



## 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Initiative Project Slate – 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 will actively participate in creating a healthy environment while learning essential skills that foster careers in natural resources.

For 2016, more than \$3.16 million will be awarded to 60 projects nationwide. These funds will be leveraged by an anticipated \$3.35 million in grantee matching contributions for a total of \$6.5 million in conservation impact. These 60 projects will employ more than 760 youth in conservation-related activities and restore approximately 5,150 acres of habitat on public lands.

### Alaska

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<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</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. The project will expand community capacity to accomplish high-priority habitat

restoration projects while engaging crew members in professional training and natural resource land management experiences within a remote and unique Alaskan landscape. 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>Ancestral Lands Conservation Program</b> Conservation Legacy	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$74,400
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*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.

<b>Copper Mountain Loop</b> Student Conservation Association	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$40,000
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*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.

<b>Native American Conservation Corps</b> Arizona Conservation Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$48,400
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*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.

<b>Removal of Invasive Buffelgrass</b> Arizona Conservation Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$14,000
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*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>Auburn Shaded Fuel Break</b> California Conservation Corps	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$25,000
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*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. The Bureau of Reclamation works closely with the Auburn Fire Department, the California Conservation Corps, CalFire, State Parks and the local fire safe council for workload planning and public collaboration/outreach. The Bureau of Reclamation has used the CCC since 2012 to perform all activities on the SFB, and plans on continuing this partnership to provide youths with work experience and jobs skill development opportunities. Continued annual maintenance is required in order to maintain effectiveness of the SFB, and the partners listed prior will continue to work together to identify the most effective and efficient maintenance mechanism.

*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. The ASFB is bounded by the City of Auburn city limits in Placer County, California. The ASRA is a California State Park, owned by the federal Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks).

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

*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</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</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</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

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

*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</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</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>Putting Diverse Youth to Work for Conservation Statewide</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.

## Idaho

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<b>Boise Community Conservation Corps</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</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 is a project of the Northwest Youth Corps doing business as Idaho Conservation Corps, Bureau of Reclamation, and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. Activities build upon Northwest Youth Corps existing conservation programs, to expand opportunity for six Idaho youth, ages 16-24. Crews will carry out a total of 1,824 hours of paid conservation projects through a eight week program. Crews will work in a designated Conservation Open Space, whose main goal is to remain undeveloped, with open and natural visual character. 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. 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 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</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$6,000
Student Conservation Association		

*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.

## Louisiana

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<b>Connecting Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and New Orleans Neighborhoods through Green Infrastructure Training Projects</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$60,000
Groundwork New Orleans		

*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</b>	NFWF Non-Federal Funds:	\$110,000
Limitless Vistas, Inc.	Matching Funds:	\$112,725
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$222,725</b>

*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. Through the community-driven restorations events and social media presence, more New Orleanian Urbanites will be

introduced to the refuge and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Urban Refuges’ goal of a connected conservation community, will be expanded. 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.

## Massachusetts

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<b>Urban Archaeology Corps Program</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$50,000
Groundwork Lawrence		

*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. The goal of the UAC project is to engage diverse youth through fostering personal connections with places in their communities, while encouraging exploration of the fields of public service and cultural resources through the work of the National Park Service. 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. Potential projects include examining the migrant worker community of Lawrence’s North Canal Historic District, part of the Essex National Heritage Area; supporting archeological compliance projects at Salem Maritime and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Sites; and exploring the archeological record of the slave quarters at the Royall House, a partner site listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

*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</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</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.

## Mississippi

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<b>Employing America's Youth to Restore Critical Habitat in the Delta National Forest</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 sevosa*), in Harrison County, Mississippi.

## Montana

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<b>Big Sky Watershed Corps</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, sponsored through the Montana Conservation Corp, is a collaborative conservation partnership that builds local,

practical capacity to improve watershed health while providing career-building experiences for the Next Generation. Specific BSWC 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). This proposal is accessible to local communities and surrounding areas and is a great example of a very efficient partnership that addresses capacity for local sustainability, practical work experiences and valuable data collection and project implementation for protecting water and watersheds.

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

<b>Billings Recreation Projects</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$18,000
Montana Conservation Corps		

*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</b>	NFWF-USFS Funds:	\$25,000
Montana Discovery Foundation	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.

## Nevada

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<b>Agai Dicutta (Trout Eaters) Youth Working to Enhance the Walker River for our Agai Pah (Walker Lake)</b>	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$50,000
Walker River Paiute Tribe		

*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</b>	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$50,000
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe		

*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 a variety of restoration 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> Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$50,003
	Matching Funds:	\$154,041
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$204,044</b>

*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</b> Walker Basin Conservancy	NFWF-Reclamation Funds:	\$50,000

*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

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### **Continuing to Give Youth Voice Through Participation and Education in Conservation**

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. In partnership with the Central New Mexico Audubon Society, the TTCC continue restoration work at an important birding habitat at Capulin Spring. The pending Cibola National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan revision will identify other habitat and species restoration projects as additional opportunities for the TTCC.

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

### **Restoration, Construction and Maintenance at the Refuge** 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. In addition, the crews will participate in three volunteer days, with a goal to engage 45 additional individuals. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps will leverage \$55,000 to help support the cost of the summer youth crews. The Middle Rio Grande Urban Conservation Corps is inspiring the next generation of conservationists by connecting youth to public lands through meaningful opportunities to play, learn, serve, and work in the great outdoors.

*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</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.

## Oregon

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

**Growing Job Skills and native Plants in NW Oregon - II**  
Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$76,269
Matching Funds:	\$76,269
<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$152,538</b>

*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.

**Native American Youth Corps**  
Northwest Youth Corps

DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$51,600
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*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.

**Natural Resource Youth Leaders in the Coos Watershed**  
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.

**Prairie City: Conservation Youth Crew**  
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.

## Texas

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**Houston Urban: Providing and Developing Careers in Conservation**  
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. In the anticipation of once again building on the achievements in conservation and restoration in the Houston region, the Houston UWRP looks to partners with youth groups to connect them with the outdoors to develop a new generation of conservationist. This project will capitalize on this existing network to help develop and enhance wildlife conservation efforts in the urban core through Conservation Careers, Educational and Outreach opportunities. 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.

## Utah

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<b>Color Country Conservation Youth Initiative</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. Under-represented 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</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 under-served 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 while reducing those dominated by woody invasive species.

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

<b>Jordanelle State Park - Rock Cliff Rehabilitation</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</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. The area of proposed trail is located near Cedar City and will provide a system of trails that are constructed following the rigors of the Environmental Assessment process and built using sustainable design and construction methods. 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</b>	NFWF-BLM Funds:	\$57,650
American Conservation Experience	Matching Funds:	\$73,871
	<b>Total Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$131,521</b>

*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.

## Washington

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<b>American Sign Language Program</b>	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$100,000
Northwest Youth Corps		

*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.

## Wyoming

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<b>Mormon Row Historic Preservation and Trail Construction</b> Groundwork USA	DOI 21CSC Funds:	\$41,000
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*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>Celebrate Shorebirds Latino Internship Program (Ala., Calif., Colo., Kan., Ore., and Wash.)</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 (Colo. and Utah)</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 (Calif., Mont., N.M., and S.D.)</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 (N.J. and N.Y.)</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 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 (Idaho and Nev.)</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 (Mont., S.D., and Wyo.)</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 (Ariz. and N.M.)</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 (Calif. and Nev.)</b> Great Basin Institute	NFWF Reclamation Funds:	\$19,997
	Matching Funds:	\$20,000
	Total Project Funds:	\$39,997

*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.