

# NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL



## ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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



# NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR END REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2011 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Contents
  2. Letter from the Director
- Programs
3. Education
  4. Outdoor Ethics
  5. AmeriCorps State
  6. AmeriCorps VISTA
  7. Community Outreach
8. Financial Summary Revenue
  9. Financial Summary Expenses
  10. Partners
  11. Board of Directors and Staff

At NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL, we envision a world where all people have the opportunity to learn and grow outdoors and choose to do so; a world where our youth have the desire and skills to become engaged citizens, to become 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.



"WE LOVED THE FALL WALK YESTERDAY!! THANKS FOR BEING SO GREAT AND WILLING TO COME TO ELKO! WE LOVE YOUR LESSONS!"

-1ST GRADE TEACHER (SIGNS OF FALL)

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

We saw the bittersweet closure in 2012, of a program within Nevada Outdoor School (NOS) which has been particularly rewarding over the past six years. AmeriCorps VISTA has provided NOS and our partners with dozens of dedicated national service members over the years; each of whom has directly helped to build our capacity to serve the community. VISTA began in 1965 as the “domestic Peace Corps”, with an initial group of 20 individuals tasked with fighting poverty in the United States. Today VISTA is still going strong with 6,500 members currently serving at projects around the country. NOS is proud to have been one of those sites but VISTA is not meant to be a permanent solution; those members are trying to build sustainability in their host organizations so that it may continue to serve and grow after the member’s departure. When I compare NOS today to where we were six years ago, I would say those VISTA members who have come through our doors should feel a true sense of accomplishment. Despite no longer maintaining a VISTA program, NOS is still doing all that we can to support volunteerism and national service, particularly in rural Nevada. Before our VISTA program, we had National Civilian Conservation Corps (NCCC) members supporting our mission. We have also had an international volunteer program through the BTCV and are working to strengthen and grow our AmeriCorps State program which currently places 17 individuals with NOS and other community partners.

Of course, the completion of a successful VISTA program is not the only big accomplishment NOS is celebrating this year. Our new accounting firm, HintonBurdick, offers a valuable resource in our continued growth, and we were able to complete a thorough financial review for the first time. We were excited to see that the review not only found many areas in which we are performing well, but that it was also able to target a few specific areas for improvement. We welcomed back one of our outstanding former AmeriCorps Naturalists, Jessica Snaman, as our Director of Programming with a background in formal education, a natural instinct for teaching and a strong creative streak. We also found a new AmeriCorps Program Director in Cathy Yates who brings a range of prior experiences from teaching and professional development to grant management and who is helping to bring our program to new levels.

Our 4th annual Buckaroo Dutch Oven Cook-Off was the biggest yet, and is fast becoming a much anticipated event in Winnemucca. Our partnership with the USDA Forest Service – Santa Rosa District and Friends of Nevada Wilderness really took off this year, with three successful projects based out of Paradise Valley. We made a huge step forward in our ability to offer youth ATV safety courses by adding Oregon Youth Rider Endorsement certification to our tool box. We’ve joined the social media movement with a blog and Facebook providing two new options to keep in touch with us. Our local educational outreach continues to be strong and we are seeking more and more ways to expand to other communities throughout rural Nevada.

I hope you will agree that it has been another fantastic year for NOS. However, it would not have been so without the continued support from our funding and programmatic partners. This report is just a small snap-shot of the things we have accomplished together. I thank you whole-heartedly and look forward to another year of great things to come.

Have fun out there,

Andy Hart – Executive Director



# EDUCATION

- 827 Hours of Instruction
- 12,065 Student Contacts
- 20,258 Contact Hours

Nevada Outdoor School's Education Programs saw a lot of change this year. We welcomed new faces, said good-bye to others, enriched programs and made great memories along the way. In September, Megan Allen, who served two previous years as a naturalist, joined our staff as Education Coordinator. Together with Jen Stockton, Director of Programming, and a stellar team of AmeriCorps Naturalists, our education program brought more than 180 inquiry-science lessons to northern Nevada by the end of December.

