

National Park Service 2011 Summer of Service Colorado



A partnership of NPS RTCA, Groundwork Denver, the Colorado Youth Corps Association, and AmeriCorps NCCC

Getting Youth Outdoors

- 2007: Convened Denver Youth Organizations



Partnership Opportunities

- Groundwork Denver
- AmeriCorps NCCC
- CYCA



Where do we work together?

How do we work together?

Where do we work together?

National Parks: a meaningful experience

How do we work together?

A Continuum of Conservation Careers

A
Increases
Young people and their families are introduced to the outdoors and conservation work through schools and parks and recreation departments.



Stewardship



Stewardship

Recreation



Stewardship

Recreation

Education



Stewardship

Recreation

Education

Mentorship



Stewardship

Recreation

Education

Mentorship

Career
Development



An Investment in Youth, Parks, & Communities



NPS Youth Partnership Program (YPP)

- \$35,000 per year since 2009
- Minority & disadvantaged youth
- Employment & education in National Parks



NPF America's Best Idea Grant

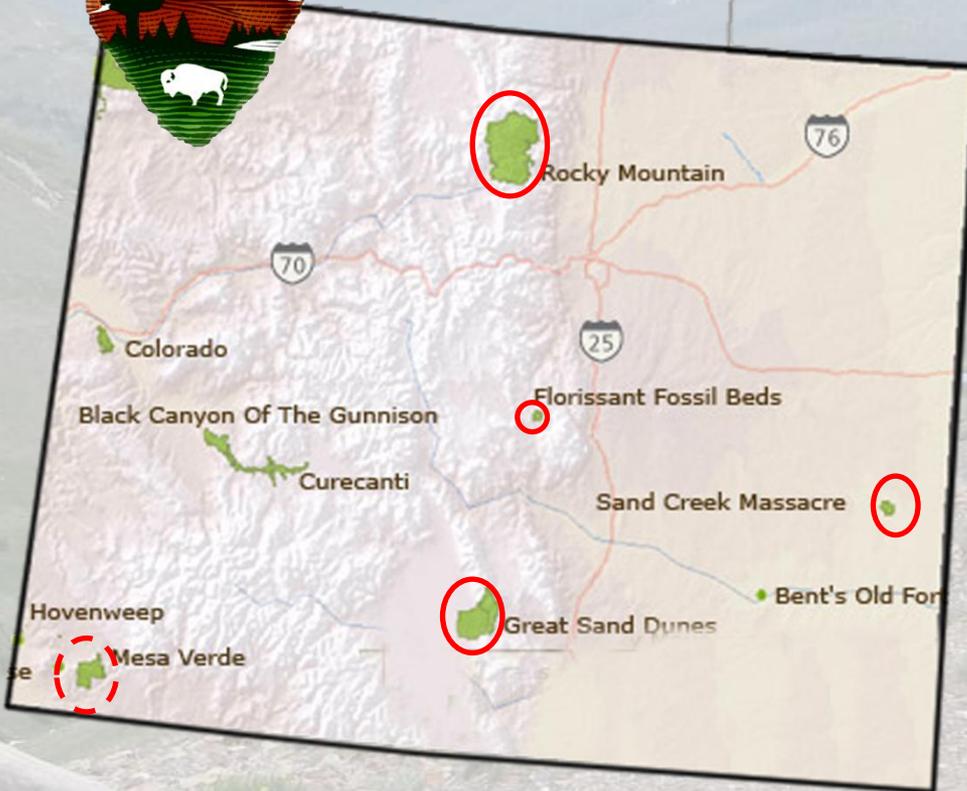
- \$9,000 in 2011
- Community engagement program
- Underserved park audiences
- Motivating park stewardship

Summer of Service Partners



**NATIONAL
PARK
SERVICE**

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
Intermountain Region



**AmeriCorps
NCCC**



Summer of Service Partners

- Partners with Cooperative Agreements:
 - Groundwork Denver
 - Colorado Youth Corps Association
- Partners with Volunteer Agreements:
 - AmeriCorps NCCC
- Informal Partners:
 - Mile High Youth Corps – Colorado Springs
 - Southwest Conservation Corps
 - South Platte River Environmental Education

Groundwork Denver

Role:

- Coordinating projects
- Planning recreation, education & career development activities
- Recruiting Green Team youth for projects
- Completing & supervising projects
- Evaluating the program



