



# Annual Report

## FY 2015

Oct. 2014—Sept. 2015



SANDRA FLORES, DOI/VISTA SERVING AT GROUNDWORK RICHMOND, CA  
CONDUCTING REGULAR PLANT MONITORING IN A RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD

**BUILD CAPACITY, RESTORE ENVIRONMENTS, INNOVATE SOLUTIONS,  
DEVELOP OPPORTUNITIES, GROW SUPPORT, AND EMPower LEADERS.**





## DOI/VISTA—Play, Learn, Serve & Work in Underserved Communities



*DOI/VISTA sites Northeast Trees, Sequoia and Kings Canyon, and Outward Bound Adventures partnered to allow youth who live in the neighborhoods surrounding the LA River to travel to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park for an Experiential Learning Trip.*

In FY 2015, **79** DOI/VISTAs served with nonprofits and public land management agencies in order to support underserved communities in using public lands for employment opportunities, health, and education. The service of DOI/VISTAs this year resulted in:

- ◆ **8,194 YOUTH SERVED IN AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING**
- ◆ **22,469 HOURS WORKED BY 6,143 VOLUNTEERS** (1,083 new volunteers recruited)
- ◆ **672 ACRES OF PUBLIC AND TRIBAL LANDS IMPROVED**
- ◆ **352 INDIVIDUALS TRAINED IN JOB SKILLS**

DOI/VISTAs also created or maintained over **1,612** partnerships and raised over **\$235,000** in grant funding this year. **20,522** Community Residents attended events, and **72,000** lbs of litter and trash were collected by volunteers.

We are also happy to note that this year **12** DOI/VISTA alumni became full time DOI Employees as a result of utilizing their Non-competitive eligibility status.

Initially funded for two years as a part of the Play, Learn, Serve, Work Initiative, the DOI/VISTA Team has continued to show success in developing opportunities for underserved people to benefit from and become engaged with public lands — we look forward to the continued success of DOI/VISTA as we begin our 3rd year in partnership with individual bureaus, hosting sites, nonprofits, and new DOI/VISTAs.

## OSMRE/VISTA—Serving Rural Mining Communities



*Lilli Pickens, serving with the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable helps a participant at the Stepping Stone Environmental Camp*

In FY 2015, **94** OSMRE/VISTAs served organizations working within rural mining communities to address the economic and environmental impacts of legacy mining. Their projects included Main Street and tourism initiatives, food hubs, acid mine drainage education, and waterway health improvement. This year OSMRE/VISTA service resulted in:

- ◆ **\$716,000 IN GRANT FUNDING DEVELOPED**
- ◆ **32,114 HOURS SERVED BY 5,200 VOLUNTEERS** (877 new volunteers recruited)
- ◆ **258 NEW PARTNERSHIPS**

They created **92** projects that provided economic opportunities for community residents and community revitalization. Through these projects, **407** individuals received job or employment skills and **805** individuals were trained in entrepreneurship. OSMRE/VISTAs supported the monitoring of **337** waterways.

They contributed to **28** environmental remediation projects, and through their projects, **66** AMD sites were monitored, **3935** trees were planted, and **27,051** pounds of litter were collected. They contributed to food access projects that engaged **5,272** youth in food or gardening programs, created **58** new gardens and maintained **224** more. OSMRE/VISTAs supported projects that grew **21,511** pounds of food, with **11,534** pounds grown in home gardens that provide supplemental income to community residents. OSMRE/VISTAs created **9** new farmers markets and supported **83** more to sell that food, creating structures for healthy living and economies.

## TCU/VISTA—Serving Tribal Colleges and Universities



*TCU/VISTA Charlotte Ambrozek, serving with Iñisliḡvik College, has facilitated nutritional workshops for tribal youth in seven remote villages of the North Slope in Northern Alaska. Pictured here at one of the cooking classes.*

In FY 2015, **ten** TCU/VISTAs serving at eight Tribal colleges and universities created sustainable projects ranging from farmers' markets to healthy cooking workshops to trail restorations and more. They dedicated their efforts towards applying for and submitting grants, recruiting local volunteers, and providing outreach on behalf of TCUs.

- ◆ **433 YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN FOOD PROGRAMS**
- ◆ **2,758 LBS. OF FOOD HARVESTED FROM GARDENS**
- ◆ **\$89,000 IN GRANTS AND IN-KIND RESOURCES**

TCU/VISTAs focused on food security by organizing the construction of **18** new community gardens, the maintenance of **64** existing community gardens, and the support for 10 farmers' markets. They held **20** events focused on awareness of the environment in community and personal health, and enabled **224** individuals to receive education or training in energy-efficient and environmentally-conscious practices.

They created **40** projects that provided volunteer opportunities for their communities; and successfully recruited **200** volunteers that volunteered for **608** hours. TCU/VISTAs developed **64** new partnerships and maintained **120** existing partnerships; gave **64** presentations to **505** K-12 students focused on healthy futures and environmental stewardship, and they developed **55** plans for infrastructural development for Tribal colleges and universities.

