

Environmental Stewards

2013 Summer Program Summary



Making a
Difference

In your
community



Summer
Edition
2013



2013 Environmental Stewards

Summer Program Summary

In the summer of 2013, Southwest Conservation Corp's Environmental Stewards Summer Program continued its excellent, ongoing work supporting environmental stewardship around the country. This summer we placed 52 AmeriCorps Members in 33 different sites located through-out the United States, including 4 people in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

This report provides some of our accomplishments, along with a few spotlights of some of our Members. We look forward to expanding our program in 2014.

The following are some of the program accomplishments of 2013:



266 Acres of national parks, state parks, city parks, county parks and public and tribal communities were improved

24.3 miles of trails and rivers were improved and/or created

52 maps and 11 databases were maintained

556 volunteers were recruited, coordinated and supported

3961 volunteer hours were provided

1,000 surveys were conducted

123 water samples and 1,580 water quality readings were taken

Environmental education was provided to 211 adults and 444 students.

3,500 bird counts were conducted



Demographics



Total Applicants	199
Total Members Enrolled	52
Total Local Members*	47

*From within the same state



Gender



Females— 48%

Males— 52%



Host	Members	Location By State
Bureau of Reclamation (BoR)	6	CO, OK
National Park Service (NPS)	5	AZ, LA, PA
US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	2	NM
US Geological Survey (USGS)	17	AK, CT, FL, MI, PR, VA
US Forest Service (USFS)	3	MO
Local/State Agencies	4	CA, CO, OH
Nonprofit Organizations	15	CO, MO, NM, OH

Project Highlight: River Restoration in Inyo County, California



Environmental Steward Michael Bunn spent 10 weeks in the summer of 2013 providing service to the Inyo County Water Department.

Michael spent a good part of his time restoring the Owens River, which provides drinking water to the city of Los Angeles, provides irrigation to cattle, habitat for many plants and wildlife and recreation opportunities. Michael worked to manage unwanted emergent vegetation along the river. In creating a management plan, Michael worked with land managers, agricultural retailers, wildlife biologists, and recreationists. In addition, Michael created and organized a group of “community stewards” to take on the responsibility of keeping the Owens River managed for years to come.



Overall, Michael helped restore 10 acres of land and 5 miles of river, removing 10 tons of plant material and sowing tens of thousands of willow seeds in riparian areas.



Project Highlight: Restoring habitat with the USGS Great Lakes Science Center



Environmental Stewards Lizmar Rodriguez and Nelson Cordero both spent 10 weeks of their summer serving with the USGS – Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, MI. Lizmar and Nelson (both from Puerto Rico) focused their work on river conservation. Their project involved working with USGS on restoring habitat for native sturgeons. This includes taking samples of fish eggs, fish larvae and fish diet, water flow readings, acoustic telemetry observation, and adult Sturgeon size, weight and spawning behavior. Due to the unique partners in this project, and the excellent work the Stewards accomplished, this project was nominated for the 2013 *Secretary of the Interior Partners in Conservation Award*.

“I not only learned many valuable things from the program; but also about myself as a student, scientist, professional and individual.” -Nelson Cordero





Southwest
Conservation
Corps

Moving Forward

2014

The Environmental Stewards program continues to move forward for the 2014 year.

The following are some of the highlights for 2014:

We are expanding the Environmental Stewards programs to provide a wider variety of opportunities for sites and members

Environmental Stewards can start anytime of the year on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month

Environmental Stewards can work between 10 weeks – 1 year depending on each sites interest

A new website has been launched:

www.environmentalstewards.org

Environmental Stewards continue to make a difference in your community...

The Environmental Stewards Program would like to thank The Tiffany & Co. Foundation for their on-going support. The Tiffany & Co. Foundation's Responsible Mining Program supports models of reclamation and restoration work that bring together local communities, government, business and civil society in an effort to reclaim and remediate land and watersheds in which mining has occurred. The Foundation's support allows these organizations to obtain an Environmental Steward and benefit the land and community where they serve.



Michael Rendon

Environmental Stewards Program Director

701 Camino Del Rio

Suite 101

Durango, CO 81301

970-403-0149

mrendon@sccorps.org

www.EnvironmentalStewards.org