In the New Year, we wished Jen well in her new endeavors and welcomed Jessica Snaman as our new Director of Programming. Jessica's leadership style helped bring added excitement to our classroom lessons, field trips and summer programming. In total we accumulated 20,258 contact hours with program participants. We reunited existing and sparked new partnerships, especially with summer programs.

Sixth grade students spent four days and three nights in the Plumas National Forest for the annual Sierra Summit Camp. In partnership with Grizzly Creek Ranch and Sierra Nevada Journeys, students climbed to new heights on a low and high ropes course. Students also slept in teepees, kayaked on Lake Tahoe, and learned about forest ecology.

Adventure Camp 2 revisited Lye Creek Campground and was joined this year by a group from Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Participants enjoyed traditional summer camp activities such as crafts, hiking and songs around a campfire. We also learned the value of volunteering on our public lands. Campers helped paint picnic tables, clear trails and clean litter around the campground on the last day of camp.

New Horizons Girls Camp celebrated its second year of funding through the Association of American University Women in an Olympic fashion! Girls explored secondary education by touring the University of Nevada-Reno, conducting hands-on experiments with the geology department and exploring the Fleischmann Planetarium! From there, the girls cheered for each other on a high ropes course, swam in Lake Tahoe and toured the Olympic Village at Squaw Valley, California.



# OUTDOOR ETHICS

## THANK YOU JEN AND WELCOME JESSICA

This year saw a staff change mid-year. Sadly, we said goodbye to our Director of Programming, Jen Stockton and welcomed Jessica Snaman to that position. Jessica, a former AmeriCorps Naturalist for NOS came on staff in mid-February. She is very excited to be back in Winnemucca and spread the message of outdoor ethics!

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Classroom Leave No Trace (LNT) lessons reached 503 students totaling 398 Contact Hours
- Students were prepared for their field trip to Lovelock Cave by participating in an hour-long Leave No Trace lesson focusing on the principle "Leave What You Find."
- 5th graders participating in French Ford Middle School's Trout Release learned about the principle "Know Before You Go" in a 30 minute lesson delivered by NOS naturalists.
- NOS laid the groundwork for a new exciting partnership with Sand Mountain Recreation Area and the Carson City District BLM. Look for us to bring youth Tread Lightly! programming and All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) safety certification courses to Sand Mountain enthusiasts at events in the coming year.
- Jessica Snaman went to Southern California and got her ASI Instructor Certificate in March. In July, Jessica also went to Redmond, Oregon and was certified as an Oregon ATV Safety Youth Rider Endorsement evaluator.
- 1 additional NOS staff member (Brenna Archibald) was ASI certified.

"I [SERVED] ONE CLIENT... WHO FINALLY SECURED EMPLOYMENT AND A STABLE RESIDENCE. HE NO LONGER DINES AT THE SOUP KITCHEN."

- AMERICORPS MEMBER AT WINNEMUCCA MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION



# NOS AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAM

## NOS AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAM

The NOS AmeriCorps program serves rural northern Nevada. In 2012, NOS funded five full-time, ten half-time and three summer members who served in Wells, Elko, Battle Mountain, Gerlach, and Winnemucca, Nevada. AmeriCorps State members worked directly with the community and populations served by their host organization.

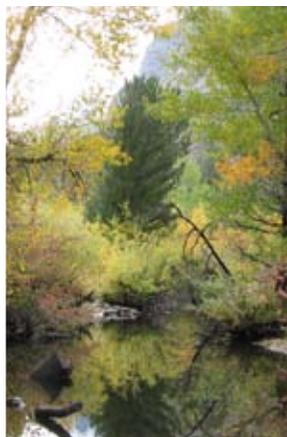
## NOS AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2012

- Members served 13,775 hours in rural Nevada
- Recruited 862 volunteers who donated 2,828 hours of service
- Sponsored 4 large-scale community service projects
- Administered seniors in Wells, Nevada with 3,932 congregate meals and 4,212 in-home meals
- Created 5 new organizational partnerships to build capacity and sustainability for the AmeriCorps program
- Provided 63 children with recreational summer programs
- Served 5,487 clients at the soup kitchen in Winnemucca
- Assisted students in Lander County in Reading and Math; 100% of students showed improvement in Math and 93% in Reading
- Facilitated educational programs with Nevada Outdoor School reaching over 1,000 students

