

# NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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, 2017 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

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At NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL, we envision a world where all people have the opportunity to learn and grow outdoors and choose to do so. Our youth will have the desire and skills to become engaged and active citizens. We will help motivate the next generation of leaders, scientists and great thinkers. We will not hide from our need to use or from our responsibility to respect and conserve the Earth's natural resources. In the society we see, no child born will be the last to be inspired by the natural world.





# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

## 2018 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH FOR NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL!

As I write this and reflect on this past year, I am filled with pride over our expanding programs, our staff and AmeriCorps Naturalists and how we have grown and diversified our funding since I became Executive Director of this great organization in 2015. Our continued success is the direct result of an amazing, talented, hardworking and dedicated staff providing top quality, meaningful outdoor education programs. Each year, we continue to raise more money and offer more programs with the same small amount of staff we had ten years ago while still somehow remaining sane. I believe it is because we all really enjoy what we do, we truly believe in our mission, and we get to work outside a lot of the time. Add that to the fact that we have increased our funding by 60% since 2015 and 24% over last year and I see a very bright future for us and our continued growth across Nevada.

Over the past year, Nevada Outdoor School (NOS) has made great strides expanding our programs in the Elko and Spring Creek communities under the leadership of Jackie Lucero, our Elko Director of Programming. During the school year, we provided more STEM or nature based classroom lessons and field trips than ever and our summer camp programming grew to provide an additional day of Nature at Noon at the Spring Creek Marina and a three day excursion to Great Basin National Park in addition to our traditional summer camps for Elko County youth. NOS staff and AmeriCorps Naturalists collaborated with local agencies to sponsor community hikes in both summer and winter and worked to strengthen our community through hands-on service projects. With the warm reception we have received in Elko County we are excited for the opportunities awaiting us on the horizon.

In Winnemucca, we are going at full steam with Brandon Allen, Winnemucca Education Director leading our Winnemucca Naturalists providing hundreds of STEM or nature based classroom lessons, field trips and summer programs. Our 2018 summer camp programs in Winnemucca included our first ever trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park plus our traditional camp offerings traveling to Lake Tahoe, Lamoille Canyon and Lye Creek Campground in the Santa Rosa Mountains. Also new this past year we partnered with our good friend, Judge Mike Montero to have our Boys Camp at his family's Leonard Creek Ranch near Denio where the boys camped out, learned outdoor skills like fire building and archery and caught fish in the ranch pond. Brandon is also fully certified to teach hunter safety with both rifles and bows and in the NDOW's Safe to Shoot Program. This coming year, we have plans to begin offering wild game harvesting classes to teach folks how to care for their downed animal after the hunt.

NOS's Outdoor Ethics Program continues to expand under Katie Fithian, our Outdoor Ethics Program Director, offering Tread Lightly! and Leave No Trace trainings as well as outreach and education with our "Road Show" traveling across the state. We are also able to offer ATV Safety Courses to both youth and adults and love hosting community hikes throughout the year. NOS partners with Humboldt County Sheriff's Office with our ATV safety education and they help us to provide Dirt Bike and UTV safety courses as we work together to educate riders on safe and smart OHV riding in an effort to reduce accidents and fatalities in off road sports and excursions. This year, our Outdoor Ethics and ATV/OHV Safety Programs were nationally recognized with a special award by the National Off-Highway Conservation Council (NOHVCC) at their annual conference.

Under the direction of our AmeriCorps Program Director, Zulma Mayorga, the NOS AmeriCorps National Service Program continues to expand, placing 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.

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. Please join us on September 14, 2019 at Vesco Park in Winnemucca for the 11th Annual Buckaroo Dutch Oven Cook-Off, our annual fundraiser. I promise a fun filled day for you and your family to get out and enjoy the great outdoors!

Melanie Erquiaga, Executive Director



# EDUCATION

## CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

In 2018, our AmeriCorps Naturalists delivered 389 classroom lessons to 7,145 students throughout Humboldt, Elko, Pershing, and Lander Counties including the Humboldt rural schools Denio, Paradise Valley, McDermitt, Orovada and Kings River. Beginning in October, students learned about archaeology and culture by participating in lessons about Native American myths and the California Trail. We also taught our popular animal-themed lessons, including one where second grade students observed animal pelts and skulls to learn about how they use camouflage and what they eat. Third grade students were able to dissect owl pellets to learn about the types of prey owls eat, while fourth grade students learned about beaver adaptations. Other popular monthly lesson themes included geology, winter adaptations, and energy.

