

# #171

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Gimbel Foundat...nd Evaluation (Web Link)  
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Page 1

**Q1** Name of your organization.

Yellowstone Forever

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**Q2** Grant #

201608225

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**Q3** Grant Period

12/1/2016 - 11/30/2017

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**Q4** Location of your organization

City	<b>Bozeman</b>
State	<b>Montana</b>

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**Q5** Name and Title of person completing evaluation.

Justin Barth

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**Q6** Phone Number:

4065866303

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**Q7** Email address.

jbarth@yellowstone.org

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Page 2: Key Outcomes and Results

**Q8** Total number of clients served through this grant funding:

Approximately 1,416,665. Visitor use surveys suggest that roughly 33% of Yellowstone's 4,250,000 annual visitors were served by at least one of the trail areas impacted by the grant.

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**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:

As part of the Yellowstone National Park Trails Fund Initiative, the funds from the S.L. Gimbel Foundation were used specifically for the maintenance and restoration of Bechler, North Rim, and Dunraven/Mount Washburn Trail Networks. The funds were used for supporting youth staff and the construction and repair of critical trail structures including bridges, retaining walls and walking surfaces.

Goal: To restore and repair Yellowstone's most heavily used network of trails bringing them to a standard of safety and resource protection that is maintainable while inspiring youth as tomorrow's stewards of the land.

Objective 1: Engage youth groups in rehabilitating and repairing over ten miles of trails in the Bechler, North Rim, and Mount Washburn/Dunraven Trail Networks by October, 2018.

Describe the activities, results, and outcomes for objective 1:

During the grant period, 62 youth ages 15-18 participated in one of two month-long Youth Conservation Corps residential summer trails programs. Out of 62 youth, 56 were new enrollees and 6 were Youth Leaders who were selected by peers and staff from last summer. The youth, representing 25 states, completed work that would have most likely remained unfinished due to lack of park staffing.

The refurbishment of the North Rim Trail continued between the Brink of the Upper Falls and the Brink of the Lower Falls. National Park Service and Montana Conservation Corps trail crew staff spent eight weeks transporting, cutting, shaping and laying 400 square feet of multi-tiered drystone retaining wall, repairing and installing protective long barricade fencing and cribbing to mitigate sloughing and tread loss, delineate corridor parameters, and improving eroded tread surfaces and water diversion systems to mitigate erosive forces. The construction work was capped-off with obliteration, aeration and revegetation work conducted to mitigate natural and human-caused impacts to adjoining soils and vegetation surrounding the worksite. Thus far over 25,000 pounds of masonry and 500 linear feet of log materials have been transported by helicopter, truck, and powered barrow overhead cable rigging for the construction activities on the North Rim portion of the project.

The crew restored the Mount Washburn/Dunraven and Bechler Trail Networks including: constructing rock retaining walls, removing and replacing bridges, retention, erosion control and water diversion systems, and rehabilitating and restoring damaged native resources. During the 2017 field season, over 22 miles of park trail were cleared, brushed, and delineated of braiding and socially-caused impacts, and 120+ retention, erosion control, and drainage structures have been placed to support the newly dug traffic surfaces on the import and iconic park trails. In addition, .5 miles of reroutes have been cleared and dug to establish properly-aligned and maintainable trail segments, and .25 miles of socially-impacted and denuded areas have been rehabilitated.

The youth crewmembers received 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 science, resources, social issues and natural resource stewardship.

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

As is common with seasonal work, weather posed some challenges in 2017. Spring brought many late thaws, intermittent driving and hiking hazards. As the summer ended, winter weather unexpectedly returned a month early and brought major changes. The staff and crews barricaded and secured the area around a sloughing masonry wall adjacent to the Washburn overlook at the onset of the weather, while keeping safety and resource protection at the forefront as the project made the successful adjustments where needed. The crews travelled to the Old Faithful trail network, where the ground and driving conditions were more welcoming and conducted much needed-deferred trail corridor brushing, clearing and thread reconstruction while awaiting the thawing of the other worksites. to the Mount Washburn project.

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

The staff and crews barricaded and secured the area around a sloughing masonry wall adjacent to the Washburn overlook at the onset of the weather, while keeping safety and resource protection at the forefront as the project made the successful adjustments where needed. The crews traveled to the Old Faithful trail network, where the ground and driving conditions were more welcoming and conducted much needed-deferred trail corridor brushing, clearing and thread reconstruction while awaiting the thawing of the other worksites.

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

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.

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

The S.L. Gimbel Foundation grant funded targeted work to address the deficiencies and deterioration, visitor and employee safety, and impacts to natural resources of three iconic trails in the Yellowstone National Park: Bechler, North Rim, and Dunraven/Mount Washburn Trail Networks. In 2017, the grant supported 62 youth crewmembers as they worked alongside National Park Service staff to restore the trails as well as learn about resource protection. The work made possible by the grant included clearing, brushing, and delineation of braiding and socially-caused impacts on over 22 miles of park trail; building 120+ retention, erosion control, and drainage structures; clearing ½ mile of "social paths" and digging properly-aligning and maintainable trail segments; and rehabilitating ¼ mile of "social paths" and restoring compromised natural resources on the trail networks.

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**Q14** Please provide a budget expenditure report of the approved line items. Include a brief narrative on how the funds were used to fulfill grant objectives.

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 - \$32,764: 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.

(6) Montana Conservation Corps and Youth Conservation Corps Youth Field Crew Members - \$58,595: Through the S.L. Gimbel grant, 6 youth crew members were hired for the summer season to carry-out trail projects at a stipend rate of roughly \$10,000 for the summer season.

Youth Lodging and Food Costs - \$8,640: This portion of the S.L. Gimbel funds was used to cover costs associated with room and board for youth trail crew members. YCC and MCC crew members receive lodging and meals free of charge during the field season as wages are only a stipend amount.

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## Page 4: Success Stories

**Q15** Please relate a success story:

The Yellowstone youth trails program provided a remarkable opportunity for a diverse group of 62 youth to experience the world's first national park. While providing a valuable work force to the park, participants also learn to live in a close-knit, intentional community. For many, it may be their first time to sleep in a tent, summit a peak, live in bear country, or see the Milky Way. The YCC program can be a transformative and life changing experience. At the end of the field season, program participants were provided with an opportunity to comment on their experience in Yellowstone. Their thoughts are shared below:

"I have learned...

...how to be part of a team."

...I barely liked going out the door before YCC, now I can't wait to go outside and enjoy it."

...to be more aware of how my actions impact the environment."

...how to follow and how to be a better leader."

"YCC made me feel...

...hopeful about my future."

...like a part of something bigger."

...like a part of a family and like I can do more than I originally thought."

...like I belong to something and I am valuable."

...for the first time physically, mentally, and emotionally safe."

...like a missing piece was restored, or gained."

...like a new whole better person."

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**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?

**Children & Families**

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

African American	<b>1</b>
Asian/Pacific Islander	<b>8</b>
Caucasian	<b>82</b>
Native American	<b>2</b>
Hispanic Latino	<b>7</b>

**Q21** Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each age category.

Children Birth-05 years of age	<b>2</b>
Children ages 06-12 years of age	<b>8</b>
Youth ages 13-18	<b>8</b>
Young Adults (18-24)	<b>8</b>
Adults	<b>59</b>
Senior Citizens	<b>15</b>

**Q22** Approximate percentage of clients served with disabilities from grant funds.

**Respondent skipped this question**

**Q23** Approximate percentage of clients served in each economic group.

At/Below Poverty Level	<b>13</b>
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**Q24** Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each population category.

**Respondent skipped this question**