



NEW MEXICO

OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

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Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
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New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division Awards \$1.7 Million in Outdoor Equity Funds

Programs in 16 counties to receive awards to get 20,000 kids outside

SANTA FE, N.M. – The New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD), a division of the New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD), announced the Outdoor Equity Fund (OEF) recipients for the first round of the fiscal year 2024 grant cycle. The first-of-its-kind OEF was created in 2019 to enable all New Mexican youth equitable access to the outdoors. The grant supports programming that provides outdoor experiences that foster stewardship and respect for New Mexico’s land, water, and cultural heritage.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the Outdoor Equity Fund into law at the same time the division was created, ensuring the program remains foundational to the work of ORD. Since then, the fund has granted nearly \$4 million to 181 organizations throughout the state. The organizations receiving funding for their youth programs are leaders in the cultural, recreational, and environmental fields of New Mexico that contribute to fostering the next generation.

“New Mexico’s Outdoor Recreation Division has quickly become a national model as we invest not just in trails and rural communities but also our youth,” said Economic Development Department Deputy Secretary Jon Clark. “The Outdoor Equity programs have introduced 20,892 young New Mexicans to the outdoors through day hikes, bike rides, camping trips, fishing, river adventures, acequia irrigation, and more. Many are having these experiences for the very first time, setting them on a path of healthier living and outdoor stewardship.”

To support the program and usher in the next generation of outdoor industry leaders, the state invested \$3 million in American Rescue Plan Act money. Additional funding for the Outdoor Equity Fund comes from annual state appropriations, private donations, and the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, the state’s first ever dedicated funding stream for land and water conservation and outdoor recreation. Under the leadership of Gov. Lujan Grisham, the Legacy Fund was created during the 2023 legislative session through the passage of Senate Bill 9. The Legacy Fund will distribute a portion of its initial appropriation to the Outdoor Equity Fund

beginning in 2024 and each following year until the fund is depleted or additional investments are made.

"ORD has made the largest impact in New Mexico outdoor recreation that I have ever seen in a short amount of time," Dustin Berg, Executive Director and Founder, Global Opportunities Unlimited said. "Programs are blossoming, and the state is ripe for an influx of funding to make another huge push. It's time we showcase our beautiful state and establish beneficial avenues for people to enjoy what we have in our fantastic state that is full of outdoor recreation opportunities."

For this first round of FY24 Outdoor Equity Fund awards, 54 organizations received a total of \$1,741,499.23, with grants averaging over \$32,000 each. These organizations will provide transformative outdoor experiences for nearly 21,000 young New Mexicans through outdoor and environmental education, industry career training opportunities, outdoor recreation activities, and more, from now through 2024. Awardee programs are from 15 counties across New Mexico.

"The Outdoor Equity Fund's intent from the start was to invest in our New Mexican youth and our communities," State Rep. Angelica Rubio said. "The investments made to grantees since 2019, are not only growing and nurturing opportunities for young people to experience our great outdoor spaces, but they hold up our values of raising future generations of stewardship of New Mexico's water, air, and lands. Grateful to the New Mexico Legislature, and its commitment to not only continuing to grow this fund and provide these opportunities for so many young people, but in doing so equitably."

2023 (FY24) Outdoor Equity Fund Award Recipients:

Adobe Whitewater Club (\$40,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): In the first pilot of a budding program intended to be adapted for diverse communities statewide, 20 South Valley youth will participate in a comprehensive outdoor leadership course. The program simultaneously teaches Bosque ecology, stewardship, and land use history, as well as recreational paddling skills to use in paddling the Rio Grande. Rooting lessons and activities in river restoration and water management, the course connects the dots between acequia culture, Indigenous stewardship practices, colonial impacts on and management strategies of our lands and waters, and the current state of the Rio Grande.



Albuquerque Sign Language Academy (\$40,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): The Albuquerque Sign Language Academy (ASLA) Honey Badger Conservation Crew supports deaf, hard of hearing, and students with individual and developmental disabilities access the outdoors through meaningful conservation service while tying classroom learning to real-world experiences. ASLA focuses on the environmental sciences through a series of outdoor activities which encourage youth and their families to access the outdoors in New Mexico.