## CLASSROOMS UNLEASHED

In Winnemucca, Nevada Outdoor School kicked off the 2017 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 April, second grade students participated in our Watershed field trip, where they learned about the importance of the Humboldt River and the watershed surrounding it. Third grade students traveled to Water Canyon in May, where they explored and learned about the ecology of the area. Lucky fourth grade students participated in two field trips. During the first field trip, NOS partnered with the BLM for a field trip to Lovelock Cave and the Marzen House Museum to study Nevada history and science, then fourth grade students also traveled to the Winnemucca Community Garden to learn about ecology. Our field trips help students establish a connection and understanding of nature and the outdoors, as well as inspire them to become better stewards of their environment and we reached 5,190 students with 132 field trip programs in 2018!

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

NOS summer camps offered almost 1,000 youth the chance to experience fun outdoor activities such as the chance to experience fun outdoor activities such as fishing, archery, survival skills, and making a lasting connection to nature while practicing Leave no Trace education. The summer of 2018 was busy with camps for both Winnemucca and Elko. This year, we were awarded a grant through the Lassen Park Foundation to participate in a camp at Lassen Volcanic National Park. At this new camp, National Park Service rangers delivered programming about orienteering, guided hikes, and Leave no Trace. Our Elko office offered a new excursion to Great Basin National Park, and we held a Boy's Camp at Montero's Leonard Creek Ranch near Denio. Additionally, we held overnight camps at Lake Tahoe, the Ruby Mountains, the Santa Rosa Mountains and the Sonoma Mountains. Our Nature at Noon summer program was offered in Winnemucca, Elko, and Spring Creek for pre-k through second graders.

## ELKO EDUCATION PROGRAM GROWTH

Over the past year, Nevada Outdoor School has made great strides growing our programs in the Elko/Spring Creek community. With respect to our summer camps, we expanded our "Nature at Noon" program to the Spring Creek Marina where we have been providing one session per week with an average of 20 children attending. During the school year, we provided additional field trips and began classroom STEM-based lessons. We taught 155 lessons in Elko County during the school year. In addition to our annual Watershed Field Trip that we led for five local elementary schools, we also led or collaborated to provide ten additional days of field trip programming on topics ranging from the geology of Nevada to cycles on a farm. We collaborated with local agencies to sponsor community hikes both in the winter and summer months. Finally, we are working to strengthen our community through hands-on service. NOS AmeriCorps members and NOS campers have aided the local community cleaning up garbage in the City Park, watering shrubs at South Fork State Park, weeding and growing vegetables for patrons of the Family Resource Center and painting storm drain education murals throughout the downtown corridor. This past year has been a year of growth for NOS Elko and we are excited for the opportunities awaiting us on the horizon.

# OUTDOOR ETHICS

NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL'S OUTDOOR ETHICS PROGRAM  
RECEIVED A SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD AT THE 2018  
NATIONAL OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE CONSERVATION COUNCIL  
(NOHVCC) CONVENTION!

## CONTINUING TO GROW

In 2018 NOS piloted our new Outdoor Ethics Club. The Club focused on getting local teens outside and connecting them to the natural world through education, exploration, and stewardship. The club collaborated with the BLM to complete projects in the new pollinator garden in Water Canyon, like building bee houses. We are looking forward to seeing how this program continues to evolve in the coming years.

## 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 roadshow traveled to 18 events where we were able to connect and talk with over 2,200 people about responsible recreation. Some of the largest events that we attended this year included the Reno Motor Sports Expo, Get Outdoors Nevada Day, Reno and Tahoe Earth Days, Elko Sportsman's Expo, and 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 FOR 2018

- Five Leave No Trace Trainer Courses totaling 44 new Leave No Trace Trainers.
- Ten Outdoor Ethics Lessons taught to 126 people.
- Four ATV safety Courses which trained 29 people in proper and prudent ATV operation.





# NOS AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAM

## NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL AMERICORPS PROGRAM – 2018

Under the leadership and guidance of our fabulous AmeriCorps Program Director, Zulma Mayorga, the Nevada Outdoor School AmeriCorps Program continued to grow in reach and impact during the 2018 fiscal year. Some particular successes included:

- An increase of 8 new AmeriCorps members for a total of 41, compared to 33 the previous year.
- A total of 7,474 hours served by 505 volunteers who were recruited by AmeriCorps members, compared to 4,153 hours last year.
- 32,028 hours served by AmeriCorps members, an increase of 7,811 hours from 2017.

