

#215

COMPLETE

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Q1 Name of your organization.

Yellowstone Forever

Q2 Grant #

20180166

Q3 Grant Period

5/1/2018-4/30/2019

Q4 Location of your organization

City	Bozeman
State	Montana

Q5 Name and Title of person completing evaluation.

Justin Barth - Senior Manager of Foundations Relations

Q6 Phone Number:

406-586-6303

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Page 2: Key Outcomes and Results

Q8 Total number of clients served through this grant funding:

Approximately 1,381,666. Visitor use surveys suggest that roughly 33% of Yellowstone's 4,144,999 visitors in 2018 were served by at least one of the trail areas impacted by the grant.

Q9 Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on the goals and objectives. Use the following format: State the Goal: State Objective 1: Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 1: State Objective 2 (if applicable): Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 2: State Objective 3 (if applicable): Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 3:

Goal: To restore and repair 10 of Yellowstone's most heavily used trails systems, improve park visitor safety and resource protection while inspiring youth trail corps members to become tomorrow's stewards of the land.

Objective: Engage 60 youth trail corps members to rehabilitate and repair over 10 miles of trail by October, 2018.

Activities, Results, and Outcomes: During the S.L. Gimbel Foundation grant cycle, the NPS trail team and associated youth corps targeted and corrected YNP trail system deficiencies of age and deterioration, user and employee safety, and impacts to natural resources while enhancing enjoyment of visitor recreational opportunities. In advancing project goals youth services were utilized to support the education of life and work skills and resource protection to further the mission of partner and youth engagement in public service. The project repaired deteriorated trail surfaces, bridges, retaining walls, drainage and erosion control structures; re-established unmaintainable alignments, and rehabilitated and restore compromised natural resources on iconic park trails including the Mount Washburn, North and South Rims of the Grand Canyon, Shoshone Lake, Lamar River Arterials, and the Bechler trails network.

Project crews successfully completed the North Rim Trail main retaining wall and the construction of similar retaining structures and tread surfaces in the area. National Park Service (NPS) and Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) youth crews continued the hard work of transporting, cutting, shaping and incorporating an additional 200sf. of multi-tiered drystone retaining wall into the 400sf. previously completed in 2017 at the site between the Brinks of the Upper and Lower Falls viewing areas.

Additional trail structures and surfaces were addressed by NPS and partnering MCC and Continental Divide Trail Association Crews to correct the targeted issues of sloughing, erosion and deterioration that had caused concern for public safety in sites throughout the park. Ongoing work on the Wraith Falls, Yellowstone River, Shoshone Lake, Sportsman Lake, Lamar River, Heart Lake, Bechler Trails Network- Bechler River and Boundary Creek Trails have yielded .25 mi. newly constructed trail, 12+mi. of reconstructed trail, 350+ bridge, drainage, erosion control and retaining structures, and 1600sf. of rehabilitated abandoned and human-impacted trail segments and off trail resource sites. The partnering youth and adult crews spent a total of 21 weeks invested in the protection and reclamation of these popular park thoroughfares.

Partnering MCC crews also addressed important trail improvement, visitor safety and resource restoration endeavors on the Mount Washburn/Dunraven Trail Project. Switchback reconstruction and renovations were undertaken using the 50,000lbs of procured and flown rock to fill, retain and obliterate 6 entrenched and denuded hillside areas in tandem with the the switchback wall improvements. All in all, over 100,000lbs. of onsite native and procured masonry materials were transported by helicopter, truck, powered barrow and people power to the worksites for the construction activities on the project.

At the Wraith Falls area just outside of Mammoth Hot Springs, partnering NPS and MCC crews constructed a 200yd. reroute that allowed for the circumvention and removal of 250lf. of aged and deteriorated wetland boardwalk. The work brings forward a high and dry travel route to the falls, new alpine views, and the return-to-natural state of the freed up wetland within the former boardwalk corridor.

NPS Trail Ops adult and Youth crewmembers continued to receive and utilized intensive life and work skill trainings within the project as they learned technical rigging and masonry construction techniques, drainage and erosion control and rehabilitation and restoration of native resources.

Project Cooperative Task Agreements continue to be created for Youth/Young Adult Montana Conservation crews to participate in our partnership opportunities as technical work and life skill learning opportunities are brought forth. Compliance trips with NPS resource specialists are completed and work is being undertaken across the park while the next phase and project scoping continues for additional project work.

Q10 Please describe any challenges/obstacles the organization encountered (if any) in attaining goals & objectives.

The park and program are actively engaged in forward planning and problem solving in the best-practice solution sought on the Lamar River Trail slide. As can be her way, Mother Nature brought an early 2018 summer surprise on the Lamar River Trail and to the planned work scope. NPS staff discovered a landslide had taken a 100ft wide by 300fl long swath, while removing a section of the trail on a steep, spring-laden hillside.

Q11 How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles?

Trails staff responded with a 130yd reroute to make the route passable for hikers and NPS stock riders. What remains to be seen is if the trail continues to harden and stabilize in place over the winter and early spring of 2019. Time will tell and help determine whether the existing alignment can be utilized for private and commercial stock or it a difficult, large - scale alternative route construction is required.

The challenge and solutions brought forth will be incorporated into the 2019 Backcountry Trails program and YF Helium project treatise that continues to build upon, support and enhance a beautiful, wondrous and highly-loved and visited national icon and the cooperative youth partnerships endeavors supported and advanced upon.

Q12 Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.

Funds brought in through the S.L. Gimbel Foundation successfully played an important role in leveraging \$159,000 in NPS Helium funding for greater project, park and partner support. Currently, and additional \$187,458 once again garnered from the same Helium funding source is currently under planning and development for the 2019 field season once again leveraged with YF partner match funding support.

