

YOUTH & COMMUNITY Engagement

2012



for the greatest good

OUR PARTNERS

Agreements & contracts

North Cascades Institute
Klondike Historic National Park
North Cascades National Park
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
Granite Falls Historical Museum
Outdoors for All
Wild and Scenic Institute
Everett Parks and Recreation
Northwest Indian College
Sarvey Wildlife Center
Student Conservation Association
Forest Fire Lookout Association
National Forest Foundation
Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience
Stevens Pass Ski Area
Horizon Elementary
Tulalip Tribes of Washington
Volunteers for Outdoor Washington
Washington Trails Association
Seattle Parks and Recreation
InterIm CDA
Seattle Public Utilities
EarthCorps
Catholic Housing Services
Mt. Vernon Police Department
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
Rythers Leadership Group
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
Mobilize Green
Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
Densho
Nissei Veterans Committee

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Partnership Coordinator, Aleta Eng

Cover image: Alessandra Guerrero Aviles, 6, and Adrian Geldmen, 7, from Horizon Elementary touch an American Mink and learn about the wildlife that lives on the forest.



Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest



At the Migratory Bird Festival this spring, Kulshan Neighborhood kids see how close they can get to the surf without getting wet on the beach at Whidbey Island.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest has successfully expanded youth and community engagement activities within the Puget Sound metropolitan area. More than 22,000 youth and adults visited USFS festival outreach booths, were taught by USFS and partner groups and completed stewardship activities on public lands. We target youth who are urban, diverse, economically disadvantaged and those with special needs. Our focus is on kids who would not otherwise have a chance to access national forest lands. We expose youth to the outdoors, engage them so they will return, and if we are truly successful, a few will pursue careers in natural resources. This year we recruited and placed 18 in the Student Temporary Employment Program, 10 more than last year.

We funded these accomplishments by leveraging forest, regional, and national Forest Service funds matched with our partner contributions. National Forest Foundation and Mobilize Green partnerships enabled us to increase capacity, which was critical to our success. The MBS Youth and Community Engagement team included Stella Torres and Kathy Vue. Stella Torres continued past her AmeriCorps commitment and transitioned to a National Forest Foundation intern and then in May 2012 became a permanent Pathways intern in recreation. The National and Regional Volunteer Programs placed a Mobilize Green AmeriCorps intern Kathy Vue in a nine - month AmeriCorps internship in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The Youth and Community Engagement team led 24 one-day to multi-day projects and supported another four events and expanded support to the Olympic National Forest.

(Review exhibit A: Forest-Wide Youth and Community Engagement Events spreadsheet for more in-depth descriptions of more than 66 YES projects.)

Enhancing Experiences



Girls from the Tukwila School District prepare to go on their first white water rafting trip down the Sauk River at the Hike, Bike and Boat event this spring.

Kulshan Creek Program

This program has successfully expanded to serve two neighborhoods in Mt. Vernon, Wash. The Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Youth Program maintained excellent enrollment numbers and program partners throughout its fifth year, reaching 116 Latino youth through 10 conservation education and stewardship field trips. There was no additional funding for extra program days, as was the case in 2011. Students remained committed to field trip participation with a higher rate of parental involvement. The addition of a student intern focused on family connections and communications greatly improved relations as well.

With funding provided by the Regional Office, Catholic Housing Services of Western Washington graciously hosted a 2012 paid student intern. The position provides a transition for a youth under the age of 18 to build leadership and communication skills, while providing valuable insight into improving the program. The intern chaperoned and coordinated field trip activities, created and distributed trip flyers at Mt. Vernon neighborhoods and built a stronger bond between families and program staff. Intern Zulen Pantoja-Ortega resides at the La Casa de San Jose complex and has participated in Kulshan programs since 2010.

InterIm Community Development Association

The partnership with InterIm WILD Program directly reached 110 immigrant and refugee Asian Pacific American youth and elders through five events ranging from family focused education trips to intense five-day stewardship camps. Four alumni of the WILD youth program received summer intern positions, three returned for a second year.

The Forest Service, Seattle Public Utilities, InterIm and Seattle Tilth hosted the Eco-Booth at Seattle International District's Dragon Festival. Over 2,000 visitors learned ways to improve personal and community health. Activities included cooking demonstrations with food products found in national forests, arts and crafts using recycled materials, healthy eating through home gardening and proper methods of composting. Youth from InterIm translated information into more than five languages.

Enhancing Experiences

National Forest Foundation

The National Forest Foundation has been a tremendous partner in expanding youth engagement efforts. National Forest Foundation hosted the shared youth and volunteer coordinator position in 2011 and 2012 and will continue through 2013. In 2012, Kathleen Dowd-Gailey and the youth and volunteer coordinator, Stella Torres, expanded support to the Olympic National Forest, leading two multi-day stewardship projects with Student Conservation Association's Seattle Community Program.

The National Forest Foundation implemented two Friends of the Forest Day events at the Snoqualmie Point and Stevens Pass, attracting 214 volunteers. At the Snoqualmie Point event, volunteers manually removed scotchbroom from 0.5 acres. Volunteers at the Stevens Pass event removed more than 3,000 pounds of trash left from skiers on the runs.

