

New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission

2022 Annual Report



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Cover: RiverSource Crew

This page: Institute of Applied Ecology



New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission



Michelle Lujan Grisham,
Governor

Amanda Getchell Stevenson,
Chair
Carmen Austin, Vice-Chair
Sarah Wood,
Executive Director

Public Members

Ron Hannan
Alicia Littlebear
Anthony Marquez
Marlene Yanez

Agency Members

Carmen Austin
Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Dept
Sarah Cottrell Propst, Cabinet Secretary

Cassie Ruiz
Children, Youth & Families Dept
Barbara J. Vigil, Cabinet Secretary

Dana Vackar-Strang
State Land Office
Stephanie Garcia-Richard, Commissioner

Vacant
Public Education Department
Kurt Steinhaus, Cabinet Secretary

December 1, 2022

To: The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
The Honorable Members of the New Mexico Legislature House and Senate

I am pleased to share with you the YCC Commission's 2022 Annual Report. After two years of low participation in the program, organizations across New Mexico implemented 41 youth programs in 21 counties in 2022, and there was a 30% increase in the number of youth employed.

Training sessions are a core component of the YCC program. This year, youth received instruction in construction, financial literacy, wildland fire-fighting certification, chainsaw maintenance and operation, adobe brick making, resumé and interview skills, traditional agriculture, plant identification, GIS mapping, and public speaking, and many other topics. Many of them went on to employment in their community.

On behalf of the YCC Commission and staff, I pledge our continued commitment to the Youth Conservation Corps and thank you for your support. The YCC program is helping to train youth for careers in New Mexico and provides lasting benefits to our communities and natural resources.

Amanda Getchell Stevenson, Chair



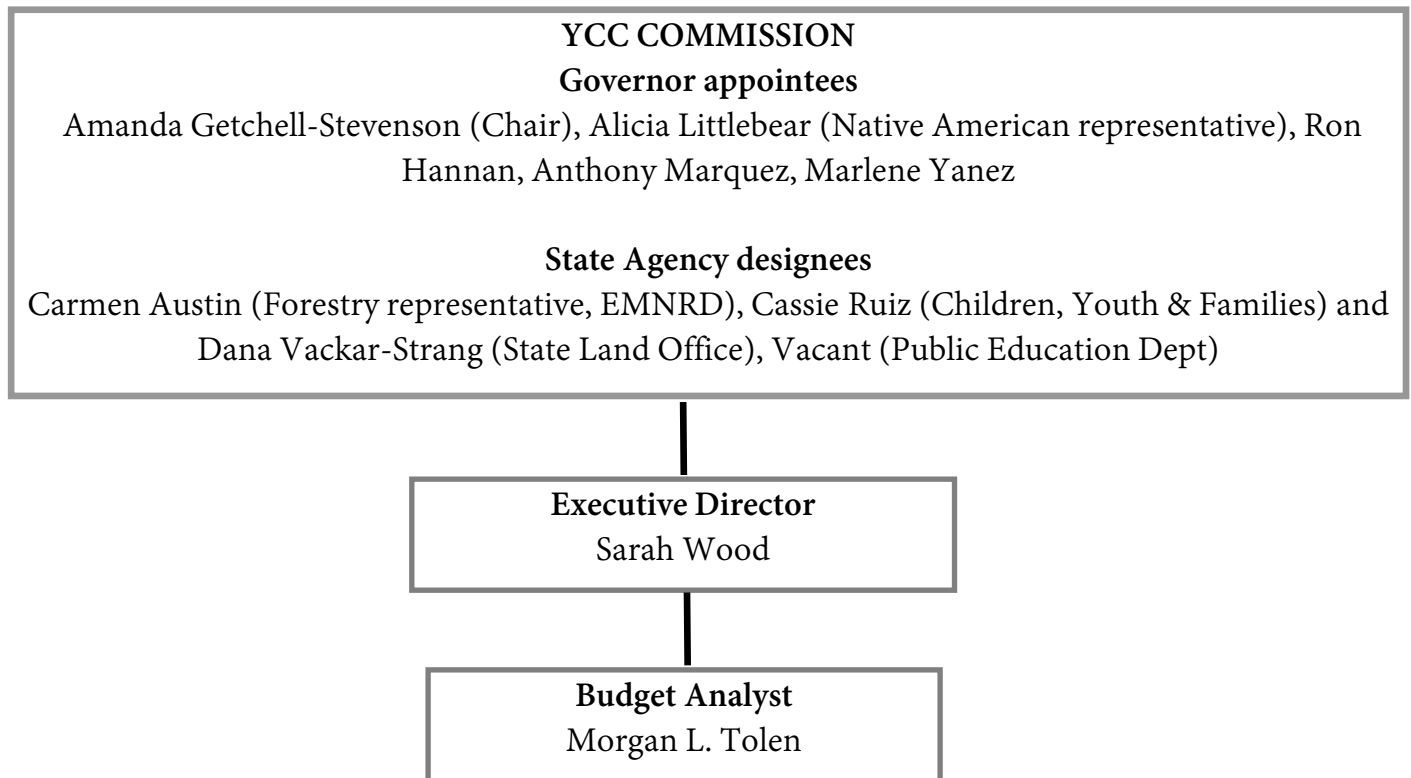
What is the YCC Program

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) was established in 1992 to provide a process to employ youth ages 14 - 25 in public projects that conserve New Mexico's natural resources and provide community benefits of lasting value. The YCCC is authorized by 9-5B-1-10 NMSA 1978.

YCC grants are open to government agencies, tribal governments and 501c non-profits. Eligible projects may occur on public and tribal lands or private lands with reasonable public access or a regional benefit. Projects include conservation, restoration and preservation projects, facility and infrastructure improvements, or emergency assistance and preparedness.

Corps members hired by grantees are between 14 – 25 years old and New Mexico citizens. Seventy percent of each grant must be spent on corps member wages, and grantees provide a 20% in-kind match. Each program must also provide a variety of training in job, career and life skills; natural and cultural resources and traditions; and further education. Corps members who have served for 32 to 48 months in the YCC are entitled to an additional cash reimbursement or an educational voucher for expenses at a New Mexico college or vocational school.

