

Stewardship and Community Engagement Committee Update

July 2019

Mission and Goals

- ▶ **Mission:** Maintain the health of the Escalante River through the engagement of local and visiting communities in stewardship/volunteer projects and education programs.
- ▶ **Goals:**
 - ▶ Develop a consistent and well-designed volunteer program that increases the capacity of the ERWP to maintain the watershed over-time.
 - ▶ Develop a collaborative model for working with local schools and other non-profits (e.g. science center) to incorporate information about the ecology of the Escalante River into their curriculum/content.

Committee Members

- ▶ Chair: Kristen Jespersen, RiversEdge West
- ▶ Nicole Croft, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
- ▶ Amanda Boston, Glen Canyon Conservancy
- ▶ Joe Zelman, Utah Conservation Corps

Strategies

▶ Near-Term

- ▶ Reach out to the three federal agencies to find out what their priority and volunteer-appropriate projects are.
- ▶ Develop an approach for coordinating and staffing 2 to 3 volunteer events in the next year.
- ▶ Work with GSEP to fundraise for and support the hiring of a Volunteer Coordinator that could contribute modest capacity to this effort.
- ▶ Work with Conservation Corps to figure out how and whether we can use their crew leader to oversee volunteer events.

▶ Long-Term

- ▶ Establish regular volunteer events for local community members and visitors e.g. “Service Saturdays”.
- ▶ Work with hotels, guide services, etc... to outreach these events and bring in visitors.
- ▶ Work with local schools to pair STEM education with youth volunteer event opportunities.
- ▶ Outreach to universities and other education programs to identify complimentary volunteer/field work opportunities.

Possible Funding

- ▶ Sorenson Legacy Foundation
- ▶ National Park Conservation Association
- ▶ National Environmental Education Fund
- ▶ STEM grants
- ▶ George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
- ▶ Walton Family Foundation?
- ▶ Apply for VISTA to oversee the program?