Through coordination by Kathleen Dowd-Gailey, the Stevens Pass Ski Area will be joining the NFF Ski Conservation Fund in the 2012. Stevens Pass will be the first ski area in Washington to join the program.



Brownies Alyssa Dickens, 7, and Jocelyne Cox, 7, show off their patches at Girlfest in downtown Seattle this fall.

North Cascades Institute

The Forest Service and NC Wild expanded to two 12-day expeditions serving 18 youth. The Youth Leadership Conference attracted 60 youth from several organizations completing education and stewardship activities in the Cascades. Valuable workshops provided insight on resume building, effective interviewing, environmental justice, and government internships.

Northwest Indian College

The Northwest Indian College recently established an education program called Saturday Science Academy to engage their students and local high school youth in hands-on learning activities about marine biology, physics, robotics and ethno-botany. Every lesson is tied to Native American culture and traditions.

This year, the NWIC science academy participated in two stewardship events to learn about forest ecology and the importance of natural resources to Native American culture. Ten teens spent their weekend brushing vegetation from the Horseshoe Bend Trail at Glacier and learned about the salmon life cycle from the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Academy, where they got the chance to look at water bugs first hand and learn about healthy streams. In the second event 12 students participated in the Friends of the Forest Day picking up trash from the slopes of Stevens Pass Ski Resort and learning about the importance of restoration.

Mountains to Sound Greenway

Mountains to Sound Greenway exposed 2,500 youth through single and multi-day land stewardship projects. The Greenway Trust's Youth Stewardship program ties together a series of escalating opportunities for 4th to 12th grade youth to build their affinity with nature, learn about the benefits of forest and riparian ecosystems, participate in conserving these resources and enjoy the recreational benefits of the natural world. Youth restored salmon habitat and maintained hiking trails, all while learning about the local natural resources and forming a connection with natural spaces and trails throughout the Snoqualmie watershed. Projects took place on public lands managed by a variety of local, state and federal land. In addition to the environmental science lessons and educational activities that are incorporated into every youth event, several groups also take part in Forest Service employee-led presentations on wildlife, native plants and healthy watersheds.

Enhancing Experiences



Ruby Luke peers into an abandoned miner's cabin on the Monte Cristo Trail during the Japanese Heritage Hikes this summer.

Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience

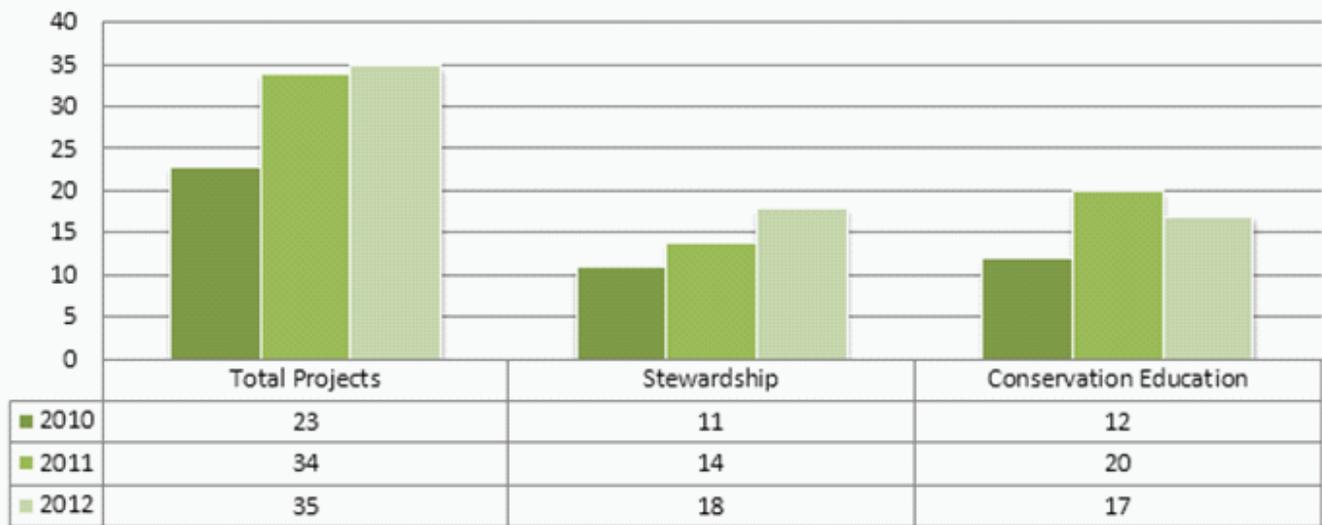
The Wing Luke Museum, located in the middle of Seattle's Chinatown-International district, is a Smithsonian affiliate. Its location and unique focus in serving its surrounding community has made it a perfect partner to connect with urban youth and community. We have collaborated with the museum over the years, taking tours, exploring heritage sites and even preparing artwork that captures and shares with the city of Seattle what the participants have experienced.

This year we joined with the museum, Densho, and Nissei Veterans Committee to provide two Japanese Heritage hikes to Monte Cristo and Iron Goat. Participants toured archeological sites on the forest to bring that history to life. At the Monte Cristo townsite 17 participants learned how Japanese American labor crews built and serviced the railroad line in the late 1800s. Twenty-two people visited the Iron Goat Trail, which follows the abandoned Great Northern Railway route where nearly 800 workers, many of them Japanese immigrants, were employed.