Amy Biehl High School Foundation (\$5,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): Amy Biehl High School (ABHS) believes that all students benefit from outdoor and shared out-of-

class experiences and is proposing several outdoor experiences that focus specifically on social-emotional learning and applying environmental lessons to a real-life study of the outdoors. By going outside students gain a greater appreciation for the environment while building relationships with their peers.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central New Mexico (\$20,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central New Mexico (BBBS-CNM) Outdoor Mentoring Program provides outdoor recreational adventures and educational opportunities to children and youth who otherwise might not have the opportunity to participate in activities outdoors and in nature. BBBS-CNM also hosts one to two outdoor recreational group activities monthly with an educational component for participants.

Camp Enchantment New Mexico (\$20,000, Rio Rancho, Sandoval County): Camp Enchantment New Mexico (CENM) operates on a foundation that camp is an essential part of the healing process for children with cancer. CENM is a weeklong sleep-away camp with medical staff support. The program gives children and adolescents with cancer an opportunity to develop friendships and make outdoor discoveries in a safe and respectful atmosphere.

Cancer Awareness, Prevalence, Prevention and Early Detection (\$26,300.48, Alamogordo, Otero County): Cancer Awareness, Prevalence, Prevention and Early Detection, Inc. (CAPPED) plans to safely introduce groups of disabled and/or disadvantaged youth to the natural beauty of desert life with a carefully planned, stress reducing day trip to Trinity Turtle Healing Labyrinth Park. Participants will work through desert fact educational stations, share stories over a cookout, stroll through the pristine desert park, watch the sunset, walk the labyrinth, and enjoy New Mexico's dark night sky.

Centennial High School, Student Success Program/Outdoors Club (\$10,000, Las Cruces, Doña Ana County): The Outdoors Club (also known as Centennial Hawks Student Success Program) will offer students the opportunity to learn through research, community partnerships, and civic engagement about southern New Mexico's history of the land, the people, and local culture and traditions. Students simultaneously learn about their own culture and identities, and about social awareness, issues, and creating change.

Center of Southwest Culture, Inc./Story Riders (\$40,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): Story Riders empowers Indigenous, Mexicano/Chicano, and youth of color to reconnect with their natural and cultural heritage while providing practical training in bicycle safety, maintenance, and guided cycling experiences in which participants explore local stories and spaces. In partnership with Pueblo Resurgents, Story Riders will expand cultural components of this program to engage Isleta Pueblo youth with language, storytelling, and land-based knowledge sharing.

City of Clovis (\$20,000, Clovis, Curry County): The City of Clovis Summer Youth Program provides local youth, ages five to eleven, with opportunities to explore the outdoors and learn about the environment. The 2024 eight-week program, held throughout June and July, will be utilizing city recreation facilities in Clovis including the Hillcrest Zoo, splash pad, Potter Pool, playgrounds, picnic areas, walking trails, and open space.

Collins Lake Autism Center (\$25,218, Cleveland, Mora County): Collins Lake Autism Center is developing a family camping program for families with one or more disabled children. In addition to traditional outdoor activities, the program will also offer services for the parents and other siblings to help them deal with the challenges of helping their disabled child or sibling.

Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions (\$40,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions' school programming provides partner schools and organizations with a combination of classroom sessions, day trips to public recreation areas, and overnight camping trips. Their seven outdoor programs focus on environmental stewardship, building bridges between cultures, and personal growth through outdoor adventure. Participants will acquire technical skills in the outdoor recreation field, meet benchmarks for environmental science curricula, and take part in social emotional learning.



Silver Stallion Bicycle & Coffee Works, Inc.

Doña Ana Village Association (\$40,000, Doña Ana, Doña Ana County): Doña Ana Village Association (DAVA) will continue its outdoor youth engagement programs by engaging youth from colonia communities along the lower Rio Grande Valley and the surrounding area about the importance of the Camino Real Tierra Adentro through engaging outdoor activities that incorporate the villages and the trail. This will include engaging youth in the planning of the outdoor space south of the Doña Ana Village in

conjunction with our Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance Grant.

