NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS
2019 ANNUAL REPORT
Offering Opportunities For Youth And Young Adults To Learn, Grow, And Experience Success
Dear Friends,

Please enjoy this Annual Report and learn the impact that 922 remarkable young people made through Northwest Youth Corps and Idaho Conservation Corps in 2019.

As you know, we just completed our 35th year! During our history, more than 23,000 individuals have earned a total of $24.69 million as they contributed more than five million hours of service to Northwest communities. At the same time, a wider variety of young Americans – including American Sign Language users, Native American, LGBTQ, and rural and urban dwellers – have become introduced to their public lands in meaningful, life-changing ways.

Last year’s participants also included a record 122 individually placed Interns who gained the skills and experience needed for a career while accomplishing mission-critical work with NYC’s land management partners. The significance of these programs was confirmed when our Rainbow Inclusion program was chosen as the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Project of the Year from more than 130 Corps across the country. Said the parent of a former Rainbow corpsmember who returned to NYC last summer to serve in an all-women’s trail crew,

“My baby girl was on Mount Rainier with you about 14 months ago with the Rainbow crew, and now she’s on a “regular” trail crew, Wilderness First Responder certified, and got Class-A chainsaw certified yesterday! Y’all are building more than trails and footbridges; y’all are building confidence and strength in our kids who are at highest risk. And so, thank you!”

Meanwhile, a graduate from our Washington 2 program wrote, “The session was an unbelievable blessing, and a life changing view for me… I hope that this reflection of mine can be shared where other teenagers can see this and know of the inspiration that Northwest Youth Corps is to people.”

Whether you are a current or past participant, a community partner, or a project partner, we hope you share pride in the huge difference you make to our region’s young people and communities. Thank you again for your continued support of and dedication to the mission of Northwest Youth Corps and Idaho Conservation Corps.

Sincerely,

Erik Matisek
President of the Board
2019 | BY THE NUMBERS

Revenues $6,775,537

- Service Projects: 85%
- Other: 11%
- Grants & Donations: 3%
- Tuition & Fees: 1%

Expenditures $6,841,362

- Field Wages: 35%
- Salaries & Wages: 15%
- Administration: 15%
- Operations: 14%
- Transportation: 9%
- Stipends: 12%
- Other: 3%

Project Totals

- 922 Participants engaged
- 316,857 Hours of conservation service to America’s public lands

- 433 miles of trail construction/maintenance
- 146 miles of trail corridor brushing
- 82.5 miles of fence construction/maintenance
- 3,800 native plant installations
- 1,088 acres of noxious weed removal
- 1,395 acres of fuels reduction
- 19 acres of trash removal
- 2,872 drainage structures built
In 2019, NYC continued to offer hands-on training and experience, solid job reference, academic credit, and/or AmeriCorps living allowance and education award to 922 youth and young adults. One crew worked on Mt. Hood to improve recreational infrastructure and habitat within the Mt. Hood National Forest. Elsewhere, on the Oregon Coast Trail, Oregon State Parks and Recreation began a pilot project with Northwest Youth Corps to increase connectivity of the iconic, but incomplete, 382-mile long Oregon Coast Trail. Tying together funding from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), the Transportation Infrastructure Program (TIP), and state and private philanthropy, the pilot project will replace some sections of the trail with more natural and safer trail alternatives, as well as increase the profile of Oregon’s outdoor recreation and tourism industry. After a successful pilot in 2019, NYC will provide 30+ weeks of work to the project in 2020.

In 2019, this work extended into the state of Washington as well! In partnership with the Washington Trails Association and the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, our Backcountry Leadership Program re-opened a 30-mile segment of the Pacific Northwest Trail in the Pasayten Wilderness on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Just southwest of Spokane, WA, our young adult crew removed more than four miles of fence line to expand the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuges and allow animals such as moose to explore without barriers. In Washington’s national parks, our ASL Inclusion crews had the great fortune to work in North Cascades National Park near Stehekin, on the coast of Olympic National Park, at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, and at Mount Rainier National Park. In both states, young people from diverse backgrounds enhanced their skills, employability, and interest in stewarding our public lands through a career in resource management.