The Wing will host an archaeology exhibit December, 2013, highlighting several sites on national forest lands. A travel website will launch in conjunction with the exhibit to provide site descriptions, travel directions, research documents, photographs, visitor testimonials and links to visitor bureaus.

Projects & Service

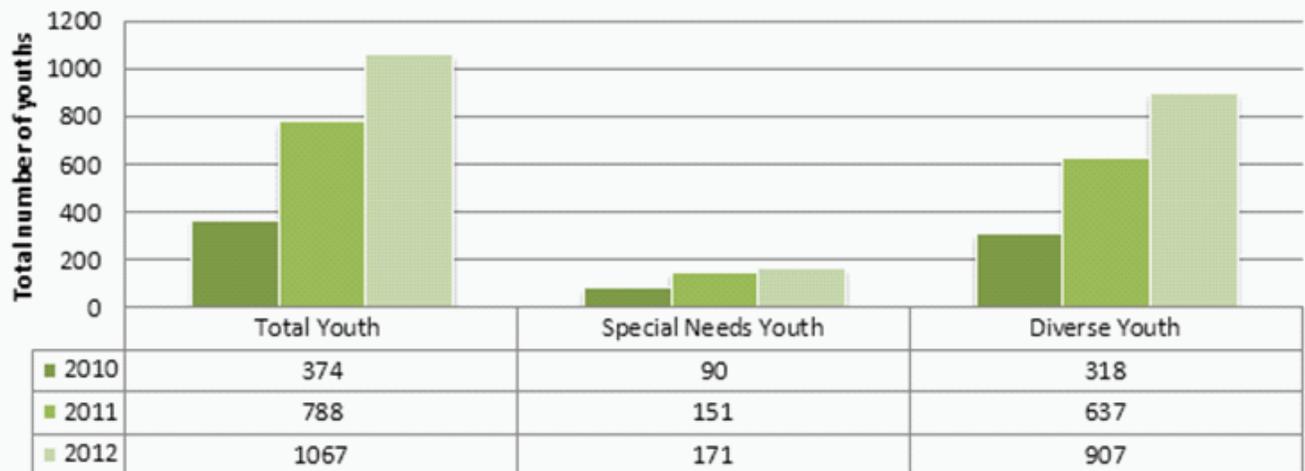
YES Projects



* 24 projects include two events in the OLY NF led by the Youth and Community Engagement team.

* Total of 66 YES projects, 35 funded by regional and national support.

Youth Served



* Special needs youths are participants at the Ryther and Hike, Bike, Boat events.

* 85% of the youth participants are diverse or of an ethnic minority.

* Sum does not include youths from major community events such as Dragon Festival or Get Movin.

* Total of 2,573 individuals engaged during FY 2012 through 35 YES projects.

Applying Stewardship

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	2010	2011	2012
Surveyed & Treated for Invasive Weeds	20,691 sqft	30,890 sqft	43,560 sqft
Plant Protections Removed		200	
Wildlife Habitat Improved			26,080 sqft
Wildlife Structures Built & Installed		6	4
Linear Feet of Wildlife Fence Built		40	
Fire Lookout Restored	1	1	1
Campgrounds Maintained	6	3	4
Illegal Fire Rings Removed	35	12	3
Trailhead Sign Installed			1
Barricade Posts Installed		28	
Trash Removed	2,400 lbs	2,000 lbs	3,300 lbs
Linear Trail Maintained	2,940 ft	7,640 ft	10,560 ft
Culverts Installed/Reset		7	1
Turnpike Restoration			1
Trail Built	2,800 ft	1,320 ft	40 ft
Rock Structures Installed		4	
Removal of Obstructive Logs			200 sqft

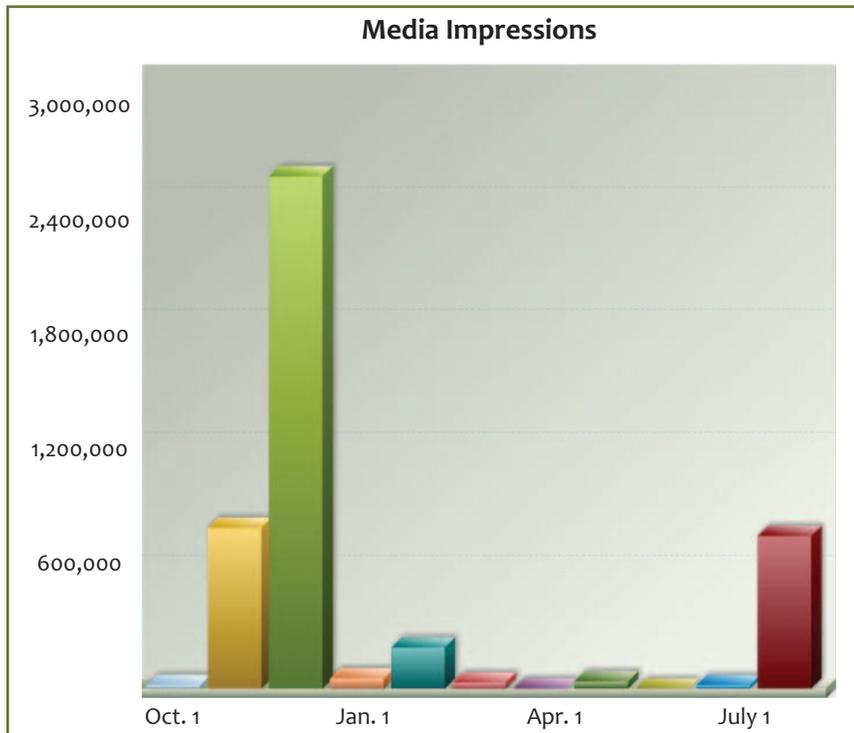
Luchia Asdalla, 17, O2 student from Seattle, paints a shutter at Heybrook Lookout during the Skykomish weeklong event this summer.



