

Dedicated State-Based Funding Models

Presenter: Peter Hark - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Rob White - Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

This workshop will explore dedicated funding models used to fund river recreation activities. Watercraft license fees are used by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to develop and manage over 3,700 public water accesses, campsites, rest areas and portages. In Colorado, the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) receives the majority of its funding from a portion of commercial outfitters' total gross receipts from sales of authorized activities. The AHRA also receives funding through park pass and camping fees. In addition, Colorado Parks and Wildlife also funds its statewide river ranger program through the River Outfitter Licensing program.

Funding Opportunities for River Projects in Colorado

Moderator: Amy Beatie, Colorado Water Trust

Josh Tenneson - History of GOCO and how funds can be used for physical river restoration (i.e., not flow restoration)

Chris Sturm - Funding sources available through CWCB for river restoration

Laura Makar - History of the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams fund and how it is funding river restoration

Toby Sprunk - Eagle County Open Space program and the funding to support its strategic priorities

Caroline Bradford - Creative strategies for tapping into various funds to do great river restoration projects

Federal Funding for River Projects

Panel

Stacy Eriksen, US Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 - EPA Urban Watershed Program

Assemble funding resources to complete your project

Marge Price, Capitol Representatives - Get to know the culture of your agencies

- Establish your organization as one that will be a reliable, long term partner

David Howlett, Capitol Representatives

- Develop support for projects and issues starting at the grassroots.
- Make sure there is local consensus supporting a project or issue before seeking resources

William Haas, Federal Highway Administration, Colorado Division office

- Learn the process at State and Metro levels
- Grow your networks and partnerships
- Know that programs need advocates to drive them
- Will provide examples of river and stream - related projects

Jeff Shoemaker, The Greenway Foundation

- The role of a non-profit in federally funded public projects

Foundation Funding: Leveraging Resources

Presenter: Morgan Snyder, Walton Family Foundation - Our funded programs, leveraging private dollars with government grants; how partnerships are worth more than the sum of their parts.

Careers in Natural Resources Initiative: Engaging the Next Generation

Lisa Eadens¹, Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

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There is great concern over who will protect, maintain and enhance our natural resources in the future. Currently, outdoor play time for kids is minimal, especially for children living in urban areas, while kids' average "screen time" exceeds 40 hours a week. By some accounts, as many as 50% of state and federal land managers are retirement-eligible within the next five years. However, because a generation or more of children has not had a close and ongoing relationship with the outdoors, state and federal natural resource agencies are having difficulty recruiting employees who have the necessary skills, experience, education, and emotional connection to the outdoors to take over the management of public lands. Simultaneously, agencies not only need skilled candidates, they need candidates that represent the changing demographics of the state.

The Careers in Natural Resources Initiative aims to help youth make the leap from participation in an outdoor program to a sustainable career through three strategies that address different audiences along a spectrum from awareness to action.

Support Career Exploration – Most youth lack understanding of career opportunities in natural resources. To promote these opportunities and foster interest in natural resource careers, partners participated in 8th grade career fairs throughout the region and are planning a Careers in Natural Resource Experience this spring.

Develop Online Jobs Portal – Working with our partners, an online web portal that provides a single springboard to help organize and access needed information, job postings, and resources around natural resource careers was launched in the fall of 2013.

Create Career Guide – Publication of a *Guide to Natural Resources Career Paths* aimed at entry-level candidates is underway. The Guide will provide step-by-step assistance for youth interested in natural resource careers regarding how to apply and navigate state and federal job listings and application processes.

The River Studies and Leadership Certificate: An inter-university collaboration with the River Management Society

Richard, Gigi, Ph.D.¹ and Barnes, Joel, Ph.D.²

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The River Management Society (RMS) can play an active role in cultivating a future generation of river leaders and professionals who possess a basic foundation of knowledge, skills, and experience in river-based science, policy, conservation, education, and recreation. To this end, RMS has partnered with four universities to create a *River Studies and Leadership Certificate*. This certificate is designed for undergraduate students and will be offered at Prescott College, Colorado Mesa University, Utah State University and University of Idaho. Including both coursework (six courses) and a professional experience component, the certificate is designed to empower students to address the real world challenges facing our nation's rivers. All students undertaking the certificate program will be required to study basic river science, Geographic Information Systems, and swiftwater rescue. Students must also choose an emphasis area from the following: river science, river-based policy and management or river-based recreation, education and tourism. As students complete the certificate they will be encouraged to use RMS as a source for their river studies and professional networking, and get a special invitation to attend a River Management Society conference. Students will be required to share aspects of their river studies with the RMS community by either presenting at the annual RMS Symposium or publishing an article in the RMS Quarterly Journal. The River Studies and Leadership Certificate is expected to help students become informed river professionals and stakeholders, to equip them to make sustainable decisions about future uses, research, and management of our nation's river systems, and to integrate them into the RMS community. The release date of the program is planned for Fall 2014.

Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop

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Workshop Description

Build a low impact fire, travel through a durable surface maze and explore your personal outdoor ethic during this highly interactive workshop on The Leave No Trace (LNT) outdoor ethics! The

Seven LNT principles – Plan ahead and prepare, travel and camp on durable surfaces, minimize use and impact of campfires, dispose of waste properly, be considerate of others, respect wildlife, and leave what you find-were designed to help people understand minimum impact techniques for enjoying the outdoors and to inspire future stewards of the land. These principles are a great way to engage new audiences in discussions around stewardship and empower people to think about how their choices affect the environment. LNT is based on years of research and has a lot to offer both the seasoned outdoor enthusiast and those wishing to develop their environmental knowledge and skills. Join us for thoughtful discussion, playful activities and walk away with a variety of resources that can be applied to your personal and professional life.