ORGANIZATION, MISSION & VALUES



Appendix A contains bios of the Commission and staff.

Mission:

Promote the education, success and well-being of the youth in our communities and provide benefits of lasting value through the conservation and enhancement of New Mexico's natural, cultural and recreational resources.

Values:

YCC strives for

- Meaningful, community-based employment for young New Mexicans.
- An educated, skilled and environmentally aware young work force.
- Improvements to natural, cultural, recreational and community facilities and resources.
- Tax dollars returned to communities.

2022 Summary

Cooperative Agreements: The legislature granted a Section 5 appropriations of \$1M to the YCC to enter into cooperative procurement agreements with other state agencies for youth employment programs. The money for this appropriation is from the YCC fund balance and will revert there if it is not all spent by June 30, 2023.

YCC has agreements with EMNRD for \$600,000 and the State Land Office for \$200,000. The Mining & Minerals Division (MMD) of EMNRD have contracted with a non-profit who are hiring and training youth to conduct a hard-rock mining inventory state-wide. Youth are learning valuable skills such as orienteering in remote areas, GIS software and data management, hard-rock geology and job interview skills. The State Land Office will use their funds for planned trail projects on recreational lands throughout the State.

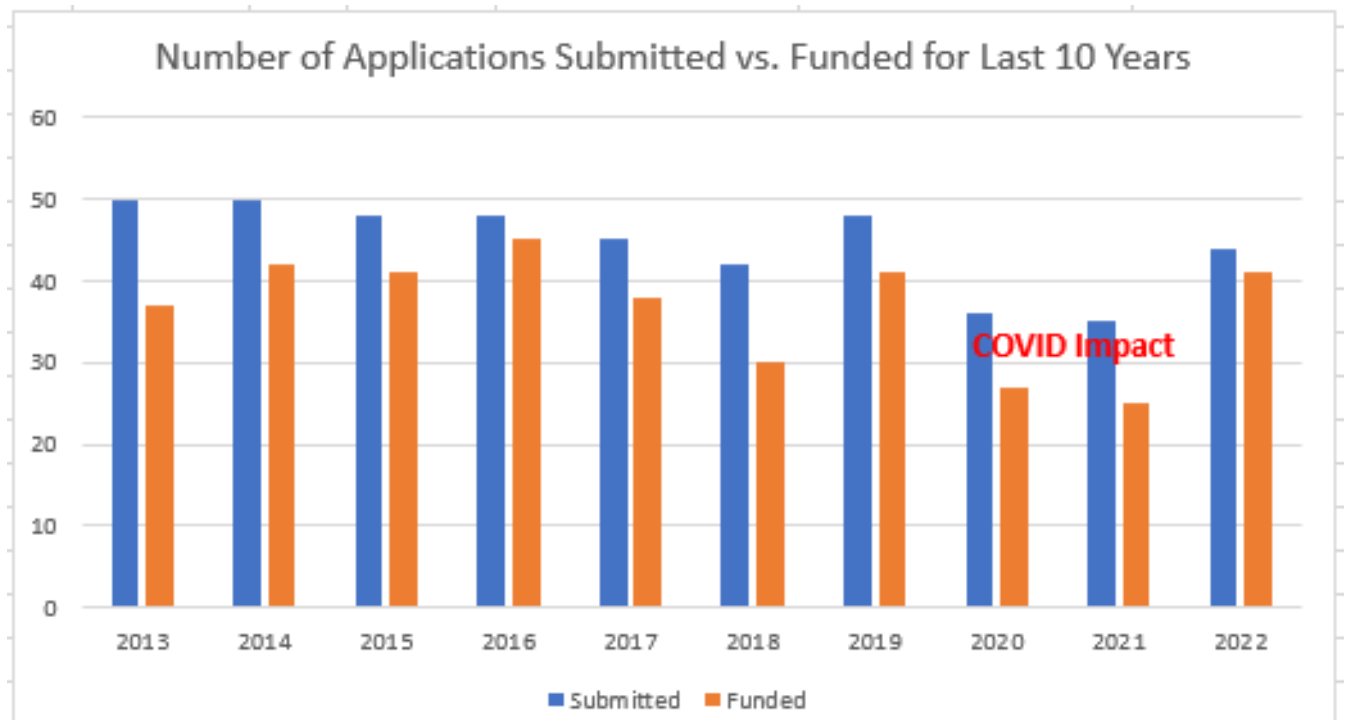
YCC has also reached out to other state agencies, such as Historical Sites, Public Education Department, Game and Fish, State Parks and State Forestry. These agencies expressed interest, but the short timeline and low staffing precluded their involvement. YCC will request funds for cooperative agreements in the base budget from now on.

Funding awards: YCC received forty-three proposals and funded forty-one in 2021. Approximately 610 youth were hired to perform \$4.2M in projects, with a match of \$1.4M. Almost half the projects are still wrapping up as of late 2022; because of the delay in awarding the price agreement, contracts extend into March of 2023.