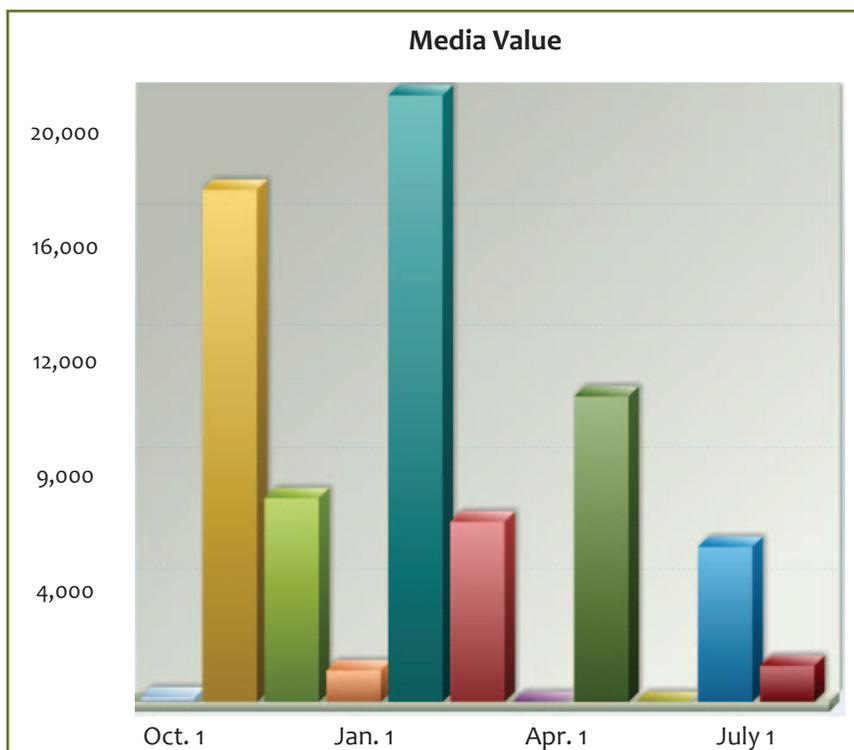
In The News

Our youth engagement events received substantial media and social coverage. The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest sends out a media advisory for each event and posts it on Facebook and Twitter. MBS public affairs staff covers many of events, writing stories and shooting photos for the website and release. Our partners increase event awareness by linking blogs, Facebook pages and Twitter feeds for each activity. Everett Herald covered several events, and Burrelles Luce clip service shows 41 stories picked up by newspapers and online. The charts show the articles by media type, over time, impressions and media value.

The Seattle-Tacoma Arbitron media market national ranking is 13. The closest major market in the Pacific Northwest is Portland, Ore., which ranks 23th. Arbitron market research and ranking is the national standard upon which advertising and marketing agencies base their strategies and pricing. The Puget Sound regional and national media outlets provide coverage on youth and stewardship issues because of audience demand, giving us an opportunity to tell our story.



Media impressions are tallied by the number of people who subscribe or visit websites/online media where the events were covered. Our youth engagement events made a total of 1,090,909 impressions.



The media value is based on the amount that would have been charged for advertising in that location in that media. The value of the media coverage for our youth engagement events is \$69,348.

Learning A Job

The MBS had a successful year recruiting and placing diverse students from youth program organizations in summer Pathway internships. The MBS and National Park Service partnered in January, 2012, to host an inter-agency recruitment event open to the public, but specifically targeting youth from program organizations that serve urban and diverse populations. As a result of following up with youth organizations and students, 18 interns were placed in FS positions.

This year the Washington Office, R6 Civil Rights and YES program funded \$65,000 to support hiring Pathway interns and the Mobilize Green AmeriCorps intern: \$40,000 went eight of the 18 Pathway interns, \$10,000 on the youth volunteer coordinator position and \$15,000 on the Mobilize Green intern.

Five of the eight 2011 interns returned for a second or third summer with the Forest Service, an indicator of positive work experiences and Forest Service staff willingness to mentor and train them. We experienced a 125% increase in placements in 2012 from 2011 and 360% increase from 2010. This is attributed to forest staff commitment to mentor and train interns, trusting relationships with youth program organizations and national and regional funding to match forest efforts.

