

Nevada Outdoor School

2009 Annual Report

Nevada Outdoor School inspires exploration of the natural world, responsible stewardship of our habitat and dedication to community.

a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization

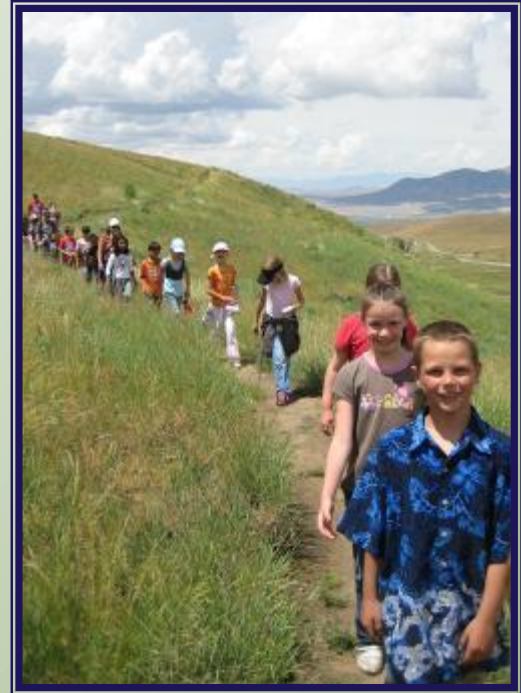


Nevada Outdoor School Fiscal Year End Report

October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

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Students Hiking on a Field Trip
in Water Canyon

The founding of this organization was based on a profound understanding that the primary vehicle by which our culture perpetuates its basic values is through its educational system. We believe that collaboratively designing and implementing a curriculum and volunteer program, which meets the needs of the community, promotes inquiry based education practices and empowers students of all ages to be active citizens, will create a dramatic acceleration and cultural shift towards a responsible land ethic and the amount of community volunteers in the mainstream of the population.



Students Kayaking at Camp

Letter from the Director

As I reflect upon the past year, my thoughts are drawn not only to the great successes enjoyed by our many programs, but to the generous support of our funders, volunteers and partners. It is a huge group effort to make this thing happen and I am excited to be a part of it, a heartfelt thanks to all who lent a hand in one way or another.

2009 was a tumultuous year at times, perhaps the most so in the 6 year history of NOS, which I would wager was not uncommon throughout the for- and non-profit industries. Staff jumped from 3 to 7 in the span of 18 months and

turnover was greater than 50%, our Board of Directors saw the resignation of long time President Ed Hopper and another member as well, the US and World recession was in full swing and we also bid farewell our

Founder and Executive Director Stephanie Lefevre.

In terms of recessions, I am grateful to be in the position we are. In a year that saw many strong non-profits close their doors for good or experience long-term financial damages, Nevada Outdoor School did not cut any positions or salaries and continued to grow our programming impact, serving greater numbers of participants than ever. I think this speaks strongly to the quality of our programming, the need for the services we provide and the great partnerships we have with our many funders. There is no doubt this is also a result of the vision and passion which Stephanie had for NOS and her tireless efforts to strengthen education and services in our local community and greater Northern Nevada. Stephanie created an organization based on strong values that many people here share: a love and curiosity for our land and wide-open spaces, an active outdoor lifestyle, a strong well-rounded education system and a commitment to active citizenship. Stephanie has done her best to ensure sustainability of the organization and left some large, trendy shoes to fill. We all wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

As I previously mentioned, our programs reached more individuals than ever and there were many successes to be proud of. Our Classrooms Unleashed field trip initiative continues to grow serving over 1,600 students last year while more than 7,000 students enjoyed our classroom presentations. AmeriCorps State and VISTA members served 31,000 hours at 11 different host sites in Rural Nevada; while an expanded British Trust for Conservation Volunteer program helped to total \$61,000 worth of donated labor for restoration projects.

