



**CONSERVATION LEGACY
US FOREST SERVICE
2018 REPORT**



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**CONSERVATION LEGACY
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Conservation Legacy would like to thank the US Forest Service staff, Cooperators and Partners who make our shared vision, mission and programming a continued success. We absolutely could not positively impact these individuals, communities, and public lands without you!

OVERVIEW

FOSTERING CONSERVATION SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES & ECOSYSTEMS

LOCAL ACTION. ENDURING IMPACT.



CONSERVATION LEGACY IS NOW IN ITS 20TH YEAR of operation, supporting local programs that provide conservation service opportunities for youth, young adults and veterans to work on public lands and in their communities.

Continuing the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps and in the spirit of national service, Conservation Legacy regional programs include: **Arizona Conservation Corps** (Flagstaff, Tucson and Pinetop, AZ), **Conservation Corps New Mexico** (Las Cruces, NM), **Appalachian Conservation Corps** (Harrisonburg, VA), **Southeast Conservation Corps** (Chattanooga, TN), **Southwest Conservation Corps** (Durango and Salida, CO; Gallup, Zuni, Acoma and Hopi, NM), **Stewards Individual Placements** (National; Durango, CO and Beckley, WV) and **Preserve America Youth Summit** (National).

In addition to these programs, Conservation Legacy manages signature program models such as Ancestral Lands and the Veterans Fire Corps.

CONSERVATION LEGACY STAFF CONTRIBUTORS:

This report and our work would not be possible without the contributions of Michelle Marsich, Sarah Brown, Belinda Villaneuva, Amy Sovocool, Allison Laramee, Kevin Heiner, Christy Curd, Clara Moulton, Tucker Herbert, Rose Clements, Michael Swanberg and our dedicated crew members, leaders and individual placements.





2018 PARTNERSHIP IMPACT

CONSERVATION LEGACY, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE, PROVIDES CREW-BASED AND INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS AND VETERANS TO SERVE AND WORK ON PUBLIC LANDS.

These opportunities foster an awareness of natural and cultural resources and develop skills in the stewardship and science of their management while actively contributing to the preservation of the public lands legacy.

In 2018, Conservation Legacy participants worked on projects in all U.S. Forest Service functional areas except law enforcement. Emphasis was placed on projects that enhanced recreation access, maintained critical infrastructure and trails, mitigated hazardous fuels and improving habitat. By completing these projects, participants from diverse backgrounds helped build capacity for the U.S. Forest Service to meet critical needs facing public lands.

Conservation Legacy programs provide opportunities for job training, personal development, conservation service and natural resource education while at the same time accomplishing needed work benefiting our public lands. Conservation Legacy provides high-quality, locally focused conservation service programs that are customized to meet the unique needs of participants, partners and communities. This approach allows for uniquely tailored programs that establish closer community bonds and leave deeper lasting impacts.

Through this partnership, Conservation Legacy crews constructed and maintained recreational trails, restored and maintained campgrounds, removed invasive species, restored wildlife and fisheries habitat, reduced wildfire fuel loads, installed erosion control features, preserved historic structures, constructed fences and barrier installations, and otherwise helped to support the management of our public lands. Individual Placement program participants engaged in field work, environmental sampling, site monitoring, GIS/GPS, data analysis, program development, archaeology, outreach, education, interpretation, visitor services and coordination of volunteer events. In all, over 550 unique opportunities were provided.

We continue to provide high quality training, personal and professional growth and real on the job work experience through meaningful conservation opportunities. In addition to the significant amount of work our participants completed, we also provided educational programs to increase knowledge of the environment and to develop the next generation of stewards with a deep appreciation for our public lands.

TOTAL FUNDING

\$3,174,582

In-kind and cash contributions from Conservation Legacy total

\$793,645





US FOREST SERVICE PROJECT LOCATIONS

● Crew/Individual Placement Project Locations

PROJECT WORK

PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED IN THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL FORESTS:

REGION 2

Big Horn National Forest
Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
Pike-San Isabel National Forest
Rio Grande National Forest
Juan National Forest

REGION 3

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest
Carson National Forest
Cibola National Forest
Coconino National Forest
Coronado National Forest
Gila National Forest
Kaibab National Forest
Lincoln National Forest
Prescott National Forest
Santa Fe National Forest
Southwestern Region Office
Tonto National Forest

REGION 8

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest
Cherokee National Forest
De Soto National Forest
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests
Nantahala National Forest

REGION 9

Mark Twain National Forest
Monongahela National Forest

REGION 10

Alaska Regional Office

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: TOTAL ACRES IMPROVED:

On all USFS Projects

23,861

MILES OF FIREBREAK CREATED/ MAINTAINED :

Creating safer communities along the wildland-urban interface

63

MILES OF TRAILS CREATED OR MAINTAINED :

Increasing recreational access to public lands

437

TOTAL PROJECT HOURS:

By Conservation Corps Crew participants

117,904

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:

Including Conservation Corps Crews and Individual Placements

570

CONSERVATION LEGACY

VETERANS FIRE CORPS HIGHLIGHTS 2018

Conservation Legacy launched a robust program for recent-era veterans in 2009 to assist them in transitioning their strong skill sets to civilian purposes through wildland fire management training and experience. The Veterans Fire Corps (VFC) was the first of its kind in the country, and Conservation Legacy has since engaged seven other corps to replicate the model to serve more veterans.