**125% increase in youth placement (recruited from youth organizations) from 2011.*

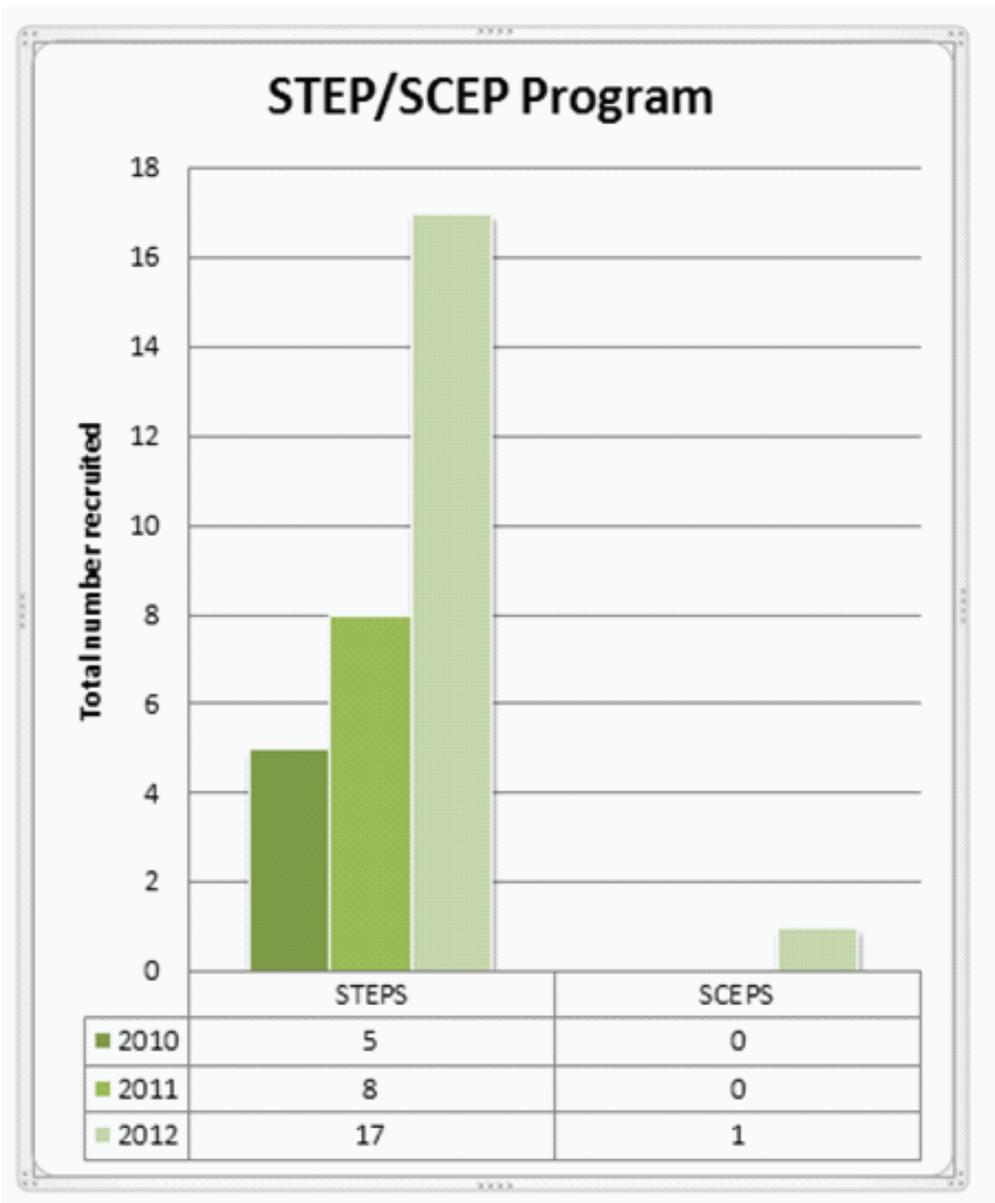
** Does not reflect recruitment conducted by Fire or other program areas.*

