



DOI 21st Century Conservation Service Corps

Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior, in partnership with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, is pleased to announce the 2014 grant awards associated with the U.S. Department of Interior's (DOI) 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) Initiative. The goal of the grant program is to support organizations across the country to engage youth and veterans in the conservation and enhancement of natural resources on our nation's public lands. This grant program provides funding to employ youth and veterans in activities such as trail maintenance, watershed restoration, and forest regeneration. Through these and other projects, youth and veterans are an active participant in creating a healthy environment while learning essential skills that foster careers in natural resources.

By working with the private sector, Secretary Jewell is able to award \$530,823 in non-federal 21CSC funds that are being leveraged into more than \$740,000 for on-the-ground conservation performed by youth and veterans to benefit our nation's public lands. These funds support 23 projects in collaboration with six agency partners: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey. Project descriptions, locations, and grant award and associated matching funds are below, organized by state.

The projects will employ approximately 160 youth and up to 10 veterans in conservation work benefiting our public lands. These projects will engage approximately 300 volunteers within the local communities and conduct restoration activities on over 200 miles of public land.

Arizona

Navajo High School Crew Conservation Legacy (#46018)	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$25,000
	Matching Funds:	\$4,764
	Total Project Funds:	\$29,764

Project Description: Conservation Legacy will work 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 crew will consist of local area high school students, ages 16 – 18, and two adult crew leaders. During the four-week program the crew will spend two weeks near Ganado, Arizona, restoring and stabilizing Hubble Wash and performing trail maintenance, and two weeks near Tuba City, Arizona, performing wildlife fence repair and construction. These projects will require the crew to spend up to eight days in a backcountry camp setting.

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

Agua Fria National Monument
American Conservation Experience
(#46312)

DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$15,000
Total Project Funds:	\$15,000

Project Description: American Conservation Experience (ACE), a nationwide Non-Profit Youth Conservation Corps, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management Arizona, will employ one intern to assist directly with wildlife monitoring and inventory of rangeland and wilderness areas on the Agua Fria National Monument. The intern will assist wildlife biologists and other Bureau of Land Management resource specialists in accomplishing a variety of tasks such as surveys, monitoring, maintenance, data entry, habitat protection, restoration along with other duties associated with public land stewardship. The interns will organize and coordinate field work within Bureau of Land Management and partner organizations, and will prioritize overall duties as established by the supervisor. The ACE interns may be required to work in remote areas of the field office. This includes driving manual four-wheel drive vehicles, all-terrain vehicles and spending all day walking and working in rough, muddy, uneven terrain.

Project Location: Agua Fria National Monument, Arizona

California

Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands Project
California Conservation Corps
(#46304)

DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$15,000
Total Project Funds:	\$15,000

Project Description: A California Conservation Corps crew consisting of 15 young adults, ages 18 – 25, and a crew leader, will perform maintenance and improvement activities on Point Arena-Stornetta, public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management along the Northern California coastline. The crew will repair, replace, and paint fencing and gates for a week and a half. Bureau of Land Management supervisors will manage project progress and provide project assessments. Weekly work accomplishments will be provided by supervisors and crew members to track the area of fencing painted, reconstructed or added on the project. Some crew members will have experience in these skills while others will be trained on the job by their supervisor and fellow crew members.

Project Location: Coastal Point Arena, Ukiah, California

Watershed Stewards Program – San Joaquin River Partnership
California Conservation Corps
(#46103)

DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$30,000
Total Project Funds:	\$30,000

Project Description: California Conservation Corps will place two AmeriCorps members at the San Joaquin River Partnership on behalf of the California Conservation Corp's Watershed Stewards Program. The two members will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to spend a total of 1,700 hours each on the following program activities: watershed recovery and protection, education and outreach, volunteer recruitment, and member development. The majority of the project work will take place on Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service lands.