The Nevada Outdoor School AmeriCorps program continued to work with our traditional partners. Host Site partners for 2018 were:

- 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



Throughout 2018, the NOS AmeriCorps training program helped members gain and strengthen the skills necessary for success in the workplace. These skills were emphasized at monthly member meetings. Several community guest speakers served as guest trainers in the areas of interviewing and workplace communication skills. GoToMeetings technology was used for all monthly meetings and interviews to foster a better sense of community and build strong ties with members who serve outside of Winnemucca.

AmeriCorps members organized the 4th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Dodgeball Tournament as their community service project for the annual holiday benefiting the Family Support Center's Project Aware. All members also participated in Nevada Outdoor School's 4th grade Ecology Fair at the Winnemucca Community Garden as another national service day.



Please 'like' us and follow us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/NOSAmeriCorps](https://www.facebook.com/NOSAmeriCorps)





NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL INSPIRES EXPLORATION  
OF THE NATURAL WORLD, RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP  
OF OUR HABITAT AND DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY.



"The benefits from Nevada Outdoor School and all the organization works to provide for our community are endless and provide lasting impacts. Students are inspired to explore, wonder, ask questions, investigate, and spend time outdoors and in nature after NOS lessons and field trips."

– Brenna Docktor, French Ford Middle School Teacher





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BUCKAROO DUTCH OVEN COOK-OFF!

Ten years ago, we came up with the idea to host and organize a Dutch Oven Cook-Off as another way to get people outdoors enjoying good food and fun with their family and friends while raising some much needed unrestricted funding for Nevada Outdoor School. What started as a small gathering in Water Canyon has now become a popular "go to" event for this northern Nevada community and is now held at Vesco Park each year where we have more room to grow. If you haven't attended yet, you are missing out on some amazing Dutch oven culinary creations! 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 Mayor DiAn Putnam back again this year as an official tasting judge along with John Osborne – Newmont Mining, Steven Field – KWNA Buckaroo Radio, Ester McCullough – Bureau of Land Management, Jan Morrison – NNRDA, Marlene Brissenden – Humboldt County Commissioner, Angie Canavan – Great Basin College, Chris Orr and Dave Santina - KNPB Public Broadcasting and Cole Erquiaga – #1 NOS Volunteer. Together we raised more than \$8,000 to help fund NOS programs!

## WE LOVE OUR PUBLIC LANDS!

In the past year, Nevada Outdoor School has led 15 community hikes on public lands reaching 71 people for 221 contact hours. We are grateful to continue strong funding partnerships with the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, and Nevada State parks. In 2018 we hosted a variety of other community events on our Public lands including the Dutch Diva Dutch Oven Cooking Workshop in Water Canyon. 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.

## PARTNERING WITH OTHER OUTDOOR ORGANIZATIONS

NOS connected with 112 people at the Winnemucca Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Nevada Muleys annual banquets and 88 people at the Nevada Bighorn Unlimited – Midas Chapter weekend event about our shared interest in preserving our natural spaces. 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.





# FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018 REVENUE

AmeriCorps - NV Volunteers	\$225,663
AmeriCorps Partnership Cash Match	\$153,377
Barrick Gold Corp	\$11,335
Bureau of Land Management	\$129,000
Elko County School District	\$5,000
Frontier Community Coalition	\$2,000
Humboldt County Commission	\$2,000
Lassen Park Foundation	\$1,000
Newmont Legacy Fund	\$54,110
Newmont Regional Community Investment	\$9,500
Nevada Bighorn Unlimited - Midas Chapter	\$5,000
Nevada Chukar Foundation	\$3,000
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	\$4,838
Nevada Muleys	\$8,950
Nevada State Parks	\$64,171
Nevada OHV Commission	\$14,533
NV Energy	\$5,000
Other	\$5,238
Program Income	\$6,365
Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation	\$3,000
Small Mine Development	\$3,400
Southern Nevada Conservancy	\$11,200
Southwest Gas	\$7,600
US Forest Service	\$9,421
Fundraising/Buckaroo Dutch Oven Cook Off	\$10,267
In - Kind	\$15,167