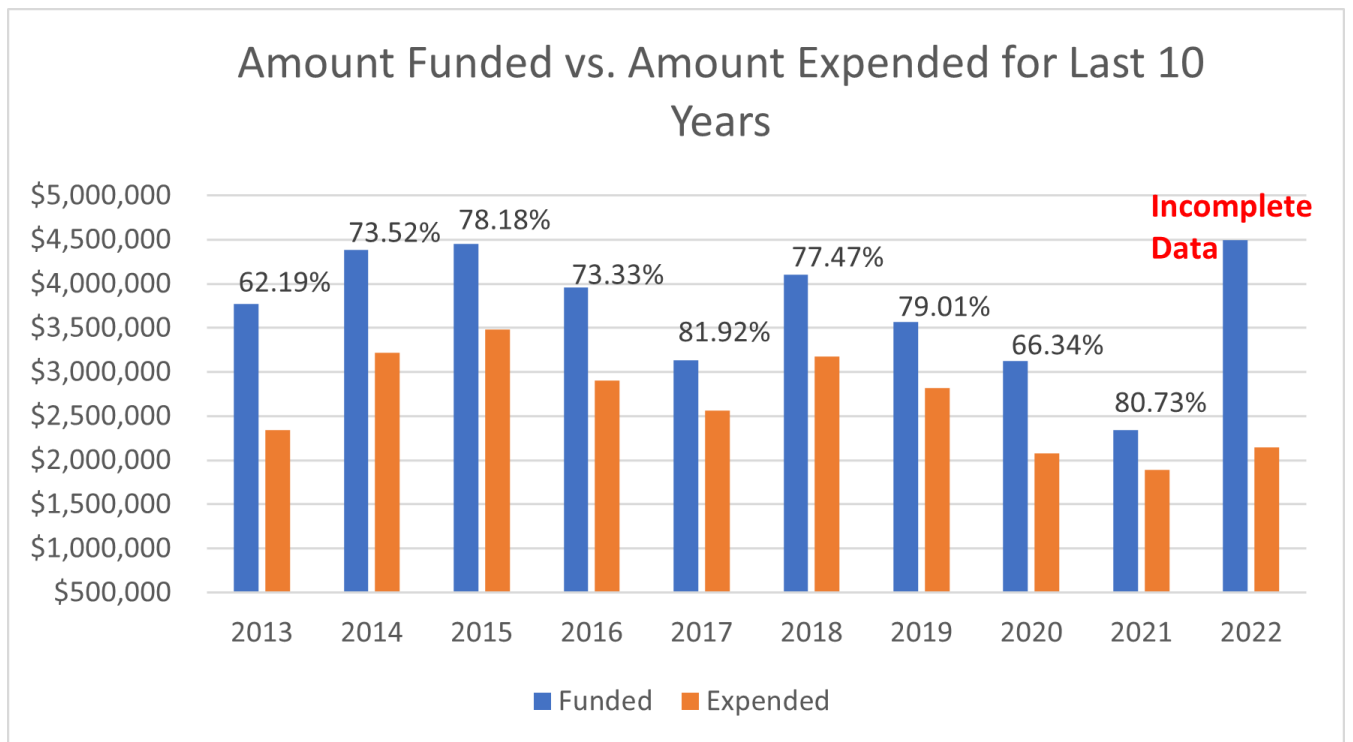
Personnel changes: In June, after a year-long position vacancy, Morgan Tolen was hired as YCC's budget analyst / coordinator. She is the only other YCC employee.

Governor appointee Amanda Getchell Stevenson took on the role as Commission Chair; and Ron Hannan of Tularosa came on board as a governor-appointee. There has been no designee from the Public Education Department for most of the year.

FUNDING SUMMARY

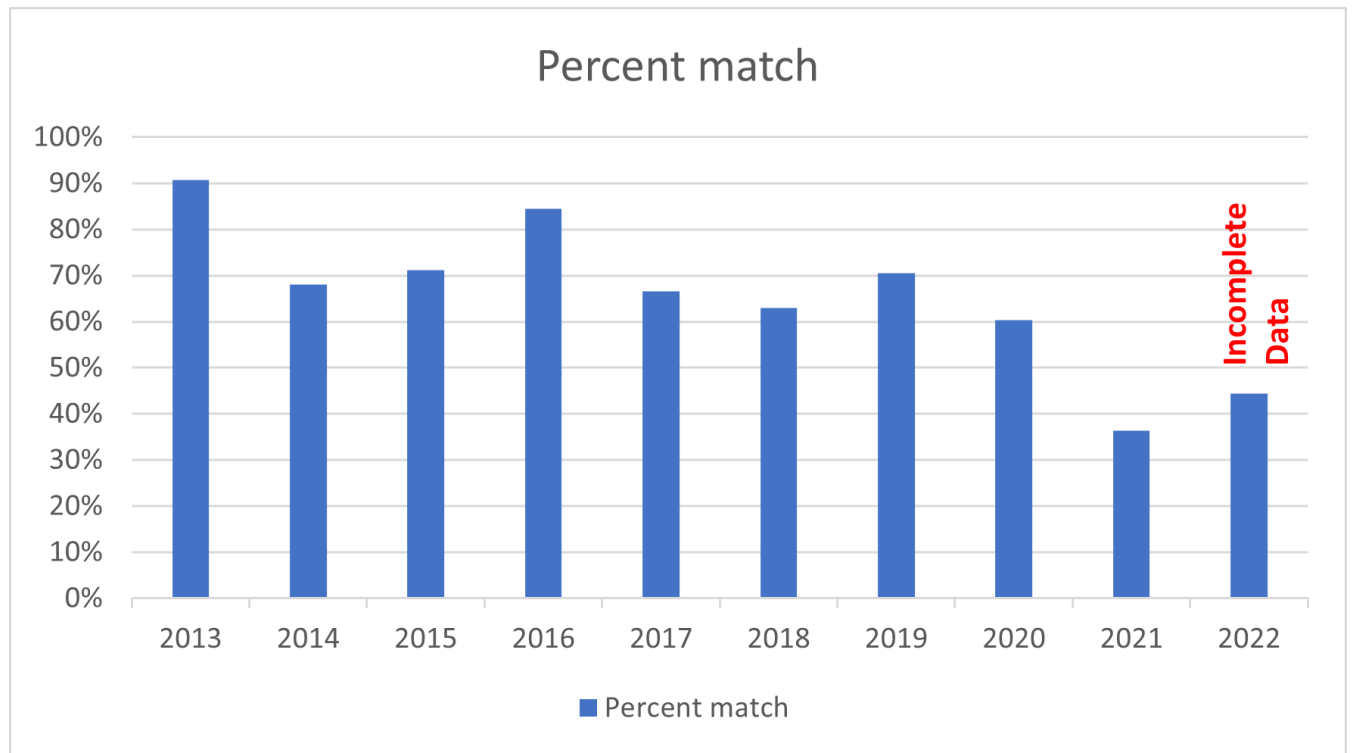


Overall, YCC funds an average of 36 projects per year. Budget is not an issue. Limitations are flawed applications or an inability to carry out the project. Since 2019, YCC has concentrated on streamlining and automating the application process with the goal of every application being successful.



Averaged over the last decade, projects spend about 75% funds awarded. The returned money goes into the fund balance.

