



NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Nevada Outdoor School inspires exploration of the natural world, responsible stewardship of our habitat and dedication to community.

A 501 (C) (3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



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NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR END REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2018 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

At NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL, we envision a world where all people have opportunities to learn and grow outdoors. Youth will become engaged and active citizens. We will motivate the next generation of leaders, scientists and great thinkers who will embrace their responsibility to use, respect and conserve the Earth's natural resources, finding appreciation for and inspiration in nature.



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NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL CONNECTS ALL AGES TO THE
NATURAL WORLD, INSPIRING AND CREATING HEALTHY,
ACTIVE AND ENGAGED CITIZENS.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE FOR NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL!

I can't believe another year has passed and I have been part of Nevada Outdoor School (NOS) for over 11 years! I was first employed as the Financial Manager for 6 years before taking over the reins as Executive Director in the summer of 2015. Since then, we have seen steady growth in our outdoor education programs, increased collaboration with local government agencies and community partners, strengthened our AmeriCorps Program performance measures, and received a warm and welcoming reception in the Elko and Spring Creek communities. This year, the Board of Directors and I began working on a new and exciting 3-year strategic plan to guide us into the future focusing on increasing outdoor education opportunities, continuing education programs for teachers, building our community outreach and support, hiring and maintaining an educated, successful and competitively paid staff, and building operating reserves.

In the Elko and Spring Creek communities we have continued to make great strides expanding our programs under the leadership of Jackie Lucero, our Elko Director of Programming. We provided thousands of students new and exciting outdoor education opportunities, nearly doubling our participant numbers from the year before! This year, we were also lucky to bring back on staff Brandolyn Thran, who served with us as an AmeriCorps Naturalist in 2017. Her passion for the outdoors and her dedication to community makes her the perfect Outreach Coordinator for NOS. Plus, she is a highly educated science geek, helping us bring all our classroom and field trip curriculum up to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) while also incorporating English, Math and the Arts into our materials, making them valuable resources for teachers and parents. Additionally, with funding from the BLM, we have been working with the California Trail Interpretive Center, placing a NOS staff member there to assist in developing and delivering their education plan.

In Winnemucca, under direction of Education Director, Brandon Allen, our Naturalists have been providing hundreds of nature-based classroom lessons, field trips and summer camp programs, expanding our reach into neighboring Lander and Pershing Counties. The Winnemucca education team planned, coordinated and delivered overnight summer camp opportunities to Water Canyon, Lake Tahoe, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and the Ruby, Santa Rosa, and Pine Forest Mountain Ranges. We are also glad to have Brandon on staff as a fully certified Hunter Safety Instructor with both rifles and bows and in the NDOW's Safe to Shoot Program. We are looking forward to working with NDOW and offering Hunter Safety courses for the community in the future!

NOS's Outdoor Ethics Program has a new face with Allana Havernick taking over the reins as our new Outdoor Ethics Program Director after serving two full years with us as an AmeriCorps Naturalist, where she either coordinated or assisted in providing every kind of program NOS offers. By this time next year, she will be fully trained as a Tread Lightly! Master Trainer, a Leave No Trace Master Educator, and a certified ATV Safety Institute (ASI) Instructor. This coming year, her goals are to partner with the local School Districts and the Winnemucca Boys and Girls Club to strengthen and expand our Outdoor Club for middle school and junior high students, and increase public participation in our Community Hikes and other Community Outreach events. We are grateful for the continued financial support for our statewide Outdoor Ethics Program that we receive from Nevada State Parks Recreational Trails Program, BLM and the Nevada OHV Commission, as these public agencies have similar missions to keep Nevada Public Lands open and accessible for the future generations to responsibly explore and enjoy.

Under the direction of our AmeriCorps Program Director, Zulma Mayorga, the NOS AmeriCorps National Service Program placed 41 members at 10 different host sites across the state including NOS. These members contract to serve a certain term of service with their host sites anywhere from 3 summer months to a full year. In addition to receiving a modest living stipend, work experience and skills development, training and education; they also earn a Segal Education Award to be used toward future education expenses or to pay back qualified student loans.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge and thank Jessie Snaman Myers, Media Outreach Director and Grant Writer, and Sarah Welsh, Director of Finance. I thank my good luck every day to have these two on staff. They helped me raise and manage over \$680,000 in program expenses and funding last year!