## PARTNERS

The following organizations hosted members for the NOS AmeriCorps State Programs:

- Nevada Outdoor School
- Silver Sage Senior Center
- Wells Family Resource Center
- Lander County School District
- American Red Cross Northern Nevada Chapter – Elko Service Center and Winnemucca Service Center
- Friends of Nevada Wilderness
- Winnemucca Community Garden
- Bureau of Land Management
- Winnemucca Domestic Violence
- Humboldt County Senior Center
- Winnemucca Ministerial Association – Food Bank and Soup Kitchen



# NOS AMERICORPS VISTA PROGRAM

## VISTA

The following VISTA Members served through NOS this year:

Jesse Dekens – Humboldt Development Authority  
Megan Bowers – Humboldt Development Authority  
Nicole Stuff – NOS/Winnemucca Community Garden  
Jessica Villarreal – NOS/Nature at Noon  
Shari Hansen – Great Basin Community College



## VISTA HIGHLIGHTS

Nature at Noon continues to be one of Nevada Outdoor School's most recognizable and popular programs in the community thanks to the fantastic VISTA Summer Associates who have facilitated it over the past several years. Nature at Noon had 57 children participate for nine weeks in 2012. Nevada Outdoor School was able to strengthen our partnership with the Winnemucca Community Garden through the AmeriCorps program and particularly this summer through thrice-weekly youth programming from a VISTA Summer Associate. Our ongoing partnership with Humboldt Development Authority has been a great success due to the talented and hard-working VISTAs serving there. The WinnemuccaWorks website is now the premier place to go for those seeking jobs and for local employers to post opportunities. The Winnemucca Futures project has brought a significant number of people in the community together to talk about sustainable scenarios for the future of Humboldt County and how we can take steps to get there. The Winnemucca Family Stability Council has a new website and there is a new teen center in the works all in part due to the VISTA program at NOS.

"I FEEL SO GOOD EVERYDAY WHEN MY SERVICE IS OVER BECAUSE  
I AM MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THESE CHILDREN'S LIVES."

- AMERICORPS MEMBER AT LANDER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## NEW TEAM MEMBER

Nevada Outdoor School connected with community members through multiple avenues this past year. The addition of AmeriCorps State Member Brenna Archibald as Conservation Education and Outreach Coordinator working part time with Friends of Nevada Wilderness involved NOS with seven stewardship projects in the Santa Rosa Mountains and Black Rock Desert.

## DUTCH OVEN COOK-OFF

Our 4th Annual Dutch Oven Cook-Off was the biggest yet with many local businesses donating to help make this annual fundraiser a success. At Riverview Park on August 25th, 12 cooks, 10 volunteers and dozens of hungry tasters came together for an afternoon filled with food, fun and prizes. Mayor Di Ann Putnam, Bill Jones and Michael Padua volunteered their time and taste buds as official judges for the event awarding 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes for Bean Master (two dishes) and Chuck Wagon (one dish) contestants. The public tasters also had their say and awarded the Peoples' Choice Award.

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- 105 volunteers, including 26 kids participated in 7 stewardship projects hosted by Friends of Nevada Wilderness and Nevada Outdoor School
- 50 hours of Community Garden Summer Youth Programming totaling 224 contact hours
- 2 Barrick Family Events totaling 468 contact hours
- Water Canyon Summer Series Events including interpretive hikes, nature photography, bird watching and the NOS Family Campout provided community members with the opportunity to explore and learn about their local environment
- Mill Creek Eco Days reached 75 students and totaled 5,412 contact hours
- 162 students participated in Winnemucca's Ecology Days over two days totaling 810 Contact Hours
- NOS members volunteered at Gold Fever and reached 235 students over 3 days totaling 940 Contact Hours



# FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2012 REVENUE

AmeriCorps State	\$127,894
AmeriCorps Partnership Match	\$45,437
AmeriCorps VISTA Travel	\$10,458
AmeriCorps VISTA Partnership Match	\$3,375
United Way	\$4,280
Bureau of Land Management	\$120,385
USDA Forest Service	\$15,640
AAUW - American Association of University Women	\$2,850
Newmont Mining Corp.	\$41,205
NV State Parks	\$39,114
Barrick Gold Corp.	\$12,500
Nevada Muleys	\$5,000
NDEP - Nevada Department of Environmental Protection	\$4,055
Other Income	\$4,132

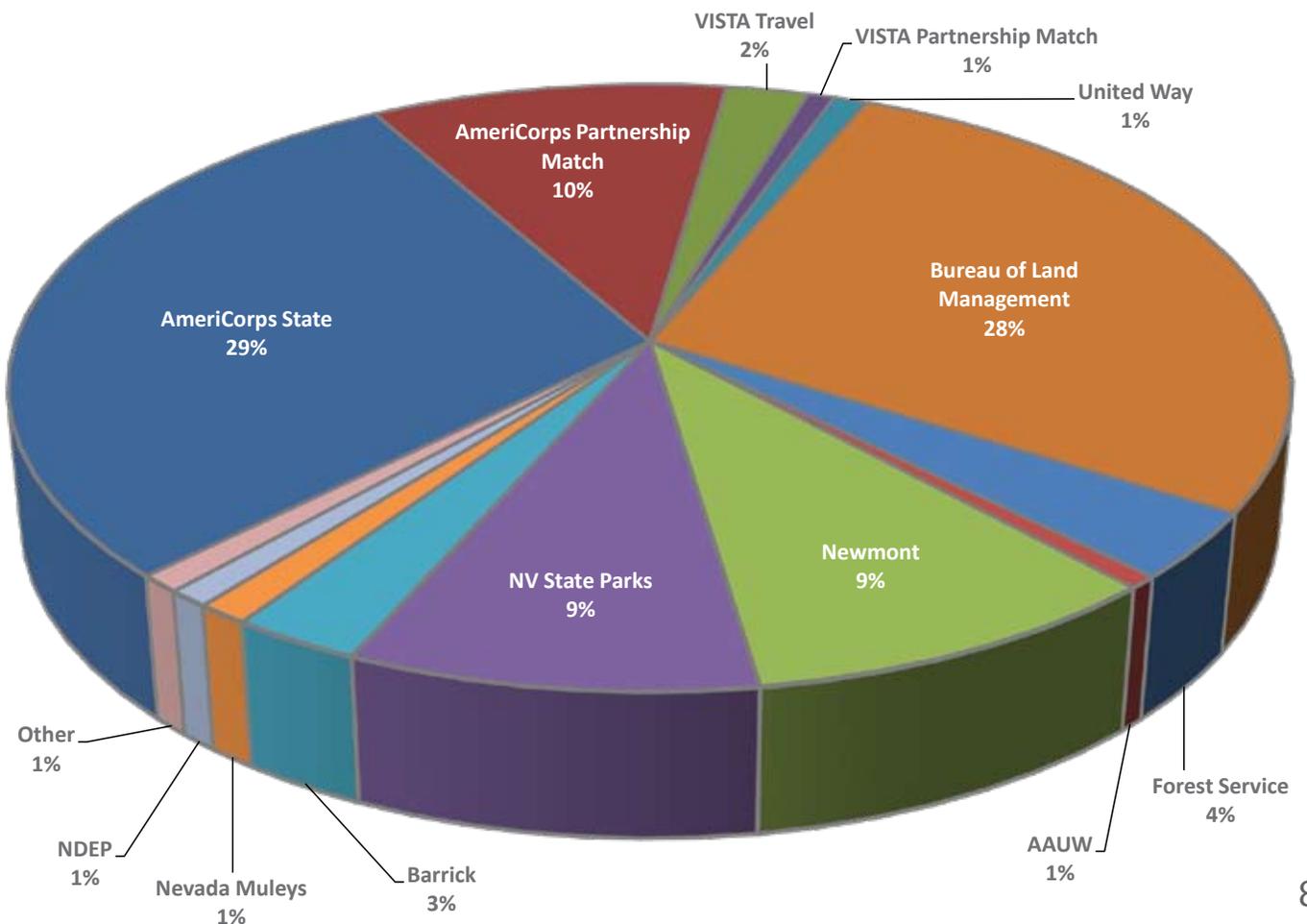
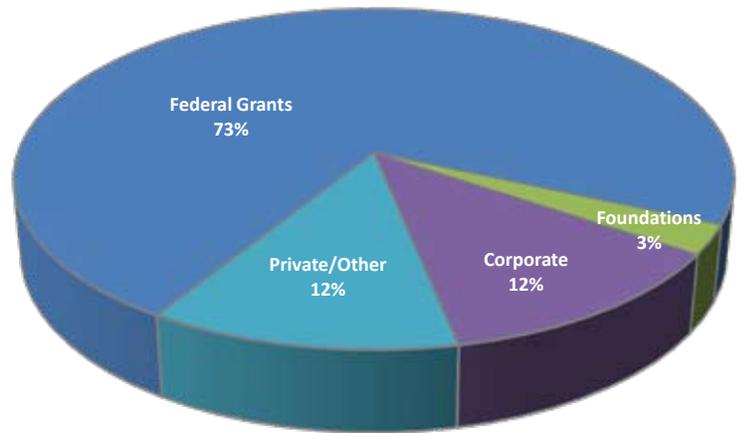
Federal Grants	\$317,546
Nevada State Grants	\$-
Foundations	\$12,130
Corporate	\$53,705
Private/Other	\$52,944