FUNDING SUMMARY



In 2022, YCC established a 20% minimum for in-kind contributions. Prior to this, projects were incentivized to pledge large amounts that were difficult to document. Contributions include staff time, trainings, volunteers, equipment purchase and rental, and transportation. Most projects contribute more than the minimum.



YCC PROJECTS 2022

Incomplete Project
Completed Project

PROJECT MANAGER	COUNTY	NO. OF YOUTHS EMPLOYED	AMOUNT FUNDED	AMOUNT REIMBURSED	IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION
Albuquerque Sign Language Academy - Student Conservation	Bernalillo	18	\$ 129,570.20	\$ 73,167.03	\$ 10,000.00
Aldo Leopold Charter School: Spring Project - Student Crews: Art, Trails, Landscape, Monitoring	Grant	107	\$ 129,989.00	\$ 66,885.20	\$ 20,614.27
Aldo Leopold Charter School: Fall Project - Student Crews: Art, Trails, Landscape, Monitoring	Grant	34	\$ 93,975.00	\$ 10,045.47	\$ 3,673.18
ALMA 2022: Art Install at Valle De Oro & ABQ Convention Center	Bernalillo	9	\$ 76,147.36	\$ 74,434.05	\$ 31,709.36
City of Aztec - Dog Park build	San Juan	8	\$ 44,541.10	\$ 24,339.82	\$ 31,712.19
City of Bloomfield - Riparian Improvement	San Juan	6	\$ 63,691.32	\$ 28,247.60	\$ 17,756.12
Gallup YCC Trails Crew	McKinley	15	\$ 149,999.04	\$ 45,213.25	\$ 23,673.92
City of Las Cruces - Art Cultivation & Community Forestry	Dona Ana	0	\$ 82,301.80	\$ -	\$ -
City of Tucumcari Park Improvements	Quay	8	\$ 60,487.80	\$ 47,494.16	\$ 26,916.05
Ciudad SWCD Public Open Space Improvement	Bernalillo	13	\$ 124,083.85	\$ 2,233.77	\$ 3,306.50
Commons Center for Food Sustainability & Security - Infrastructure build	Grant	7	\$ 22,941.86	\$ 9,676.13	\$ 2,999.87
Conservation Legacy: Acoma Pueblo Traditional Farm Corps	Cibola	7	\$ 60,005.61	\$ 32,491.98	\$ 22,200.48
Conservation Legacy: Pueblo of Zuni Springs and Trails Restoration	Cibola	4	\$ 85,722.30	\$ 26,745.76	\$ 30,152.70
County of Bernalillo Hubbell Open Space and East Central Ministries	Bernalillo	4	\$ 44,108.12	\$ 14,918.70	\$ 16,723.51
East Rio Arriba SWCD Acequia Mapping project	Rio Arriba	5	\$ 46,215.33	\$ 38,837.05	\$ 12,180.00
EcoServants - Lincoln County Trails and Public Lands	Lincoln, Otero	19	\$ 146,964.38	\$ 140,680.80	\$ 31,272.36
EcoServants - Otero County Trails and Public Lands	Lincoln, Otero	16	\$ 146,964.38	\$ 130,820.97	\$ 31,032.77
Harwood Art Center Sculpture & Community at Mesa Verde Park	Bernalillo	10	\$ 50,862.96	\$ 50,862.96	\$ 17,183.22
Institute for Applied Ecology - Seed Collection & Habitat Restoration	Bernalillo, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Valencia	5	\$ 91,773.34	\$ 70,581.78	\$ 18,379.62
Pueblo of Sandia's Bobcat Ranch forest thinning	Mora	4	\$ 114,024.24	\$ 20,231.41	\$ 29,565.60
Rio Arriba County Senior Center & Playground improvements	Rio Arriba	16	\$ 138,841.96	\$ 62,714.97	\$ 26,041.02
Rio Arriba County Therapeutic Healing Memorial Garden	Rio Arriba	17	\$ 129,249.76	\$ 82,917.36	\$ 29,915.98