In 2019, a record 122 interns served through NYC and ICC with partner agencies. These individuals helped maintain 157 miles of trails, plant 4,208 seedlings, remove 2,114 acres of non-native vegetation, restore five CCC-era buildings, and deliver recreation education to more than 3,000 K-12 students. Since 1985, starting with agreements with four Ranger Districts, the Forest Service has been NYC’s largest and longest partnership. NYC now works with 20 USFS National Forests, in Regions 1, 4, 5, and 6. In 2019, this partnership allowed 26 interns to serve in Public Land Corps positions and 18 to serve in Resource Assistant positions. Other interns served with the BLM, National Park Service, Idaho Bureau of Reclamation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Foundation for Public Lands, Idaho Transportation Department; US Army Corps of Engineers, and Washington State Department of Natural Resources.
Tribal Stewards Crews

Tribal Stewards is a program, co-created by Northwest Youth Corps and the Oregon Natural Desert Association, whose goals are to deepen the connection of tribal youth to their ancestral homeland, provide career mentorship and professional skills development, prepare tribal youth for a possible career in conservation, while addressing challenges in central and eastern Oregon.

Through Tribal Stewards, six Native young adults and their crewleader completed a total of 1,621.50 service hours between June 22 and August 23. More than that, completion of these projects increased youth interest and gains in skills, leadership abilities, and interest in new career paths. For their efforts, each program graduate earned a living allowance and an AmeriCorps Education Award. Later, as Tribal Stewards graduates advance in their careers, and move into leadership positions within their tribes, they can serve as champions for conservation, while ensuring that a greater diversity of individuals enjoy Oregon’s high desert.

LGBTQ Rainbow Inclusion Crews

Since 2017, in partnership with Elyse Rylander of OUT There Adventures, NYC has operated a Rainbow (LGBTQ+) program for youth and young adults who identify as LGBTQ. By 2019, NYC was able to double the size of this young program, thanks to a very generous grant from the National Park Foundation. Last year’s grant funded 20 youth and two crewleaders, who tackled many significant maintenance projects at Olympic National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, and Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

More than just the conservation outcomes achieved, this program introduced young Americans – often underrepresented in outdoor recreation – to their national parks in meaningful, life-changing ways, as each young person improved their workplace skills, earned a non-taxed stipend and job reference, and learned more about outdoor careers. NYC was gratified when our LGBTQ Rainbow Inclusion program was chosen by The Corps Network (TCN) as Project of the Year from more than 130 Corps across the country. Awardees were chosen through a rigorous application and peer review process, and based on their ability to provide both a positive experience for youth and meaningful improvements to the community. Thank you TCN for your support and this award!
In 1984, Northwest Youth Corps kicked off operations out of a defunct Eugene gas station, thanks to grants from four foundations and paid work from ten forest products companies and The Nature Conservancy. With youth unemployment at the time as high as 50%, NYC’s goal was (and remains) to educate and engage young people and teach them important life skills, while improving the natural environment.

Wrote Founder Art Pope on NYC’s first day of operation, “Today it happened! ... Already...teenagers from across Western Oregon are starting to really get some work done. In a few more days we should really be able to show the world that, with the right people, people willing to really give it their best, this concept is no longer a dream. NYC is here and it is here to stay!” That first summer, 58 teens powered six crews on a budget just shy of $100,000.

By 1987, NYC had doubled in size and moved to a warehouse in Glenwood. Ten years later, NYC expanded again by moving into a 28,000 sf campus on Augusta Street, and established a two-acre farm and alternative outdoor high school. In 2000, a long-time friend of the organization helped NYC establish a Tuition Assistance Endowment, funding 150+ scholarships a year to reduce financial barriers to youth.

Thirty five years in, true to the vision of Art and other early supporters, more than 23,000 individuals have “given their best”, earning a total of $24.69 million while accomplishing more than five million hours of conservation service.

Northwest Youth Corps is now the largest, oldest, and most effective youth and young adult corps in the region, and a foundational member of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps movement. Each year, almost one thousand youth and young adults develop solid work skills, and earn academic credit and professional job references through more than 300,000 hours of service across four states. These young people are our country’s future leaders and current conservation citizens, already making a difference.