On behalf of all of us here at NOS, I thank you whole-heartedly for the continued support and look forward to the next year of possibilities and the positive impacts we will make together. Keep an eye out for upcoming NOS community outreach and fundraising events to join us in fun and creative outdoor recreation opportunities!



Melanie Erquiaga, Executive Director



EDUCATION

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Winnemucca: In 2019, our AmeriCorps Naturalists in Winnemucca delivered classroom lessons to local and rural school students in Humboldt, Lander, and Pershing Counties. We are especially excited to see an interest from our Battle Mountain teachers, as many classes are signing up for our monthly lessons. Among our most popular lessons are dissecting owl pellets, and "Skins and Skulls" where students study animal pelts and skulls to learn their adaptations/eating habits. We also provided our Lovelock Cave Leave No Trace lesson to all students who participated in the Lovelock Cave Field Trip. We are happy to see our numbers continue to grow, as more and more teachers are signing up for lessons regularly. This allows us to continue providing quality, effective outdoor education opportunities for students across rural, northern Nevada.

Elko: Nevada Outdoor School's education programs in the Elko and Spring Creek communities have continued to grow. This past year we expanded our services to all the public elementary schools in Elko (4 schools) and Spring Creek (3 schools) as well as the Elko Institute of Academic Achievement (a public charter school). We have established contacts and began serving in Elko County rural schools such as Mound Valley in Jiggs, Nevada.

In an increased effort to improve our outreach and raise community awareness about NOS, this year we jumped headfirst into STEM Fair programming. Many of the local schools host Science, STEM, or STEAM Nights during the winter months, so NOS capitalized on these opportunities for outreach. A "Tracks of Nevada" program was developed and showcased in four of the local schools. In addition, for the Elko County STEM Fair NOS partnered with Nevada Department of Wildlife to present "Skins and Skulls".

CLASSROOMS UNLEASHED

Winnemucca: In Winnemucca, Nevada Outdoor School kicked off the 2019 field trip season by partnering with the Lazy P Adventure Farm for our annual third grade fall field trip, where students learned about the role agriculture plays in their everyday lives. First graders participated in the "First Explorers" lesson, where students traveled outside and used their senses to discover and collect signs of fall. In March, we partnered with French Ford Middle School and NDOW for the Trout Release Field Trip, where we taught students about the effects of erosion and the importance of following the Leave No Trace principles while camping. In April, second grade students participated in our Watershed field trip, where they learned about the importance of the Humboldt River and the surrounding watershed. Third grade students traveled to Water Canyon in May, where they explored and learned about the ecology of the area and the Leave No Trace principles. Fourth graders traveled to Lovelock Cave and the Marzen House Museum, where we partnered with the BLM to teach students about the history of Lovelock Cave and the town.

Elko: In 2019, in addition to the annual 2nd Grade Watershed Field Trip, we provided our first ever "Snow School" to a 5th grade class. Snow School is a winter field trip experience exploring snow conditions and doing some snow science. As in the past, we continued to support local federal and state agencies with community hikes and conservation and restoration events as an opportunity to invest in our community and have a conversation about responsible recreation.

With funding from the BLM Elko District, we worked closely with the California Trail Interpretive Center (located in Elko) throughout the year providing field trips and special events. NOS places a staff member at the Center to assist in developing and delivering their education plan.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Winnemucca: During the summer of 2019, we stayed busy providing summer programs for elementary-middle school students. This year, we collaborated with the Boys and Girls Club for a new archery program that took place twice a week. This program taught students the safety and basics of archery, and allowed them to practice and improve their archery skills throughout the summer. Our Nature at Noon program also grew, as we partnered with Zion Daycare to provide students with fun, hands-on programs and activities twice a week. Our camps continue to be popular, kicking off the summer with Girls Camp at Lake Tahoe, where campers participated in activities like kayaking in Emerald Bay. Again this year, we were approved for a grant through the Lassen National Park Foundation that allowed us to bring campers to a fun-filled week of hiking to a cinder cone volcano and participating in unique ranger-led programs. We also switched Adventure Camp II to Survival Camp for 6th – 8th grades, where campers traveled to Lye Creek Campground and learned skills such as shelter building, archery, atlatl building, and even ate crickets! Finally, we finished camp season with Boys Camp, where campers traveled to Judge Montero's Leonard Creek ranch and had fun horseback riding, fishing, and learning different survival skills. We are happy to provide youth with opportunities during the summer to get outside and learn skills such as Leave No Trace, fishing, archery, and survival.

