

APPENDIX A

U.S. Department of the Interior

Environmental Justice

Implementation Progress Report

2012

Goal #3, Performance Measure #1

Number of Partnerships with others, including educational institutions and tribes, to share and benefit from specialized expertise in furthering EJ goals.

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

<http://www.blm.gov>

Environmental Justice (EJ) Partnerships in BLM California

Tribal-Federal Leadership Conference

The BLM-California initiated meetings creating a series of opportunities and a forum for the 40 California Desert Area federally recognized tribal leaders to engage with federal executives (including Departmental offices, FWS and BIA) to identify issues, concerns, interests and to share information regarding any and all natural and cultural resources in the California Desert Area pertinent to renewable energy and land use planning in the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCAP), currently being amended, and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), currently under development. The DRECP involves California only; including solar, wind, geothermal, and transmission; on federal and state public lands (including BLM, NPS, State Lands Commission, California Department of Fish and Game, and State Parks), as well as California private lands, and is ecosystem based. The BLM provided technical support to those tribes that requested it for mapping the areas they defined as significant.

When: 5 full meetings (9/21-22/11, 11/16/11, 2/16/12, 4/3-4/12, and 7/18/12) and numerous technical meetings.

Where: Palm Springs, California

Benefits: Tribes were made aware of a statewide process, though public, they may not have been aware of otherwise and therefore would have had no input. The BLM received a deeper understanding of tribal concerns and valuable input as to those areas that are highly significant that will help BLM manage in a more informed and fair manner.

Contact: Stephanie Damadio, 760- 416-2133 (x264), sdamadio@blm.gov

Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

Project: The Solar PEIS involves six southwestern states. The Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy and BLM are preparing a PEIS to evaluate utility-scale solar energy development, to develop and implement agency-specific programs or guidance that would establish environmental policies and mitigation strategies for solar energy projects, and to amend relevant BLM land use plans with the consideration of establishing a new BLM Solar Energy Program. The BLM California provided information to potentially affected federally recognized tribes, field office managers met with tribal leaders and feedback was provided by tribes to BLM California and the Washington Office.

When: Over 30 meetings throughout the year

Where: Throughout CA

Benefits: Tribes were made aware of a nationwide process that they may not have noted in time to have input. The BLM received a deeper understanding of tribal concerns and valuable input

the government might otherwise not have received.

Contact: Charlotte Hunter, Deputy Preservation Officer, cahunter@blm.gov, 916-978-4648

Cultural Resources Protocol Agreement for BLM-California

Project: The State Protocol Agreement among BLM-California, the California State Historic Preservation Officer and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, regarding the manner in which the BLM will meet its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Programmatic Agreement (amended this year). For the first time in the history of the protocol, BLM-California mounted a special outreach effort to federally recognized California tribes, providing them with the document and soliciting their comments and suggestions. Tribes will also be invited to review the interim agreement during the final revision.

When: Initiated October 5, 2012

Where: Throughout CA

Benefits: Tribes were given an opportunity to provide input into a statewide cultural resources process for the first time. The BLM received a deeper understanding of tribal concerns and valuable input the government might otherwise not have received.

Contact: Charlotte Hunter, Deputy Preservation Officer, cahunter@blm.gov, 916-978-4648

Youth Summits –Expanding Horizons: Partnerships to Educate, Engage and Employ Youth

Project: The BLM-California hosted two Youth Summits to improve the recruitment of workforce candidates from underserved communities through education, and engaging and employing economically disadvantage young people from underserved communities. Public and private partners who support youth education and employment in California were invited to participate in a one-day summit focused on expanding the horizons of California's youth to include the outdoors. Speakers, break-out sessions and working groups explored how to educate, engage, and employ youth in America's Great Outdoors and in the field of natural resources. Special focus was on youth who are under-served, including those with culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds, low-income youth, or girls and young women. Over 200 participated in the summits from federal and state agencies, youth organizations and other partners. Young people of all cultural and ethnic backgrounds participated in the meetings.

When & Where: September 12, 2012, Riverside, CA & September 18, 2012, McClellan, CA

Benefit: Youth organizations and young people were given an opportunity to learn of employment opportunities. For BLM, new partnerships were forged with groups who support California youth.