The Veterans Fire Corps (VFC) engages recent era veterans on priority hazardous fuels and prescribed burn projects while developing the next generation of wildland firefighters. The VFC successfully addresses two needs 1) veterans who need a way to transition from military to civilian service and 2) land management agencies who need highly qualified and well trained employees.

Veterans Fire Corps crews aid our National Forests in critical fuels reduction projects that are often not completed due to lack of funding and resources being diverted to fire suppression activities. Reducing fuels is critical to the long-term health of our forests and mitigating catastrophic wild fires, with the critical benefit of protecting local communities and improving overall forest health.

CONSERVATION LEGACY PLACED 9 VETERANS FIRE CORPS CREWS WITH:

Apache-Sitgreaves Nat. Forest
De Soto National Forest
Gila National Forest
Lincoln National Forest
Pike-San Isabel National Forest
Rio Grande National Forest
San Juan National Forest

VETERANS FIRE CORPS WORK ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON ALL USFS PROJECTS:



TOTAL ACRES IMPROVED:

On seven US Forest Service forests

9,747

MILES OF FIREBREAK CREATED/ MAINTAINED :

Creating safer communities along the wildland-urban interface

50

TOTAL PROJECT HOURS:

On all US Forest Service Veterans Fire Corps Projects

28,367

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:

On nine total Veterans Fire Corps crews with the USFS

66

JOB PLACEMENT STATISTICS

441 TOTAL MEMBERS HAVE SERVED WITH THE VETERANS FIRE CORPS SINCE 2009, OF THAT TOTAL:

57%
FOUND FIRE JOBS OR STAYED WITH VFC

40%
FOUND FIRE JOBS WITHIN THE US FOREST SERVICE



CONSERVATION LEGACY VETERANS FIRE CORPS HIGHLIGHTS 2018

SOUTHEAST CONSERVATION CORPS

DE SOTO NATIONAL FOREST WITH FUNDING FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
Conservation Legacy’s Veterans Fire Corps programs have thus far been focused on the western U.S., but there is also an acute need for fire management in the southeast. With around 40% of the nation’s timberland located in this region, the southern economy depends heavily on the timber industry, and safeguarding forest health is a vital and growing need—for which veteran-staffed crews are proven and cost-effective resource.

Southwest Conservation Corps operated a very successful inaugural Veterans Fire Corps program in 2018. A total of two veteran crew leaders lead six crew members on six weeks of project work. Prescribed burning was the priority for this crew, working in De Soto National Forest in southern Mississippi. Funding support was provided by The Nature Conservancy.

The purpose of this program to reduce hazardous fuels, improve wildlife habitat and aid in the restoration of native vegetation and the overarching longleaf pine ecosystem through the intentional application of fire to the landscape. Prescribed burning also reduces the threat that wildfires pose to the forest, adjacent lands and property, and to the safety of wildland firefighters, effectively promoting community resilience as well as protecting our valuable watersheds. Maintenance in the form of prescribed burning and fuel reduction provides ecological benefits for the wide range of plants and animals dependent on the longleaf pine ecosystem including the federally protected red-cockaded woodpecker, gopher tortoise, black pine snake and dusky gopher frog.

Furthermore, all six crew members were placed in post-service employment positions in wildland fire. “One of the big pushes of this program is to take post-9/11 veterans and have us be the catalyst for these federal positions within the wild land fire community,” crew member Alex Neny said. These members were placed with the Kaibab National Forest, the Nez-Perce-Clearwater National Forests, The Nature Conservancy, Dinosaur National Monument, King Mountain National Military Park and Montana Conservation Corps’ VFC program.



“The VFC crew mixed in well with our permanent crew and provided valuable work. All were extremely professional and respectful. I would absolutely work with this organization again. All work was of very high quality.”

–Jay Boykin,
District Fire Management Officer
De Soto National Forest

2018 Southeast Conservation Corps VFC Accomplishments

TOTAL VETERANS	ACRES IMPROVED/TREATED	PROJECT HOURS
8	6,244	3,306



VETERANS FIRE CORPS HIGHLIGHTS 2018



“All of the USFS staff we met were more than accommodating, continually offering advice with the application process and pointers for applying to join their ranks, which most of us are currently trying to do. I cannot overstate how grateful we are for their assistance.”