Earth Ways Inc. (\$33,680, Gila, Grant County): The Walkabout Nature Connection Program created by Earth Ways is a community-tested way to get youth and teens out in the wild places of Grant County to learn about local ecosystems and rediscover their connections with nature. Youth groups are led on excursions to local creeks, rivers, and mountain areas that promote sensory awareness and connection, as youth learn to experience the natural world and to be responsible stewards.

Embudo Valley Tutoring Association (\$9,660, Dixon, Rio Arriba County): Embudo Valley Tutoring Association and Embudo Valley Library offer a four-day-per-week discovery learning program to area families. The program has a cultural and naturalistic emphasis, guiding children to discover the resources and treasures related to their community and its natural surroundings.

Environmental Education of New Mexico (\$30,000, Bosque Farms, Valencia County): The Environmental Education of New Mexico (EENM) Youth Fellowship Program will offer 11th and 12th grade students the chance to develop leadership skills, improve future career opportunities, and improve outcomes for environmental education and outdoor learning. Over the school year, cohorts will meet monthly to design, develop, and promote outdoor learning and environmental education programs for their peers across the state.

Families & Youth Inc. (\$40,000, Las Cruces, Doña Ana County): Families & Youth, Inc. (FYI) seeks to promote outdoor equity for New Mexico youth by managing and coordinating the Outdoor Legacy Project. This program provides resources and support to accomplish five objectives: Engage, Educate, Equip, Encourage, Empower.

Fly Fish NM (\$25,239, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): Fly Fish NM (FFNM) provides youth with inclusive and equitable access to outdoor activities through fly-fishing day camps to educate youth about environmental conservation and preservation of fragile fishing habitats. Fly-fishing camps expose youth to outdoor activities while teaching life skills and habitat preservation, enabling good stewardship of the outdoors.

Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks (\$40,000, Las Cruces, Doña Ana County): Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Moving Montañas program was established to specifically engage and connect youth with the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. Moving Montañas engages the broader community with conservation and lowers barriers by providing opportunities to local community youth to access public lands and recreate outside.

Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails (\$30,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails sees a critical need to connect youth with nature while increasing overall health, growing their confidence in and out of the classroom, and building their understanding of environmental stewardship. This program will meet the need for a free summer day camp in Taos and western Colfax Counties, open to 900 low-income elementary-aged girls in the area.

Global Opportunities Unlimited (\$14,600, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): Global Opportunities Unlimited (GO Unlimited) hosts a program to provide an inclusive fishing and watershed education project aimed at serving disabled, disadvantaged, and low-income children. Fishing introduces the catalyst for educational experiences where participants learn about aquatic ecosystems. This program opens some of the finest river systems in the state for inclusive outdoor recreation. Using specialized adaptive drift boats, participants living with disabilities are empowered to experience New Mexico's diverse aquatic ecosystems.

Global Warming Express (\$40,000, Santa Fe, Santa Fe County): The Global Warming Express programs train volunteers and teachers in the school systems to provide after-school and in-school learning experiences in science, climate science, resilient solutions, arts, public speaking, civics, advocacy, connection with nature, mindfulness, and action to elementary school students.

Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance (\$40,000, Sapello, San Miguel County): Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance brings the community together to restore degraded areas of the river and to revitalize the Gallinas River Park. This program connects youth with local engaging experts who specialize in birding, field ecology, and fly fishing. The field ecology portion of this program expands on the birding program to include butterflies and dragonflies and the fishing program to include macroinvertebrates, which supports a more comprehensive understanding and appreciation of the ecology of the river park.

Latino Outdoors (\$40,000, Bernalillo and Santa Fe Counties): Latino Outdoors (LO) is a national Latine-led and serving organization, working towards inclusivity and equitable access to nature, currently hosting programming in 33 regions across 21 states, including LO New Mexico which works with Latinx communities in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. LO New Mexico hosts monthly free, family-friendly outdoor outings for Latinx youth, families, and individuals with an emphasis on participants with little or no previous outdoor experience. Outings will include day hikes, fishing, rafting, and camping with an aim to improve outdoor access and increase conservation awareness.

MANA de Albuquerque (\$23,500, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): The Hermanitas® Youth Leadership program offers one-on-one mentoring, education, career, and leadership opportunities for girls ages eleven to seventeen. Hermanitas provides a mentoring relationship with MANA members and training to inspire, provide new skills, and offer new experiences of awareness and critical thinking.