Elko: The summer of 2019 flew by as the Elko Team stayed busy with similar summer camps and Nature at Noon programming. Camps were held in the Elko City Park, Lamoille Canyon and Great Basin National Park. Nature at Noon was held each week in Elko City Park as well as at the Spring Creek Marina.

OUTDOOR ETHICS

WELCOME ALLANA!

Allana Havernick joined our team as an AmeriCorps Naturalist in the fall of 2017. Since then, Allana has assisted both our education and outdoor ethics teams, providing every kind of programming we offer at NOS. After her service, Allana joined the NOS staff as the Outdoor Ethics Program Director. We are looking forward to seeing our Outdoor Ethics programs continue to grow and expand with Allana in this role.

CONTINUING TO GROW

In 2019, NOS continued to expand the Outdoor Ethics Club for Middle School and Jr. High students. We hosted the club once a day for 8 weeks with children interested in learning more about outdoor survival skills, outdoor ethics, and emergency shelter building. We also collaborated with the Boys and Girls Club of Winnemucca by offering it to the 5th -8th graders at their club during the school year. We are planning for this program to evolve with additional stewardship activities and overnight camp outs to some of Nevada's coolest places!

RESPONSIBLE RECREATION ACROSS THE STATE

Nevada Outdoor School's traveling Road Show is a fun and engaging traveling outreach and education booth. This past year, the NOS Road Show traveled to over 20 events where we were able to connect and talk with over 4,400 people about responsible recreation. Some of the largest events that we attended this year included the Reno Motor Sports Expo, Clark County Fair, Get Outdoors Nevada Day, Tahoe Earth Days, Elko Sportsman's Expo, and the Nevada Outdoor Experience. Additionally, NOS partnered with law enforcement statewide to host OHV registration events, and with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office to provide ATV, UTV and Dirt Bike Safety Courses.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Three Leave No Trace Trainer Courses resulting in 32 new Leave No Trace Trainers.
- Eight Outdoor Ethics Lessons taught to 68 people.
- Two ATV safety Courses which trained 3 people in proper and prudent ATV operation.



NOS AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAM

NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL AMERICORPS PROGRAM – 2019

The Nevada Outdoor School AmeriCorps National Service Program continued to make a positive impact in Northeastern Nevada. Because our AmeriCorps members are spread throughout the state of Nevada, technology such as GoToMeeting is used to geographic separateness to build strong ties between all members. The graphs summarize Nevada Outdoor Schools consistent administration of the AmeriCorps Program having 41 members in 10 host sites serving over 27,000 hours.

During the 2019 fiscal year, Nevada Outdoor School AmeriCorps Members served at the following host sites:

- Communities in Schools of Northeastern Nevada in Elko
- Frontier Community Action Agency in Winnemucca
- Pershing County Senior Center in Lovelock
- Boys and Girls Club of Winnemucca
- Pleasant Senior Center in Winnemucca
- Nevada Outdoor School in Winnemucca and Elko
- Friends of Nevada Wilderness in Reno and Las Vegas
- Friends of Black Rock High Rock in Gerlach
- Lander County School District in Battle Mountain
- American Red Cross in Reno and Las Vegas



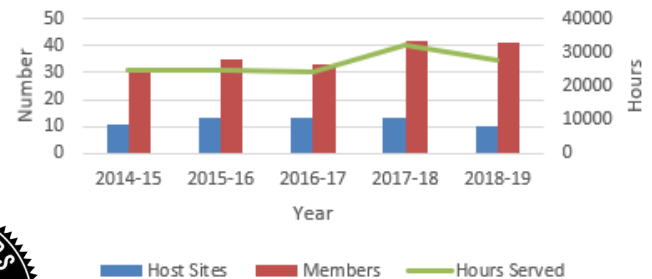
The thousands of service hours result in meaningful impacts in Northeastern Nevada. The graph below illustrates some of the measurable impacts. It is important to note that each year reporting measures change or are improved. For example, in 2014 - 2015 students were "duplicated", but in 2015 - 16 that measure was changed to report "unduplicated" student, resulting in the apparent drop observed in the graph. Likewise, over the years the reporting of "acres treated/improved" continues to evolve and therefore it appears as a reduction at this point. For more information on reporting measures, please contact Nevada Outdoor School.

Members serving at Nevada Outdoor School interact with thousands of Nevada students each year (see Education Program Section). Members serving at host sites such as Friends of Nevada Wilderness and Black Rock High Rock positively impacted over five hundred with, for example, new and/or improved trails. Members serving at Frontier Community Action Agency and Pershing County Senior Center aided over 700 underserved or senior community members. Finally, while serving at local Boys and Girls Clubs and through Community in Schools, hundreds of K-12 Nevada students benefited from members providing quality before and after school care.