—Alex Urrea
Arizona Conservation Corps
Veterans Fire Corps Crew Member

ARIZONA CONSERVATION CORPS

APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

The Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC) Veterans Fire Corps crew partnered with the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest for the first time in the summer and fall of 2018. The crew worked on Clifton and Black Mesa Ranger Districts. The scope of work focused on completing fuels reduction and fire management projects for 10 weeks. This year’s crew focused on fuels mitigation, felling, limbing and piling 35 acres of Juniper on the Clifton Ranger District and 12 acres of Ponderosa Pine on the Black Mesa Ranger District. They were able to treat in total 47 acres.

CONSERVATION CORPS NEW MEXICO

GILA NATIONAL FOREST

The Conservation Corps New Mexico (CCNM) Veterans Fire Corps crew partnered with the Gila National Forest for the first time in the spring and summer of 2018. The crew worked on the Gila Wilderness and Silver City Ranger Districts. The scope of work focused on completing fuels reduction and fire management projects for 12 weeks. This year’s crew focused on fuels mitigation, felling and limbing 12 acres of Juniper on the Gattons Parks Grasslands and 20 acres of Ponderosa Pine in Lincoln Canyon on the Gila Wilderness Ranger District. The crew finished off their work on the Georgetown thinning unit by thinning 9 acres of Ponderosa Pine on the Silver City Ranger District. They were able to treat in total 41 acres.

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST

The Conservation Corps New Mexico Veterans Fire Corps crew partnered with the Lincoln National Forest for the first time in the summer and fall of 2018. The crew worked on the Smokey Bear, Sacramento and Guadalupe Ranger Districts. The scope of work on the Smokey Bear Ranger District focused on felling, limbing, bucking and piling 19 acres of hazard trees. On the Sacramento Ranger District the crew completed .34 miles of fire breaks around the Lewis Lake. The next hitch the crew returned and assisted Forest Service personnel with 500 acres of prescribed fire. On the final hitch the crew completed fuels reduction and fire management projects in the Guadalupe Mountains felling and limbing 3 acres of Juniper. They were able to treat and restore in total 522 acres.

2018 AZCC/CCNM VFC Accomplishments

TOTAL VETERANS	ACRES IMPROVED	PROJECT HOURS
23	616	9,677

CONSERVATION LEGACY
VETERANS FIRE CORPS HIGHLIGHTS 2018

SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION CORPS

PIKE-SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS

The Southwest Conservation Corps Los Valles Veteran Fire Corps crew partnered with the Salida Ranger District of the Pike San Isabel National Forest for the fourth consecutive year completing fuels reduction and fire management projects. This year's crew focused on completing priority fuels work at Spruce Creek mitigating fuels by felling, bucking and limbing Juniper and Pinon pines and stacking them into burn piles. They were able to treat over 30 acres and close out this project site ahead of schedule.

RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST

Southwest Conservation Corps Los Valles launched a new Veteran Fire Corps program this year partnering with the Rio Grande National Forest. After completing wildland firefighter and chainsaw operation training, the VFC crew aided the forest in habitat restoration and fuels reduction projects in the Laughlin Gulch project area. In addition to reducing fuels, clearing around older trees allows more light to reach the forest floor, increasing plant species diversity and provide better grazing habitat for wildlife.

SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST

In 2018 Southwest Conservation Corps Four Corners Region again partnered with the San Juan NF to serve 16 recent era veterans through the Veterans Fire Corps program model. This VFC crew performed seven weeks of project work, with a highlight being the Yellow Jacket prescribed burn. SCC hopes to create a local surge asset with its VFC crew program model and will be re-evaluating its approach in 2019.



“It was a honor to have been a part of the Veterans Fire Corps. Working alongside the Forest Service was a pleasure and an eye-opening experience.”

–Darren Jiron,
 Southwest Conservation Corps
 Veterans Fire Corps Crew Member

2018 Southwest Conservation Corps VFC Accomplishments

TOTAL VETERANS	ACRES IMPROVED	PROJECT HOURS
35	2,895	15,384



CONSERVATION LEGACY SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST

Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) has partnered successfully with the San Juan National Forest since 1998 implementing many trail maintenance/construction and fuels reduction projects over the years. Southwest Conservation Corps offers Veterans Fire Corps, Sustainable Forestry Teams, Regional Conservation Corps, High School Camping Crews and Individual Placement programs—all on the San Juan National Forest, serving youth 16-18, young adults 18-25 as well as recent era veterans, with meaningful service projects. SJNF has played an active role in hands-on training and on-the-job learning for all of SCC's crews who have worked under SJNF direction.

Southwest Conservation Corps works with the SJNF on projects in developed recreation, fuels management, route inventory and management as well as intern capacity in forestry, hydrology, range management, visitor services, wilderness management and recreation. Additionally, SCC has sent many of its best and brightest alumni to work for the SJNF over the years. Aside from providing ground level capacity, SCC has also been part of several noteworthy collaborative partnerships to work not only with SJNF managers, but other local and national nonprofit organizations to bring capacity to the SJNF and also help forest managers achieve some of their goals at a landscape level, working across land boundaries to accomplish Forest and community priorities.