The additional funds enabled additional employment, training, education and enhancement of over 80 of the nation's youth from multiple backgrounds and geographic areas while enhancing and protecting valuable natural resources and facility assets.

Additionally, through the collaborative crew work, the youth crewmembers receive intensive life and work skill trainings within the project as they learn technical rigging and masonry construction techniques, drainage and erosion control and rehabilitation and restoration of native resources and park sciences, social issues and natural resource stewardship. After the conclusion of the summer sessions, some parents of the youth crewmembers have called the crew leaders and remarked about their child completing chores without being asked or wanting to sleep outside every night to look at the stars. Through their experience, the youth grow to understand and appreciate Yellowstone's natural, historical and cultural heritage and are inspired to become lifelong stewards of the park.

Q13 Briefly describe the impact this grant has had on the organization and community served.

The project continued the park and operational endeavors to utilize multiple workgroups, communication, collaboration and partnering to bring the best processes and human capital forward to address identified facility and resource reconstruction and reclamation needs.

Whether iconic front country viewpoint routing on the Canyon Rim work, or remote and primitive wilderness backcountry destinations such as the Shoshone, Bechler and Lamar trail systems, long-developing issues of higher visitor-concentration wear and tear, deficiencies of age and prior funding shortages, and natural effects of weather were met and addressed.

Long-lasting masonry and steel materials were used where practical to improve life-cycle sustainability of trail surfaces and structures, and onsite native materials set-aside during route construction were salvaged and utilized to maintain or increase impacted-area protection and biomass reintroduction to denuded areas.

As previously reported, the work was carried out with multiple-group interactions and collaboration to simultaneously address co-managed park projects, timelines and processes using shared resources to provide the least-impactful solutions for improving visitor safety and experience. All the while, mission focus on youth empowerment, experience and training was encouraged, supported and implemented.

Page 3: Budget

Q14 Please provide a budget expenditure report. Also, provide a budget narrative that explains how the funds were utilized, what was purchased, what were the expensed items based upon the budget that was submitted.

All S.L. Gimbel grant funds were expended as described in the grant proposal. A description of how grant funds were spent is described below.

(4) Lead Trail Crew Members and Skilled Trail Workers - \$25,000: Each of the (4) lead trail crew workers hired through this grant provided valuable leadership for a trail crew of 6 youth. Each leader hired provided trainings in technical trail skills while also managing youth group dynamics in both the frontcountry and backcountry settings. Grant funds used to hire NPS staff were especially valuable as these funds enabled federal dollars to be reallocated to fund additional ranger positions in Yellowstone to help control the impact of over 4 million visitors.

(5) Field Crew Members - \$25,000: Through the S.L. Gimbel grant, 5 youth crew members were hired for the summer season to carry-out trail projects at a stipend rate for the summer season. These crew members were comprised of Montana Conservation Corps and Youth conservation Corps crew members that provided youth personnel resources and partnering support on trail reconstruction and resource restoration projects.

Page 4: Success Stories

Q15 Please relate a success story:

In regards to youth served, during the summer of 2018, 55 new enrollees actively participated along with 7 Youth Leaders who were selected by peers and staff from last summer. They hailed from 25 states. The work these youth completed would most likely go unfulfilled due to lack of park staffing to complete them. Many of the projects are back-logged or deferred Maintenance projects while some collect Citizen or Social Science projects. The Social Science project was focused on Visitor Use Management and collecting data on how visitors used a number of highly visited locations in the park including Old Faithful, Midway Geyser Basin, and Norris Geyser Basin. This project was of great interest to the park and was initially recommended by the Superintendent. The success of this program culminates at the end of session banquets where a number of youth share their personal stories of growth through their YCC experience. It can be very moving. Another way to see success is through family members writing comments to the YCC staff after their child has participated in YCC.

In July, one father emailed this to YCC staff.

“I wanted to send something to you and all the staff there at YCC and tell you thank you!!!! My daughter has come home with a new found confidence and happy air around her. She has experienced a lot of pain in her short life and has closed off from the world. Hiding in her room and keeping her distance from anyone to keep her pain levels down. And as painful to watch her say good bye and have those emotions come back to surface was also nice to see that she thought enough and cared enough about the staff and workers there to allow you into her heart. I've seen many of the same attributes back at the surface since she came home that I saw when she was little. I can't tell you enough how grateful I am to you all for this. You all have a special calling in life in bringing the best out of the youth you were put in charge of. I hope to see and meet with you all again whether it be through the YCC program or if we vacation and stop there. You all are amazing.
Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Q16 Please relate a success story here:

Respondent skipped this question

Q17 Please relate a success story here:

Respondent skipped this question

Page 5: Organizational Information

Q18 Which category best describes the organization.
Please choose only one.

Environmental

Q19 What is the organization's primary program area of interest?

Environment/Environmental

Q20 Percentage of clients served through grant in each ethnic group category. Total must equal 100%

African American	3
Asian/Pacific Islander	6
Caucasian	85
Native American	3
Hispanic Latino	3

Q21 Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each age category.	Children Birth-05 years of age	16
	Children ages 06-12 years of age	16
	Youth ages 13-18	16
	Young Adults (18-24)	12
	Adults	25
	Senior Citizens	15

Q22 Approximate percentage of clients served with disabilities from grant funds.	Respondent skipped this question
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Q23 Approximate percentage of clients served in each economic group.	Respondent skipped this question
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Q24 Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each population category.	Respondent skipped this question
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