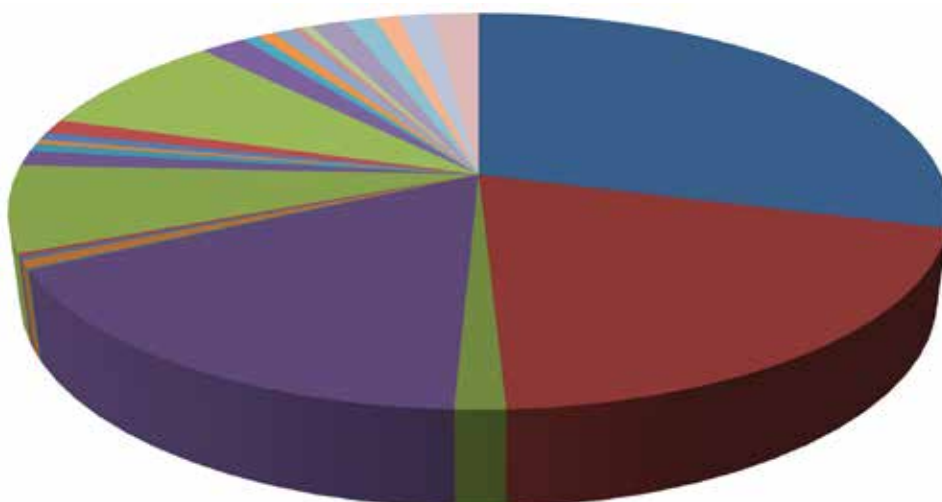
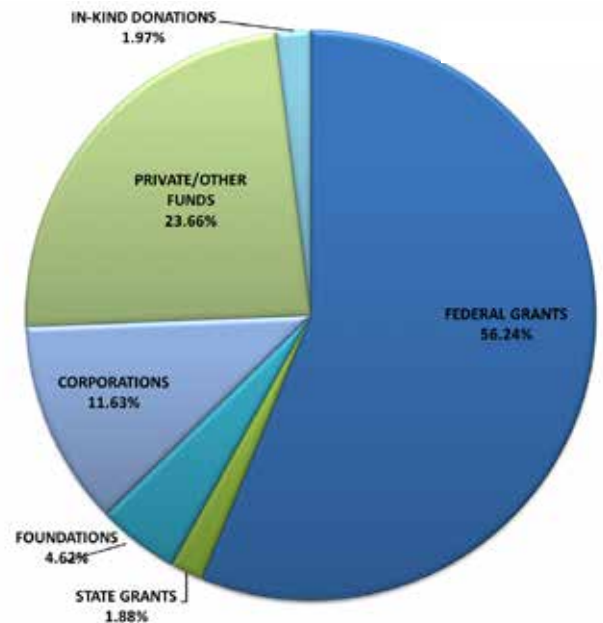
Total Cash Income \$770,136

In-Kind Donations - Supplies	\$10,681
In-Kind Volunteer Labor	\$1,040
In-Kind Training	\$194
In-Kind Facilities	\$231
In- Kind Travel	\$3,020

In-Kind Total \$15,167

Federal Grants	\$433,093
State Funds	\$14,533
Foundations	\$35,550
Corporate	\$89,545
Private/Other	\$182,247