** 2011 – 8 students were diversity candidates with 6 females and 2 males.*

** 2012 - 16 students are diversity candidates with 15 females and 1 male.*

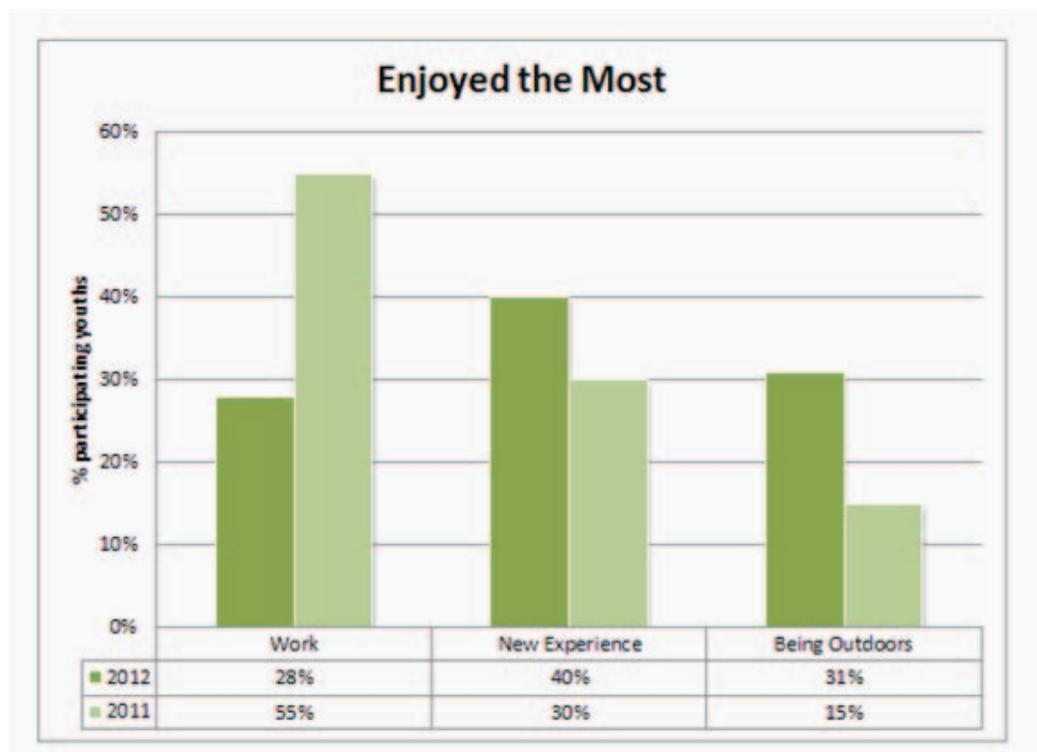
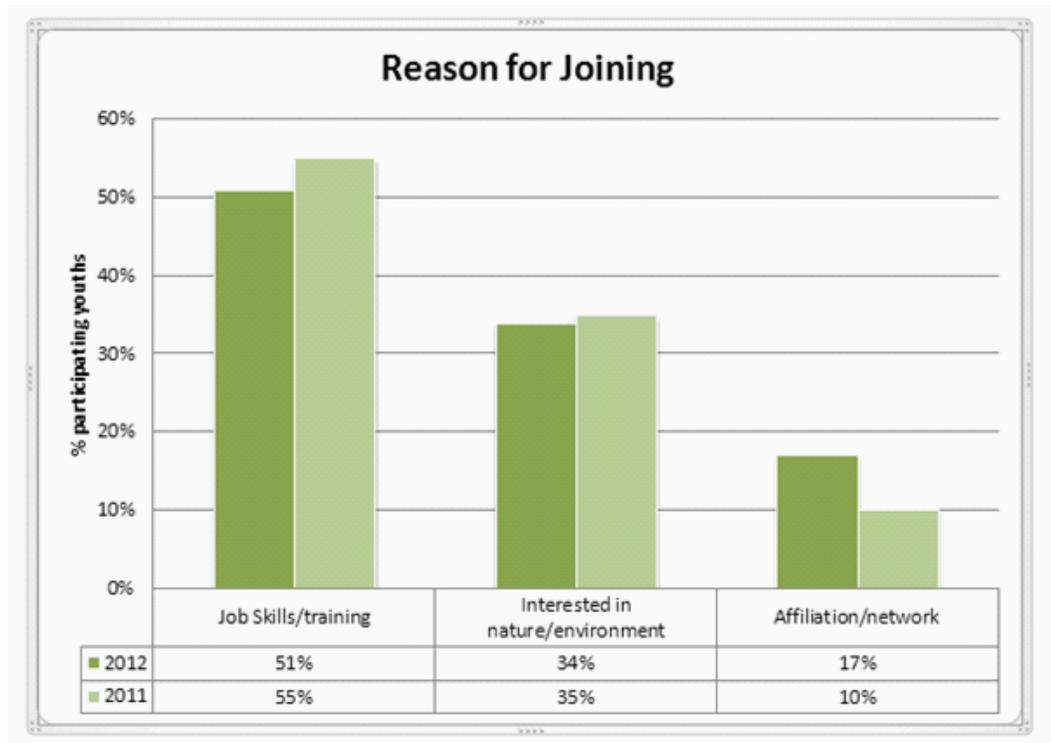
**2012 - 4 students returned for second summer.*

**2012 - 1 student returned for third summer.*



What We've Learned

Our 2012 surveys are based on 35 different experiences: five spent one night camping and 30 spent five days camping. Nineteen surveys are from 10 youths (one did not participate in the second event) at two different weeklong events. There was more positive feedback after the second event. After reviewing contents of both weeks, we've determined that either event ranged in workload (trail building vs. brushing vegetation) and preparation (first time experience vs. previous experience). This may be something we want to consider for future events when planning project specifics and how it relates to program goals.



What We've Learned

Since surveys were open-ended, most answers are not the same as results from last year. This table shows what could have made the experience better for 2011 and 2012.

Survey Results	
2011	2012
59% would like to see more variety of projects and locations	25% would like to see different locations of the forest
15% would like to see more interactive educational lessons	20% would like to have more interaction with staff and peers
6 % would like the trips to be longer than one week	17% would like to spend more time enjoying the outdoors
10% would not change or improve anything	11% would like to experience different recreational activities other than hiking
	8% would like to learn more about the environment
	14% would not change or improve anything



At the Wing Luke Museum Candice Lee demonstrates her paper diorama, a Japanese art form called tatebanko, depicting the Monte Cristo mining operations.

In Their Words

Henry Situ

Henry returned to the Skykomish Ranger District for his second summer. He expanded his experience by becoming a forest protection officer. He focused on contacting visitors at dispersed campsites and provided education and enforcement. In addition, he supported efforts to restore sites. Henry initially thought it would be a challenge to interact with people as an FPO, but found that most of the interactions were very positive. He enjoyed helping to coordinate and lead work parties with volunteers and youth organizations and hopes for expanded opportunities in 2013.