“

“Through dedicated partnership and proven results, SCC has enjoyed support and partnership at every level with the SJNF. It’s a relationship that we are proud of and continue to work hard to maintain.”

—Kevin Heiner,
Associate Director,
Southwest Conservation Corps

LEVERAGED PARTNERSHIPS: BEETLE KILL MITIGATION IN THE WEST

Conservation Legacy programs are based in local communities nationwide and can leverage the power and support of other local organizations that support healthy forests and trails. In the San Juan National Forest, Southwest Conservation Corps engaged local partners and funders to help address the issue of beetle kill trees down along trails in the wilderness areas. With financial support from the Wilderness Trails Forever Coalition, Pagosa Area Roundtable and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, SCC cleared 17 miles of trail and contributed 1,306 hours of service to the USFS and provided all of the required crosscut training and certifications necessary to complete this project. This local economy is heavily dependent on outfitter and guide services on local wilderness trails—these stakeholders contributed significantly to this project.

The Weminuche Wilderness is located just outside of Pagosa Springs, Colorado and is one of the most heavily affected beetle kill areas in the country. Southwest Conservation Corps crews began their work deep in the Weminuche on the heavily used out-and-back Rainbow Hot Springs

Trail. The trail winds through a gorgeous backdrop of jagged, unnamed peaks, through valleys studded with flowers, wild strawberries, and skunk cabbage. Although the scenery is undoubtedly gorgeous, The trail passes through huge swaths of beetle-killed pine forest. These dead trees are unstable and brittle, prone to falling and obstructing the path.

The Forest completed an internal report, "Project Raghorn" which details that the Weminuche Wilderness on the Pagosa Ranger District is recognized as the epicenter of the spruce beetle epidemic in southwest Colorado where spruce-fir forests in the Wilderness are 90% dead. Sections of trail average 40-100 downed trees down per mile. The local USFS trail crew struggles to keep up with the downed trees and trying to do so removes their ability to take on other priority deferred trail maintenance projects.

In 2018, Southwest Conservation Corps successfully trained and piloted a young adult wilderness trail cut-and-run crew, in partnership with the Pagosa Ranger District. These crews can work at a faster pace, with lighter equipment and are now a proven solution to capacity building on the forest.

The pilot was successful in terms both of accomplishments on the ground and also in leveraging partnerships. Because of the high cost of clearing these trails combined with competing and limited USFS dollars, working together with local community partners to secure additional funds and support for these projects was key. The development of local funding was greatly aided by the region's economic connections of outfitter and guide work to local wilderness trails. Local residents' lifeblood is through that connection, requiring that wilderness trails be open to residents and tourists alike.

Southwest Conservation Corps will work again in 2019 in this capacity and hopes to expand efforts to additional locations on the San Juan National Forest.



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY CREW

Southwest Conservation Corps fielded a long term Sustainable Forestry Crew that was certified in S-212, S-130/190, Wilderness First Aid and red carded by the SJNF. This crew assisted with the Yellow Jacket prescribed burn, marking the first time that a non-Veteran young adult crew from SCC was certified and credentialed to assist with prescribed burns. There is a great interest in this type of program model and SCC will work with the SJNF to replicate this again in 2019.



GEORGE WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON NATIONAL FORESTS

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests cover nearly 1.8 million acres across Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky—one of the largest blocks of public lands in the East. The Forests include countless National Scenic Areas, Scenic Byways, wilderness areas, recreational trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, boat launches and much more. Appalachian Conservation Corps (ACC) is proud to partner with the United States Forest Service to complete important conservation projects as well as to provide young adults with structured, safe, and challenging work, educational opportunities and an ethic of natural resource stewardship.

During the Summer of 2018, one youth crew from ACC worked to maintain and improve recreational trails throughout the seven districts of the forest and completed improvements on multiple developed recreation areas for improved visitor access and usage. These crew members were recruited from the local region including Washington, DC and the surrounding metropolitan area, Richmond, and the Shenandoah Valley. Project work was designed to provide educational opportunities as well as to instill an ethic of natural resource stewardship. The crew cleared brush following a timber sale, maintained and improved developed recreation areas including picnic grounds and a campground, and supported the ecological restoration of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land through seeding activities. The crew camped, lived, and worked on site in the forest for five days at a time.



“

“My work has directly impacted my community in a way that it makes trails and pathways more accessible to the public. It’s very special to be a part of this movement because I’m making the forest a better place.”

—Charles Gubler,
Youth Crew Member,
Appalachian Conservation Corps

The conservation and maintenance projects that the crew completed contributed to maintaining recreation areas for visitors. This opens continued opportunities for forest visitors today to enjoy these natural resources while also preserving them for future generations. Heavy use, weathering, and environmental events can cause flooding, treefall, overgrowth and washout on once traversable trails and use areas. By clearing blowdown, maintaining and refurbishing recreation areas, fortifying and maintaining sustainable trails, and installing erosion control structures, the ACC youth crew was able to revitalize visitor use areas and create sustainable trail systems and recreation areas that welcome visitor use for years to come while conserving the surrounding environment.