Mountain Kids! (\$40,000, Santa Fe, Santa Fe County): Mountain Kids! The Four Seasons program provides students at underserved Santa Fe Public Schools with curriculum-connected, seasonal outdoor adventures, and Mountain Kids! summer camp. The program provides field trips each season of the school year during elementary school. In 2024 the goal is to provide tuition-free Mountain Kids! summer camp based at Swan Park to serve children on the south side of Santa Fe.



National Audubon Society (\$29,858.60, Santa Fe, Santa Fe County): Audubon's Outdoor Field Science program engages Santa Fe Public School students and teachers with hands-on outdoor science experiences connecting them with the local environment and wildlife conservation. Audubon provides standards-aligned field trips, school programs, virtual lessons, and distance materials to connect students with birds and wildlife around the Randall Davey Audubon Center.

National Ghost Ranch Foundation, Inc. (\$40,000, Abiquiu, Rio Arriba County): Ghost Ranch's Community Day Camp (GRCC) provides experiential education to low-income youth in Rio Arriba County through summertime outdoor and environmental education. GRCC prevents summer learning loss, supports rural families when school is out of session, and gives opportunities to underrepresented youth to experience outstanding landscapes, geology, paleontology, and waterfront in New Mexico.

National Indian Youth Leadership Project (\$40,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): National Indian Youth Leadership Project (NIYLP) is enacting Project Venture with Indigenous middle school-aged youth in McKinley County. The program uses Indigenous traditional values and immersion in the outdoors to support youth. Project Venture is an evidence-based, culturally responsive youth development program that promotes positive outcomes in outdoor, adventure-based, experiential settings using traditional Indigenous modes of learning and culturally meaningful service-learning activities.

New Mexico Dream Team (\$40,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): New Mexico Dream Team (NMDT) is a statewide network of Latinx, immigrant, undocumented, and LGBTQ+ youth and supporters providing holistic wellness, mobilization, and leadership development. The UndocuHealing Outdoors program lowers barriers for underserved youth and young adults to foster participation in outdoor activities. UndocuHealing centers on the reclamation of immigrant, undocumented, and mixed status youth participants' connections to their environment, fostering healing from the trauma of displacement through engagement with the outdoors of New Mexico.

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance (\$35,475, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): The Outdoor Academy guides youth through a training and mentorship program to enable them to

pursue employment as fishing and rafting guides, providing outdoor industry career opportunities. The program seeks to increase vocational job opportunities in rural communities for local youth, especially employment that incorporates traditional land use practices. Through training and mentorship, youth learn to break through existing cultural and financial barriers to benefit from our state's robust outdoor economy.

New Mexico Wildlife Federation - Nature Niños (\$40,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): The New Mexico Wildlife Federation (NMWF) Nature Niños program will engage Latino and Native American youth and families with a primary goal to connect everyone with New Mexico's public lands, watersheds, wildlife, and conservation work. NMWF Nature Niños directly serves families and youth through summer camp, day programs, family hikes, and community events. Nature Niños also inspires and equips educators and youth professionals with the best practices for learning, health, and wellness outdoors.

PB&J Family Services (\$35,383.07, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): PB&J's Wilderness Program aims to provide outdoor experiences for approximately 250-300 economically disadvantaged youth who would otherwise lack access to such opportunities, including hiking, camping, rafting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The program organizes both large-group outings and smaller-group or individual family outings, aiming to enhance protective factors and build resilience that contribute to family stability while connecting with the natural environment.

Reunity Resources (\$40,000, Santa Fe, Santa Fe County): Reunity Resources Farm, located in the historic community of Agua Fria Village, hosts an annual Summer Farm Camp for local kids ages 4-13. Children participate in hands-on experiential learning activities focused on regenerative farming, composting, the environment, and arts. More than half of participating youth require scholarships to attend.