Youth Corps & Youth Organizations

Groundwork Denver, Mile High Youth Corps – Colorado Springs,

Southwest Conservation Corps, SPREE, Tribal youth organizations

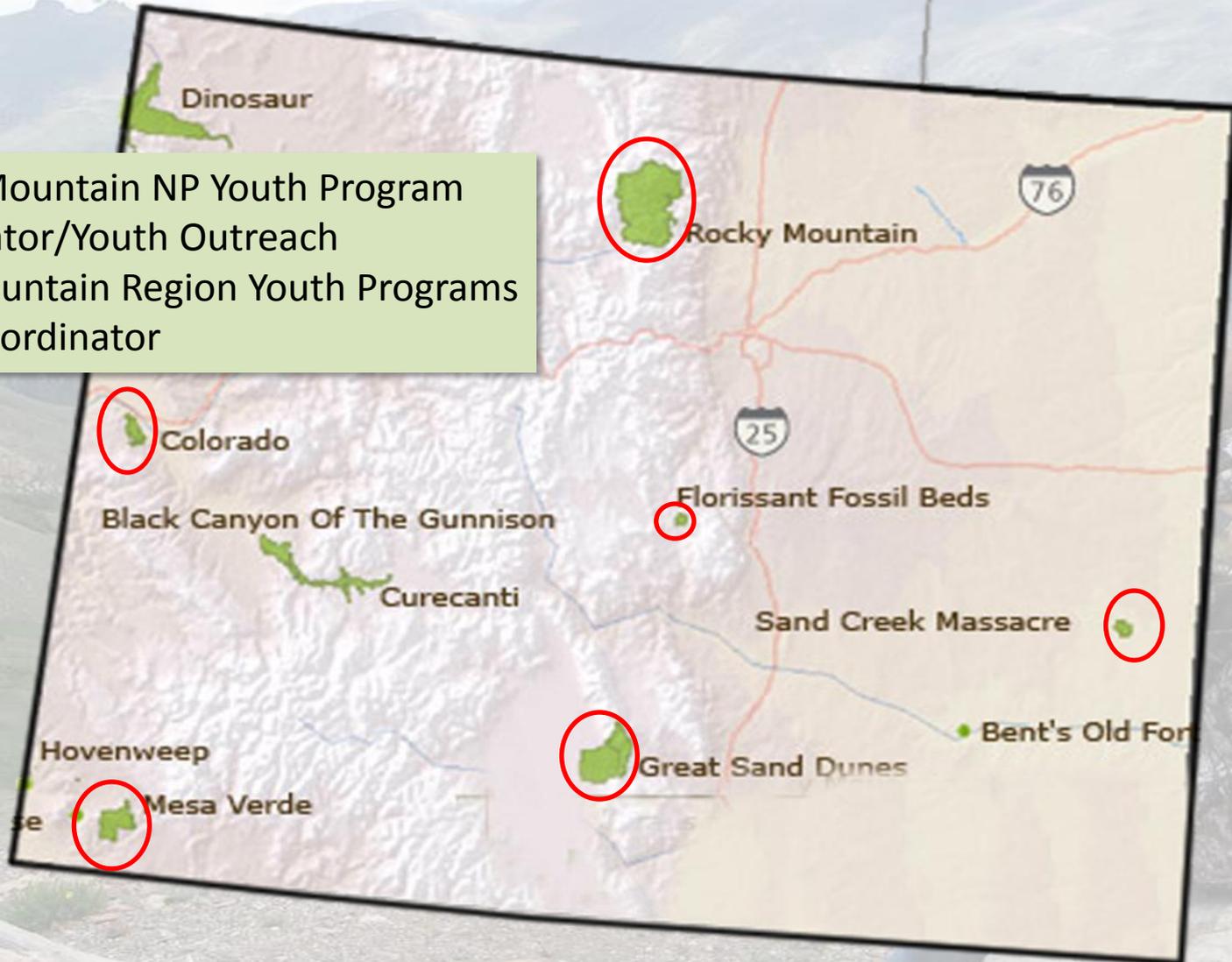
Role:

- Recruiting youth for projects
- Completing & supervising projects
- Planning recreation, education & career development activities
- Evaluating projects



Intra-agency Partners

- Rocky Mountain NP Youth Program Coordinator/Youth Outreach
- Intermountain Region Youth Programs Grant Coordinator



National Park Units

Role:

- Providing the park!
- Providing project guidance to crew leaders
- Supplying materials & special tools
- Sharing personal career stories and experiences
- Providing education, recreation, and career development opportunities



Network Development

Stage	Comment
Visioning	Meaningful National Park experiences for youth, Continuum of Conservation Careers
Conceptual	Involving urban youth, youth organizations, and national parks every summer
Research & Development	Learning from expert partners, using their data & recruitment methods
Implementation Planning	Grant awards, agreements, evaluation criteria
Active	Engaged over 80 youth per summer in national parks
Evaluation	Interviews, surveys, fulfilling grant reporting requirements

Who Benefits

- Urban Youth
- National Parks
- Youth organizations
- Visitors to national parks

Current Benefits

- Development of over 400 urban youth
- Natural resource stewardship
- Park maintenance

Future Benefits

- Future conservation stewards
- Stronger park-community connections
- Creation of robust youth service-learning & job-placement programs in national parks

Network Potential & Performance

Evaluation Criteria	Examples	Grade
Advances strategic priorities of the agency	NPS Call to Action #2: Step by Step	A
Leverages funding	NPS YPP Grant: \$128,000 NPS ABI Grant: \$9,000 In-kind matches from partners	B
Demonstrates big-picture thinking	Continuum of Conservation Careers	B+
Demonstrates entrepreneurship	National Park relationships with <u>urban</u> youth organizations	A
Management of formal agreements and contracts	Cooperative Agreements Volunteer Agreements	B+
Demonstrates effective external and internal communication	INTERNAL: Miscommunication, focus remained in vision and not in execution EXTERNAL: Brochures, surveys, presentations, press articles	C+
Demonstrates accountability	Agreements Evaluation	B
<i>Potential as a network management model</i>		B-

Lessons Learned

For NPS RTCA colleagues

- Engage national parks first – community partners aren't our ONLY partners!
- Work with park management to create a long-term vision

Changes to my approach

- Using agreements as tools for discussion & strategy
- Going where the energy is

“It is one thing to go out and visit the mountains but to work and feel the ground makes it all together better.”



“Working at the National Parks under Groundwork Denver, I had two of the most memorable experiences of my summer if not some I'll remember for my life.”



“I have never learned more from the environment than I did in the three days I spent at Great Sand Dunes National Park.”