We finished the year in good financial health with very limited debt and a FY2010 budget balanced within 2%. We have continued commitment from many of our funding partners but as always still seek to diversify revenue streams. Our budget is of a similar level to last year, which should be viewed as a positive in trying economic times, but should lead to only moderate overall expansion of programming. However, I still look forward to further improvements in the quality of our offerings as well as expanding the geographic extent of our programs by reaching new classrooms, placing AmeriCorps service members in new communities and recruiting more volunteers from across the state. One other area where we are excited to offer new and expanded programming is in Outdoor Ethics and ATV safety with the addition of a new staff position to support these full-time.

I hope you find this report to be interesting, valuable and that you are even half as excited as I am about what is going on at Nevada Outdoor School. And as always, please contact us with any questions about our organization or programming; or with any ideas you have to improve our partnerships and our collective positive impact on education and community.

Warm Regards,

Andy Hart – Executive Director



NOS Staff, AmeriCorps Members and Friends

Nevada Outdoor School's Education Programs

NOS offers inquiry-based science lessons for kindergarten through 6th grade students, free of charge. All lessons are developed to meet Nevada State Department of Education Standards, as well as Excellence in Environmental Education guidelines.



NOS continues to develop a series of educational field trips for 1st - 6th grade students. NOS organizes and leads these trips at no cost to the students.

NOS service-learning programs work closely with students at local schools. NOS creates a safe and positive environment that allows students to integrate a meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich their learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen their local communities.

NOS Summer Programs provide students with the opportunity to try new and challenging activities, make new friends, and have fun in an educational and safe environment.

NOS has a series of interpretive kits for local wilderness areas and cultural sites. These kits are available for check-out by community members to use for thematic units or on field trips.

Highlights from Education Programs in 2009:

- 742 class time hours
- 9,617 students present for lessons taught by NOS
- 15,607 total contact hours with students
- 56 unique in-classroom lessons were taught in all elementary and rural schools in Humboldt County
- 657 teachers and adults were present during educational programming
- Provided 20 youth with structured after-school service learning programs
- 97 students participated in service learning projects
 - 64% returned to volunteer again
 - 81% of the students indicated an interest in volunteering again
- Recruited 95 volunteers for 486 hours of educational programming valued at \$9,720
- Planned and coordinated 6 outdoor field trips for students in Humboldt, Lander, Elko, and Pershing County School Districts
- Assisted with 3 field trips operated by Humboldt and Lander County School Districts
- Hosted a month long after school ATV safety camp for French Ford Middle School students
- Hosted 5 week long summer camps for 3rd - 8th grade students in Humboldt County
- Hosted 2 guest performances by Walkin' Jim Stoltz for 2nd grade students in two Elementary Schools
- Provided 2 'Leave No Trace' training opportunities for adults
- Hosted two Eco-Kid Camps at volunteer conservation events





NOS AmeriCorps State Program

NOS acts as the hub for the AmeriCorps State program in rural Nevada. NOS manages a grant enabling ten full-time and two half-time members to serve at regional non-profit and government agencies. AmeriCorps State members work directly with the community and populations served by their host organization.

AmeriCorps State Members accomplished the following in 2009:

- 12 AmeriCorps state members served 17,686 hours in rural Nevada.
- Provided over 1,700 hours of wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and research.
- Distributed 24,111 educational brochures about the Black Rock Desert –High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area.
- Recruited 579 volunteers donating 3,686 hours of service.
- Conducted Red Cross First Aid/CPR classes for 3,543 rural Nevada residents.
- Helped 190 people prepare for GED tests.
- Sponsored 3 community service projects.
- 384 hospice patient contacts.
- Created 9 new partnerships to build organizational capacity and sustainability.
- Provided various education services for Nevada Outdoor School.



'Leave No Trace' Training

Partners:

The following organizations hosted members for the NOS AmeriCorps State Program:

- JOIN
 - American Red Cross
 - Safe Haven Rescue Zoo
 - Nevada Outdoor School
 - Humboldt Volunteer Hospice
 - Friends of Black Rock High Rock



AmeriCorps Service Members

NOS AmeriCorps VISTA Program

NOS also acts as the hub for AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) in rural northern Nevada, also known as , the Northern Nevada Community Sustainability Program. These members work toward eliminating poverty in rural Nevada. During the last fiscal year NOS provided service opportunities for nine full time VISTA members and eight Summer VISTAs. These VISTA members varied in focus from developing a literacy program in a local school district to recruiting volunteers for various organizations.



