to pursue conservation jobs after graduation by providing relevant experience and instilling confidence.

*Project Location:* The majority of project is split between the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in Idaho and Nevada and the Morely Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in Idaho.

<b>Restoring the Last Best Place (MT, SD, WY)</b> Montana Conservation Corps, Inc.	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$39,000
	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$37,600
	Matching Funds:	\$116,805
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$193,405</b>

*Project Description:* Montana Conservation Corps will engage a minimum of 33 MCC AmeriCorps members (ages 18-25) to work on field crews and lead the Youth Service Expeditions. Members will work in hands-on conservation projects with the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Reclamation at various locations in Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota. Project will include treating invasive species, building new trails to help concentrate recreational impact, and re-connecting habitat corridors.

*Project Location:* Multiple project sites in Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota. In Montana: Lewis and Clark County, Canyon Ferry, Fergus and Musselshell County, Yellowstone County, Granite County, Blaine County. In Wyoming: Keyhole Reservoir. In South Dakota: Belle Fourche Reservoir.

<b>STEM: BLM Riparian Studies and Habitat Restoration II (AZ, NM)</b> Bureau of Land Management - Safford Field Office	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$75,000
	Matching Funds:	\$75,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

*Project Description:* Bureau of Land Management's Safford Field Office will employ youth while advancing their science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills at the college level and exposing them to mentorship opportunities with Bureau of Land Management professionals. Youth will assist the bureau in habitat restoration and natural resources inventory and condition assessment, prioritizing resources for conservation, and aiding in planning efforts to continue hands-on work and collaboration with area partners including The Museum of Northern Arizona and The Arboretum at Flagstaff.

*Project Location:* Projects are located within southeastern Arizona extending into New Mexico. The Living Rivers program includes the Gila River from Red Rock, New Mexico to Solomon, Arizona. Springs inventory is focused on the Sky Island landscapes. Rare plant studies extend to Holbrook, New Mexico.

<b>Vegetation and Sage-Grouse Habitat Monitoring in the Walker Basin and Watershed (CA, NV)</b> Great Basin Institute	NFWF NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$19,997
	Matching Funds:	\$20,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$39,997</b>

*Project Description:* Great Basin Institute will provide opportunities for youth to serve in paid internship positions while acquiring valuable skills in field research techniques related to monitoring and conservation. Field technicians will learn contemporary habitat sampling techniques by collecting vegetation and habitat data using the Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) protocol. Collected data will guide proper treatment design, provide a baseline data set against which treatment effects may be measured, and enrich currently existing datasets. This project will generate a database comparable with other AIM data on regional and national levels related to terminal lakes and other watersheds, as well as data that have already been collected in the Walker Basin and watershed in other formats.

*Project Location:* Within the Walker Basin watershed of western Nevada and eastern California.

<b>American YouthWorks/US Forest Service Collaboration for Gulf States Habitat Restoration and Career Training (LA, TX)</b> <i>American YouthWorks</i>	NFWF-Non-Federal Funds:	\$250,000
	Matching Funds:	\$382,390
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$632,390</b>

*Project Description:* American YouthWorks will hire 90 crew participants to restore 5,000 acres of prairies in Texas grasslands and 157 acres of prairies in the Winn Ranger District of Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana. The crew will cut and remove eastern red cedar and ashe juniper trees, implement prescribed burns, apply herbicides to unwanted woody vegetation, and perform basal bark treatment. The restoration will result in improved soil health, wildlife habitat, and water quality.

<b>Advancing Economic Opportunities for Underserved Youth Alongside Longleaf Pine Ecological Objectives: the Gulf Coast Prescribed Fire Mentoring Program (FL, AL, MS, LA, TX)</b> <i>The Nature Conservancy</i>	NFWF-Non-Federal Funds:	\$499,631
	Matching Funds:	\$863,841
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$1,363,472</b>

*Project Description:* The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the Job Corps Center, will educate and provide 18-19 jobs to underserved, urban youth to obtain skills as wildland firefighters and ecosystem restoration technicians in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. The project will have an emphasis on longleaf pine management and prescribed fire and will impact greater than 105,000 acres on National Wildlife Refuges, National Park, National Forests, State, and private lands.

<b>Veterans Prescribed Fire Crew (MS, AL)</b> <i>Mississippi Land Trust</i>	NFWF-Non-Federal Funds:	\$200,000
	Matching Funds:	\$200,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>

*Project Description:* Mississippi Land Trust will train and outfit a six-person prescribed fire crew composed of military veterans to conduct prescribed burns and other management activities in coastal Mississippi and Alabama. Activities will take place in open wet pine savannahs and upland longleaf pine habitats to benefit sensitive, threatened and endangered species. Property include 3 coastal National Wildlife Refuges, one National Estuarine Research Reserve, one U.S. Navy Area and several private lands enrolled in USDA Farm Bill programs or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service private lands programs.

<b>Gulf Conservation Corps Restoration Program (FL, AL, MS, LA, TX)</b> <i>The Nature Conservancy</i>	NFWF-Non-Federal Funds:	\$250,000
	Matching Funds:	\$250,000
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

*Project Description:* Support two new Conservation Corps and a Veterans Conservation Corps pilot demonstration across the Gulf region to undertake projects that restore and protect natural resources. The project will make conservation progress on the ground to improve long-term habitat health for native plants and animals, build organizational strength to continue to use conservation corps as a significant strategy for Gulf restoration, and train young people to participate in the expanding Gulf restoration economy.