**Total** **\$436,325**

**Total Cash Income** **\$436,325**

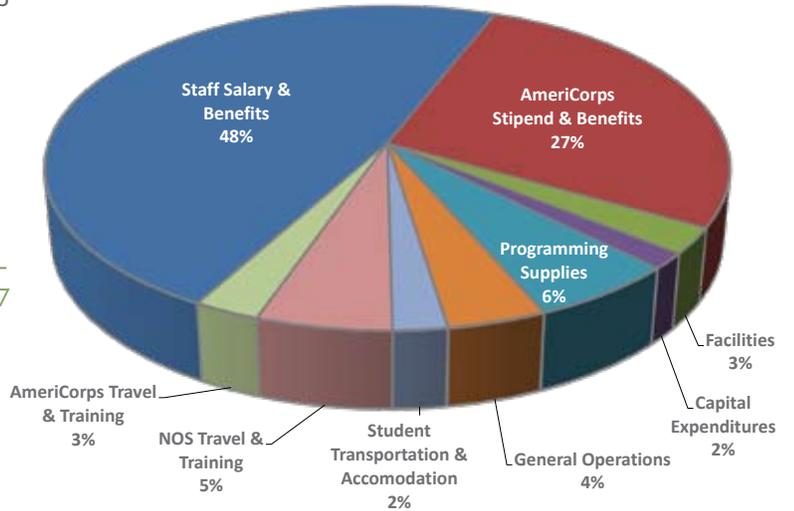
In-Kind Donations \$750  
 In-Kind Labor \$886

