



COLORADO
YOUTH
CORPS
ASSOCIATION

BLM Resource Advisory Council

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GUNNISON, COLORADO

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LEARN.
SERVE.
GROW.



WATER
LAND
EDUCATION
ENERGY
WORK
LIFE SKILLS
CONSERVATION



The Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) is a statewide coalition of youth conservation corps that employ and train youth and young adults on land, water, and energy conservation projects.

Stats:

- 10 accredited youth corps served 1,600 young people in 2012.
- Youth corps had 9 applicants for every one position this year.
- Youth & young adult unemployment is 25.8% and young adults have a 45% poverty rate.



CORPSMEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS

Typical ages – 14-25 years old

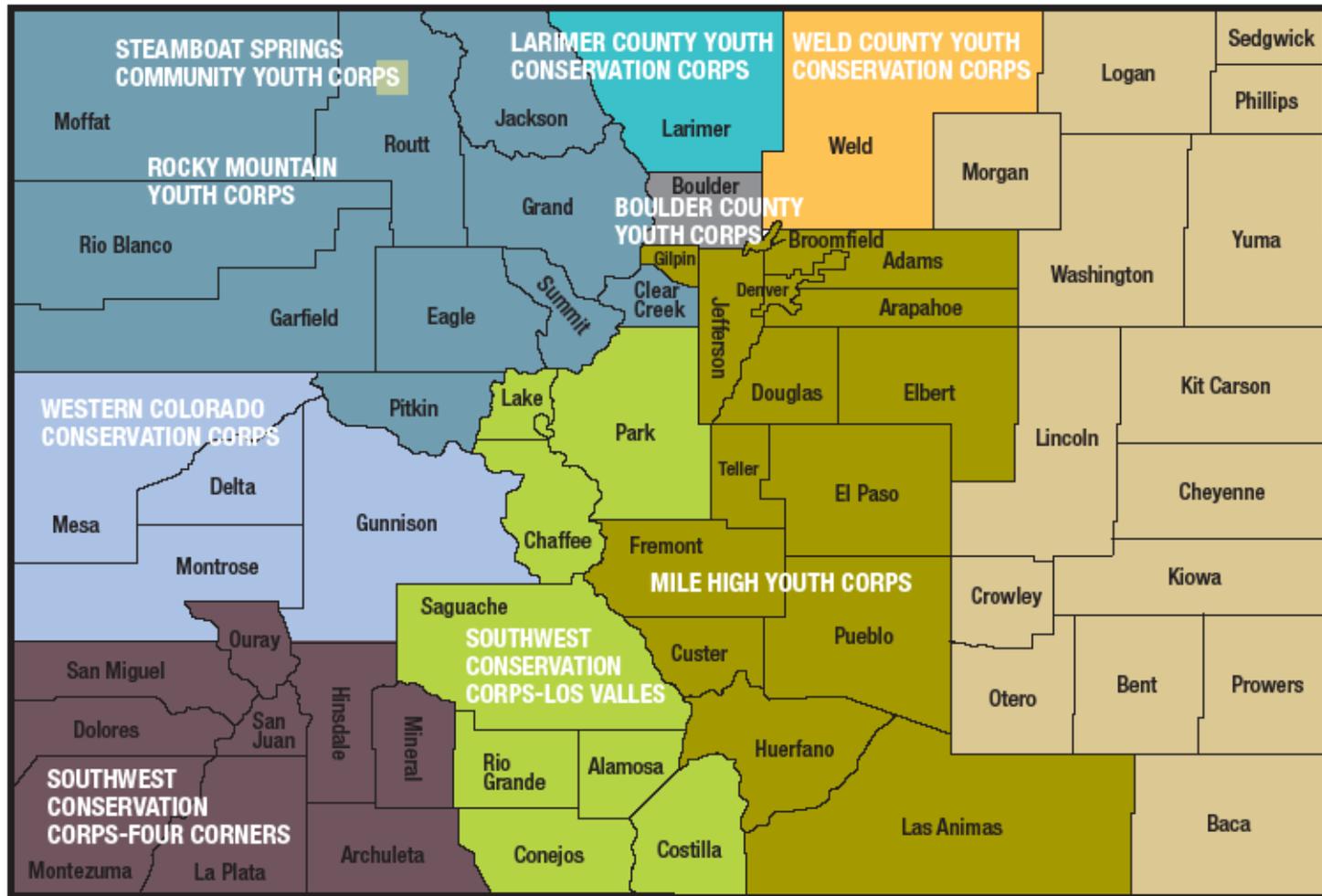
Approximately 35% of corpsmembers are ethnic minorities

Approximately 70% are low-income

60% are male and 40% are female

Youth corps was the first job for 60% of corpsmembers in 2012

REGIONAL MAP



CYCA HAS THREE KINDS OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE...

- Crew-based conservation projects
1,600 corpsmembers
- Paid internships with natural resources agencies, currently with the BLM and National Park Service (~50 positions)
- VISTA volunteers who engage in capacity-building activities at youth corps and other youth-serving organizations (21 positions)



CREW-BASED PROJECTS



Enhancing Colorado's Recreation Infrastructure

- Constructing and maintaining Colorado's trail system
- Improving outdoor recreation amenities such as campgrounds, playgrounds, parks, and hunting and fishing amenities
- Reducing risk to public land users by mitigating beetle kill hazard along trails, roads and campgrounds

Restoring Wildlife Habitat and Maintaining Healthy Forests

- Installing and dismantling fences
- Improving riparian areas
- Mitigating invasive species such as tamarisk
- Reducing beetle kill hazard and wildfire risk
- Capturing and verifying GPS data for habitat and forest health purposes

CREW-BASED PROJECTS, cont...

Conserving Water and Energy

- Installing water and energy saving measures and weatherizing low-income residents' homes and other buildings
- Constructing and planting drought-tolerant xeriscape gardens
- Constructing and rehabilitating affordable housing using energy-saving technology
- Restoring burn or beetle-kill areas to prevent erosion and protect water quality



Benefits of Youth Corps



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BENEFITS FOR THE BLM



Engage young people in the outdoors through stewardship.

Develop a constituency for the outdoors.

Create a career pipeline for natural resource managers.

Engage young water users in water conservation projects and education activities.

Cost effective labor source - a recent National Park Service study showed a 56% savings by using youth corps over internal means on projects appropriate for youth corps.

Transparency and accountability in funds management.

Get much-needed work accomplished in a high-quality manner.

BENEFITS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Earn a wage while learning to be a productive member of society – learn to work!

Earn an AmeriCorps Education Award for college or trade school (\$1,300 - \$5,400).

Take advantage of the youth corps education partnerships – GED or high school diploma completion, high school credits, cash college scholarships, paid internships, or up to nine community college credits in natural resources.

Work hard & have fun – while learning the importance of civic engagement, gaining an environmental ethic, becoming job-ready, and learning to value higher education.

**THANKS FOR
SUPPORTING
COLORADO'S
YOUTH!**