AmeriCorps VISTA Members Accomplished the following in 2009:



AmeriCorps VISTAs Volunteer for a Community Clean Up in Winnemucca

- 13,489 hours of service for an in-kind labor value of \$269,780
- Raised \$6,862 in cash resources
- Raised \$12,667 in non-cash resources
- Recruited 330 community volunteers who served a total of 1,334 hours at an in-kind labor value of \$26,680

Partners:

VISTAs served at these nine locations in Nevada:

Great Basin College
American Red Cross
Safe Haven Rescue Zoo
Nevada Outdoor School
1st Way Pregnancy Center
French Ford Middle School
Lander County School District
Friends of Black Rock High Rock
Humboldt County School District



AmeriCorps New Member Orientation

NOS Volunteer Programs

NOS holds many volunteer events each year centered around conservation activities in the Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area.

NOS also supports two international crews of volunteers who spend several months in the desert rehabilitating areas on public lands. These crews are filled through collaboration with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV).

Highlights from 2009:

- Rehabilitated 0.83 miles of unauthorized roads
- Removed 82 cubic feet of invasive plant species
- 191 volunteers for 3,056 hours for an in-kind labor value of \$61,120
- 154 participants were involved in education and tours of the Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area
- Hosted 6 conservation events in the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area with other organizations and the Bureau of Land Management
- Assisted with fire rehabilitation of the Water Canyon recreation area: planted 30 trees, installed 110 feet of barrier and maintained ½ of a mile of trail



BTCV Crew Members Removing Culvert



Volunteers Building Dam to Protect Endangered Desert Dace Fish

- Installed a total of 410 ft of barrier state wide
- Removed 0.79 miles of barbed wire
- Installed 83 informational or directional signs
- Removed 0.83 miles of other types of fencing
- Reseeded ½ of a mile of rehabilitated road
- Removed 50 lbs. of debris from wilderness areas



