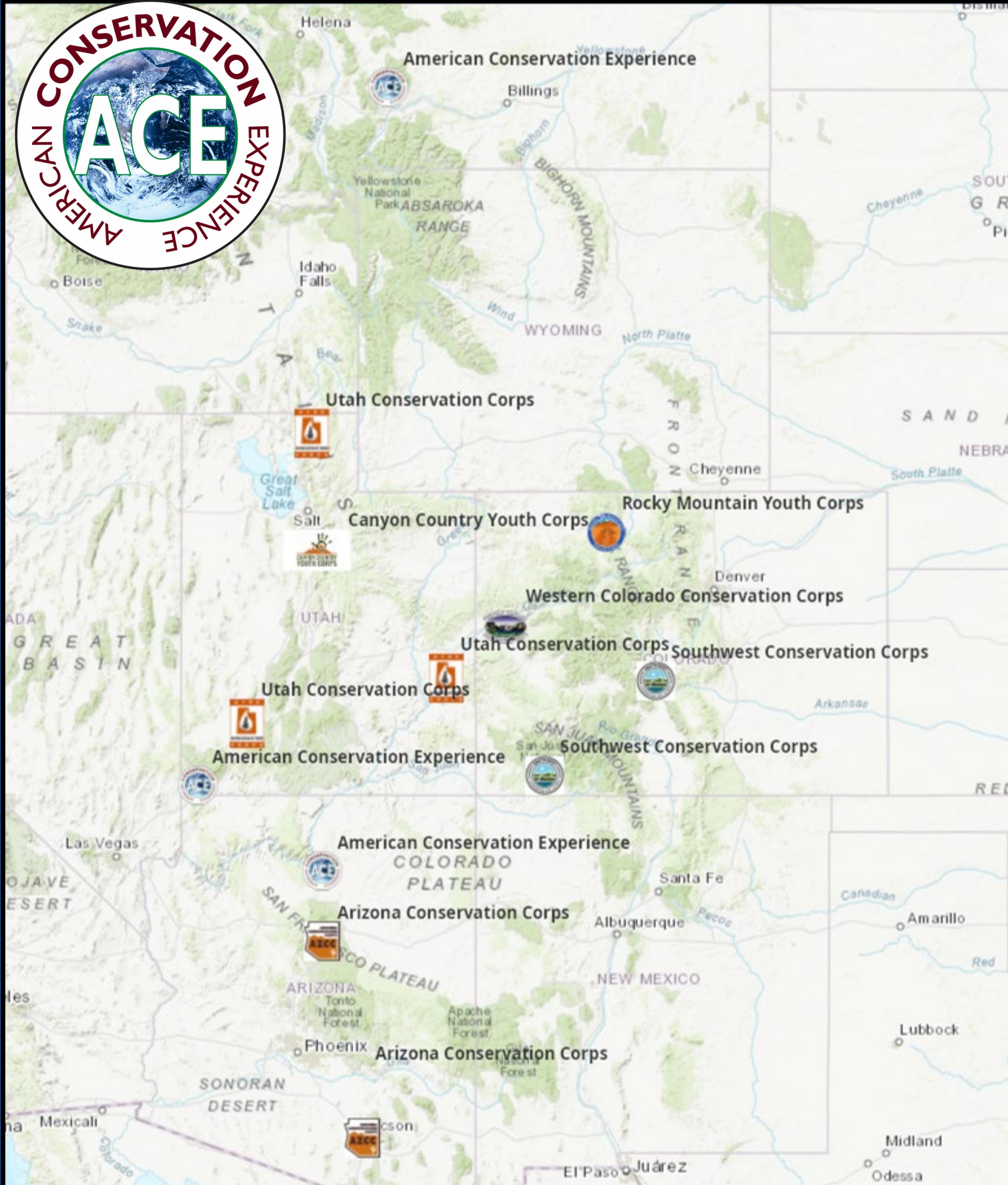




# Invasives and the Corps World: Movement, Methods, and Mayhem

Exploring the intersection of developing the next generation of conservationists and executing priority land management goals

Dave Bastian & Dan McLendon  
with  
American Conservation Experience



## Intermountain Conservation Corps Network

- Utah Conservation Corps
- Canyon Country Conservation Corps
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
- Western Colorado Conservation Corps
- Southwest Conservation Corps
- Arizona Conservation Corps
- American Conservation Experience