YCC PROJECTS 2022

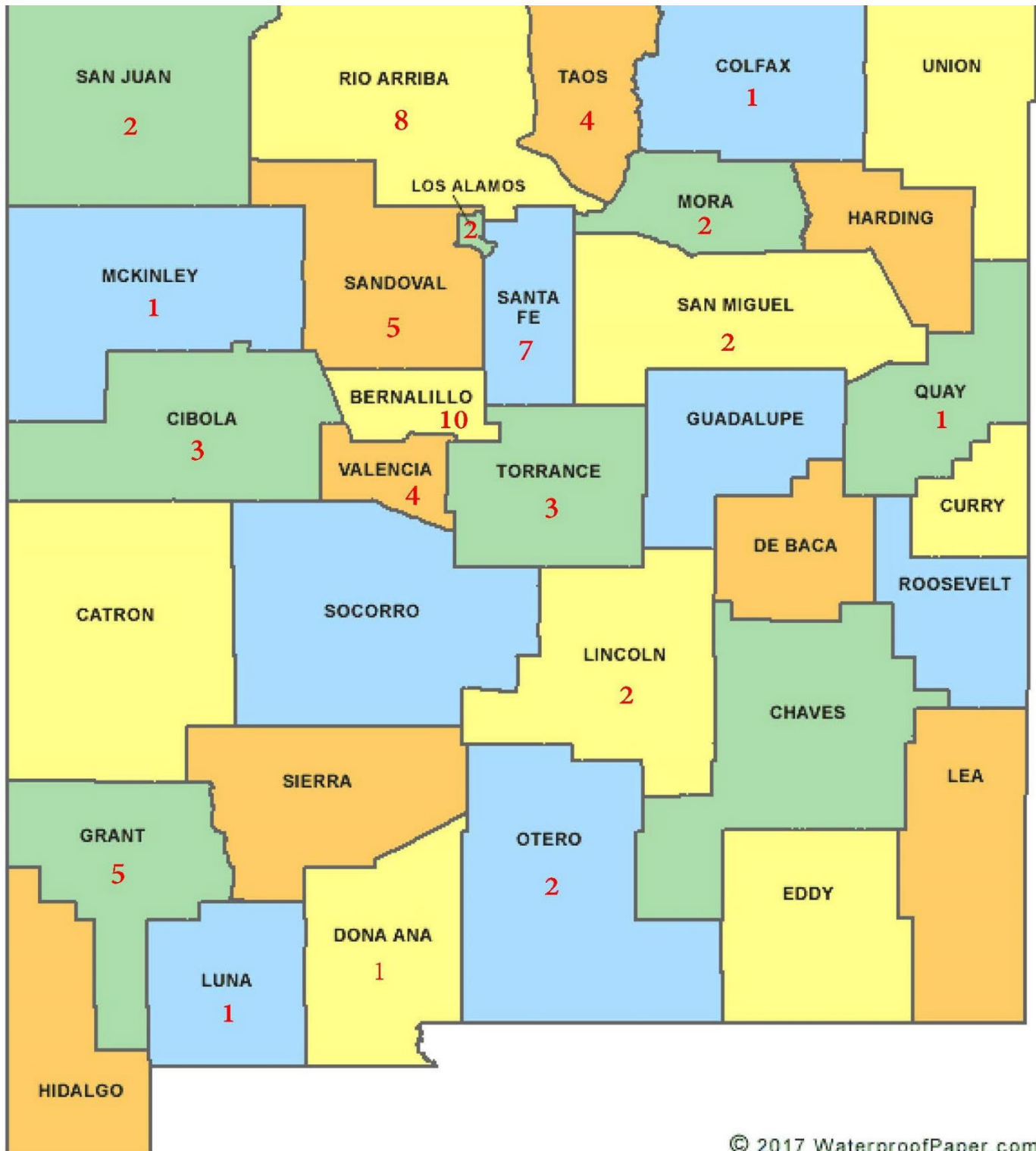
Incomplete Project
Completed Project

PROJECT MANAGER	COUNTY	NO. OF YOUTHS EMPLOYED	AMOUNT FUNDED	AMOUNT REIMBURSED	IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION
River Source Inc. Watershed Resilience Academy 2022	Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Taos	19	\$ 59,411.62	\$ 52,285.24	\$ 30,539.70
Robert F Kennedy Charter School Farm to School	Bernalillo	22	\$ 147,983.51	\$ 31,411.19	\$ 13,619.85
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps: Middle Rio Grande Youth Development and Conservation Program	Bernalillo, Santa Fe	13	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 72,947.93	\$ 32,410.85
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps Upper Rio Grande Youth Development and Conservation Program	Taos	12	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 71,063.97	\$ 69,588.85
Santa Clara Pueblo YCC Summer Traditional Resources Restoration	Rio Arriba, Sandoval	25	\$ 142,057.09	\$ 113,764.52	\$ 35,787.13
Santa Fe Children's Museum: Outdoor Equity, Sustainable Gardening & Cultural Preservation	Santa Fe	7	\$ 86,940.27	\$ 25,213.40	\$ 10,068.35
Southwest Educational Partners in Training, Shadyside Farm	Bernalillo	24	\$ 149,957.99	\$ 100,514.34	\$ 13,438.52
Taos Land Trust: Young Farmers and Ecologists at Rio Fernando Park	Taos	29	\$ 149,313.35	\$ 60,360.40	\$ 7,838.53
The Family YMCA, Los Alamos Trails	Los Alamos	14	\$ 67,861.56	\$ 67,861.56	\$ 20,554.27
The Forest Stewards Guild Youth Corps: Summer 2022	Cibola, Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Bernalillo, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Taos, Torrance	25	\$ 149,962.82	\$ 145,684.43	\$ 40,279.84
The Forest Stewards Guild Youth Corps Fire and Field Program: Fall 2022	Bernalillo, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Taos, Torrance	13	\$ 149,957.04	\$ 98,814.26	\$ 32,578.00
Town of Mountainair - Recreation Facilities Rehabilitation	Torrance	6	\$ 32,693.40	\$ 16,084.78	\$ 3,322.16
Valencia County Wildland Fire Department Youth Corps	Valencia	5	\$ 86,843.84	\$ -	\$ -
Valencia SWCD Whitfield Conservation Area Complex Improvements	Valencia	4	\$ 54,653.90		
Village of Angel Fire Apprentice Firefighter Program	Colfax	4	\$ 149,894.15	\$ 72,924.72	\$ 19,946.51
Village of Columbus Public Facilities Improvements	Luna	13	\$ 22,813.76	\$ 14,916.48	\$ 1,154.34
Village of Santa Clara Fort Bayard 18 Hole Disk Golf Course	Grant	8	\$ 31,301.06	\$ 31,301.06	\$ 19,331.55
WNMU - Center for a Sustainable Future and Outdoor Programs	Grant	5	\$ 149,999.99	\$ -	\$ -
YouthWorks Santa Fe Youth Conservation Corps	Santa Fe	22	\$ 149,999.40	\$ 69,454.39	\$ 45,906.50
<i>Grand Total:</i>		602	\$ 4,114,105.46	\$ 2,098,142.89	\$ 833,373.67

PROJECTS BY COUNTY

Red numbers represent the count of projects in each county

Projects took place in 20 of New Mexico's 33 counties. Six projects spanned more than one county.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Albuquerque Sign Language Academy Honey Badger Conservation Crew

Total youth hired: 18

Training sessions: 12



Aldo Leopold High School Spring / Late Summer project ran four crews: Public Art, EcoMonitoring, Trails and Gardening.

Total youth hired: 107

Training sessions: 21



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

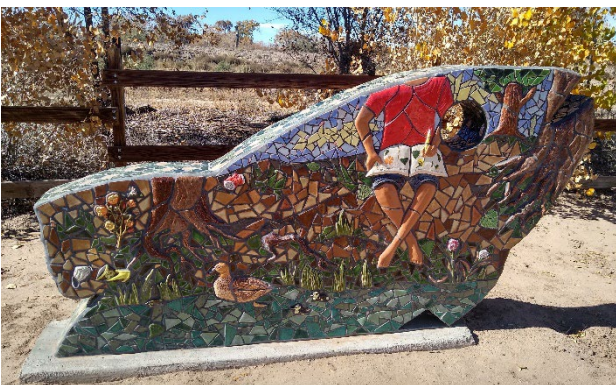
Aldo Leopold High School - Fall Project continued the work of the summer crew.