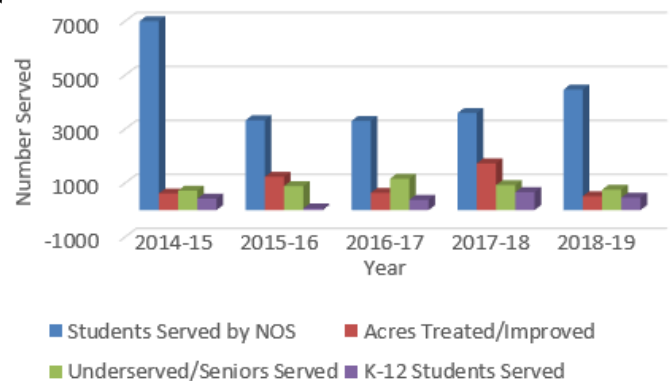
In addition to community service, over the course of the year, the NOS AmeriCorps Member Professional Development Program succeeded in providing training to members on the skills necessary for success in the workplace during monthly member meetings. In addition to CPR, First Aid and positive student behavior training, several community guest speakers served as guest trainers in the areas of interviewing and workplace communication skills.

One of the goals of the AmeriCorps program is to stimulate volunteerism in our communities. In fiscal year 2019, the AmeriCorps Members administered through the Nevada Outdoor School AmeriCorps Program successfully recruited over 200 volunteers resulting in over 3,000 hours of volunteer service. For example, AmeriCorps Members and volunteers helped Winnemucca by once again organizing the Martin Luther King Jr. Dodgeball Tournament Fundraiser. The money raised at that event was donated to the Humboldt Volunteer Hospice. The dip in the number of volunteers in 2018-19 may be due to increased local employment rates which minimized the pool of available volunteers. However, despite the reduced number of volunteers, over 3,000 hours of service was performed, which demonstrates the commitment of the volunteers.

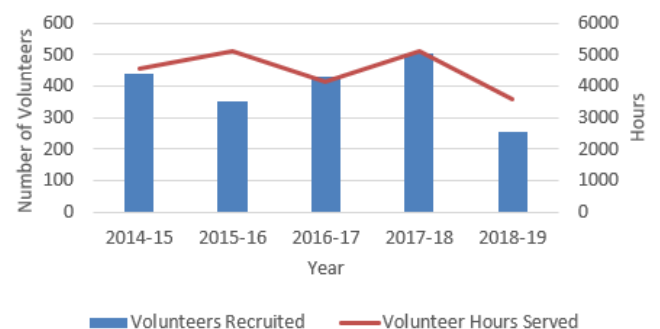
Summary AmeriCorps Host Sites, Members and Hours Served



Community Impacts from AmeriCorps Service



Summary Volunteers Interaction Initiated by AmeriCorps Members





NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS COME PREPARED AND BRING FUN, HANDS-ON LEARNING AND CREATIVE THINKING TO OUR STUDENTS, THEY PROVIDE THAT LINK BETWEEN OUR STUDENTS AND SCIENCE THAT KIDS DON'T ALWAYS GET TO EXPERIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM."

Tammi Francis, Winnemucca Grammar School Counselor and Former Teacher



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

11TH ANNUAL BUCKAROO DUTCH OVEN COOK-OFF!

Nevada Outdoor School hosted our 11th Annual Buckaroo Dutch Oven Cook Off fundraiser, where World Champions and beginners came to cook together like old friends! This year we had 16 teams compete in four different categories including 5 youth teams with team Mario Bros. winning 1st place in the youth category with their amazing baked beans. Returning champs from last year, Team "Great Northern Railroaders" came in strong with their tasty culinary creations and walked away with 1st place in the International Dutch Oven Society (IDOS) category! Winnemucca native, Timbo Slice came over from Carson City to take first place in the Chuck Wagon category with their delicious Slow Roast Basque Pork over Creamy Polenta. Bucks-N-Ducks placed first in the Bean Master while also stealing the hearts of the public by winning the "People's Choice" Award.