# The Evolution of Roosevelt's CCC to Clinton's

- Roosevelt's CCC
  - 1933-1942
  - Roosevelt's New Deal initiative
  - Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)
  - Primary focus on addressing economic hardship (great depression) and environmental conservation
- Clinton's CCC
  - 1993-current
  - Clintons Conservation Corps (bad joke)
  - National and Community Service Trust Act- Americorps
    - National service program focused on civil engagement and addressing the needs of communities and public lands
  - *Aimed at expanding and creating new national service programs- fostering collaboration between government agencies and nonprofits.*





# What are Conservation Corps?

## Corps Programs

- Built from Clinton's 1993 National & Community Service Trust Act (CNCS)
- Nonprofits
- Foundation
  - Supporting land management agencies
  - Engaging young adults



# Why are we here?

- Agencies face increasing workloads, tighter budgets and waning resources.
- Conservation Corps and Interns have become powerful cost-efficient tools for agencies.
- Help to fill the void.
- Internal subject-matter-experts are now holding corps programs to a higher standard
- Vegetation management strategies and budgets are being built around the use of crews and interns.





## Scopes of Work

- Fire fuels management & selective thinning
- Invasive plant management
- Chemical application
- Seed collection
- High volume plant installation
  - Potted, bare root & poles
  - Lateral fascine installment
- Biomimetic infrastructure
- Inventory & monitoring
- Data collection, data management & mapping
  - Arc Online Collaborator Accounts
  - Organization provided devices
- Moving biomass
- Going where machines can't go



Muddy River-Before Tamarisk Treatments Ortho Imagery



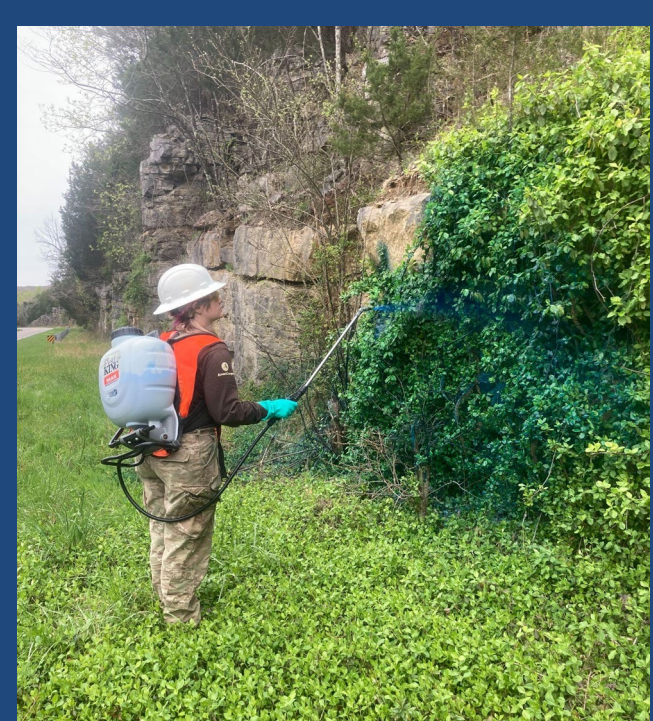
Muddy River-After Tamarisk Treatments Ortho Imagery





# The Crew Model

- Planning, site visits, regular communication and consulting with National Restoration Specialist and Project Manager
- Crew size- 6 to 8 people
  - 1 to 2 leaders
  - Fully contained with PPE, tools/necessary equipment, food, camping supplies/food, state pesticide applicator licensing & chemical (when applicable). Minimal needs from the agency.
  - Preliminary technical training often provided by the Corps program
  - Data collection, GIS mapping & reporting
- Schedule-flexible- 4X10 or 8X10
- On site camping or bunking advised for maximum productivity