**In-Kind Total** **\$1,636**



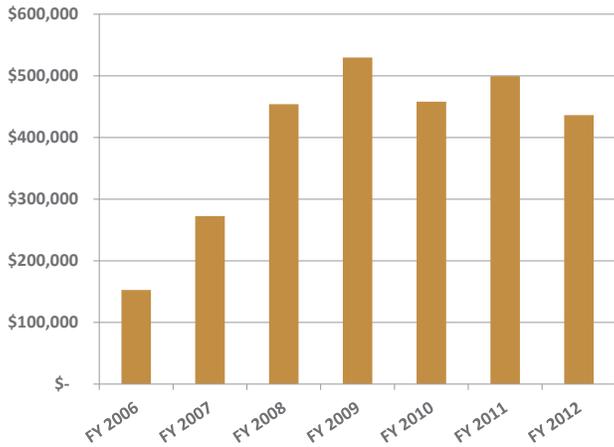
# FISCAL YEAR 2012 EXPENSES

Staff Salary & Benefits	\$203,491
AmeriCorps Stipend & Benefits	\$116,333
Facilities	\$10,995
Capital Expenditures/Investments	\$6,748
Programming Supplies	\$25,799
General Operations	\$17,293
Student Transportation & Accommodation	\$9,466
NOS Travel & Training	\$23,621
AmeriCorps Travel & Training	\$11,542
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Total Expenses	\$425,287



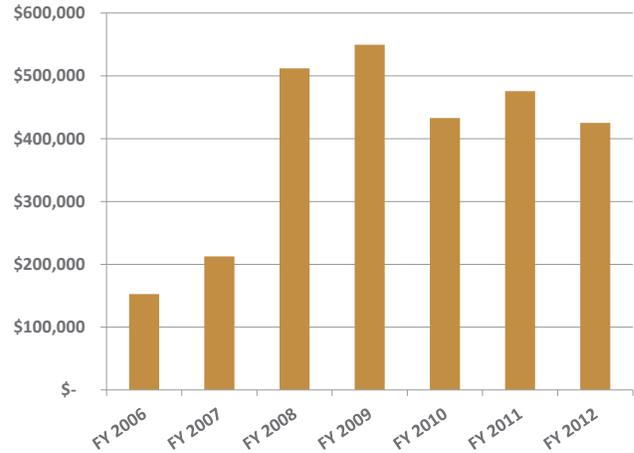
## YEARLY COMPARISON

### CASH INCOME BY YEAR



FY 2006	\$152,629
FY 2007	\$272,446
FY 2008	\$454,000
FY 2009	\$529,709
FY 2010	\$458,243
FY 2011	\$499,422
FY 2012	\$436,325

### EXPENSES BY YEAR



FY 2006	\$152,628
FY 2007	\$212,677
FY 2008	\$512,000
FY 2009	\$549,579
FY 2010	\$432,984
FY 2011	\$475,612
FY 2012	\$425,287

# NOS PARTNERS

INCLUDING FUNDERS AND PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS



Bureau of Land Management \*\*



AmeriCorps VISTA \*



Nevada Volunteers \*\*



Nevada State Parks \*\*



Barrick Gold Corp. \*



Newmont Mining Corp. \*



Leave no Trace



Tread Lightly!



NV Energy



National Environmental Education Foundation



American Association of University Women



United Way



Nevada Division of Environmental Protection



Sierra Nevada Journeys



Nevada Muleys



Friends of Nevada Wilderness



National Public Lands Day



University of Nevada Cooperative Extension



Winnemucca Community Garden



Lander County School District



Humboldt Development Authority



Humboldt Volunteer Hospice



Labels for Education



Nevada Division of Wildlife



USDA Forest Service



Humboldt County School District



Association of Partners for Public Lands



Project Learning Tree



Gear to Grow



Project Wet



Wells Family Resource Center

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

\*Funding of \$10,000 or greater

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kelly Novi - President  
Helen Willis - Vice President  
Russ Yowell - Treasurer  
Harvey Estes  
Briony Coleman  
Matt Hoffer  
Tony Lesperance

## STAFF

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Andy Hart - Executive Director  
Melanie Erquiaga - Financial Manager  
Jessica Snaman - Director of Programming  
Cathy Yates - AmeriCorps Program Director  
Megan Allen - Education Coordinator

## AMERICORPS

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Brenna Archibald - Conservation Outreach and Education  
Julie Hepp - Naturalist  
Steven Thompson - Naturalist

## SUMMER STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

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Charleen Ricker - Community Outreach  
Nicole Stuff - Community Garden Youth Education  
Jessica Villareal - Early Childhood

“NOS MAKES SCIENCE FUN AND THE OUTDOORS AN INTEGRAL PART  
OF THESE KIDS AND ADULTS LIVES. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!”

- ONLINE REVIEW