Contact: Mark Conley, National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Coordinator, 916-978-4641, mconley@blm.gov

Tribal Monitor Training

Project: The BLM-California Barstow Field Office, in partnership with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, provided training to Native American individuals interested in obtaining tribal monitor positions. Applicable environmental and cultural resource laws, how to identify sites, fee schedules, ethics and potential conflict of interest issues were presented to participants.

When & Where: July 27-28, 2012, Barstow Field Office, Barstow, CA

Benefit: Opens a new avenue of potential earning power for Native American individuals and produces more knowledgeable stewards of the tribal cultural heritage. The BLM builds better working relationships with tribes.

Contact: James Shearer, Barstow Field Office Archaeologist, 760-252-6034, jshearer@blm.gov

Hydraulic Fracturing – Outreach & Meeting

Outreach

Project: Outreach was initiated to federally recognized tribes in the Ukiah Field Office's (UKFO) jurisdiction regarding new proposed regulations - *Oil & Gas; Well Stimulation, Including Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal & Indian Lands (43 CFR Part 3160)* (regarding; disclosure to the public of chemicals used on public and Indian lands, strengthen regulations related to well-bore integrity, and issues related to flowback water).

When & Where: July 2012, Ukiah, CA area

Benefits: Tribes were made aware of new regulations, full facts about an energy extraction process and the opportunity to have input. The BLM received good will and valuable input they might otherwise not have received.

Contact: Ukiah Field Office Archaeologist, Christopher Lloyd, crloyd@blm.gov, 707-468-4075

Meeting

Project: The BLM staff and managers from California State Office, Ukiah Field Office, and Washington Office held a meeting with the California Valley Miwok Tribe providing a detailed presentation on the development of hydro-fracturing regulations, perceived controversies and technical information. The information resulted in extensive discussions. As a result, letters providing the tribe's approach to hydro-fracturing regulation were sent to BLM. Meeting information was posted on the tribal website (<http://www.californiavalleymiwoktribe-nsn.gov/>).

When: July 11, 2012

Where: Tribal Office, Stockton, CA

Benefits: Tribes were made aware of new regulations and facts about hydro-fracturing, though publically available; they may not have been aware of the information or have had time to provide input. The BLM received good will and valuable input they might not have otherwise received.

Contact: Ukiah field office archaeologist, Christopher Lloyd, crllloyd@blm.gov 707-468-4075

BLM- California Outreach to Schools, Career/County Fairs, Local Community Groups

Project: Presentations to local disadvantaged schools and youth groups, booths at Career and County Fairs, and presentations to local community groups by field office staff. The staff in all program areas present resource information, available training or volunteer opportunities and potential careers in federal land management.

When: Throughout the year

Where: Throughout CA

Benefits: Youth and underserved populations have access to information about natural and cultural resources, career opportunities and great outdoors opportunities. The BLM builds goodwill in the local communities and a respect and understanding of the natural and cultural resources treasures on the public lands.

Partnerships

California Conservation Corps

Partnership: Through an assistance agreement with California Conservation Corps, a state agency, BLM-California provides disadvantage and minority youth, 18-25, work and a conservation experience. The work involves cross-country hiking over rough terrain and camping with field office employees, to accomplish habitat and riparian restoration work. Other state or federal agencies may participate, augmenting BLM staff. Participants may be provided information on natural history, geology and ecology as well as the challenges land and wildlife management face. For some of the Corps participants, it is their first time living, working and observing the great outdoors firsthand.

When & Where: Throughout CA as needed

Benefits: Participants receive a stipend, environmental education and training in natural resource work which may be the first step to a career. BLM receives restored habitat, water quality and more knowledgeable individuals who will appreciate nature and natural resources.

Contact: Mark Conley, NLCS Coordinator, 916-978-4641, mconley@blm.gov

Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC)

Partnership: Through an assistance agreement with LACC, BLM-California provides at-risk youth, 18-24, with opportunities for job skills training, education and work experience. Corps members work on fire fuel reduction, trail building and maintenance, habitat restoration and erosion control. For many participants, it is the first time they are in a non-urban environment and working with individuals from different backgrounds. Most LACC youth teams are assigned to conservation projects in the California Desert District.