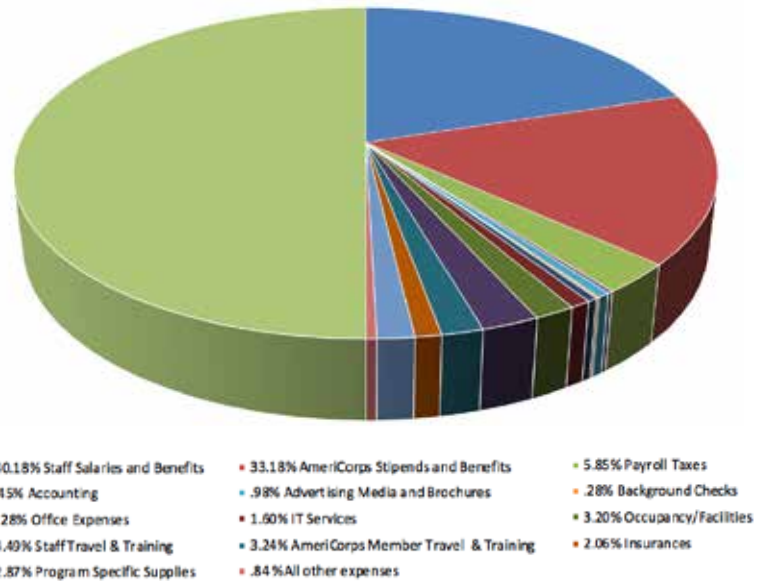
Total \$770,136



# FISCAL YEAR 2018 EXPENSES

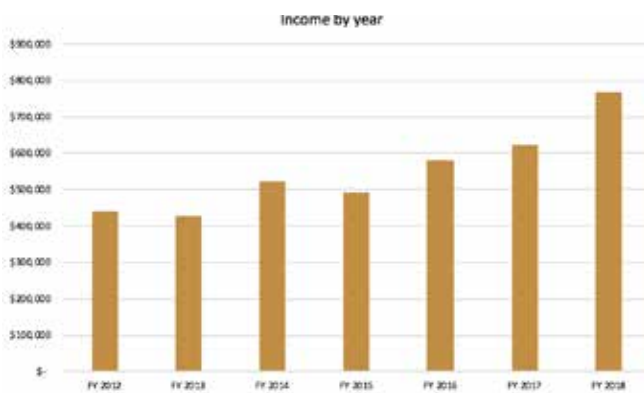
Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$307,381
AmeriCorps Stipends and Benefits	\$253,811
Payroll Taxes	\$44,736
Accounting	\$3,477
Advertising Media and Brochures	\$7,488
Background Checks	\$2,166
Office Expenses	\$5,988
IT Services	\$12,214
Occupancy/Facilities	\$24,500
NOS Travel & Training	\$34,372
AmeriCorps Travel & Training	\$24,787
Insurances	\$15,743
Program Specific Supplies	\$21,950
All other expenses	\$6,393

Total EXPENSES \$765,006



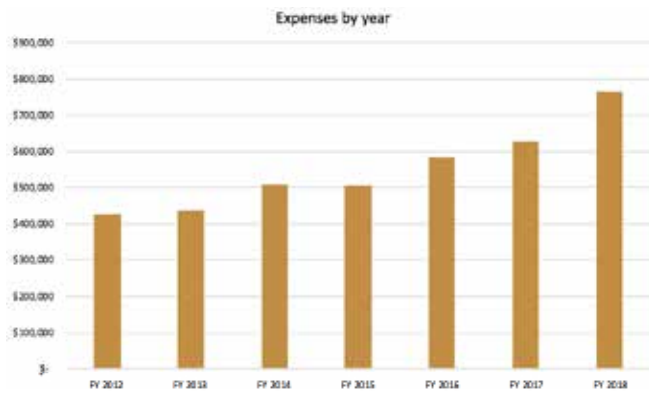
## YEARLY COMPARISON

### 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

### 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



# NOS PARTNERS

## INCLUDING FUNDERS AND PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS



Bureau of Land Management \*\*



Newmont Mining Corp. \*\*



Nevada Volunteers \*\*



Nevada State Parks \*\*



Southern Nevada Conservancy\*



USDA Forest Service \*



Barrick Gold Corp. \*



Tread Lightly!



Southwest Gas



NV Energy



Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Commission\*



Nevada Muleys\*



Elko County



Leave no Trace



National Environmental Education Foundation



RMEF



United Way



Humboldt County Sheriff's Dept.



Friends of Black Rock High Rock



Frontier Community Coalition



Sierra Nevada Journeys



Nevada Division of Environmental Protection



Frontier Community Action Agency



Pershing County Senior Center



Friends of Nevada Wilderness



Public Lands Alliance



Lander County School District



Family Support Center



Communities In Schools



NBU Midas



Winnemucca Community Garden



Ferguson



National Public Lands Day



SSR Mining - Marigold



Humboldt County School District



Community Foundation of Western Nevada



Nevada Division of Wildlife



California Trail Interpretive Center



KNPB TV



Humboldt County Senior Citizens



Red Cross



Off Road Nevada



Boys and Girls Club of Winnemucca



Humboldt County Commission



Sportsman's Warehouse



Camp Chef



Disney Youth Service America



Elko Convention and Visitors Authority



Nevada Chukar Foundation



Elko County School District

\*\*Funding of \$50,000 or greater

\*Funding of \$10,000 or greater

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Russ Yowell – Board President  
Brett Worsham – Board Vice President  
Heather Nelson – Board Treasurer  
Stacy Johnson – Board Member  
Gene Hunt – Board Member  
Rue Beyer – Board Member

## STAFF

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

## 2019 AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Allana Havernick – Naturalist  
Crystal Rodriguez – Naturalist  
Cassady Harris – Naturalist  
Paige Ledbetter – Outdoor Ethics Specialist

## 2018 AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Allana Havernick – Naturalist  
Tiffany Donoho – Naturalist  
Irma Mendoza – Naturalist  
Alejandra Cruz – Naturalist  
Jessica Thomas – Naturalist  
Kelsey Keema – Naturalist  
Alexandra Gamicchia – Summer Naturalist  
Tianna Herrera – Summer Naturalist