Throughout these productive and engaging conservation service projects, the ACC crew learned valuable lessons about the direct need for environmental conservation and natural resource management. Members were exposed to career opportunities on public lands and interacted with seasonal and career employees with unique perspective and guidance

CONSERVATION LEGACY
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST



Southeast Conservation Corps (SECC) worked in the Cherokee National Forest during the Summer of 2018.

One youth conservation corps crew focused on trail repair and rehabilitation along the entire length of the Rock Creek trail located within the Little Frog Wilderness of the Ocoee-Hiwassee Ranger District. After clearing the entire 5.4 mile length of the Rock Creek trail of overgrowth, the crew went on to address trail maintenance issues along the Coker Creek trail. Within the Coker Creek project the crew maintained the trail surface, cleared corridor and learned the fundamentals of dry stone masonry through constructing numerous rock steps within the trail to mitigate erosion and improve visitor safety.

In both locations this YCC crew worked to address critical infrastructure needs that improved drainage issues, watershed health and visitor safety. Within the Little Frog Wilderness, the crew daylighted a trail that is within the Ocoee River corridor, the country's most visited white-water river. Until the efforts of the SECC crew, this trail corridor had not been cleared for five years. At Coker Creek the crew worked to improve drainage issues and visitor safety along one of the Ocoee-Hiwassee's most popular waterfall trails in the district.

One adult conservation crew worked on sections of the Benton MacKaye trail in some of the most beautiful wilderness areas along the Tennessee and North Carolina border. For this project, SECC partnered with the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, the Cheoah Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest and the Tellico Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest.

Due to the remote nature of the project work, logistics involved in reaching backcountry sections of trail, and certifications necessary to crosscut downed trees, this style of project work can be limiting with regards to people available to perform such maintenance. In partnership with the Ocoee-Hiwassee Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest, SECC was able to certify each member of the crew in First Aid/CPR as well as official crosscut certifications from the US Forest Service. In return, the Benton MacKaye Trail had 14.75 miles of trail cleared and 174 downed trees removed. In addition the crew worked to clear drainages, installed water bars and constructed check steps.

“

“Days were filled with crosscut work, brush work, trail re-routes, and a beautiful waterfall. Backcountry was an amazing experience and I am so happy I got to do it in a beautiful place with beautiful people. I definitely grew as a person.”

–Lindsey Agee,
Adult Crew Member,
Southeast Conservation Corps

CONSERVATION LEGACY TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

ENGAGING THE NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION

The Sierra Anchas Trails Erosion Control Project was a collaborative effort between the National Forest Foundation, the US Forest Service and Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC). This partnership supported corps maintenance work in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness in the Pleasant Valley Ranger District of the Tonto National Forest. This work focused on trails that were affected by the Juniper Fire of 2016. The fire burned over 30,000 acres and all but destroyed multiple trails in the wilderness. Additionally, the fire impaired recreational access to many historically significant areas.

The objective of the project was to remediate and re-establish the trail corridor of the area trails. Trail rehabilitation to prevent erosion required out-sloping of trails to encourage water to flow off the trail, installing trail drainage structures like water bars and rolling dips, brushing trails by removing debris, downed trees, brush and branches that extend into the trail corridor and blocking or obscuring social trails and clearly delineating the trail to encourage users to stay on the trail.

AZCC accomplished the first phase of the above stated activities on the Sierra Anchas Trails Erosion Control Project over the course of eight 40-hour work weeks, with two crews comprised of one professional crew leader, one assistant crew leader and six AmeriCorps members. Over the course of the eight weeks, project objectives were met with the accomplishment maintaining 6.31 miles of trail. In addition, the project was meaningful and engaging, providing an opportunity for AZCC crew members to receive on the job training and skills development.



CONSERVATION LEGACY RESOURCE ASSISTANTS PROGRAM

The Resource Assistants Program (RAP) is a rigorous, immersive, paid internship for individuals interested in Forest Service careers. Resource Assistants work under the supervision of Forest Service staff to complete mission-critical work that demonstrates leadership, critical thinking, and strategic communication. Through direct training, experience, and exposure, Resource Assistants gain the tools to launch their natural and cultural resource careers. Arizona Conservation Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps and Stewards Individual Placements Program hosted a variety of RAP placements in 2018.



SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION CORPS RAP HIGHLIGHTS: CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST

Russell Berman, Trail Resource Assistant

“My main project has been to get all of the Trail Management Objectives for the trails on the Cibola to an approved and signed state. I managed to finish almost all of them. My other big project has been heading up a sign plan for the Zuni Mountain Trails Project in which 140 miles of new non-motorized trail is being constructed and added to the trail system for mountain biking. Other projects include hiking and surveying the entire section of Continental Divide Trail that lies on Cibola NF land (45 miles!) and then writing up a report based on my observations. Throughout this season, I have worked with the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and other districts on our forest. I’m hoping to soon land a full time position with the Forest Service.”