Total youth hired: 33

Training sessions: 20



Apprenticeships for Leaders in Mosaic Art (ALMA) Sculpture at Valle de Oro and mosaic mural at ABQ Convention Center. Total youth hired: 9 Training sessions: 11



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Angel Fire Fire Fire Department

Total youth hired: 4

Training sessions: 62



City of Aztec Dog Park

Total youth hired: 8

Training sessions: 15



YCC 2022 Summer Project

The City of Aztec would like to thank the youth involved in the 2022 YCC Summer Project. This group worked very hard in constructing a new Dog Park located at Tiger Park! Years in the asking, Aztec now has a dog park which features agility courses for each of the small and large dog areas. In addition, there are shade structures, benches and plenty of area for your dog to run loose.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

City of Bloomfield Riparian Improvements Total youth hired: 8 Training sessions: 15



The City of Gallup Trails Crew

Total youth hired: 15

Training sessions: 25



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

City of Tucumcari Municipal Park Improvements

Total youth hired: 8 Training sessions: 11



The Commons Center for Food Sustainability Public Facilities Improvements

Total youth hired: 7

Training sessions: 54



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Conservation Legacy – Pueblo of Zuni Trails to sacred sites

Total youth hired: 8

Training sessions: 18



Conservation Legacy – Acoma Traditional Farming

Total youth hired: 7 Training sessions: 38



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

County of Bernalillo – Hubbell Open Space and East Central Ministries

Total youth hired: 4

Training sessions: 28



East Rio Arriba Soil & Water Conservation District Acequia and Dam Mapping

Total youth hired: 4

Training sessions: 14



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

EcoServants Lincoln & Otero Counties

Total youth hired: 35

Training sessions: 20



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Forest Stewards Guild, Summer and Fall; Forest & Rangeland Improvements and Fuel Reduction

Total youth hired: 38

Training sessions: 75



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Harwood Art Center Apprenticeship for Art & Social Justice at Mesa Verde Park

Total youth hired: 10 Training sessions: 15



Institute for Applied Ecology Seed Collection & Habitat Restoration Crew

Total youth hired: 5 Training sessions: 18



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Pueblo of Sandia Ranch Properties – Forest Thinning

Total youth hired: 4 Training sessions: 11



The Family YMCA Los Alamos Trails Crew

Total youth hired: 14 Training sessions: 20



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Pueblo of Santa Clara Traditional Resources Restoration

Total youth hired: 25 Training sessions: 3



Rio Arriba County STOP Program Healing Memorial, Playground & Senior Center

Total youth hired: 17, 16 Training sessions: 28, 26



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

RFK Charter School & Southwest Education Partners in Training Shady Side Farm Crews

Total youth hired: 22, 24

Training sessions: 6, 38



River Source Watershed Resilience Academy

Total youth hired: 19 Training sessions: 20



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps Upper & Middle Rio Grande Crews

Total youth hired: 12, 13 Training sessions: 27, 29



Santa Fe Childrens Museum, Improving Outdoor Equity, Gardening & Preservation

Total youth hired: 7 Training sessions: 20



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Taos Land Trust Rio Fernando Park Crew

Total youth hired: 29 Training sessions: 71



Town of Mountain Public Facilities Improvement Crew

Total youth hired: 6 Training sessions: 6



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Village of Columbus Public Facilities Improvements

Total youth hired: 11 Training sessions: 21



Village of Santa Clara Public Facilities Improvements: Disc Golf Course

Total youth hired: 8 Training sessions: 2



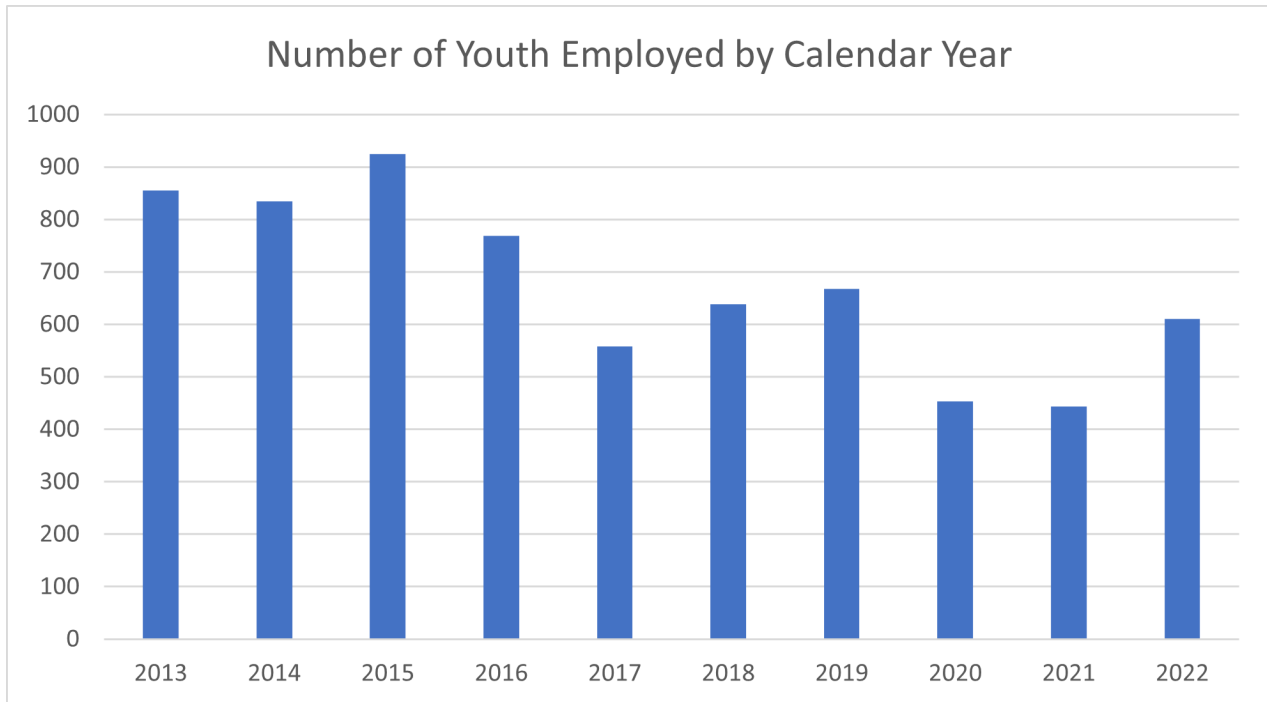
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Santa Fe YouthWorks Crew – Public Landscaping & Regenerative Agriculture