Project Location: Fresno, California

Los Angeles River Restoration

LA Conservation Corps
(#46067)

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$100,000

Total Project Funds: \$100,000

Project Description: LA 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 LA 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

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Student Conservation Association
(#46090)

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$10,000

Matching Funds: \$40,569

Total Project Funds: \$50,569

Project Description: The Student Conservation Association continues its long-standing partnership with the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (NRA) to engage a local, community-based youth crew at a new unit of the NRA known as Rancho Corral de la Tierra. The Student Conservation Association crew will build a new stretch of trail and improve drainage structures to prevent erosion on other trails. The 10 person high school student crew will be in the field for five weeks and each crew member earns a stipend for their service. The crew members are all from local under-served communities in cities such as Daly City, Redwood City, and San Mateo, California.

Project Location: Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California

Colorado

Veterans Green Corps and Bureau of Land Management Quarry Trail

Colorado Youth Corps Association
(#46102)

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$11,000

Total Project Funds: \$11,000

Project Description: Colorado Youth Corps Association will lead an 8 – 10 member Veteran Green Corp (VGC) crew in the construction of a new 8-mile trail system in Stone Quarry, Colorado, on Bureau of Land Management land. The crew will construct new tread, construct retaining walls, rock drains, and rock-tread ramps to mitigate erosion and increase accessibility. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado will be collaborating on this project to create a volunteer event in coordination with the new trail system. Volunteers from the local International Mountain Bicycling Association chapter, the Del Norte Trails Organization, Adams State University, as well as other members of the public will team up with VGC to build high-quality trail.

Project Location: Stone Quarry, Colorado

Trail Maintenance in Western Colorado	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$12,600
Colorado Youth Corps Association (#46116)	Total Project Funds:	\$12,600

Project Description: Colorado Youth Corps Association will support an 8 – 10 member Western Colorado Conservation Corps Trail Crew for two weeks to perform trail maintenance on single-track and pedestrian trails in the Bureau of Land Management’s Grand Junction Field Office’s district. These popular trails provide a wide range of recreational activities for community members in and around Colorado’s Grand Valley (including Fruita, Grand Junction and Palisade). Palisade Rims Trails are located in the rim and bench lands east of the Town of Palisade, and the ridge directly south of the Town of Palisade. The work proposed includes roughly 14 miles of single track trails. The work proposed in the North Fruita Desert Special Management Area is roughly 15 miles. Management is focused on a multiple-use trail system that benefits the community of Fruita by creating an international tourism draw. The majority of these trails have been recently designed and constructed are in need of maintenance after the first season of use.

Project Location: Western Colorado

Florida

Everglades National Park	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$19,000
Conservation Legacy	Matching Funds:	\$26,418
(#46020)	Total Project Funds:	\$45,418

Project Description: Conservation Legacy will employ two AmeriCorps members (Environmental Stewards) to help control expanding populations of invasive reptiles by assisting with research designed to better understand the biology of, and potential control opportunities for, invasive reptiles in southern Florida. The Environmental Stewards will work closely with U.S. Geological Survey biologists, who are conducting research and management activities for invasive reptiles in Everglades National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, and surrounding areas. At least half of each work week will be spent in the field. The Environmental Stewards will increase their scientific knowledge of the biology and impacts of invasive reptiles in Florida. Management activities will reduce local populations of invasive reptiles thereby reducing the spread of populations into Everglades National Park.

Project Location: Everglades National Park, Florida

Idaho

Bridging the Divide	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$15,000
Shoshone-Bannock Tribe	Total Project Funds:	\$15,000
(#46114)		

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

Indiana

Indiana Dunes

Student Conservation Association
(#46091)

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$26,155

Total Project Funds: \$26,155

Project Description: Student Conservation Association will partner with 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 for a 3 – 4 week period starting in September. The team will complete a variety of trail maintenance projects including tread repair, installing drainage structures, and rehabilitating various trail structures, including bridges. The team will live in tents in a front country campground during their service. Student Conservation Association Leader Teams provide agency partners with skilled trail professionals and can perform technical trail projects in a short amount of time. These teams also provide the opportunity for Student Conservation Association leaders to gain a variety of skills to enhance their careers in conservation work.