Benefits: Participants receive a stipend, develop self-esteem and gain skills that may lead to self-sufficiency and a new found love of nature. The BLM receives cost savings, proves itself to be a good neighbor, and achieves additional environmental restoration and a more knowledgeable citizen who can appreciate BLM's mission and the value of natural and cultural resources.
Contact: Mark Conley, NLCS Coordinator, 916-978-4641, mconley@blm.gov

Student Conservation Association (SCA)

Partnership: Through an assistance agreement with the SCA, who actively recruits from EJ populations, BLM provides opportunities for the SCA volunteers to be involved in a variety of projects. Self-sufficient crews camp on-site and move seasonally between higher and lower elevations to accomplish work. The BLM-California Desert District field offices have worked with the SCA's Desert Restoration Corps (DRC) to conduct desert restoration in Wilderness areas of Southern California which has facilitated the restoration of thousands of acres of desert habitat. \\blm\dfs\ca\so\pub\Resources_PUB\NLCS\NLCS_Media\SCA

Benefits: This innovative partnership reconnecting America's youth with the outdoors while benefitting public lands of the NLCS. The BLM provides training to increase crew members' resource skills and ability to compete for future natural resource jobs. The BLM efficiently uses federal funds to manage NLCS lands and trains potential future land managers.
Contact: Mark Conley, NLCS Coordinator, 916-978-4641, mconley@blm.gov

American Conservation Experience

Partnership: Through an assistance agreement with the American Conservation Experience (ACE), who actively recruits from EJ populations, BLM provides opportunities for ACE volunteers to be involved in projects in wilderness areas on BLM-California managed lands. Through this partnership, volunteers obtain skills, knowledge of conservation careers and work in culturally diverse areas.

Benefits: Participants receive a solid grounding in conservation methods and skills gaining a more complete understanding of natural resource management while exploring possible career paths. Participants develop skills, self confidence and a work ethic that can provide a base for future jobs. The BLM receives cost savings, accomplishes greater conservation goals and more knowledgeable individuals who will understand and support federal land managers' efforts and the value of public spaces.
Contact: Mark Conley, NLCS Coordinator, 916-978-4641, mconley@blm.gov

Strategic Partnership Coalition

Partnership: In the BLM Arcata Field Office area, the Strategic Partnership Coalition meets quarterly which includes federally recognized tribes, BLM and other federal and state governmental agencies in the region (i.e., Forest Service, NPS, State Parks and California

Department of Transportation). Meetings are held at different venues and are co-hosted by a tribe and a state or federal agency. Topics of interest to all participants are presented followed by discussions and participant updates of current individual projects or issues.

When: Quarterly

Where: Arcata, CA area

Benefit: Tribes are more fully informed about federal projects, policies or new regulations that may affect them. The BLM and other agencies avoid duplication of efforts, and are more informed as to tribal and other agency issues and concerns.

Contact: Gina Jorgenson, Arcata Field Office Archaeologist, 707-825-2300, gjorgens@blm.gov

Human Health Impacts from Abandon Mines & Mining Sites

Project: Subsistence families from various ethnic groups have fishing traditions. Lack of subsistence resources and these traditions may result in fishermen/families consuming fish from creeks near mines. As a result Vietnamese, Laotian, Mung, Russian, Hispanic and Native American families may consume fish that are contaminated with heavy metals, principally mercury which have extensive health hazards. The BLM has an extensive effort to educate the fishermen of such waters of the dangers through signage in multiple languages and pamphlets. Partnerships with non-governmental organizations to talk with the fishermen is another avenue pursued.

When/Where: Year round, principally Northern CA

Benefit: Health is improved. BLM reduces risk of litigation, increase service to community, and improve public perception of agencies relevance to the communities.

Contact: Peter Graves, BLM Environmental Protection Specialist, 916-978-4685

Illegal Dump Remediation and Prevention

Illegal Dumping on Public lands occurs most often in rural low income areas where residents may be required to travel distances and pay a transfer station to dispose of trash. Illegal dumping threatens human health and safety, the environment and economic development. The BLM provides remediation of the sites and education to prevent the practice. Local communities are made aware of plans and actions, and comments concerns or questions residents may have are addressed in meetings or other outreach activities. The BLM also works with state and local agencies and non-governmental organizations to host clean up days, free days at transfer stations, increased signage, installed cameras, distributed brochures, and carried out enforcement actions.

When & Where: Throughout the year, CA

Benefit: Aesthetics are improved, habitat for plants and wildlife is restored, residents and visitors are protected from health and safety hazards, all of which may result in improvements in the local economy and quality of life. BLM is able to further its mission, be a good neighbor and garner public support.