Total youth hired: 22 Training sessions: 166



YOUTH EMPLOYED



In 2022, approximated 602 youth were employed (many projects are still hiring as of December 2022). This represents a nearly 30% increase over the past two years when COVID severely impacted the YCC program. Many projects reported difficulty with recruitment this year; and many projects had to increase their starting wages to compete for labor in their area.



CORPS MEMBER BENEFITS

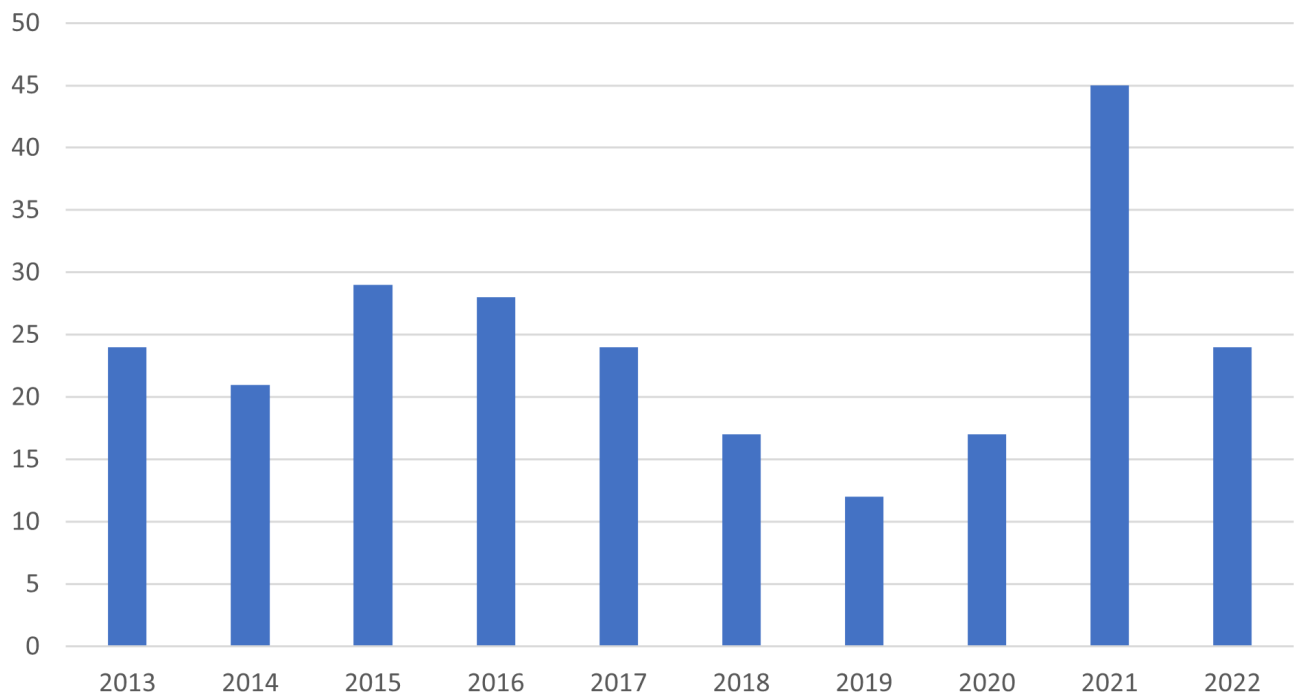


In addition to wages, the YCC must offer a \$1,500 educational tuition voucher OR a \$500 cash compensation to corps members who have worked on a YCC project for 12 months (48 weeks) within a 48 month period (4 years). Corps members who work at least 32 weeks may receive a pro-rated benefit.

In 2020, the YCC initiated a process to ensure all eligible corps members receive their benefits, and added this as a performance-based budget measure. The target is 85% of corps members who are eligible receive their benefits.

We fell short of our target in 2022. Part of this is due to the difficulty of contacting corps members and getting them to fill out the required tax form correctly. YCC also had only one staff person. However, corps members stay eligible until they age out of the program, so YCC is catching up with them this year.

Number of Corps Members Receiving Benefits for Last 10 Years



DEMOGRAPHICS AND CORPS MEMBER SURVEYS

2021 Survey

Gender	Age Ranges	After YCC (new categories added this year)
Male: 63%	14-15: 24%	Middle or High School: 34%
Female: 37%	16-17: 37%	Community College: 11%
	18-20: 22%	Four-year college: 26%
	21+: 20%	Trade or vocational school: 5.3%
		Military or Other: 11%
		Job (includes part-time): 42%

2022 Survey (Incomplete Data)

Gender	Age Ranges	After YCC (new categories added this year)
Male: 68%	14-15: 18%	Middle or High School: 42%
Female: 32%	16-17: 32%	Community College: 16%
	18-20: 28%	Four-year college: 5%
	21+: 22%	Trade or vocational school: 12%
		Military or Other: 0%
		Job (includes part-time):17%

What Corps Members say:

I was given the chance to take more of a leadership position and I feel that I was able to rise to the challenges.

I now know how to be an adult

I think this job will help with pursuing my goals because of the discipline I learned through this program.

This program guided me to better direct what I want my career in architecture to look like.

I learned to be a good role model and hard worker.

I learned that we are all going through our own unique struggles, so we should respect everyone equally.