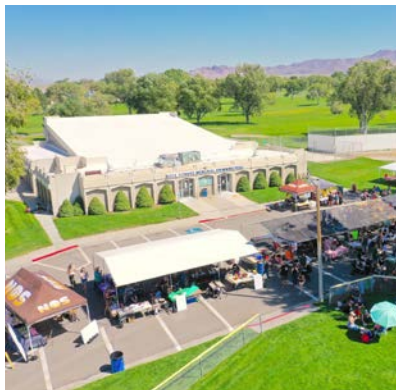
While this competitive cook-off is an officially sanctioned International Dutch Oven Society (IDOS) event that calls to more experienced black pot cooks, we still have the beginner and youth categories that can cook just one or two dishes and each category has cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. We were honored to have former Mayor DiAn Putnam back again this year as an official tasting judge along with Terry Bell – The Dutch Diva, Christina Nellesmann - Edible Reno Tahoe, Rhonda Coleman – Winnemucca Publishing, Jan Morrison – Northeastern Nevada Development Authority, Marlene Brissenden – Humboldt County Commissioner, Betty Rogers – past cook-off winner, Alicia Davis – Farmers Insurance and Mike Allen - Humboldt County Sheriff. Thank you to all our sponsor donors and team competitors that cooked at the event. With your help, Nevada Outdoor School raised over \$10,000 for Outdoor Education opportunities for youth in northern Nevada!

WE LOVE OUR PUBLIC LANDS!

In the past year, Nevada Outdoor School has led 15 community hikes in Winnemucca with 83 people enjoying our public lands, thanks in part to our continued funding partnerships with the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, and Nevada State Parks. We look forward to continuing to utilize our public lands as programming and outdoor classroom space in the future for community, education and summer programs.

OTHER OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

- 619 people stopped by the NOS table at the Elko Sportsman's Expo, where participants learned more about our organization and responsible recreation.
- NOS hosted a fundraising event at Port of Subs in 2019 that brought in 40 people throughout the evening to support Nevada Outdoor School.
- Connected with over 500 people at Pioneer Christmas and California Trail Days in partnership with the California Trail Interpretive Center.
- Partnered with the National Cowboy Poetry Kids Program in Elko by helping teach 700 kids about cowboy life, skills and experiences.
- NOS connected with 126 people at the Nevada Muleys, Winnemucca Ducks Unlimited and Nevada Bighorn Unlimited- Midas Chapter annual banquets about our shared interest in preserving our natural spaces and hunting heritage. Participating in these events also gave us the opportunity to say THANK YOU to these organizations for their financial support of our outdoor education programs and summer camps.





NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL PROGRAMS CREATE A CULTURE OF LIFE-LONG LEARNING AND EXPLORATION AMONG OUR PARTICIPANTS.