Contact: Peter Graves, BLM Environmental Protection Specialist, 916-978-4685

Abandoned Mine Lands

Project: Mines are generally located in rural areas near low income communities throughout California. During operations and once they are abandoned, mines are a significant safety and health hazard to local communities and visitors. The BLM provides clean up, remediation and restoration of these sites. Signage, mail outs, websites, public meetings and newspaper articles inform local residents of the issues and clean-up efforts.

When & Where: Throughout the year, CA

Benefits: Soil and water quality and aesthetics are improved, habitat for plants and wildlife is restored, residents and visitors are protected from health and safety hazards, all of which may result in improvements in the local economy and quality of life. BLM is able to further its mission, be a good neighbor and garner public support.

Contact: Peter Graves, BLM Environmental Protection Specialist, p15grave@blm.com, 916-978-4685

Healthy Initiative for Kids in the Environment (HIKE) Youth Crew

Project: HIKE Youth Crew is a highly successful initiative, formed by the Santa Rosa San Jacinto Mountains National Monument staff that has created a team of minority and low income community members, 15-25 years old, selected based on their interest in helping others learn about the environment. The team performs environmental education, trail work, stewardship projects and outreach in schools and at community events for the Santa Rosa San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (co-managed by BLM and USFS) in the Coachella Valley. The projects aim is to create a team of young educators that reflect the faces in the community, therefore having role models that resemble the target audience. Many materials provided at community and school events are bilingual. The program is funded by the BLM's Youth Incentive Initiative with supplemental support from Hands on the Lands, Anderson Foundation and Friends of the Desert Mountains.

When & Where: Throughout the year. Throughout the Coachella Valley, CA

Benefit: Underserved and minority youth and young adults are provided with a stipend, trained and inspired to consider careers in natural resource management. Bilingual minority communities are better served with hands-on experiences and information and more easily identifiable role models. The National Monument presents free natural science education programs and is seen in a more positive light by the local community.

Contact: BLM Palm Springs Field Office Interpretive Specialist, Tracy Albrecht, 760-833-7127, talbrech@blm.gov

Volcanic Tablelands Management

Project: Through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the BLM Bishop Field Office and the Bishop Paiute Tribe entered into cooperative management of the BLM Volcanic Tablelands. The

Bishop Paiute Tribe has prehistoric and historic connections with these lands and a direct interest in ensuring the land is protected from degradation and any cultural properties are preserved. The area includes over 80 thousand acres of undeveloped BLM lands. The MOA identifies opportunities for cooperation and has been used to protect cultural resources from vandalism. Collaborative efforts in the immediate future include California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program training for tribal members and the use of tribal interns for multi-resource field work.

When & Where: Throughout the year, Bishop, CA area

Benefit: Tribes are more fully informed about federal projects; helps manage areas that are important to the tribe. BLM garners a closer relationship with the tribe, trains possible future land managers, and realizes a cost savings.

Contact: Gregory Haverstock, Bishop Field Office Archaeologist, 707-825-2300, ghaverst@blm.gov

Box Canyon/Mecca Hills

Project: In 1992 the Mecca Hills Land Use Study, which included Box and Painted Canyons, noted that a wildland area was experiencing up to 10,000 visitors over 2 weekends of Easter break. Activities included target shooting, volley ball, soccer, motorcycle and horseback riding and concerts. Visitors were generally large extended Spanish speaking families. The character of use was inconsistent with land use model and the principal consequences were large amounts of litter, trampling of plants and compaction of soil. The BLM learned no one knew who owned the land or what rules were in force. Partnerships between BLM and Spanish Language Media Association provided Public Service Announcements to Spanish language television and radio outlets. Signage in the area was made in Spanish, outdoor facilities were provided, trash cans were increased and BLM personnel visited during the high use weekends. Once outreach was made and information provided, visitors were compliant. The BLM staff visits the community of Mecca to provide information on the natural resources and the rules governing visitation. Annually, BLM law enforcement, in cooperation with County Sheriffs, patrols the Canyon and provides information on wilderness issues and caring for natural resources.

When & Where: Easter Break, Box Canyon, CA

Benefits: Visitors had a healthier and more informed experience. The BLM reduced cost to agency, and the public had a positive image of the agency through personal contact.