# Year End Mission Statement Review

## Build Capacity

**\$1 Mil.** in Grant Funding Secured with **88** Grants Funded  
**\$176K** in Cash Resources Generated  
**\$480K** in-Kind Resources and Services Donated

## Restore Environments

**14,511** Acres of Land Cleaned or Restored  
**395** Miles of Waterways Cleaned or Restored  
**36,375** lbs Recycled **99,952** lbs of Trash Removed

## Innovate Solutions

**1263** New Partnerships Developed  
**667** Organizational Development Plans Created  
**194** New Economic Development Projects Started

## Develop Opportunities

**23,394** Youth Served in an Educational Setting  
**998** People Trained in Job Skills  
**798** Volunteer/Service Opportunities Created

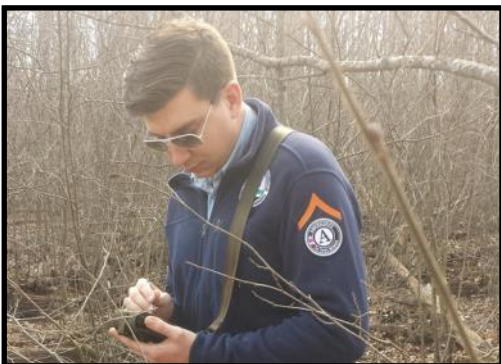
## Grow Support

**55,191** Hours Logged by **11,543** Volunteers  
**43,000** People Attending Community Events  
**639** Mentions of Service in the Media

## Empower Leaders

**364** Conferences Attended by Members  
**246** BRIDGE Network Members Served  
**47** Alumni Continuing Service or Hired by a Partner

## OSMRE AmeriCorps-Serving OSMRE Field Offices



OSMRE AmeriCorps Logan Carpenter in Knoxville, TN conducts data logging.

This year **seventeen** OSMRE AmeriCorps members have served in OSMRE Field offices. We are proud to announce that six of those Members have been hired by OSMRE, while three are serving a second year as an OSMRE/AmeriCorps.

- ◆ 2,733 RECLAMATION AND RESTORATION MAPS CREATED OR MAINTAINED
- ◆ 479 WATER SAMPLES COLLECTED
- ◆ 7,277 TREES PLANTED
- ◆ 2,471 VOLUNTEERS, WORKING 9,224 HOURS

OSMRE/AmeriCorps Members work with professionals in OSMRE field offices to supplement OSMRE's mission and build community outreach.



## BRIDGE Network Special Initiatives—Providing Additional Support to hosting sites



NCCC Members shoveling stone at Mountain Valley School in Saguache, Colorado

The National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) traveled to several BRIDGE Network Sites this quarter to provide direct service projects like construction, trail maintenance, cleanups, and landscaping. In 2014, **43** NCCC members served **8,256** hours with **8** sites resulting in:

- ♦ **278 LBS. OF DEBRIS AND TRASH REMOVED**
- ♦ **6 MILES OF HIKING TRAIL RESTORED**
- ♦ **57,417 LBS. OF INVASIVE VEGETATION CLEARED**
- ♦ **150 ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ASSISTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**



Summer Associates and community youth planting a community garden in Cuba, NM

Summer Associate VISTAs are placed for 6-8 week service terms in sites that are also hosting full-year BRIDGE Network VISTAs (Community Stewards) that apply. In 2015 BRIDGE Network successfully applied for and received **26** AmeriCorps\*VISTA Summer Associates for the summer of 2015. Summer associates served in 12 states in support of DOI, TCU, and OSMRE VISTAs. Summer Associates focus on short-term direct service projects that resulted in:

- ♦ **4,986 HOURS SERVED BY 911 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS**
- ♦ **38 EVENTS HELD TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENT**
- ♦ **122 YOUTH RECEIVING STEM BASED EDUCATION**
- ♦ **1,471 YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

## Looking forward to 2016—A year of Sustainable Growth



In 2016, BRIDGE Network will merge two Conservation Legacy Programs, Environmental Stewards, and the formerly titled "VISTA Program" to create a single nationwide individual AmeriCorps Sponsor that works with Federal Land Management and Conservation Agencies to place AmeriCorps members and VISTAs across America.

BRIDGE Network staff looks forward to working with our partners to continue supporting National Service Projects that **Build** capacity, **Restore** environments, **Innovate** solutions, **Develop** opportunities, **Grow** support, and **Empower** leaders.

## MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH FUNDING AND SUPPORT FROM OUR PARTNERS:



**Director of Partnerships**  
**Joey Ruehrwein**  
970-401-2381  
joey@conservationlegacy.org



**Director of Operations**  
**April Elkins**  
304-252-4848 x305  
april@conservationlegacy.org