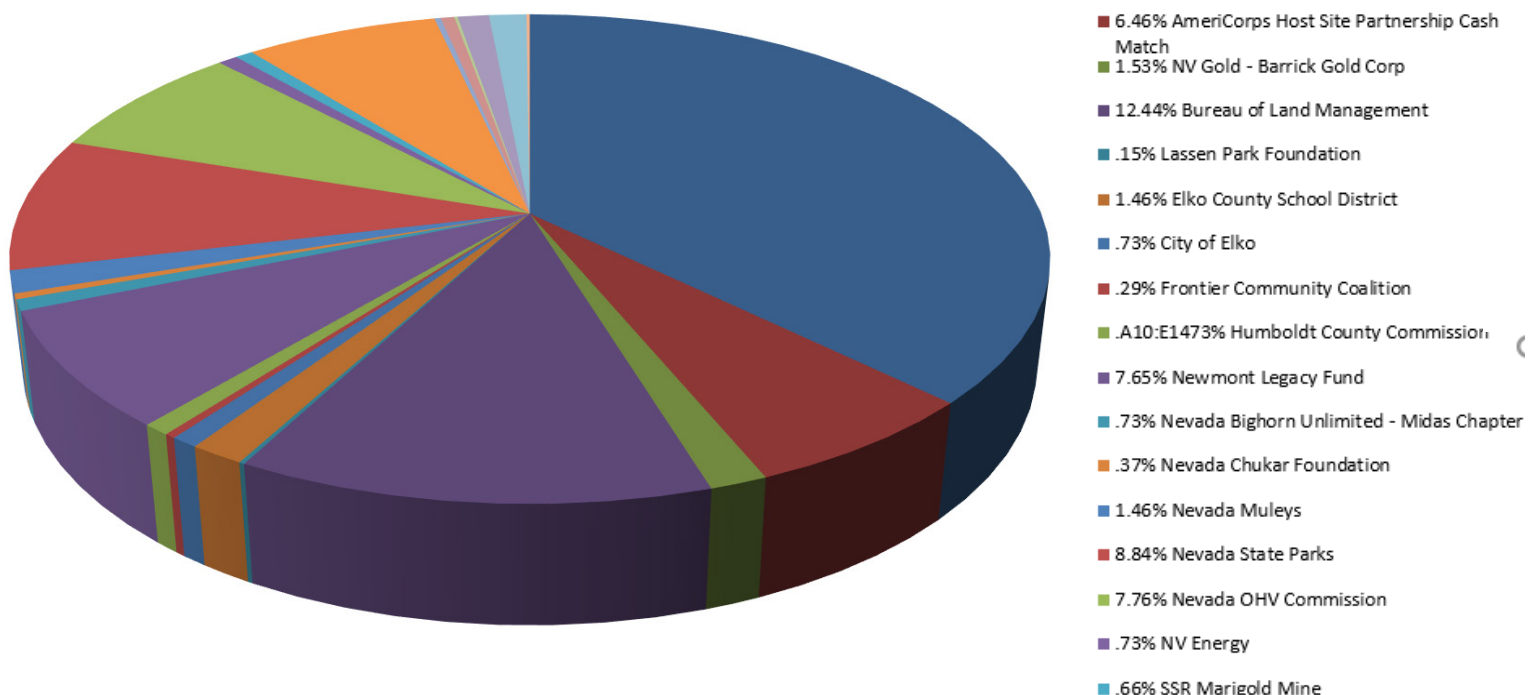
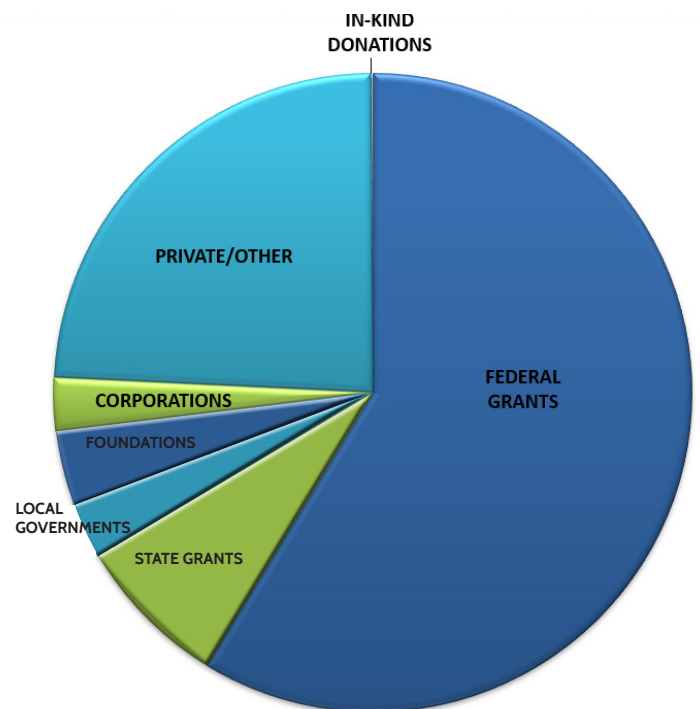
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019 REVENUE

AmeriCorps - NV Volunteers	\$254,821
AmeriCorps Host Site Partnership Cash Match	\$44,116
NV Gold - Barrick Gold Corp	\$10,425
Bureau of Land Management	\$85,000
Lassen Park Foundation	\$1,000
Elko County School District	\$10,000
City of Elko	\$5,000
Frontier Community Coalition	\$2,000
Humboldt County Commission	\$5,000
Newmont Legacy Fund	\$52,264
Nevada Bighorn Unlimited - Midas Chapter	\$5,000
Nevada Chukar Foundation	\$2,500
Nevada Muleys	\$10,000
Nevada State Parks	\$60,380
Nevada OHV Commission	\$52,994
NV Energy	\$5,000
SSR Marigold Mine	\$4,500
Other Misc Donations	\$48,965
Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation	\$1,600
Small Mine Development	\$3,500
US Forest Service	\$815
Southwest Gas / Truist	\$7,943
Fundraising/Buckaroo Dutch Oven Cook Off	\$9,518
In - Kind	\$821

Total Cash Income \$683,161

Federal Grants	\$401,015
State Funds	\$52,994
Local Governments	\$20,000
Foundations	\$25,100
Corporate	\$18,425
Private/Other	\$164,806
In-Kind Donations	\$821