Contact: Jennifer Taylor, Wilderness Coordinator Palm Springs Field Office, 760-833-7117, j5taylor@blm.gov

Desert Hot Springs Schools Volunteer Corps

Project: A BLM Palm Springs Field Office youth initiative to involve Coachella Valley students in outdoor activities through volunteerism has been highly successful especially in the city of Desert Hot Springs. For many of the low income and/or minority high school and middle school

students, the program offers outdoor activities, locales, information and experiences the children might otherwise not be exposed to and that they can share with their families. Students and their dedicated teachers assist BLM in a variety of projects including clean up days, trail work and events such as National Public Lands Day.

When & Where: Throughout the year

Benefits: Volunteering with BLM exposes the children to the value of public lands and strengthens their stewardship ethics which is then passed on to their families. The BLM benefits from informed visitors and, as budgets shrink, can accomplish “more with less” for the local community.

Contact: Jennifer Taylor, Volunteer Coordinator Palm Springs Field Office, 760-833-7117, j5taylor@blm.gov

EJ Partnerships in BLM Montana

Tribal Consultation for Planning Efforts and Major Projects

Through funding from the Renewable Energy Program, Montana/Dakotas (MT/DAKs) initiated and hosted a series of regional intertribal consultation/coordination workshops. The primary intent of the workshops was to discuss major initiatives (such as the new DOI Tribal Consultation Policy and the BLM’s new National Programmatic Agreement), update tribes on the status of current planning efforts and major projects; and to discuss issues of major concern to tribes such as the BLM’s oil and gas leasing process. The Montana State Office also participated in several project specific intertribal consultation meetings sponsored by other lead agencies.

Bureau Sponsored Regional Tribal Consultation Meetings

At the request of the BLM Washington Office, staff from the MT/DAKs helped organize and facilitate other regional intertribal consultation meetings that were held in Billings. These efforts included consultation meetings for the OSM/BLM stakeholder and tribal consultation meeting held in Billings and three meetings held for developing oil and gas on shore orders governing the Hydraulic Fracturing process.

The MT/DAKs organized a series of government-to-government meetings on the proposed hydraulic fracturing regulations for tribes that requested specific face-to-face meetings.

Tribal Partnerships Developed

Crow Tribe- An agreement was created for the purpose of facilitating the Intertribal Workshops for Montana and South Dakota. The intent of the partnership is to establish a process to formally facilitate the logistical challenges of holding these regional intertribal workshops. The BLM and Crow Tribe of Indians agree that the scope of the project is for the Crow Tribe of Indians to serve as the “host” for regional intertribal workshop meetings. One series of workshops was held

with up to 13 American Indian Tribes from South Dakota and Eastern Montana.

Salish-Kootenai College (SKC) - The purpose of this agreement is to develop and implement a formal, collaborative tribal college student internship program between SKC and the BLM Missoula Field Office. The internship would advance the education and training/experience of Native American students pursuing degrees in disciplines (forestry, hydrology, cultural, wildlife biology, etc.) associated with natural resource management. The internship would be for 12 weeks (mid-June through mid-September) during the summer field season. As part of their degrees, SKC requires students to take part in an internship program and write an undergraduate thesis based on their internship experience.

Chief Dull Knife College - The intent of the program is to form a partnership with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), tribal colleges and universities, respective State Historic Preservation Offices, and/or other interested federal agencies or departments. The intent of the partnership will be to produce Ecoregional Ethnographic Assessments that can be integrated into developing ecoregional direction for the future management of public lands in the MT/DAKs. The initial pilot effort is intended to build upon existing information and prepare an ecoregional ethnographic analysis of the Northern Cheyenne Tribes aboriginal occupation and use of the Northwestern Plains and Middle Rocky Mountain Ecoregions. The goals of the study are to:

- 1) Initiate a process to identify, document, evaluate, and map places of traditional religious or cultural significance to the tribe;
- 2) identify culturally important plant and animal species, and their associated ecosystems, that are critical for the maintenance of Northern Cheyenne culture and traditions;
- 3) Delineate appropriate conservation elements; and
- 4) Assess the potential effects of identified change agents upon identified conservation elements.

Tribal Youth Initiatives

The Bridging the Divide Natural and Cultural Resources Field Camp is jointly sponsored by the MT/DAKs BLM and the Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest. The goal of the program is to develop a formal educational curriculum in partnership with American Indian Tribes that places equal emphasis on outdoor experience and scientific exploration, expanding cultural heritage awareness, and teaming students with tribal elders.

The MT/DAKs received special funding from the BLM Washington Office Executive Order Program to expand the Bridging the Divide Natural and Cultural Resources Field Camp curriculum to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Working in partnership with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Chief Dull Knife College (CDKC), and the Ashland Ranger District-Custer National Forest, the curriculum was integrated into the already established CDKC Upward Bound program for tribal high school youth.