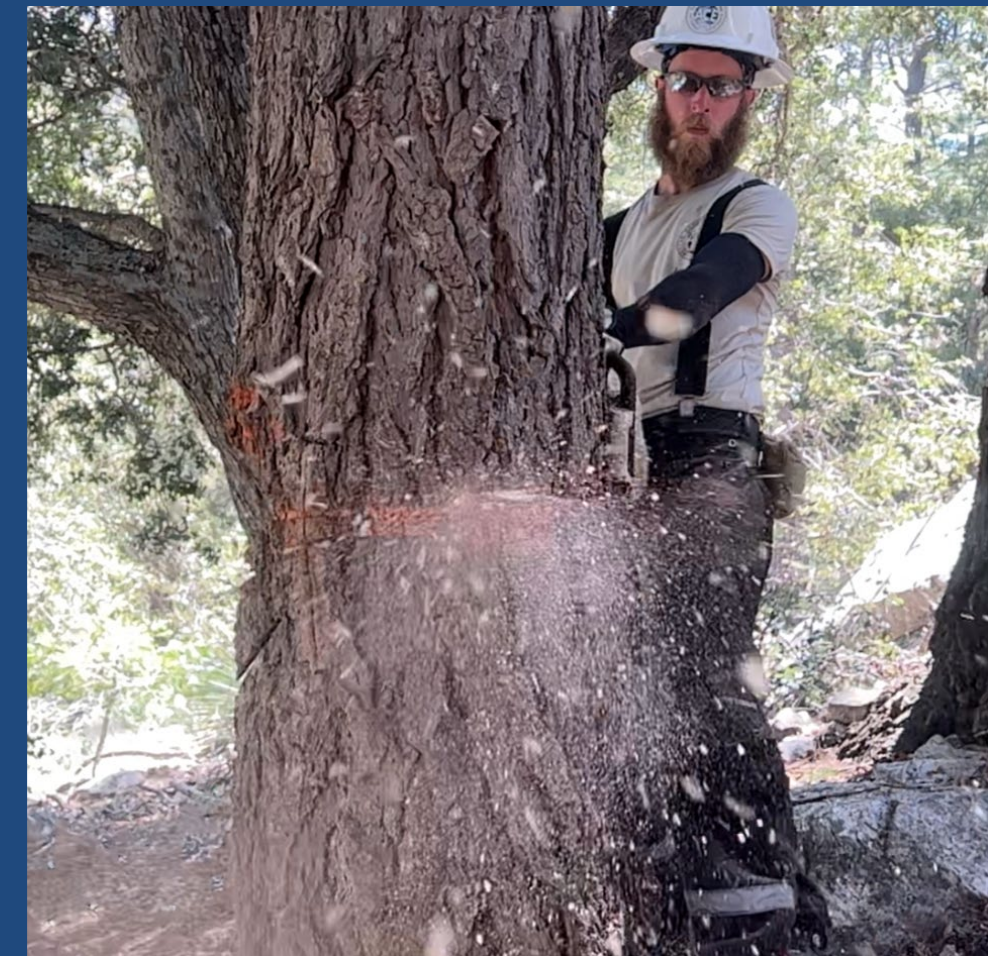






# Where It Works

- Long term projects (2-weeks or more)
- Good communication and planning
- Backcountry work
- It should feel good or meaningful
- Tangible results
- Anything involving a chainsaw
- Disaster clean up
- Heavy lifting
- The stuff you don't want to do
- Gratitude goes a long way





# Where It Doesn't

- 1 week or less of work
- Environmental engineering/design
- 2 crews working in tandem for 2 or more weeks
- Projects with limited scope (hire an intern instead)
- When agency staff aren't interested in working with the crew on any capacity
- Interp work





# Individual Placement (Intern) Model

- Nationwide opportunities
- Members work in-depth with staff at one host site:
  - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
  - National Park Service (NPS)
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
  - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
  - U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Positions covering the span of public lands careers:
  - Habitat restoration and forestry
  - Wildlife surveying & monitoring
  - Cultural and historical resources
  - Interpretation, education, and outreach
  - GIS, NEPA, environmental policy, and more



# Crew + Intern Model

Large scale vegetation management projects

1. 3 to 6 month internship
  - a. Diverse experience
  - b. Primary underlying task
    - i. Mapping
    - ii. Preparing
    - iii. Liaison
2. 2 to 6 week 6-person crew
  - a. Arrives ~ ½ way into the intern's season
  - b. Ambitious goals
    - i. Works in tandem with intern to maximize productivity
3. Intern continues to monitor and map until the end of the season





# New Concept- Machine Teams



-Tamarisk mastication

-Mowing

-Biomass management

-Riparian & wetland excavation

-Cutting trail





# Funding

- Forever our rivers
- NFWF
- Trout Unlimited
- Ducks Unlimited
- National Park Foundation
- National Forest Foundation
- State Programs
- The agency



FOREVER  
OUR RIVERS®





# American Conservation Experience





# Questions?

Dan McLendon  
Solutions Team Division Director  
Restoration & GIS Specialist  
[dmclendon@usaconservation.org](mailto:dmclendon@usaconservation.org)  
704-661-1243

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Dave Bastian  
EPIC NPS Division Director  
[dbastian@usaconservation.org](mailto:dbastian@usaconservation.org)  
435-881-9076