Project Location: Indiana Dunes, Indiana

Maine

Youth Internships in Acadia National Park

Friends of Acadia
(#46193)

DOI 21CSC Funds: \$49,999.94

Matching Funds: \$49,364

Total Project Funds: \$99,363.94

Project Description: Friends of Acadia will hire 16 youth interns to work on projects with the National Park Service in Acadia National Park. Four interns (ages 15 – 19) will serve on the Youth Technology Team to create the “Acadia Technology Trail.” One intern will work to engage the public in raptor viewing opportunities in Acadia. Eight interns (ages 15 – 18) will work on a trail crew mediating trail issues in Acadia for eight-weeks. Three interns will serve on the Ridge Runners team, hiking Acadia’s trails to encourage “Leave No Trace” conservation efforts and mitigate trail graffiti. Many of the youth work experiences occur in accessible, highly visited areas, such as the Precipice Trailhead parking lot area on the most visited road in Acadia, the Park Loop Road and at Sieur de Monts Springs.

Project Location: Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor, Maine

Michigan

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$8,000
Conservation Legacy	Matching Funds:	\$15,791
(#46021)	Total Project Funds:	\$23,791

Project Description: Conservation Legacy will work 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. Two AmeriCorps members will walk along specified beach transects and perform bird, wildlife, and fish surveys, conduct surveys that note the types of beach activities and number of people on the beach, use multimeters to test various water parameters, and help maintain the beach's appearance by removing trash and invasive plant species. The primary objective of this project is to conduct intensified monitoring of beaches and coastal waters to provide solutions to prevent beach fouling and reduce botulism outbreaks. Data collected by intensified monitoring will enable greater understanding of how physical and environmental factors affect beach health by providing data on the timing and location of fish and bird carcasses.

Project Location: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Michigan

Nevada

Coyote Springs Restoration	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$8,000
Nevada Conservation Corps	Total Project Funds:	\$8,000
(#46068)		

Project Description: Nevada Conservation Corps will work with the Bureau of Land Management to engage up to six AmeriCorps youth members to help clean-up and reduce impacts of a recreational shooting range within the Coyote Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Planned project activities (with NEPA compliance in place) will decommission and restore illegal routes, build fencing to direct users toward appropriate routes, and clean up some of the target shooting areas. The fencing will focus target shooting to one area, concentrating the disturbance, and enabling shooters to be more visible to each other, which will enhance safety of this activity.

Project Location: Coyote Springs, Las Vegas, Nevada

New Mexico

Albuquerque Native American Urban Crew	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$25,000
Conservation Legacy	Matching Funds:	\$10,868
(#46019)	Total Project Funds:	\$35,868

Project Description: Conservation Legacy will work with Bureau of Indian Affairs to lead one crew of 10 Native American participants for four weeks in the fall of 2014 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in partnership with La Plazita Institute, Inc. The Albuquerque Native American Urban Corps will complete conservation service projects in the DOI's newest Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Valle de Oro in Albuquerque, as well as other DOI and Tribal lands and waters. Project goals are to provide jobs and experience for local Native American youth, connect youth to their heritage and cultural values,

complete important conservation projects for their communities, and neighboring tribal and public lands and waters, and provide experience to Native American youth in public land management agency careers.

Project Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Pine Tree Loop Trail Rehabilitation Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (#46093)	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$12,000
	Matching Funds:	\$12,000
	Total Project Funds:	\$24,000

Project Description: Rocky Mountain Youth Corps will lead a crew of seven New Mexico youth in rehabilitation of the four-mile Pine Tree Loop trail within the Organ Mountain Desert Peaks National Monument. This project will rehabilitate existing trails by clearing them of rock debris and vegetation overgrowth, mitigating erosion on trail through installing or fixing in-place surface water controls, building up tread on trail (particularly where major erosion has occurred), installing directional trail signs – provided by Bureau of Land Management – and completing other maintenance needs, as necessary. Youth working on the project will have the opportunity to reconnect with nature and learn meaningful personal and professional skills.