Highlight of summer: *Enjoyed working with the staff again!*

Education: *Applied for the University of Washington for winter 2013 where he plans to work towards a bachelor degree in business.*

Career Aspiration: *A career in business management, possibly with the Forest Service. Henry would love to return to the Skykomish RD, but will also seek an internship in his field of study.*



Nicky Dang, 14, chops a log for a turnpike during her work at the Skykomish Ranger District weeklong camping and stewardship experience this summer.

Phung Vuong

Phung enjoyed working a second summer with the support South Zone Fire Engine crew. She felt more familiar with the work and was ready for more responsibilities. She is open to joining a fire crew on another national forest in Washington.

Highlight of summer: *Expanding her line digging experience by filling in with the Initial Attack crew.*

Education: *Studying information technology at Everett Community College and transferring to Central Washington University in spring 2013.*

Career Aspiration: *Either a career in wildland firefighting or information technology.*

Vilay Lee

Vilay was inspired to be a forest ranger at a young age. She remembers seeing a forest ranger and Smokey Bear at a festival as a child and has wanted to work closely with Smokey Bear since. She saw the influence Smokey had on peers and knew instantly that she wanted to be a part of taking care of nature. In summer, 2010, Vilay applied and was offered a recreation internship with the Central California Consortium and placed on the Sierra National Forest. She learned about student opportunities with the MBS through fellow classmate and FS intern, Phung Vuong. Vilay received an internship to work on the North Zone Fire Engine. She was initially apprehensive of her capabilities to do the job, but found she absolutely loved the experience.

Highlight of summer: *Crewmembers providing an example of successful teamwork and guiding her in developing leadership skills.*

Education: *Studying environmental science at Everett Community College and intends to transfer to Western Washington University.*

Career Aspiration: *Seeking a career with the Forest Service in either fire or recreation.*



Kulshan Creek girls, Nancy and Maria enjoy a giggle during the Migratory Bird Festival on Whidbey Island this spring.

Manika Bhandari

Manika completed her third summer internship with the Forest Service. In 2012, Manika wanted to work at a different district and joined the trail crew in Skykomish. She enjoyed the trail experience, but has decided to return to fire in summer, 2013. She would like to apply to the Baker River Hotshots, but would also be open to work on another forest - Entiat Initiate Attack crew.

Highlight of summer: *Enjoyed working on a new district on a trail crew.*

Education: *She decided to change major from mechanical engineering to B.S. in sustainable forest management and will graduate in fall, 2013.*

Career Aspiration: *She is seeking a career with the Forest Service.*

Justine Nishitani

Justine finished her second summer on the Mt. Baker Ranger District trail crew. Her experience was an improvement from last year because she started earlier in the season, was able to more work in several different areas throughout the district, and felt prepared for the requirements of the job. She especially loved becoming chainsaw certified and was eager to hike the equipment in and out. Although she had less experience than other crew members, everyone was willing to teach and provide constructive input.

Highlight: *Logging out Welcome Pass Trail and hiking to the top with spectacular views of the Cascades into Canada.*

Education: *Studying a B.S. in environmental management and protection. She has taken several classes in interpretation and environmental education to improve her communication techniques.*

Career Aspiration: *Seeking a career with the Forest Service.*

In Their Words

Tracey Wong

Tracey had a good and challenging summer. She worked for trail crew and developed recreation on the Skykomish Ranger District and better understands how recreation sites are maintained.

Highlight: Working in the outdoors, seeing beautiful places, making explosives on the trail and working with others.

Education: Studying biology at the University of Washington.

Career Aspiration: Career as a physical therapist.

Sherry Tran

Sherry couldn't have asked for a better summer working in the outdoors. She absolutely loved it! She learned more technical skills from her previous high school trail crew experiences.

Highlight: During the season's last camping trip, the crew hiked over 10 miles to their campsite, then another five miles to the project location. The work was meaningful and many Pacific Crest Trail hikers voiced their appreciation for all the hard work of the trail crew.

Education: Plans to double major in environmental studies and education studies and will graduate in 2015.

Career: Career as an educator.

Stella Torres

Stella's first experience with the Forest Service was at age 16 with the Hearts of Oregon Trail crew. In 2010, Stella returned to trail work through her AmeriCorps internship with Northwest Service Academy (now Mt. Adams Institute). She then began work with the MBS and National Forest Foundation as the youth and volunteer coordinator AmeriCorps. Stella transitioned to an intern (formerly SCEP) in late spring 2012 when she was accepted to Portland State University. She planned and led more than 20 youth and outreach events for the forest and valued learning the planning process before implementation. She better understands relationships with partners and working to meet mutually beneficial goals. During the summer of 2013 and 2014, Stella will continue her student internship focused on recreation at the district level. She looks forward to learning more about policy implementation.

Highlights: Leading urban and diverse youth on a five-day stewardship camp. It was amazing to see the impacts the event had on the students when they completed something different and challenging. Stargazing with youth – seeing how simple experiences can truly affect people.

Education: Will graduate in September, 2014, with a masters in public administration (natural resource policy) at Portland State University.