Close Encounters Training!

Silent

Gordon, Don and Gordon, Donette, PhD

Have you ever had an up close and personal “Close Encounter” with another person at work or in your private life that jeopardized your personal safety and wellbeing? In today’s world, with random shootings in public places and anti-government hostility prompting homeland security mandates, your personal safety needs to be one of you and your employer’s top priorities!

Whether you work in the private or government sector, in an office or in the field, working with the public, colleagues, clients and people in general already puts you in a position to be mindful of your own safety. These training sessions will provide hands-on, practical training, knowledge and tactics for you to implement daily in your work environment to make you more aware, proactive and prepared in protecting yourself. A training certificate of completion will be offered after the class is completed.

Training sessions will include:

- Using your verbal skills to communicate effectively and diffuse situations with verbally abusive people (i.e. handling an irate caller or in person contact with a co-worker or customer while in the office or out in the field)

- Basic, universal and simple principles to apply in your daily life to protect yourself (i.e. to protect yourself from a hostile visitor on public lands who sees you as a target)

- Learn to read threatening human behaviors and body language that will signal you to be proactive and prevent getting yourself into a compromising situation (i.e. people who demonstrate suspicious behavior entering your work place and public areas)

- Identify hazards in your job when dealing with people during conflict and address those in your job hazard analysis and/or risk assessments that may be required for your job

Chainsaw Safety In/On Water - A Training Program Overview

Erik Wrede, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

River managers frequently need to make decisions with a balance of public safe passage and habitat protection in mind. Woody obstructions are critical to the health of aquatic ecosystems, and they can also present a public safety hazard. If the decision is made to remove woody obstructions, chainsaw work in/on water presents some very complex safety considerations. Compression, tension, buoyancy, gravity, current, and lack of visibility beneath the water are some of the factors that can affect a crew's decisions about if and how to remove woody obstructions.

This session will give you a brief introduction to comprehensive safety training on how to use chainsaws while wading in a river, and while cutting from a jon boat. The full training includes a narrated PowerPoint with photos of various scenarios, and 5 quizzes. This is typically followed by two days of field training, guided by lesson plans and field evaluation forms. By understanding the anatomy of woody obstructions, river managers and crews will improve their risk analysis and planning skills.

The Minnesota State Water Trails system started in 1963 and includes 32 rivers and the North Shore of Lake Superior. The Minnesota DNR manages over 4,500 miles of routes for canoeing, kayaking, boating and camping.

Engaging Young Adults in Conservation Work throughout the US

Rendon, Michael and Wight, Mike

Michael Rendon – Environmental Stewards Program Director, Southwest Conservation Corps, Durango, CO mrendon@sccorps.org

Mike Wight – Corps River Restoration Director, Southwest Conservation Corps, Durango, CO. mike@sccorps.org

ABSTRACT

The health of American rivers is essential to the communities and environments that depend on the beneficial ecosystem services provided. Historic impacts from mining, dams, and a variety of land use practices have left many river environments and riverside communities with a legacy of polluted waterways, erosion, and habitat degradation. With an increasing need to address river health it is essential to engage young adults in this work to conserve and preserve these resources for the future. Through emerging opportunities, young adults can learn skills, gain understanding, and physically work to restore and protect river systems. Programs- like those of the Southwest Conservation Corps- are working with partners to engage this population in various ways, providing much needed job training and education through stewardship.

Michael Rendon will present on Southwest Conservation Corp's Environmental Stewards program, highlighting past successes and engagement models for DOI Bureaus and non-profits interested in obtaining a Steward. Showcased will be Inyo County's work on the Lower Owens River Project, along with a Sturgeon habitat restoration project with the USGS Great Lakes Science Center that was nominated for the 2013 Secretary of the Interior Partners in Conservation Award.

Mike Wight will discuss collaborative work with corps programs and partnerships furthering multi-year, watershed-length habitat restoration initiatives on major tributaries in the Colorado River Basin. Word crews and interns provide much of the hands-on restoration implementation within these initiatives after completing comprehensive training.

In all three of these programs, participants foster a respect for river systems while gaining valuable work experience and building resumes for future conservation careers.

The Southwest Conservation Corps empowers individuals to positively impact their lives, their communities, and the environment.

Colorado Preserve America Youth Summits

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The Colorado Preserve America Youth summits provide engaging on-site interactive learning experiences for students, teachers and service leaders by involving them in study of local history, historic preservation, cultural conservation and heritage tourism issues that foster leadership and motivate community efforts. Participants selected through a competitive application process are offered community service hours and full scholarships for all program costs, including meals, transportation and lodging.

The Youth Summit brought a group of Colorado middle and high school students to Boulder County to directly engage in issues involving historic properties and disaster recovery. Students will share their experiences and insights.

During the Summit had an opportunity to:

- Tour areas damaged by floods
- Meet with experts in preservation & community planning
- Interact with local, state & federal agency leaders & officials
- Review history and architectural styles of region
- Collect stories of local residents
- Learn about weather impacts in Colorado
- Examine alternatives for youth engagement in community rebuilding
- Undertake a service project to help communities
- Gain first-hand experience in response approaches to disasters
- Develop recommendations for involving youth in recovery efforts
- Share ideas for marketing historic communities for tourism
- Advocate for historic properties
- Draft social media and other communication tools for local communities
- Strategize about increasing youth involvement in preservation