Kaitlyn Olson, Resource Assistant/Rec Intern

“During my time here at Sandia Ranger District, I have seen my work directly impact the community in which I worked. I took part in a variety of projects that ranged from recreation to wildlife conservation and management. My first project was a series of accessibility surveys, which the Forest Service uses to evaluate and compare accessibility feature compliance and make sure that every visitor, despite any disabilities, is able to enjoy recreation in their national forests. I was able to survey all 48 recreation sites in the Sandia Ranger District. The next project that I worked on was wildlife management related, which included Mexican spotted owl surveys, goshawk surveys and bear scat collection. In collaboration with New Mexico Game and Fish, I also took part in a biological infectious disease survey on deer in the northern part of New Mexico. I also was able to attend the RAP Conference in DC. During this conference, I was able to learn about the Forest Service, possible career paths and networking. It means so much to me that I was able to be a part of this national service movement; to be a part of something bigger than myself, that has benefited my community, and will continue to do so in the future!”

PARTNER AND PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE

MATT NELSON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE
ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION
“The AZCC crew that is out there
is top notch. By far the best crew,
(skill, care and work ethic) that
I’ve ever seen. Please know we
are grateful to be able to work
with such talented and passionate
individuals for the benefit of the
Arizona Trail and everyone whose
lives are positively impacted by
the AZT.”

DANIELLE COOK,
PARTNER, RIO GRANDE
NATIONAL FOREST “I have
recently been out to visit both
work sites and am extremely im-
pressed with the work complet-
ed. All the drains installed work
great with the trail dynamics, the
reconstruction of rutted sections
of trail are beautiful, and the re-
routes are beyond amazing. The
new reroutes will be around for
quite some time and are already
being recognized by the commu-
nity for improving damaged and
unsustainable sections of trail.
Thanks again to all crew leaders,
members, and SCC staff for the
great work!”

RACHEL SHYU,
SOUTHEAST CONSERVATION
CORPS VETERANS FIRE
CORPS “I have always wanted
to be a wildland firefighter
throughout my service and
saw the VFC as an opportunity
for getting certifications and
experience to help jump start my
new career. I feel that this a great
program for veterans to help
them start new careers while
giving back to the communities
that we work for. “I wish more
veterans knew about these types
of programs to get the training
and the experience while helping
out and doing great things in the
environment.”

MARTIN APODOCA,
CONSERVATION CORPS NEW
MEXICO “This experience has
been the most gratifying, mem-
orable, and most of all fulfilling
venture I have ever been apart
of. I cannot be more grateful to
have been selected. Thank you
Conservation Legacy for making
programs like this possible.”

JUDY STECKLER,
PARTNER, LAND TRUST FOR
THE MISSISSIPPI COASTAL
PLAIN
“The crew covered a large area
of bottomland hardwood the first
day cutting and treating inva-
sive species and cleared a trail
and playground area on another
project for the balance of their
stay. They completed so much
more than I could have ever
hoped from any other group of
volunteers that we utilize. Our
conservation areas are much
improved and in better condition
thanks to your efforts. It was a
joy to work with this crew and
so much fun as well!”

**VETERANS FIRE CORPS
MEMBER,**
SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION
CORPS
“I came to the VFC searching for
something meaningful. I wasn’t
happy. I wasn’t content. Our
first week was spent getting red
carded at Colorado Fire Camp. I
can’t explain how incredible that
week was. I knew I had found
the purpose of my life.”

CHARLES GUBLER,
APPALACHIAN
CONSERVATION CORPS
“My work has directly impacted
my community in a way that it
makes trails and pathways more
accessible to the public. It’s very
special to be a part of this move-
ment because I’m making the
forest a better place.”

KEVIN HEINER,
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION
CORPS “Through dedicated
partnership and proven results,
SCC has enjoyed support and
partnership at every level with
the SJNF. It’s a relationship that
we are proud of and continue to
work hard to maintain.”

ANDREW WHITE,
PARTNER, PIKE-SAN ISABEL
NATIONAL FOREST
“The USFS was highly satisfied
overall with the crew, leadership,
overhead and production for the
evaluation period. The quantity
of work that was completed was
excellent. The prescribed burn
unit prep was done according to
specifications and needs of the
individual burn units. The crew
members utilized their skills
during the prescribed burns.
They were a great asset to the
burns.

The Veterans Fire Corps has
highly improved. They adapt well
to changes in work priorities
and changes in project locations.
They have showed great work
ethic and improved in work
production/outcome. They are a
great asset to the USFS in assist-
ing to accomplish target acres.”