Tribal Outreach Efforts

Continuing efforts were made to establish working relationships with Crow Tribal Elders involved with the Apsáalooke Cultural Enrichment Committee (107th Group). The MT/DAKs BLM has worked closely with this group from Pryor District to provide field trips to sites to areas within the Crow aboriginal territory that are of significance to the tribe.

EJ Partnerships in BLM Washington Office

Participation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Subcommittee of the Federal Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group (EJ IWG) – BLM actively participates along with other federal agencies as part of the NEPA Subcommittee of the EJ IWG. This partnership between federal agencies helps to promote information sharing and collaboration between federal agencies and with regard to policies, guidance and best management practices for EJ. The BLM benefits by learning from other agencies about how best to address EJ challenges within the NEPA context, and other agencies benefit from learning about BLM's experience and knowledge with regard to EJ.

EJ Partnerships in BLM Idaho

Shoshone- Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation – A Consultation Agreement has been established between BLM Idaho and the tribes to facilitate information sharing between BLM and the tribes. Meetings are held twice monthly, and ad hoc meetings for energy (transmission line) projects are also held from time to time. At the meetings the Field and District Managers from BLM Idaho provide a run-down on on-going projects and get tribal input and concerns on those projects. Meetings are facilitated by a private facilitator. This regular communication helps to improve the relationship between the BLM and the tribes.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA)

<http://www.bia.gov>

The BIA has a wide variety of agreements, contracts and grants with tribes. In 2012, BIA entered into approximately 3,200 P.L. 93-638 contracts with tribes that benefited tribal programs and furthered tribal self-determination. The scope of these contracts varies and many fall outside of the parameters of EJ. However, because water management in particular is an important environmental issue requiring specialized expertise, the BIA will use the number of projects completed in support of water management, planning and predevelopment as a measure of for this goal.

The BIA enters into a number of partnerships, agreements and contracts with tribes that benefit tribal programs and further self-determination. However, water management in particular is an important environmental issue requiring specialized expertise.

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT (BOEM)

<http://www.boem.gov>

BOEM: The BOEM utilizes cooperative agreements to partner with state agencies and public universities in the “affected States” as defined by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Through this mechanism, BOEM scientists actively engage with state agencies and/or universities to carry out environmental research that is needed by the state and the Federal Government to manage offshore energy activities. The BOEM’s Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) with Louisiana State University (LSU) and the University of Alaska at Fairbanks (UAF) are designed to respond to BOEM, state, and local information needs and interests with local expertise in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) relevant disciplines. A major focus of the CMI program is to use the interdisciplinary environment of a research university to foster process-oriented studies, needed technologies and concepts, and synthesis of information that will benefit environmental and resource management. The LSU CMI was established in 1992. Over \$26 million in research agreements have been awarded by BOEM through the LSU CMI program. And, the UAF CMI has completed more than 60 studies with \$15 million in research agreements since 1993. In addition to funding the research of scientists through the CMIs, more than 100 graduate and undergraduate students have been supported through these projects.

Secretary’s Partners in Conservation Awards

The Secretary's "Partners in Conservation Award" was established to recognize individuals and organizations that have produced outstanding conservation achievements to foster collaboration and partnerships to further the Department's mission. The following projects were recipients of the award:

- Archaeological Analysis of Submerged Sites on the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf;
- and
- Subsistence Sharing Networks Project: To Assess the Vulnerabilities of Local Communities to Oil and Gas Development Impacts in Arctic Alaska.

North Slope Science Initiative

The North Slope Science Initiative is an intergovernmental effort to increase collaboration at the local, state, and federal levels to address the research, inventory, and monitoring needs as they relate to development activities on the North Slope of Alaska.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (BOR)

<http://www.usbr.gov/>

The BOR enters into a number of partnerships, agreements and contracts with tribes that assist tribes to develop, manage, and protect their water and related resources, while furthering the goals of tribal self-determination and self-governance.

The Great Plains Region entered into an agreement with the Crow Tribe to provide technical assistance to implement water works projects on the Crow Indian Reservation (Montana) through the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act.

The Upper Colorado Region maintains 40 individual partnerships (a grant or cooperative agreement) with 25 federally-recognized Indian Tribes, all of which are not specifically included within the parameters of this performance measure (goal #3, performance measure #1).