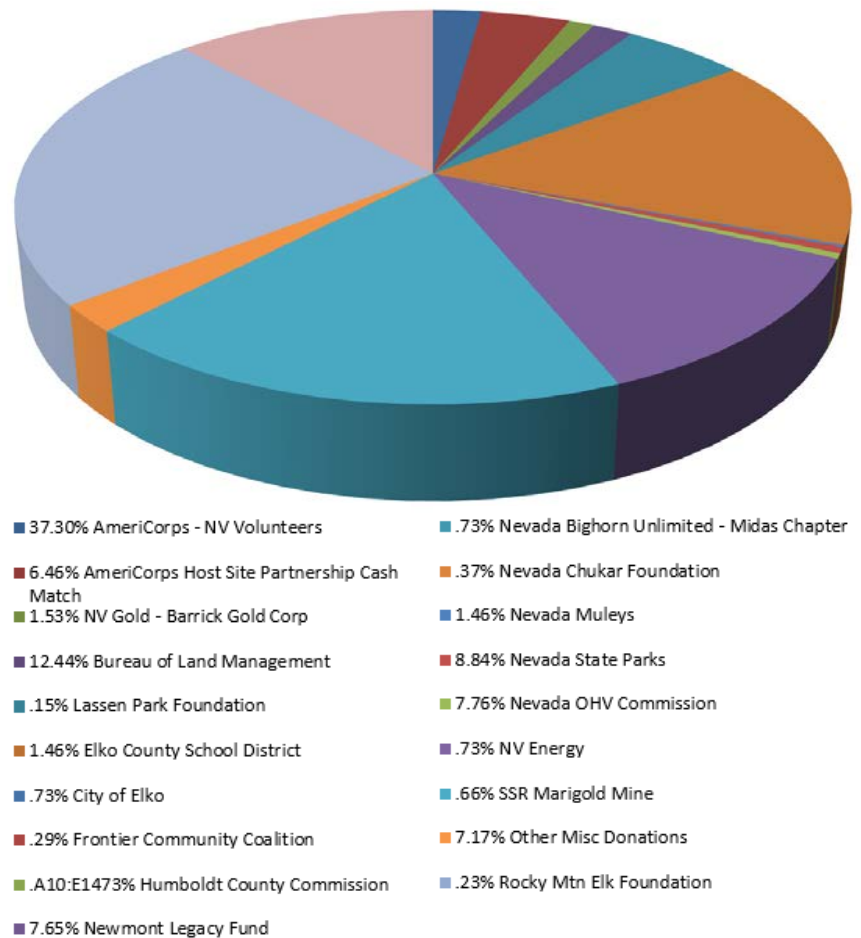
Total \$683,161



Total Expenses

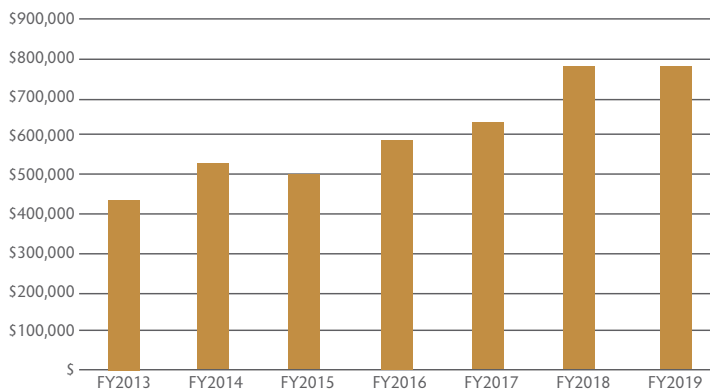
Accounting	\$3,669
Advertising and promotion	\$6,783
Background checks	\$1,951
Conferences/conventions/meetings	\$3,059
Depreciation	\$9,307
Employee benefits	\$26,447
Information Technology	\$287
In-kind donation expense	\$821
Interest Expense	\$672
Liability Insurance	\$20,054
Occupancy	\$30,606
Office Expenses	\$3,748
Payroll taxes	\$39,491
Program specific supplies	\$19,847
Staff salaries	\$276,492
AmeriCorps stipends	\$207,700
Student lodging and transportation	\$508
Staff travel & training (including fuel)	\$18,108
AmeriCorps Member travel & training	\$8,159
All other expenses	\$4,083