Be part of this legacy! Whether you are a current or past participant, a community partner, or a project partner (maybe all three!), you play a vital part in NYC’s continued growth and evolution. Help send a youth through our program, make a donation, or host a crew! With your help, we will enhance the lives of tens of thousands of young people through education and employment in the next 35 years and beyond.
1984
- NYC’s first field season
- 58 teens served

1987
- NYC moves to warehouse in Glenwood

1996
- NYC establishes predecessor to Twin Rivers Charter School
- First young adult program
- 482 teens served

1997
- NYC moves to Augusta Street
- 573 participants served

2003
- Number of computers (58) exceeds number of chainsaws (53)

2014
- American Sign Language (ASL) Inclusion Crew established
- 776 individuals served

2016
- Twin River Charter School established
- Internship program established
- Tribal Stewards program established

2017
- ASL Inclusion Crew chosen as The Corps Network Project of the Year
- More than 1,000 individuals served

2019
- Rainbow Crew chosen as The Corps Network Project of the Year

2019
- Rainbow Crew chosen as The Corps Network Project of the Year
Idaho Conservation Corps (ICC) offers a challenging education and job training experience to youth and young adults from diverse backgrounds. In 2019, ICC placed 132 youth and young adults in its crew-based programs, who served more than 44,859 hours, and spent more than 5,130 hours on education. In 2019, ICC also fielded 67 Interns who provided 40,465 hours of conservation service to Idaho public lands.

**Improving Idaho’s Public Lands**

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<th>132 Youth and Young Adults</th>
<th>85,324 hours of conservation service to Idaho public lands</th>
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<td>67 Interns</td>
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- 62 miles of trail construction/maintenance
- 1,144 acres of fuels reduction
- 743 acres of noxious weed removal
- 3,800 native plant installations
- 4.5 miles of fence construction
- 559 drainage structures built

“I am beyond words and feel so happy at the progress me and my crew accomplished on the trails of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. My time spent was filled with learning more about the wilderness, how to handle tools, and living with amazing people for days on end. My crew has taught me so much.”

- Jen, 2019 Moscow Crewmember

**One Track Mind Foundation Partnership**

In 2019, Idaho Conservation Corps continued to expand its partnership with the One Track Mind Foundation. This nonprofit organization of passionate explorers and adventurers is committed to preserving, expanding, and building multi-use singletrack bicycle trails in the Gem State. Completely funded by the One Track Mind Foundation, last year, 85 Idaho Conservation Corps youth and young adults carried out 11,431 project hours of construction and maintenance of key mountain bike trails in the Payette National Forest. Significant outcomes included improving 33.4 miles of trail, and constructing 538 drainage structures. Looking forwards into 2020, Idaho Conservation Corps shares OTMF’s vision of sharing the ‘thrill of the trail’ with more people, and enlisting local youth in this work. Thank you again, One Track Mind Foundation, for your ongoing and generous support!
ICC and BLM Boise District Partnership

“We began utilizing the ICC crew late in the summer and thought that getting them out on the burn would benefit both parties,” said Lance Okeson, Boise District Fuels Management Officer and Trout Springs Burn Boss. “It was evident during the burn that the ICC crew demonstrated the work ethic and attitude we were looking for, while at the same time learning and developing wildland fire skills that could benefit them down the road.”

The ICC crew members participated in numerous jobs on the burn including digging hand line, ignition operations with drip torches, and assisting wildland engines in holding operations. These hands-on learning assignments provided valuable experience, and ICC crew members were excited about the opportunity.

“Our relationship with the Idaho Conservation Corps is one that continues to develop, and we are excited to be working with them,” said Russ Babiak, Fire Management Officer for the Boise District. “It is a great program that is beneficial to everyone involved.”

Rhoda Creek Trail Multi-Agency Partnership in the Central Idaho Priority Area

The Rhoda Creek trail system has long been used by horseback riders and hikers when traveling between the Lochsa and Selway River drainages. Unfortunately, lack of consistent trail maintenance and many fires in the area made the route nearly impossible to find, and the mainline route no longer accessible. The Forest Service did not have the capacity in 2019 to support the extensive effort to re-open the trail, as the year’s work had already been planned for the forest’s limited trail crews.