Students Planting Trees

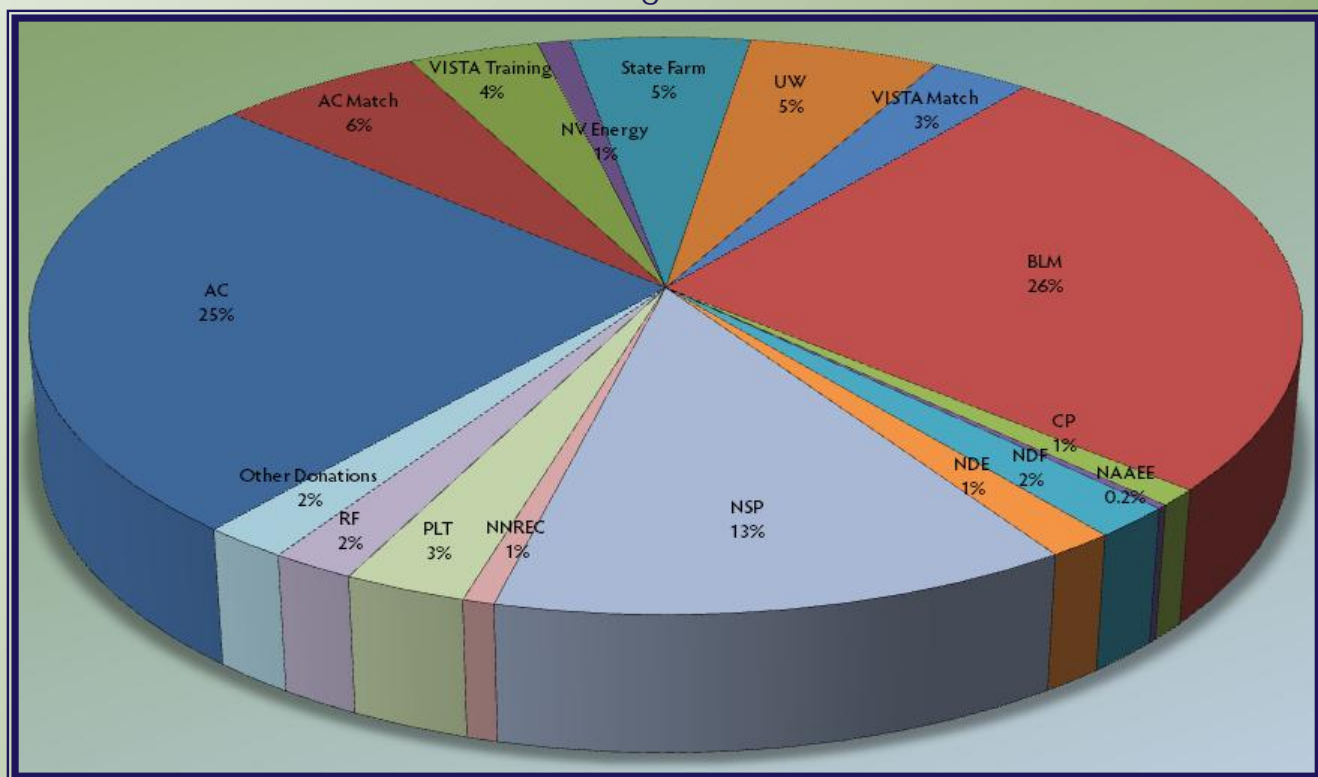
FY 2009 Revenue

FY 2009 Grant & Donation Income	
AmeriCorps Grant (AC)	\$135,000
AmeriCorps Partnership Match (AC Match)	\$31,462
AmeriCorps VISTA Travel/Training (VISTA Training)	\$20,000
NV Energy	\$5,000
State Farm Youth Advisory Board (Sate Farm)	\$27,445
United Way (UW)	\$29,133
AmeriCorps VISTA Partnership Match (VISTA Match)	\$15,025
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	\$135,235
Community Partnership (CP)	\$5,000
NAAEE (North American Association for Environmental Education)	\$1,200
Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF)	\$9,600
Nevada State Dept of Education (NDE)	\$7,800
Nevada State Parks (NSP)	\$69,121
NV Natural Resource Education Council (NNREC)	\$3,800
Project Learning Tree (PLT)	\$14,663
Other Donations	\$20,225
Cash Income Sub-Total: \$529,709	
In-Kind Donations/Services	\$17,570
In-Kind Labor	\$140,745
In-Kind Sub-Total: \$158,315	
Total: \$688,024	

Cash Revenue Diversification	
Federal Grants	\$290,235
State Grants	\$86,521
Foundations	\$63,796
Corporate	\$32,445
Other	\$56,712
Total: \$529,709	