River Source/Partners in Education Foundation (\$30,000, Santa Fe, Santa Fe County): The Water Job Pathways project nurtures the next generation of natural resource leaders by exposing 1,224 youth to outdoor experiences in watershed science and stewardship. The program focuses on providing school-based outdoor activities and creating water job pathways by engaging sixth through twelfth graders in water quality monitoring and river restoration using advanced technology. The program also recruits, hires, and trains 30 young adults in paid work-learn opportunities in watershed assessment, ecological restoration, and water-based recreation.



Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (\$40,000, Cedar Crest, Bernalillo County): The Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (SMNHC) has a goal to expand their 5th grade Ecology Field Program to provide statewide place-based, hands-on, science-focused outdoor programming, particularly in communities without access to outdoor ecology education. The grant award will exclusively fund Title 1 schools in rural communities to gain access to natural areas and SMNHC programs near them.

Santa Fe Conservation Trust (\$40,000, Santa Fe, Santa Fe County): The Santa Fe Safe Routes to School initiative works to get more children safely walking and bicycling to

and from school using public parks, open space, trails, sidewalks, and roads through encouragement and education of school children and families on safe walking and bicycling.

Santa Rosa Elementary / Santa Rosa Middle School / Anton Chico Schools (\$40,000, Santa Rosa, Guadalupe County): This program will provide bicycles, helmets, and fishing rods to low-income students in disadvantaged communities to increase outdoor engagement. By promoting outdoor play and facilitating access to trails and state parks for riding and fishing, they intend to enhance physical activity and recreational opportunities.

Semilla Project (\$40,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): The Semilla Project's SemiYA! (YA = Youth Activation) program is a new organizing model that creates equitable access to the outdoors for BIPOC youth while laying a foundation for activism, influence, and action on climate change and racial justice. Programs are offered at no cost to participants.

Siembra Leadership High School Foundation (\$40,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): Siembra Leadership High School combines core curricula with supportive entrepreneurial business education to prepare underserved youth to graduate with the real-world tools to become economic leaders in their communities. Siembra's Outdoor Learning program centers student education at the intersection of environmentalism and entrepreneurialism through projects, internships, and experiential activities.

Silver Stallion Bicycle & Coffee Works, Inc. (\$39,645.80, Gallup, McKinley County): In partnership with Gallup McKinley County Schools (GMCS) school counselors and social workers, Silver Stallion Bicycle & Coffee Works, Inc. (SSBCW) will expand coach-mentored youth development mountain bike DEVO/CLUB Rides programs in middle and high schools, on and around the Navajo Nation. DEVO/CLUB Rides are designed to provide foundational skills, knowledge, and confidence through cycling.

Southern New Mexico Mountain Biking (\$30,000, Las Cruces, Doña Ana County): Southern New Mexico Mountain Biking (SNMTB) has a goal to create a comprehensive youth mountain-biking program that reaches kids of all ages and demographics, helping to overcome traditional barriers to the sport due to gender, ethnic background, and economic status.

Talking Talons Youth Leadership (\$40,000, Cedar Crest, Bernalillo County): Talking Talons Youth Leadership is implementing an innovative, long-term, outdoor-based environmental and climate education and action program. The program seeks to provide continuous engagement, support, and mentorship through a continuum of outdoor, out-of-school-time experiences for underserved youth with an interest in addressing social and environmental challenges of climate change.

Taos Academy Charter School (\$15,500, Taos, Taos County): The mission of Taos Academy, a free state-charter school serving 300 youth. The outdoor education program is integrated into the leadership program and college and career pathways options. The goal is to expand curricular offerings, further teacher training, and remove participant financial and transportation barriers, ensuring equitable access for all students.

Taos Land Trust (\$32,500, Taos, Taos County): Taos Land Trust (TLT) is expanding their Emerging Ecologists with new programming to serve a younger cohort, meeting community needs for leadership opportunities. The youth-run workshops will introduce the younger generations to ecosystem resiliency, farming, conservation, and scientific inquiry while engaging in the natural world.

Together for Brothers/Partnership for Community Action (\$40,000, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): Together for Brothers (T4B) engages self-identified boys and young men of color (BYMOC), ages 12-24, from impacted communities to be leaders at all levels in their communities and improve health equity. Biking, Clean Transit and Outdoor Equity Project youth organizers will work with T4B staff to plan, implement, and evaluate seasonal cohorts of youth leaders including documenting learning and storytelling with weekly artifacts focused on bike mechanics and safety, environmental justice, outdoor recreation, rules of the road, and transit equity that builds capacity of BYMOC to share their stories with decision makers.