Total EXPENSES **\$681,792**



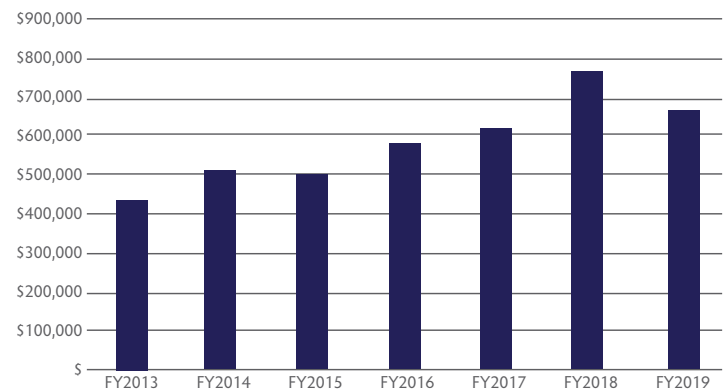
YEARLY COMPARISON

CASH INCOME BY YEAR



FY 2012	\$441,925
FY2013	\$427,941
FY2014	\$523,333
FY2015	\$493,973
FY2016	\$580,449
FY2017	\$622,261
FY2018	\$770,136
FY2019	\$683,161

EXPENSES BY YEAR



FY 2012	\$426,128
FY2013	\$436,139
FY2014	\$509,548
FY2015	\$505,411
FY2016	\$584,276
FY2017	\$628,050
FY2018	\$765,006
FY2019	\$681,792

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Russ Yowell – Board President
Brett Worsham – Board Vice President
Heather Nelson – Board Treasurer
Rue Beyer – Board Member
Gene Hunt – Board Member
Shannon Scott – Board Member
Joshua Borough – Board Member

STAFF

Melanie Erquiaga – Executive Director
Sarah Welsh – Director of Finance
Jessica Snaman Myers – Outreach Director
Jackie Lucero – Elko Director of Programming
Zulma Mayorga – AmeriCorps Program Director
Katie Fithian – Outdoor Ethics Program Director
Brandon Allen – Winnemucca Education Director
Brandolyn Thran – Elko Outreach & Admin Coordinator
Tim Burns – Education Program Technician at the
California Trail Interpretive Center

2020 AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Matthew Jones – Naturalist
Elizabeth Lovell – Naturalist
Crystal Rodriguez – Naturalist
BayLee Kirkendoll – Naturalist
Michelle Rookstool – Outdoor Ethics Specialist

2019 AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Cassady Harris - Naturalist
Lyndsi Jurado – Naturalist
Matthew Jones - Naturalist
Stefanie Lopez – Naturalist
Allana Havernick – Naturalist
Crystal Rodriguez - Naturalist
Britney Hutchings – Naturalist
Madison Wahrenburg - Naturalist
Mateo Flores – Summer Naturalist
Paige Ledbetter – Outdoor Ethics Specialist
Daniela Figueroa Castaneda – Summer Naturalist



NOS PARTNERS

INCLUDING FUNDERS AND PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS



Bureau of Land Management **



Nevada Volunteers **



Nevada State Parks **



Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Commission**



Nevada Gold Mines*



Tread Lightly!



Southwest Gas



NV Energy



Southern Nevada Conservancy



USDA Forest Service *



Leave no Trace



Danson's Pit Boss



RMEF



Nevada Muleys*



Elko County



Sierra Nevada Journeys



City of Elko



Humboldt County Sheriff's Dept.



Friends of Black Rock High Rock



Frontier Community Coalition



Lassen Park Foundation



Frontier Community Action Agency



Pershing County Senior Center



Friends of Nevada Wilderness



Public Lands Alliance

NOS PARTNERS

INCLUDING FUNDERS AND PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS



Lander County
School District



Family Support Center



NBU Midas



Communities In Schools



Small Mine
Development



National Public
Lands Day



SSR Mining - Marigold



Humboldt County
School District



Community Foundation
of Western Nevada



Ferguson



Nevada Division of
Wildlife



KNPB TV



Humboldt County
Senior Citizens



Saggio
Advertising



California Trail
Interpretive Center



Red Cross



Off Road Nevada



Boys and Girls Club
of Winnemucca



Humboldt County
Commission



Sportsman's
Warehouse



Camp Chef



Advanced Movement
and Wellness



Elko Convention and
Visitors Authority



Nevada Chukar
Foundation



Elko County
School District

**Funding of \$50,000 or greater

*Funding of \$10,000 or greater