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING (OSM)

<http://www.osm.gov>

The OSM/VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America) serve in communities impoverished by environmental degradation. They reach far beyond traditional Department audiences into underserved communities of the Appalachian coal fields and the mining communities in Colorado and New Mexico. Recruiting community sponsors, such as watershed groups, and the actual outreach done every day by OSM/VISTAs involves extensive partnerships and community involvement. Such activities led to an award of the Secretary's Partners in Conservation Award to the OSM/VISTA Teams for FY 2012.

Examples of OSM activity:

OSM/VISTA Nik Gualco in New Mexico

Illegal dumping is a serious issue in the Navajo Nation that cannot be easily fixed. The OSM/VISTA Nik Gualco with the Rio Puerco Alliance (RPA) worked with the New Mexico Association of Counties, BLM, and the Ojo Encino and Torreon Eastern Navajo Chapters to conduct a clean-up program. The BLM awarded RPA \$60,000 to conduct a clean-up program. Additionally, the Torreon and Ojo Encino Chapters will be receiving trash removal service for the next 18 months, remediating a challenging problem with a longer term solution.



Internships for minority populations

The OSM also seeks to target interns of various ethnicities through its relationship with California State (Cal State) University Fullerton's DC Scholars Program. Cal State Fullerton is

ranked 8th in the nation's leading institutions to award degrees to minority students. This year, OSM hired three Cal State Fullerton alumni, two serving as summer interns and one as a Public Administration Fellow.

Engaging in Innovative Partnerships

For the second year in a row, OSM partnered with the Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) to support State Regulatory Agencies to carry out the requirements of SMCRA. The SCC placed 29 OSM/AmeriCorps Regulatory Members with participating State Regulatory Agencies to address the need for trained regulatory personnel. The OSM/AmeriCorps Regulatory Program is intended to assist state regulatory programs and OSM field offices in introducing recent college graduates to state surface coal mining regulatory work in a carefully-mentored environment over a full year of service.

The OSM/VISTA Teams completed a pioneering three-year research project on rural volunteerism throughout Appalachia and the Rocky Mountain West with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (OWOW). After engaging in place-based research in 34 rural communities, the OSM/VISTA Teams created the Toolkit for Working with Rural Volunteers to share approaches to volunteer recruitment, management and retention that are successful in rural settings. Continuing this interagency partnership will ultimately result in better quality of water and better communities for constituents in which EPA OWOW and the OSM/VISTA Teams serve.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the OSM/VISTA Teams collaborated to advance community-based reforestation efforts in Appalachia. The ARC provided funding to support the Appalachian Coal Country Team reforestation initiative and National Civilian Community Corps projects. In FY 2012, ARC's support contributed to 767 volunteers providing 6,351 volunteer hours, 63,093 replanted trees, and 133.9 reforested acres.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS)

<http://www.fws.gov>

Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS): The FWS is a member of the SERPPAS. The mission of SERPPAS is to seize opportunities and solve problems in ways that provide mutual and multiple benefits to the partners, sustain the individual and collective mission of partner organizations, and secure the future for all the partners, the region, and the nation. This mission will be accomplished through identifying opportunities for mutual gain among and partner groups, effectively addressing differences among the partners, and focusing on identifying solutions to complex problems. The SERPPAS has a standing issues team raising the awareness of EJ looking for ways to ensure that all partner actions consider these concerns.

Connecting Hawaiians with Nature: Native Hawaiian students are underserved and underrepresented in the conservation field. The Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office entered into partnerships with Oahu Refuges, DOD, Hawaii State's Division of Aquatic Resources, and private land owners to allow for restoration of aquatic habitat for candidate and rare species. Through these partnerships the Pacific Southwest Region hired and mentored college students during the summer through conservation focused projects where the students acquired experience and skills in monitoring, capturing and marking rare species. These students then taught these skills to other predominantly Native Hawaiian high school students, who in turn conducted learning stations for visitors at the Kalaeloa unit of FWS Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuge. A PowerPoint presentation about protecting and conserving native aquatic species by the students was given to over 100 college freshman. Through these mentoring projects students have useable and marketable skills that will enhance their ability to gain-access to a career in conservation in Hawaii. Estimated Service Program Cost: \$16,000 (Fisheries funded \$6,000, damselfly restoration component project estimate was \$10,000).

