Stewards Individual Placement Program is honored to partner with the Department of the Interior to support underserved communities in using public lands for employment opportunities, health, and education.

BLM DOI VISTA Amanda Munro and Tribal VISTA Brenda Gallegos as pronghorns in a meadow on National Public Lands Day

The data previously provided in this section represented all of the DOI programming, with the restructuring of projects to represent Tribal programming, those NPS sites are now represented in the Tribal Summary.

| 7 DOI VISTAs | 130 Youth Served in an Educational Setting | $12,000 In-Kind Resources Developed | $10,000 Grant Funding Developed |

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In her first Quarter, DOI BLM VISTA Amanda Munro has made connections and laid the foundation for future projects. So far Amanda has been to two community meetings at the colonias, plus a “Coffee with the Commissioner” event. She has successfully established connections with the principal of one high school and the environmental science teacher at another high school, both of whom are excited and supportive of programming to engage local underserved high school students. Another promising meeting was with the director of Nuestra Tierra, a possible partnering organization.

Amanda is also designing an ecology club program for local underserved high school students. The program would have three components: 1) a monthly meeting in which local experts from the field (found through Take it Outdoors, NM! partner organizations such as the BLM, Forest Service, and National Park Service) present their work and research, 2) opportunities for outdoor recreation and adventure such as hiking, camping, climbing, and rafting on public lands, and 3) opportunities for students to accompany experts in the field and participate in research, restoration, or other work in order to gain hands-on experience and exposure to careers in conservation and natural resources. This quarter Amanda also submitted a grant to fund the program.

In her final Quarter DOI BLM VISTA Victoria Miera helped organize a high-end raft trip fundraiser with her supervisor, which raised several thousand dollars for Rivers & Birds’ programs. In addition she submitted a grant to the Chevron Questa Mine on behalf of Rivers & Birds and was awarded $5,000. These funds will pay for elementary school students from Questa and Costilla, NM to participate in Rivers & Birds’ environmental education programs in the upcoming school year. Victoria has focused on educational programming throughout her service year, and spent much of her final quarter collaborating with a graphic designer to create the Rivers & Birds’ Watershed Learning Project student workbook – which was piloted in schools soon after Victoria completed her term, and has received a wonderful response from students and teachers.

In his first quarter of service, BLM VISTA Riley Davis updated and expanded portions of the “How-to Guide for Pursuing a Career in National Resources.” This guide was developed by his host site CYCA, and has been presented in workshop sessions at the last two Stewards Individual Placement Program’s Member Trainings. Riley’s updates included updating the lists of schools with environmental graduate and under-graduate programs as well as adding contacts for department heads and career centers. Additionally, Riley gathered new and updated statistics for use in the guide and presentations about the guide and its uses. Through a contact with Family and Community Engagement (FACE) of Denver Public Schools, Riley is currently working to spread the “How-to-Guide” to seven title three schools that FACE serves in the Denver area.