Fortunately, hard-working volunteers and partners stepped up to make this project a reality. Individuals from the North Central Idaho Backcountry Horsemen offered to help search for and re-open the trail, but needed support from land managers and trail crews. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation used trail grant funds to hire an Idaho Conservation Corps crew to do the trail work and to support the Backcountry Horsemen volunteers, who packed in the crew’s camp and supplies.
NYC’s Tuition Assistance Endowment was established through a gift made by Steve Stewart in memory of his mother, Dorothy Elizabeth Stewart. NYC’s Endowment grows through the ongoing support of our alumni and community donors. Named funds include: Campbell Group Fund, Datalogic Fund, Krist Anderson Fund, Scott Foremny Fund, Straub Family Fund, and Wyss Foundation Fund.
I love working with Northwest Youth Corps crews! I'm so grateful that programs like NYC are around, making sure that young people have the chance to connect with nature and their national parks, and their role as our future stewards.

- Carla Cole, Natural Resources Program Manager, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

**Bureau of Land Management**
- **Idaho**
  - Boise District
  - Burns District
  - Coos Bay District
  - Eugene District
  - Medford District
  - Prineville District
  - Roseburg District
  - Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area

**Corporation for National and Community Service**
- AmeriCorps

**National Park Service**
- **California**
  - Manzanar National Historic Site
  - Redwood National and State Parks
- **Idaho**
  - City of Rocks National Reserve
  - Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve
  - Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument
  - Minidoka National Historic Site
  - Nez Perce National Historical Park
- **Oregon**
  - John Day Fossil Beds National Monument
  - Lewis and Clark National Historical Park
  - Oregon Caves National Monument & Preserve

**United States Forest Service**
- **California**
  - Six Rivers National Forest
- **Idaho**
  - Boise National Forest
  - Idaho Panhandle National Forest
  - Nez Perce National Historic Trail
  - Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
  - Payette National Forest
  - Salmon-Challis National Forest
  - Sawtooth National Forest
  - Sawtooth National Recreation Area
- **Oregon**
  - Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
  - Deschutes National Forest
  - Fremont-Winema National Forest
  - Lakeview Ranger District
  - Malheur National Forest
  - Mount Hood National Forest
  - Ochoco National Forest
  - R6 Regional Office
  - Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
  - Siuksau National Forest
  - Umpqua National Forest
  - Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
  - Willamette National Forest
- **Washington**
  - Colville National Forest
  - Gifford Pinchot National Forest
  - Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
  - Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
  - Olympic National Forest

**US Fish and Wildlife Service**
- Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge
- Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
- Turnbull Wildlife Refuge
- Willapa Wildlife Refuge

**United States Army Corps of Engineers**
- Cottage Grove
- Fern Ridge
- Lookout Point

**Other Partners**
- Adams County Weed Management Authority
- Artemio Paz
- Back Country Horsemens of Washington
- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Camp Fire Wilani
- Capitol Land Trust
- City of Eugene
- City of Manzanita
- City of Salem
- City of Springfield
- City of Troutdale
- City of West Linn
- Clackamas Environmental Service
- Columbia Slough Watershed Council
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
- Conservation Legacy
- East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
- Edgewood Park West HOA
- Eugene Fire Department
- Eugene School District 4J
- Eugene Water & Electric Board
- Forest Park Conservancy
- Friends of the Dunes
- Friends of Trees
- Girls Inc.
- Hendricks Hill HOA
- Hexion
- Howard Buford Recreation Area
- Idaho Bureau of Reclamation
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Foundation for Public Lands
- Idaho Transportation Department
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Parks and Recreation
- Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Japanese American Citizens League
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Kaniksu Land Trust Inc.
- Lake Wenatchee, WA NYC Operations
- Lane County Parks
- Lane County Waste Management
- Long Tom Watershed Council
- McKenzie River Trust
- Metro Parks Tacoma
- Murrayhill Owners Association
- Oak Management LLC
- Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery County Park
- One Track Mind Foundation
- Oregon State Parks and Recreation
- Oregon State University
- OUT There Adventures
- Port of Portland
- Portland General Electric
- Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation
- Shoshone County
- The Koehler Family
- Thurston County
- Trail Keepers of Oregon
- Upper Willamette Water Conservation District
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Washington Trails Association
- West Linn Parks and Recreation
- Willamette Park and Recreation