Town of Mountainair (\$20,372, Mountainair, Torrance County): The Town of Mountainair will take local students, who normally would not have outdoor recreation, access on transformative adventures. This program provides the opportunity to show the students the beauty of New Mexico and encourage outdoor engagement. This year, the program will expand to additional grades.

Upper Chama Soil and Water Conservation District/New Mexico Earthlings (\$40,000, Tierra Amarilla, Rio Arriba County): The Future Stewards program teaches high school students hands-on land stewardship skills and traditions through bi-monthly classes. Subjects covered include acequia management, soil health testing, and plant identification, connecting the students with mentors in Rio Arriba County. The program culminates in a Watershed Internship.

Upper Gila Watershed Alliance (\$27,450, Silver City, Grant County): The Upper Gila Watershed Alliance promotes outdoor learning for youth of varying ages by providing camping trips, a nature connection day camp, and visits to the Gila River. The programs educate on the changing climate and teach traditional outdoor skills for a deep connection with nature.

Village of Los Lunas Open Space (Parks and Recreation Department) (\$31,890, Los Lunas, Valencia County): The program offers a diverse range of seasonal outdoor recreational adventures, fostering a deep appreciation for the environment and encouraging responsible stewardship. These adventures include rafting, skiing, fishing, hunting skills, OHV riding, and camping providing immersive experiences for groups of 10 to 20 participants. All associated costs are covered to ensure an inclusive experience.

Village of Pecos (\$40,000, Pecos, San Miguel County): The Village of Pecos will continue partnership with NM Wildlife Federation's Nature Niños program to develop local programming for youth from marginalized communities and families facing economic hardship. The Pecos Pequeños project supports outdoor access for youth by creating outdoor recreation and conservation-based programs within the community with technical support from the NM Wildlife Federation's Nature Niños.

Vista Grande High School (\$40,000, Taos, Taos County): Through the Place in Time outdoor recreation program, students explore regional natural resources while connecting to cultural heritage. At each site, students learn about the cultural value of a natural resource over time, how resources are threatened by climate change, and how to look to the past in transitioning to a more sustainable future.

Yerba Mansa Project (\$9,027.28, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County): The Yerba Mansa Project aims to strengthen connectivity between people, plants, and land in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. It is a volunteer-based, community-supported project providing free educational programs and environmental service learning through restoration activities

specifically focused on the native edible and medicinal plants that stand at the center of New Mexico's biological and cultural landscapes.

YouthWorks (\$31,200, Santa Fe, Santa Fe County): YouthWorks will provide outdoor enriching, educational, and experiential paid training for up to 40 youth, ages 14-24, through collaborative projects. YouthWorks' projects include river and trail restoration, tree canopy installation in public use areas, and agricultural projects that teach technical skills.

Zuni Youth Enrichment Project (\$40,000, Zuni Pueblo, McKinley and Cibola Counties): Zuni Youth Enrichment Project's Connect to Land program increases the opportunities Zuni youth to engage in culturally responsive outdoor recreation and education. To firmly connect Zuni youth to the land, they will increase the opportunities they have to participate in outdoor visits to culturally significant sites in New Mexico, explore Pueblo lands with cultural guides, and use their local trail system for recreation.

ORD is especially grateful to the evaluation committee that spent hours reviewing and scoring the applications:

- Kay Bounkeua - New Mexico Deputy Director, The Wilderness Society
- Rita Veleta – Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Coordinator, EDD
- AJ Jones – Marketing Coordinator, ORD
- Alyssa Renwick – Deputy Director, ORD

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The Outdoor Recreation Division, a division of the New Mexico Economic Development Department, aims to increase the overall mental and physical well-being of New Mexicans through the power of outdoor recreation, enabling residents throughout the state to hold jobs that afford them dignity, joy, and stability. We strive to commit to all residents to protect their state's natural heritage - its lands and waters, flora and fauna - and find a future on that path. We aim to parlay this commitment into long-term, sustainable investment, both in infrastructure and education.