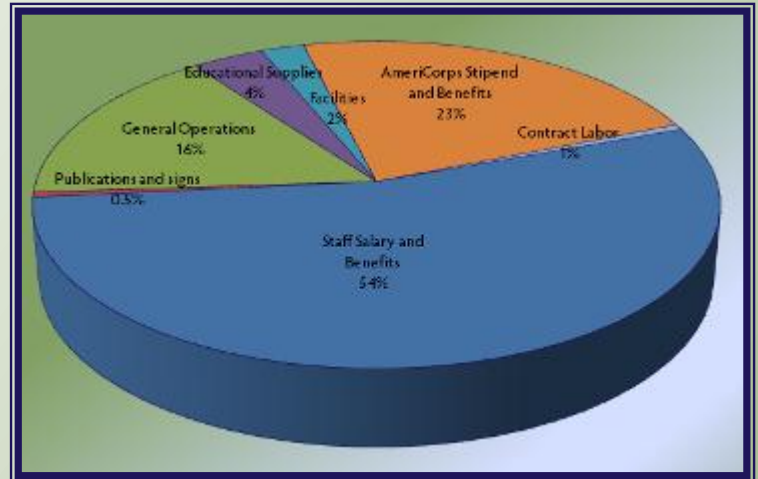


Funding Sources

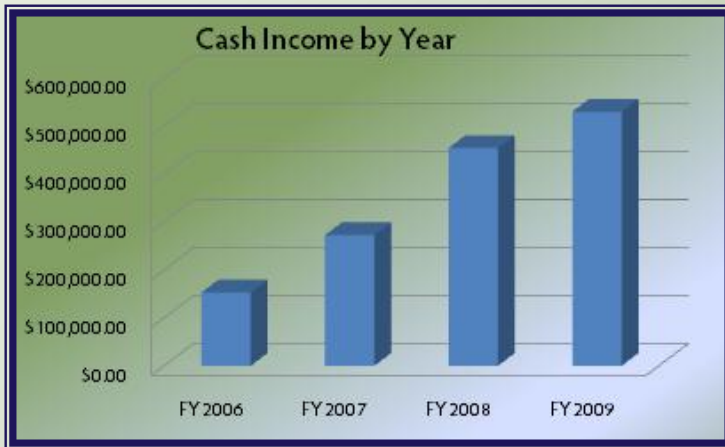


FY 2009 Expenses

Staff Salary and Benefits	\$296,854
Publications and signs	\$2,750
General Operations	\$87,433
Educational Supplies	\$21,404
Facilities	\$12,738
AmeriCorps Stipend and Benefits	\$125,400
Contract Labor	\$3,000
	Total: \$549,579



Yearly Comparison:



Income	
FY 2006	\$152,629
FY 2007	\$272,446
FY 2008	\$454,000
FY 2009	\$529,709

Expenses	
FY 2006	\$152,628
FY 2007	\$212,677
FY 2008	\$512,000
FY 2009	\$549,579

NOS Partners including funders and program partnerships.

	Bureau of Land Management		Project Learning Tree
	North American Association of Environmental Education		Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics
	Nevada Division of Forestry		City of Winnemucca
	State Farm Youth Advisory Board		Nevada State Bank
	Nevada State Dept of Education		AmeriCorps VISTA
	Community Foundation of Nevada		Nevada Volunteers
	Sierra Pacific Power Company		Nevada State Parks
	United Way of Great Basin		Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
	Nevada Natural Resource Education Council		Friends of Nevada Wilderness
	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers		Sierra Nevada Journeys
	Job Opportunities in Nevada		First Way Pregnancy Center
	Winnemucca Domestic Violence Shelter		Great Basin College
	Winnemucca Community Garden		RESPECT
	Humboldt County School District		Winnemucca Food Bank
	Friends of Black Rock High Rock		Safe Haven Rescue Zoo
	American Red Cross		Humboldt County Volunteer Hospice
	Winnemucca Ministerial Association		Tread Lightly!

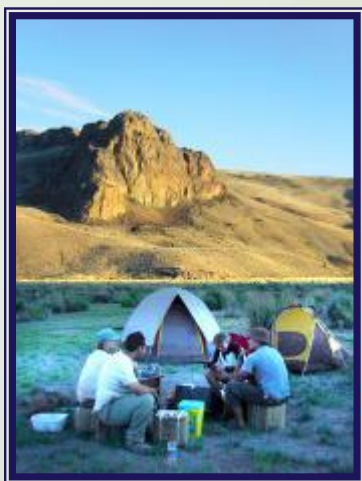
Board of Directors

- Pat Donovan - Acting President
- Shelly Smith - Treasurer
- Lisa Campbell - Secretary
- Helen Willis - Member
- Russ Yowell - Member
- Kelly Novi - Member



Staff Members

- Andy Hart - Executive Director
- Jimmy Fox - AmeriCorps Director
- Jen Stockton - Outdoor Ethics Director
- Hayes Lindsay - IT Media Director
- Holly Palmer - Volunteer & Special Events Coordinator
- Jessica Templeton - Senior Education Coordinator
- Melanie Erquiaga - Financial Manager



AmeriCorps Members at NOS:

- Tasha Niemi - VISTA Leader
- Hanna Sonek - Curriculum Developer (VISTA)
- Jessie Snaman - Naturalist (State)
- Robinson Barker - Naturalist (State)
- Megan Allen - Naturalist (State)



For more information about NOS please visit our website:

www.NevadaOutdoorSchool.org



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