

Bureau of Land Management DOI/VISTA

FY 2016 Quarter Three: April 1 - June 30, 2016



STARR WOODS WITH A PAINTED HOODOO, PART OF A HIT THE TRAILS LEARNING EDUCATION INITIATIVE

5 DOI/VISTAs

430 Youth Served in an Educational Setting

\$9,000 In-Kind Resources Developed

\$48,000 Grant Funding Developed

The United States Department of the Interior Volunteers in Service to America (DOI/VISTA) initiative supports underserved communities in using public lands for employment opportunities, health, and education.

Erin Freiboth - Questa Economic Development Fund - Questa, NM

Erin worked to build the capacity of Questa Economic Development Fund in a number of ways this quarter. Erin successfully compiled the bimonthly Questa Economic Newsletter into a print and digital copy, increasing the ability of representatives from Questa Economic Development Fund to reach out to community stakeholders.

Erin has also worked to revitalize the Questa Economic Business Network, a local commerce group. She is actively cultivating new members and business partners. The group's resurgence greatly increases Questa's local capacity for economic development.

- ◆ **\$8,812 IN-KIND RESOURCES DEVELOPED**
- ◆ **46 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED**
- ◆ **246 HOURS WORKED BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS**

Erin connected people and businesses in Questa to promote an agriculture study in the area. The study will determine the quality of malt barley that can be grown in the region. The results of this study potentially could result in economic growth for Questa, which lost its primary employer, a molybdenum mine this year. Community support will be central to the success of the Economic Development Fund's effort to transition the town to a new economy.



DOI/VISTA Erin Freiboth at her desk.

Starr Woods - Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument - Albuquerque, NM

Starr Woods exercised leadership this quarter, forming, incorporating, managing, and fostering the development of the Amigos Alliance, a nonprofit friends group designed to support Tent Rocks National Monument. She formed a working board of directors and is actively building partnerships with other organizations working to promote youth outdoor education.

- ◆ **INCREASED PARTICIPATION: 100 RESIDENTS ATTENDING ORGANIZATION'S EVENTS**
- ◆ **230 YOUTH SERVED IN AN EDUCATION SETTING**

In May, Starr hosted the first Every Kid in a Park Day at Tent Rocks. Starr worked with partner organizations to help put on the event and conduct outdoor educational activities directly written for our educational initiative, Hit the Trails Learning. 100 local 4th graders from Bandelier Elementary School in Albuquerque attended the event.

Starr also developed a working relationship with Rio Rancho public school district to serve impoverished areas outside of Albuquerque and successfully recruited two Teachers on Public Lands to provide education and curriculum development at the Monument this quarter.

Caleah Hager - Colorado Youth Corps Association - Denver, CO



DOI/VISTA Caleah Hager

One of Caleah's major accomplishments this term was the completion of CYCA's capacity-building database of tax preparation services and CPAs, a project initiated by the previous CYCA DOI/VISTA. The purpose of this database is to encourage donors to make a qualified contribution from their tax returns directly to a philanthropic organization of their choice.

- ◆ **4 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS DEVELOPED**
- ◆ **4 ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEMS PLANS DEVELOPED**

Additionally this quarter, Caleah helped compose the current edition of CYCA's "How-to Guide for Pursuing a Career in Natural Resources." The guide was designed to engage youth in economic opportunities in natural resource management. Caleah has curated much of this material for promotional use in social media.

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