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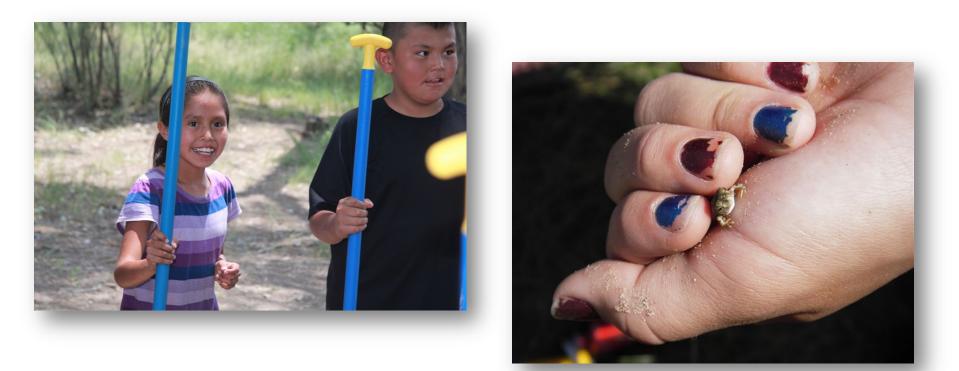




Take It Outside!

Case Study:

An example of a simple, sustainable and successful Take It Outside program



Messing About in Boats

Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing -- absolutely nothing -half so much worth doing as simply **messing about in boats**.

-- Kenneth Grahame, Wind in the Willows



Take It Outside!

Uncompahgre Field Office Colorado



In The Beginning . . .

Prior to 2008, the first year for Take it Outside, we did annual float trips with the Partners organization of our local counties.







With borrowed life jackets and loaded boats it was chaotic, but loads of fun. The Partners provided fried chicken, cookies and Kool-Aid, which turns out to be perfect river ranger food. Sweet!



Then Came Take It Outside!

We applied for TIO funding to purchase river gear that allowed us to expand our offerings











Expanded Programming

- EXPLORE! (teen youth group)
- Diné College (Native American environmental youth camp)







Partnerships

 Colorado Canyons Association (friends group)

• Diné College and EXPLORE! both have funding aid through outside sources





On our trips we conduct resource stewardship work...







...which makes us happy, and gives the kids an understanding of BLM's mission





Most of the kids have never been boating







It is the first time swimming for some







With new experiences come opportunities to learn new skills





Rangers work with kids to develop river safety skills







Reading the Water











River Crossing Techniques





The kids learn to "catch an eddy" while swimming in flowing water







It is great to see their skills develop





New skills lead to increased confidence...



Take It Outside!



...and lots of fun!



