LINDSEY AGEE,
SOUTHEAST CONSERVATION
CORPS
“Days were filled with crosscut
work, brush work, trail re-
routes, and a beautiful waterfall.
Backcountry was an amazing
experience and I am so happy I
got to do it in a beautiful place
with beautiful people. I definitely
grew as a person.”

ALEX NENY,
SOUTHEAST CONSERVATION
CORPS VETERANS FIRE
CORPS “My VFC experience
with SECC was phenomenal. I
truly believe that it prepared me
for my first western wildland
fire season as an engine crew
member for the National Park
Service in Arizona. I am about
to start a fire season in South
Carolina with United States Fish
and Wildlife on a wildlife refuge.
My Fire Management Officer
told me that my VFC and NPS
fire experience definitely helped
in determining my level of
competency.”

**“The VFC
crew mixed in
well with our
permanent crew
and provided
valuable work. All
were extremely
professional
and respectful. I
would absolutely
work with this
organization
again. All work
was of very high
quality.”**

–Jay Boykin,
District FMO
De Soto National Forest

CONCLUSION



FOSTERING CONSERVATION SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES & ECOSYSTEMS

LOCAL ACTION. ENDURING IMPACT.

Participation in corps programming has a long track record of success resulting in young people developing professional and life skills as well as an increased awareness of environmental and resource stewardship. These activities promote the mission and vision to which both the United States Forest Service and Conservation Legacy are committed. The physical and financial support from the US Forest Service, the interns, crews, communities, partner agencies, staff and partner conservation corps in this effort have been remarkable.

Conservation Legacy and partner corps are humbled to continue to learn and grow together and to continue to provide systems, administrative and coordinating services that can build capacity at the local level to engage youth and young adults with public lands, for the betterment of our shared future.

Conservation Legacy is extremely enthusiastic about the opportunity to continue its partnership with the US Forest Service to expand opportunities for young people to serve on public lands and to provide much needed services in the areas of land restoration, trail maintenance and construction, vegetation management, wildfire risk mitigation, community development and other critical needs.

APPENDIX A: PRESS AND MEDIA

MCPHEE OVERLOOK TRAIL RECEIVES AWARD

SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST NEWSLETTER · FALL 2018
https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd597489.pdf

HISTORIC WAGON ROAD REVIVED IN HERMOSA CREEK AREA

THE DURANGO HERALD · NOVEMBER 2018
<https://durangoherald.com/articles/248447>

THE WEST CROSS CREEK TRAIL PROJECT LAUNCHES THANKS TO THE SAN JUAN STEWARDSHIP FUND

THE NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION · NOVEMBER 2018
<https://www.nationalforests.org/blog/the-west-cross-creek-trail-project-launches-thanks-to-the-san-juan-stewardship-fund>

NATIONAL AWARD RECOGNIZES COMMUNITY EFFORT ON MCPHEE OVERLOOK TRAIL

THE JOURNAL · JULY 2018
<https://the-journal.com/articles/103107>

BEFORE 416 FIRE, LOCAL VETERANS TRAINED TO FIGHT WILDFIRES

THE DURANGO HERALD · JUNE 2018
<https://durangoherald.com/articles/229269>

CHATTANOOGA-BASED CORPS LAUNCHES GROUP TO HELP VETERANS LAND JOBS IN WILDFIRE INDUSTRY

TIMES FREE PRESS · FEBRUARY 2018
<https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/local/story/2018/feb/05/corps-launches-grohhelp-veterans-land-jobs-wil/462909/>

THE NEW (BIPARTISAN!) CONSERVATION CORPS IS A WIN-WIN

OUTSIDE ONLINE · JANUARY 2018
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/veterans-service-conservation-corps-career-pathways_us_5a0c94a0e4b06d8966cf344d

APPENDIX B: FUNDING

FUNDING AMOUNTS:

Alaska Region: \$18,103.59
 Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest: \$158,445.84
 Bighorn National Forest: \$10,130.98
 Carson National Forest: \$44,144.74
 Chattahoochee National Forest: \$12,420.00
 Cibola National Forest: \$72,275.00
 Coconino National Forest: \$355,543.37
 Coronado National Forest: \$219,819.84
 George Washington and Jefferson National Forests:
 \$1,545.00
 Gila National Forest: \$233,979.94
 Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests:
 \$256,894.75
 Kaibab National Forest: \$8,400.00
 Lincoln National Forest: \$89,149.35
 Mark Twain National Forest: \$64,520.00
 Monongahela National Forest: \$8101,500.00
 Pike-San Isabel National Forest: \$265,304.35
 Prescott National Forest: \$7,200.00
 Rio Grande National Forest: \$303,984.53
 Rocky Mountain Region: \$7,850.00
 San Juan National Forest: \$533,456.10
 Southern Region: \$129,269.27
 Southwest Region: \$128,427.01
 Tonto National Forest: \$152,218.59
 National Forest: \$303,984.53

TOTAL US FOREST SERVICE FUNDING:

\$3,174,582.25

APPENDIX C: FULL PROJECT LIST

Crew Projects

Apache Sitgreaves National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Protect communities from wildfire
 and mitigate climate related impacts
 18-PA-11030104-011

Apache Sitgreaves National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Restore, protect and improve habitat
 18-PA-11030114-018

Apache Sitgreaves National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Restore, protect and improve habitat
 18-PA-11030110-022

Carson National Forest
 Southwest Conservation Corps
 Improve recreational access
 18-PA11030200-002

Chattahoochee-Oconee NF
 Southeast Conservation Corps
 Improve recreational access
 15-PA-11083150-033 - Mod 3

Cherokee National Forest & Nantahala
 National Forest
 Southeast Conservation Corps
 Improve recreational access
 15-PA-11083150-033 - Mod 3

Coconino National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Restore, protect and improve habitat
 14-PA-11030416-035

Coconino National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Improve recreational access
 18-PA-11030406-013

Coconino National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Improve recreational access
 18-PA-11030408-019

Coconino National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Protect communities from wildfire
 and mitigate climate related impacts
 18-PA-11030408-026

Coronado National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Improve recreational access
 16-PA-11030500-051

Coronado National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Restore, protect and improve habitat
 17-PA-11030500-023

Coronado National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Restore, protect and improve habitat
 17-CS-11030500-027

Coronado National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Improve recreational access
 18-PA-11030500-051

De Soto National Forest
 Southeast Conservation Corps
 Restore, protect and improve habitat
 TCN-2018-\$100,000

George Washington and Jefferson
 National Forests
 Great Appalachian Valley CC
 Improve recreational access
 15-PA-11083150-033 - Mod 3

George Washington and Jefferson
 National Forests
 Great Appalachian Valley CC
 Improve recreational access

Gila National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Improve recreational access
 16-PA-11030600-019

Gila National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Restore, protect and improve habitat
 18-PA-11030600-013

Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison
 National Forests
 Southwest Conservation Corps
 Protect communities from wildfire
 and mitigate climate related impacts
 17-PA-11020400-029

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison
 National Forests
 Southwest Conservation Corps
 Improve recreational access
 17-PA-11020405-069

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison
 National Forests
 Southwest Conservation Corps
 Restore, protect and improve habitat
 17-PA-11020400-029

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison
 National Forests
 Southwest Conservation Corps
 Restore, protect and improve habitat
 18-PA-11020406-011

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison
 National Forests
 Southwest Conservation Corps
 Restore, protect and improve habitat
 18-PA-11020405-014

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison
 National Forests
 Southwest Conservation Corps
 Restore, protect and improve habitat
 SCC Town of Telluride \$19,500

Kaibab National Forest
 Southwest Conservation Corps
 Support local economies and restore
 community/cultural assets
 18-PA-11030703-013

Lincoln National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Improve recreational access
 16-PA-11030800-017

Prescott National Forest
 Arizona Conservation Corps
 Restore, protect and improve habitat
 18-PA-11030905-002

Rio Grande National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
2018 OHV \$27,200

Rio Grande National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
18-CS-11020900-027

Rio Grande National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Protect communities from wildfire
and mitigate climate related impacts
18-PA-11020900-016

Rio Grande National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
18-CS-11020900-014

Rio Grande National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
18-CS-11020900-013

Rio Grande National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
NFF RGNF-2018-\$13,000

Rio Grande National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
17-CS-11020900 021

Rio Grande National Forest
Arizona Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
18-PA-11030800-009

San Isabel National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
CFI-2018-\$81,600

San Juan National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Protect communities from wildfire
and mitigate climate related impacts
15-PA-11021200-061

San Juan National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
17-PA-11021202-070

San Juan National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Protect communities from wildfire
and mitigate climate related impacts
17-PA-11021300-030

San Juan National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Protect communities from wildfire
and mitigate climate related impacts
14-PA-11021300-015-MOD 4

San Juan National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
17-PA-11021300-044

San Juan National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Protect communities from wildfire
and mitigate climate related impacts
17-PA-11021300-041

San Juan National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
18-PA-11021202-037

San Juan National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
CYCA 18-7002 RRR 6500

San Juan National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
18-PA-11021306-029

San Juan National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Protect communities from wildfire
and mitigate climate related impacts
18-PA-11021300-021

San Juan National Forest
Southwest Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
18-PA-11021308-050

Tonto National Forest
Arizona Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
15-PA-11031200-011

Tonto National Forest
Arizona Conservation Corps
Improve recreational access
16-PA-11031200-015 - Crew

Tonto National Forest
Arizona Conservation Corps
Restore, protect and improve habitat
17-PA-11221634-147





Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 



**21ST CENTURY
CONSERVATION
SERVICE CORPS**

Additional support for Conservation Legacy programs is provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Conservation Legacy is proud to partner with AmeriCorps and the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to provide national service opportunities for young adults and veterans on public lands.