Outdoor Recreation: The National Wildlife Refuge System provides some of the finest outdoor recreational opportunities in the world. More than 44 million people visit national wildlife refuges every year. The vision and work of state agencies for game, fish and wildlife conservation and their authorities for hunting and fishing programs in the United States has enhanced these opportunities and the access Americans have to wildlife-dependent recreation. The Refuge System has a steadfast commitment to the long-standing conservation partnership with America's hunters and anglers to expand and improve hunting and fishing opportunities for children and people with disabilities.

Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Initiative: In conjunction with the Youth in the Great Outdoors Initiative, developed by the Department, the FWS started the Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Initiative designed to **employ, educate, and engage** young people from all backgrounds. Youth explore, connect with, and preserve America's natural and cultural heritage. The Klamath Outdoor Science School and Connecting People with Nature program provided tribal students summer internships in the basin.

Six federally-recognized tribes are located in the Klamath Basin (Hoopa Valley, Karuk, Quartz Valley, Resighini, Yurok and Klamath Tribes). These tribes have a connection with the land and natural resources and the U.S. Government has trust responsibilities.

The Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement is bringing federal and state agencies, tribes, state and local governments, and private interests together to plan the future for the Basin. Many of these agencies currently have programs in the Basin that offer seasonal employment opportunities. The new agreement is helping federal agencies working in the Klamath Basin to pool ideas, programs, and resources to make the best use of employment and education opportunities for young people. This multi-agency partnership has great potential for further growth.

Other current endeavors include seasonal work experiences and educational opportunities for youth in grades 9 through 12. Many higher education institutions such as the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls and Humboldt State University in Arcata have been receptive to helping the Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Initiative assist Native American youth in higher education opportunities. The benefits of a coordinated program are many, through helping young people find opportunities, tribes in the Klamath Basin are gaining a new generation of involved members and the FWS is gaining stronger partners and outstanding employees.

Washington Fish and Wildlife Office's Division of Fishery Resources' Youth Fisheries

Academy Expands Programs to Native American Communities: Three years after its inception, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Office Division of Fishery Resources expanded its 2012 programming to reach Native American communities in Puget Sound and on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Approximately \$5,000 in funding supported staff efforts to co-host two kids and adults fishing day events in partnership with Makah National Fish Hatchery and bring three Youth Fisheries Academy (an aquatic ecology-themed summer camp) sessions, two Career Days, and two school field trips benefitting over 200 Makah Nation, Skokomish Tribe, and Nisqually Tribe elementary and middle school students.



*You don't need to be bilingual to know these youths are having fun
(Oregon Coast NWR)*

Geological Survey (USGS)

<http://www.usgs.gov>

The USGS is the earth and natural science bureau within the Department. The USGS provides impartial information on the health of our ecosystems and environment, the natural hazards that threaten us, the natural resources we rely on, the impacts to climate and land-use change, and the core science systems that help us to provide timely, relevant, and useable information. The USGS is not responsible for regulations or land management. The USGS does not have any programs, policies, or activities that could disproportionately and negatively affect the health or environment of minority, low-income, or tribal communities. However, the USGS engages in many diverse scientific activities and partnerships with communities across the Nation. Information on these activities and partnerships can be found on the USGS web site. Compilations describing the work that USGS has done in partnership, specifically with Indian Tribes can be found at: <http://www.usgs.gov/indian/reports/index.html>.

National Park Service (NPS)

<http://www.nps.gov>

The NPS uses such mechanisms as Cooperative Agreements and Contracts in addition to internal governmental infrastructures such as the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU's) to partner with public universities; nonprofit research and educational institutions; and state, tribal, and local governments to carry out cooperative research, education, and technical assistance projects related to the natural and cultural resources protected by the NPS.

In FY 2012, the NPS invested \$35 million through all 17 CESU's to carry out 714 projects in cooperation with 463 partner institutions around the nation, including underserved communities. The NPS also uses its Research Learning Centers (RLC's) to promote park-based research in environmental science, engage local and national communities in that research and science-based activities, and integrate the resulting knowledge into interpretive and educational outreach programs. In FY 2012, the RLC's partnered with 204 universities and 207 K-12 schools, or other primary and secondary educational organizations.

Research and education projects involved over 700 undergraduate students, 200 graduate students, and thousands of primary and secondary students. Contacts and cooperative agreements with such tribal-affiliated organizations as the Haskell Indian Nations University and the Blackfeet Community College are currently in place.