

Engaging Youth

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Introduction

The NLCS will become a model for the BLM by educating and engaging youth from early childhood through the school-age years, and by employing young people in a wide range of resource-specific projects, thus encouraging pursuit of natural and cultural resource careers.



Summary of Discussions

- Key topics included:
 - How to recruit and retain youth hires
 - Incorporating environmental education into youth programs
 - Establishing administrative processes needed to support the youth initiative
 - Increasing outreach to internal and external audiences



Priority Topics/Key Ideas

1. Hiring/career pathways - recruit and retain a BLM workforce for the 21st century.
 - There is a need to develop materials that will attract youth to work for the BLM on mission-related tasks that meet their interests and aptitudes. To accomplish this, representative youth, educators, and BLM personnel will address the full breadth of opportunities and prepare information in a “tool box” for field use. This will be accomplished in time for implementation by FY 2012.

Priority Topics/Key Ideas

2. Incorporating environmental education into youth programs
 - Provide fun, educational experiences to the public about the full spectrum of BLM's responsibilities in land and resource management to serve as a foundation for long-term engagement and stewardship.



Priority Topics/Key Ideas

3. Facilitate the development of youth education, engagement, and employment programs by sharing best practices internally and externally and by streamlining administrative processes.



Priority Topics/Key Ideas

4. Reach out to the broadest possible audience in order to engage youth from all backgrounds in BLM outdoor recreation, stewardship, educational, and employment opportunities.



Selected Action Items for 2011

- Develop outside internship opportunities by expanding the list of partner groups, including universities and associations.
- Provide opportunities that engage youth, school districts, community organizations and other partners in developing field work, interpretive, and service-learning experiences.
- Streamline the grants and agreements process.
- Create and maintain a youth portal or a one-stop-shop including information on youth employment, youth education, and youth engagement.