

# OSMRE VISTA

Quarter 4: July 1 - September 30, 2017



OSMRE VISTA JEREMY MAY AND TWO VOLUNTEERS SHOWCASE A TRUCK FULL OF INVASIVE WEEDS REMOVED FROM A RIVER TRAIL AREA IN SILVERTON, COLORADO.

**46** OSMRE VISTAs

**\$381,482** Grant-Related Funding Developed by VISTAs

**4,138** Total Hours Worked By Community Volunteers

**11,839** Acres of Land Cleaned or Improved

**2,730** Pounds of Food Harvested

**2,767** Youths Served in an Education Setting

Stewards Individual Placement Program is honored to partner with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to provide opportunities for youth to serve mining communities in promoting economic opportunities and fostering environmental stewardship

## Christian Arel - Coldharbour Institute - Gunnison, CO

At Coldharbour Institute, OSMRE VISTA Christian Arel started working with the Sustainability Education Equity and Diversity (SEED) catering project, which focuses on integrating Latino and Cora populations and their culture into the environmental and professional network of Coldharbour. The SEED catering project has helped these populations bring their traditional foods to the community and has allowed better representation of the Latino and Cora people within Gunnison. Christian helped organize and serve food at four local events this quarter. Christian also helped expand the ambassador program at the site. Two new high school ambassadors have been brought on this quarter and work closely with Christian and other volunteers on-site.



*Members of the Latino and Cora community prepared tacos and other traditional foods at one of the SEED catering events.*

## Samantha Eubanks - Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute - Chattanooga, TN

This quarter, OSMRE VISTA Samantha Eubanks used some of her professional development funds to attend a week-long workshop where she networked with local teachers and learned about river habitats. The workshop will serve as her site's building block for educational programming and building relationships with local schools. Expanding on her experience at the workshop, Samantha has reached out to some of the teachers she met and is planning to create a native plant garden at one school. She is also planning to create an on-site native species habitat for use as an outdoor classroom to teach children about vegetation and wildlife.



*OSMRE VISTA Samantha Eubanks attended a workshop focused on water education.*

## Jessica Graham - San Juan Conservation District - Aztec, NM

OSMRE VISTA Jessica Graham helped represent her site, San Juan Conservation District, at the local county fair which gave her an opportunity to interact with community members and promote her site's work. At the fair, many community members and farmers visited the booth to learn more about the soil in the area and how microbial activity impacts soil health. Jessica also assisted with vegetation monitoring at a number of restoration sites in the area and plans to collaborate with fellow OSMRE VISTA Jeremy May at Mountain Studies Institute to organize water quality monitoring events. This quarter, Jessica collaborated with New Mexico State University to produce a joint quarterly newsletter and held a number of workshops at the university. Topics included herbicide use on acequia banks, septic maintenance, and how to use a cost-share program workshops were focused toward low income landowners. Next quarter, Jessica plans to help develop a composting workshop and guidebook to better engage with urban growers and gardeners in the area.



*OSMRE VISTA Jessica Graham participated in a number of vegetation monitoring events.*

## Gray Perry - Cumberland River Compact - Nashville, TN

This quarter, OSMRE VISTA Gray Perry has continued to organize and conduct the site's Creek Critters program with elementary students and has identified a new school to partner with. He worked with different schools to put rain cisterns and rain gardens in place to help facilitate better storm water usage. Gray has also been working with the Green Alleys program to find land owners who are willing to install small retention ponds across East Nashville to reduce the amount of storm runoff impacting the sewer system. These ponds provide a native habitat for wildlife, water filtration, groundwater infiltration and help eliminate pollution and habitat fragmentation. He also continues to partner with Cumberland Kayak to organize monthly river cleanup events.



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