Career: After graduating, she will transition into a natural resource specialist position in recreation, GS 05/07/09.

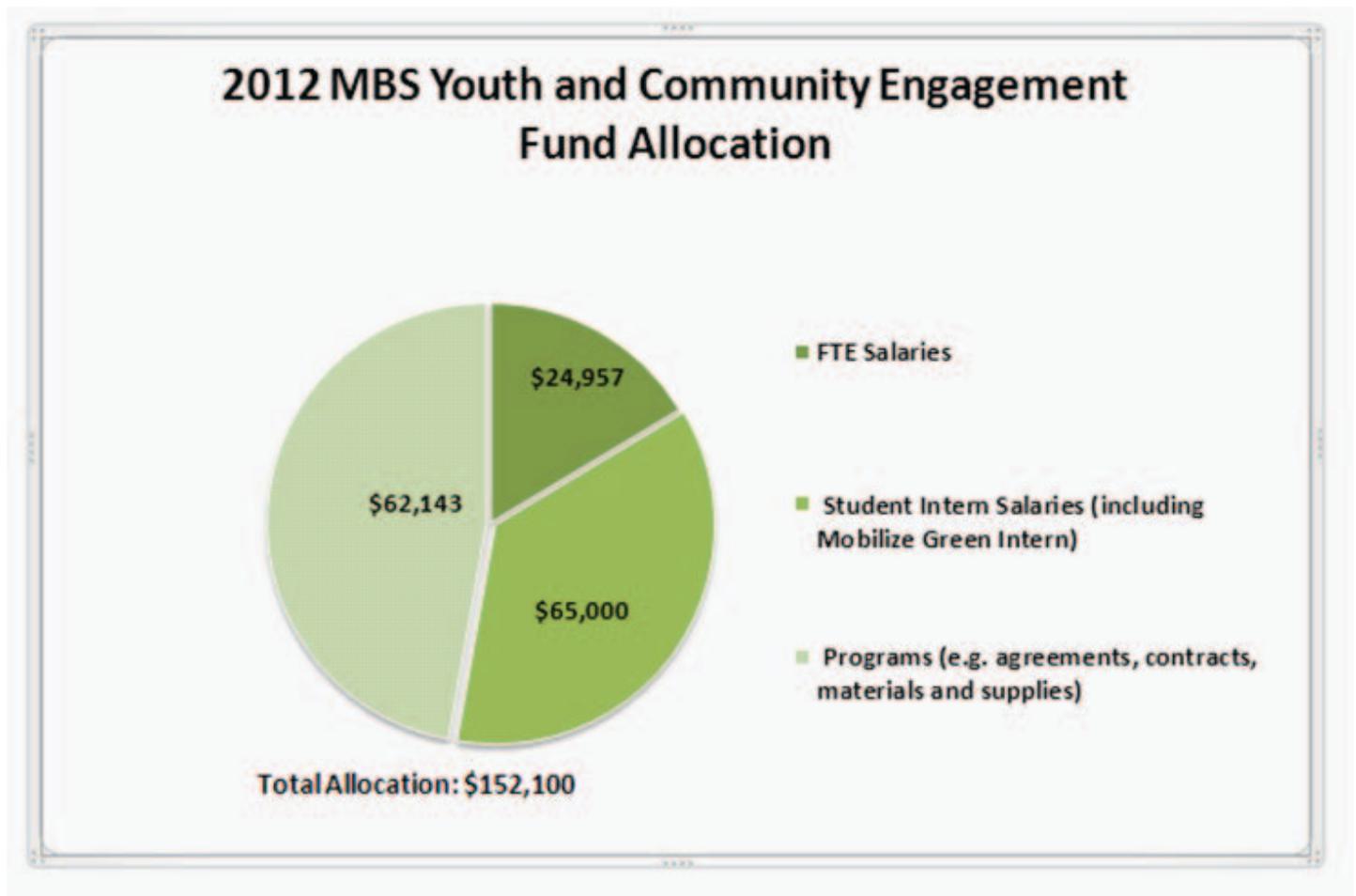


Wild student impersonates a tree hugger during his weeklong camping and stewardship trip at Heather Meadows in the Mt. Baker Ranger District this summer.

Funding

With support from the R6 YES and Civil Rights Office, the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest worked with youth program partners to place diverse Student Temporary Employee Program candidates from the greater Seattle metropolitan area in summer positions.

Students who did not grow up with the ability to visit public lands have been introduced to free outdoor opportunities made possible by partnerships between the Forest Service and four amazing organizations: International District Housing Alliance, North Cascades Institute, Seattle Parks and Recreation Outdoor Opportunity Program, and Student Conservation Association. These students took a risk to leave the comforts of their metropolitan area to live in much smaller communities for the duration of the jobs. Each student grew from their experience – whether it was feeling more comfortable communicating with people from all backgrounds to discovering a career pathway, each finishing with a greater appreciation for how public lands are managed.



- *\$75,500 from RO
- *\$10,000 from WO for SCEP
- *\$15,000 from WO for Mobilize Green Intern
- *\$20,000 from the International Program
- *\$31,600 from MBS

2012 Partner Match is \$356,218
(including 2,580 volunteer hours x \$21.79/hour = \$56,218)