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

Statewide Wilderness Study Areas Student Conservation Association (#46089)	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$10,000
	Matching Funds:	\$34,408
	Total Project Funds:	\$44,408

Project Description: A Student Conservation Association team of young adults will work for eight weeks to undertake a variety of restoration projects in wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, and national monument lands under the care and stewardship of the Bureau of Land Management throughout New Mexico. The four-person Student Conservation Association Team will conclude its service by attending the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act Conference in Albuquerque and assist with various activities associated with the conference. While in the field, the team will undertake restoration projects in the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness, Cebolla Wilderness, the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument, and the Rio Chama, Ah-Shi-Sle-Pah, Chain of Craters, Horse Mountain, Veranito, Sierra de Las Canas, Presilla, Brokeoff Mountains, and Lonesome Ridge Wilderness Study Areas. The Student Conservation Association Restoration Team will restore wilderness areas by removing and naturalizing unwanted off-highway vehicle routes, installing vehicle barriers, and improving opportunities for outdoor recreation by maintaining hiking and horseback riding trails.

Project Location: New Mexico

New York

Gateway National Recreation Area	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$47,028
Groundwork USA	Matching Funds:	\$19,073
(#46185)	Total Project Funds:	\$66,101

Project Description: Groundwork USA will partner with National Park Service to restore a historic beachfront structure at the Jacob Riis unit of Gateway National Park. The project will involve Green Corps (ages 18 – 24) and Green Team program staff (ages 16 – 18) from Yonkers, NY. Approximately 30 youth will be involved in both historic site restoration and barrier island interpretive education and skill building. The structure will be ready by the early spring of 2015, with work commencing this fall.

Project Location: Yonkers, New York

Tennessee

Great Smokey Mountains National Park	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$45,640
American Conservation Experience	Total Project Funds:	\$45,640
(#46313)		

Project Description: This project is 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 will employ a crew of 10 youth for a period of seven weeks to undertake extensive trail reconstruction using traditional skills and natural materials. This effort will engage a new generation of American youth in the value of hard physical work while benefiting a greater good for their country.

Project Location: Great Smokey Mountains National Park, Tennessee

Utah

Beaver River	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$7,500
American Conservation Experience	Total Project Funds:	\$7,500
(#46311)		

Project Description: The Utah Bureau of Land Management's Cedar City Field Office and American Conservation Experience will partner to eliminate invasive species, tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), from portions of the Beaver River that are located on public land. This project will allow a crew of six youth to get involved with on-the-ground resource management and provide learning opportunities for these emerging land managers. Youth that are involved in the project will also provide a valuable service by removing invasive species from the Beaver River in order to improve riparian conditions (i.e. improve cottonwood recruitment), habitat (including waterfowl and non-game species), fisheries, and recreational opportunities. In addition, as needed, willows will be planted along the stream to provide for additional restoration.

Project Location: Beaver River, Utah

Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$5,000
Utah Conservation Corps (#46071)	Total Project Funds:	\$5,000

Project Description: Utah Conservation Corps will employ a four-person youth crew to work with the Moab, Utah, Bureau of Land Management Field Office to build a quarter-mile trail around the Mill Canyon dinosaur track site. Activities will include: building dirt tread, boardwalk, fence, and some shade structures as well as improvements on the trailhead. It is expected that this trail will enable visitors to experience the dinosaur tracks while maintaining the site.

Project Location: Mill Canyon, Logan, Utah

Micro-irrigation in Navajo Nation	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$20,000
Utah/Arizona Conservation Corps (#46072)	Total Project Funds:	\$20,000

Project Description: Utah/Arizona Conservation Corps will partner with Bureau of Reclamation to employ two four-person crews for three weeks to construct and install demonstration micro-irrigation projects in the northern Navajo Nation. Micro-irrigation involves pumps, pipelines, storage tanks, rainwater harvesting sheds, on-farm water delivery systems, small greenhouses, and roadside farmer's market stands. In recent years, interest in gardening has seen a dramatic rebirth in the Navajo Nation, and these proposed demonstration projects would go a long way toward encouraging local efforts. Areas where demonstration projects could be installed include: Mexican Water Chapter (from their artisan wells, Navajo Canyon springs, Upper Piute Canyon, Bluff UT area, and Monument Valley High School. Several of these projects are in very high-profile areas (for example, those around Bluff and Monument Valley are in heavily trafficked tourist regions). The high-profile projects could also include signage.

Project Location: Logan, Utah

Washington

San Juan Islands National Monument Environmental Education and Outreach	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$13,900
Lopez Island Conservation Corps (#46078)	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