PROGRESS REPORT

2021 Goals and Recommendations	2022 Progress
Finalize Cooperative Procurement Agreements with other state agencies.	Coop Agreements signed with Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department (\$600K) and State Land Office (\$200K)
Hire Budget Analyst position	Morgan Tolen hired June 2021.
Work on backlog of project inspections.	Only one staff member for most of 2022; still catching up.
Issue RFP for creating an orientation video for YCC and other marketing materials.	No progress, but still pursuing.
Develop an outline with specifics for a YCC conference	A number of people have volunteered to help, and we now have the "bandwidth" to make this a reality in 2023.
Formalize a process to connect YCC corps members to job and training opportunities	Working on a "Career Kit" that will point corps members in the right direction.
Get the funding cycle back on track so awards are announced before the Legislature starts.	Funding cycle is back on track. YCC did not have to issue their RFP through State Purchasing this year.

GOALS for 2023

- Develop and implement a YCC conference
- Issue RFP for creating an orientation video for YCC and other marketing materials.
- Develop and implement a “Career Kit” for corps members stratified by age.
- Complete all outstanding project inspections.
- Increase outreach efforts: presentations to community groups, cold calls, field trips with decision makers.



Beekeepers at RFK Charter School in Albuquerque's South Valley

Appendix A: COMMISSION & STAFF BIOS

Public Members Appointed by Governor Lujan Grisham



Amanda Getchell Stevenson, CHAIR is a New Mexico native, who graduated from the New Mexico State University Journalism and Communications Department. She's been a Communications Specialist for Strategies 360, a Seattle-based communications firm; a Marketing Assistant with Lavu, Inc., one of the largest tech companies in New Mexico; and a Marketing Manager with Canadian-based iAnthus Capital Management. Amanda owns and runs her own marketing consulting group, Middle Manda. She is an expert on social media strategy, compliance, and community management for various industries.

Alicia Littlebear is from Tamaya (Santa Ana Pueblo), Muskoke Creek, Absentee Shawnee, and Euchee Nations. She has resided in New Mexico her whole life. Alicia believes we can connect back to the land by running, and is an avid runner herself. She is thankful for the work that she gets to do everyday.



Anthony Marquez grew up surrounded by the mountains of Chama, NM. He is an avid outdoorsman and a recent retiree from New Mexico State Parks. As the Superintendent of Heron and El Vado State Parks, he oversaw Boating & Law Enforcement, Operations & Maintenance, Volunteers and Educational Interpretive Programs. He also led the park through a multi-phase expansion of the recreational trail system at Heron Lake. Anthony is an advocate for youth in his community and throughout New Mexico. Today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders, and we must support their contributions and their future potential.

Marlene Yanez is a Fronteriza, a woman from the border, and good food advocate who lives in Sunland Park, NM. She has worked in the non-profit sector for over a decade and currently works at La Semilla Food Center as a Program Director for the Community Education Program. Her work endeavors to create innovative and culturally inclusive food justice programs for youth and adults in the Paso del Region in Dona Ana County and El Paso, TX.



Ron Hannan, Ron received a formal education in natural resource management from Ohio State and Utah State Universities, providing the background for a satisfying 31 1/2 year career with the US Forest Service. As a child, he gained an informal outdoor education by roaming the hills and woodlots of south-central Ohio. Ron spent a summer on a YCC crew improving many Ohio State Parks. His crew ranged from Cleveland inner-city youth to Appalachian farm kids. His YCC experience helped him develop leadership and personal relationship skills, and guided him to pursue his education and career choices in natural resources. He is honored to be part of providing these same opportunities to the youth of New Mexico.

Appendix A: COMMISSION & STAFF BIOS

Agency Designees

Carmen Austin is Diné (Navajo Nation) from northern Arizona. She is the Climate Change Specialist for the New Mexico Forestry Division where she is responsible for implementing strategies of the Forest Action Plan that incorporate climate change science and adaptation and mitigation measures into forestry practices. These practices provide technical assistance to private forest landowners and allow the Forestry Division to participate with cooperators and collaboratives interested in natural resource management and watershed protection. Carmen has previously held positions as the Woody Biomass Program Manager in Santa Fe and District Forester on the Las Vegas District for the Forestry Division. Carmen also served as YCC Interim Director for a short duration. She is proficient on forest practices for the Commission. Carmen is a graduate of Northern Arizona University, School of Forestry and currently lives in Glorieta Pass with retired NM State Park Ranger Rick.



Cassie Ruiz has worked with Children, Youth and Families Department for seven years, both with Protective Services and Juvenile Justice. She is currently a Transition Services Coordinator with Juvenile Justice and is based in Carlsbad. She has worked with youth in various capacities for the majority of her adulthood. She practices and teaches yoga. She is passionate about the outdoors and runs, hikes, and paddle boards all over New Mexico.

Dana Vackar Strang Dana has a B.A. in Political Science from Colorado College and an M.A. from the University of New Mexico in Parks, Recreation and Environmental Education. Dana oversees the Surface Resources Division which manages watershed health, site remediation, illegal dumping, biological and cultural resources, investigations and compliance across 9 million acres of state trust land. The Division also manages over 3,500 active agricultural leases. Dana was Director of Education for Audubon New Mexico and the Randall Davey Audubon Center for six years. She is a former President and board member of the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico, a former Chair of the Youth Conservation Corps Commission, and is the statewide coordinator and teacher trainer for the national Leopold Education Project (LEP). Dana is a mother and wife, and enjoys horses, birding, hiking, and mountain biking.



Appendix A: COMMISSION & STAFF BIOS

Staff



Sarah Wood, Executive Director. Sarah grew up in New Mexico where she studied biology and plant ecology. As a field biologist with the US Forest Service and New Mexico Natural Heritage Program, she lived and worked throughout New Mexico. She worked in four New Mexico State Parks over 17 years in a variety of positions. She volunteers with restoration and trail projects and will present nature programs to anyone who asks. She enjoys hiking, flash-flood watching and fixing things. She is thrilled to be with the YCC and supporting New Mexico's youth.

Morgan Tolen, Coordinator/Budget Analyst is originally from Southern California, Morgan graduated from the California School of Culinary Arts Cordon Bleu and worked as a chef in restaurants both in California and Santa Fe. She has been in Santa Fe for over 15 years and prior to joining the YCC, worked for the New Mexico Film Office. She is excited to be part of the YCC team. In her spare time, she loves spending time with her family and of course cooking.

