

### Native American Youth Embrace STEM at Red Butte Garden



By Amee Andreason  
Public Affairs

On June 22, 2016, Earth Connections Camp partners joined Native American youth at Red Butte Garden in Salt Lake City for the fourth annual camp, which aims to spark a lasting interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) among Native American youth while helping them reconnect with their cultural heritage. The camp slogan for 2016 is “Immersing STEM into Native Culture.”

The camp had roughly 50 Native American students (K-12) from across the state to spend the day learning about educational resources and diversity programs. The student’s experienced STEM-related activities and Native American traditions surrounded by Red Butte Garden’s exquisite botanical garden



and arboretum. Students experienced STEMs in motion with the Utah Division of Air Quality, University of Utah Astronomy, 1-3d bathymetry, dam building and energy exercises, medical sciences, and emergency readiness and disaster preparedness.

It's a great program and exciting to see it grow. The students thoroughly enjoy all of the STEM activities while they get to reconnect to their culture and learn from the instructors that have been dedicated to make Earth Connections Camp a success each year.

“This is a great partnership among other agencies and to focus all your energy for these students,” said Dr. Chuck Foster, Utah State Office of Education, while thanking everyone for the support and willingness to serve. “This was an opportunity for students to learn and comprehend many of the presentations and to seek knowledge for future goals.”

There will be another Earth Connections Camp at the Bluff Community Center in Southern Utah on August 11, 2016.

Earth Connections Camp is a Utah State Office of Education Title VII program in partnership with the Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake, Red Butte Garden, U.S. Department of the Interior agencies, U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies, Utah Museum of Natural History, Utah Division of Water Resources, Utah Division of Air Quality, and University of Utah Astronomy. This year's camp will include sessions on astronomy, water resource science, mechanical engineering, meteorology, air quality and medical sciences.

For more photos and activity blogs throughout the day, you can check out #ECC2016 on [Twitter](#).

### Photos Below



*Sun gazing at the astronomy station.*



*Making dream catchers.*





*Dam building exercise with Reclamation.*



*The “talking circle” at the end of the day.*

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## **Evaluating Our Performance Energy Management**

In the spring 2016 issue of the Department of the Interior’s Energy Management News, the Department recapped the status on the sustainability and energy goals and accomplishments in fiscal year 2015. Among many of them were Upper Colorado Regional offices and facilities.

For the Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Awards, were the Animas-La Plata Permanent Operating Facility and the Four Corners Construction Office. The Animas-La Plata Permanent Operating Facility, located in Southwestern Colorado, has attained a certification of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold. It also meets 100 percent of the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings (Guiding Principles) for new construction, as required by Executive Order. The project includes a passive solar wall; a high-efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system; efficient lighting; natural day-lighting; efficient plumbing fixtures and fittings; and the use of xeriscape and natural landscaping, which does not require any permanent irrigation. All told, the energy-efficient design is estimated to avoid 52 metric tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per year, equivalent to the annual emissions of 11 vehicles.



*Animas-La Plata*





*Four Corners Construction Office*

The Four Corners Construction Office (FCCO) building, located in Farmington, New Mexico, became the first Reclamation remodeling effort to achieve 100 percent of the Guiding Principles. The remodeling of this 33-year old, 21,000 square foot facility included upgrades to the HVAC system, replacement of the insulation and retrofit of the lighting. Through these efficiencies and others, the facility reduced its energy consumption by 52 percent, resulting in a monthly cost savings of \$1,585, and reduced GHG emissions by an estimated 65.9 metric tons per year (equivalent to the annual emissions of 14 cars). The FCCO's remodeling efforts allowed for the combination of two GSA leased spaces into one Reclamation-managed facility, resulting in an estimated cost

savings of \$3.81 million over the next 10 years.

Sustainability accomplishments from around Reclamation included the Alamosa Field Division, located in Alamosa, Colorado. Alamosa retrofitted light fixtures with 1700 Lumin T8 LED lamps, installed approximately 258 LED lamps, and removed unneeded fixtures. This will save on lamp replacements and reduce energy use by approximately 45 percent.

Furthermore, in the announcement section, the Carl B. Hayden Visitor Center at Glen Canyon Dam and the Provo Area Office were nominated for the Federal Energy and Water Management Awards. Winners will be announced in July 2016.

These are great accomplishments and outstanding efforts for the Upper Colorado Region.

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## Flag Flown in Honor

The Provo Area Office flew a flag in honor of our Veterans, active and retired military, and military reservists. The flag was Dave Johnson's (Provo Area Office, Construction Control Inspector) father's military flag which was presented to his mother. Dave's dad was a Normandy Invasion Veteran aboard the Battleship Nevada in gun turret #2 firing the 14-inch guns against the Utah Beach section.



Thanks Dave, for the opportunity to honor our military by flying this flag. We appreciate the sacrifices made by those who serve our country.

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## Best to Leave Fireworks to the Experts



Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks displays. But along with all the festivities are plenty of visits to emergency rooms – especially during July.

In 2013, eight people died and about 11,400 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, 40 percent were from legal, less powerful devices.

Fireworks also are responsible for thousands of home fires each year. The National Fire Protection Association reports that in 2011, fireworks caused about 1,200 structure fires.

The National Safety Council advises everyone to stay away from all consumer fireworks and to only enjoy fireworks at a public display conducted by seasoned professionals.

Following are some fireworks that are legal for consumers to purchase and use in some states. But just because they are legal doesn't mean they're safe. Check out this video by the NFPA.

### Sparklers

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but they are a lot more dangerous than most people think. Parents don't realize they burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and many children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet.

### Bottle Rockets

These small rockets are attached to a stick, lit by a fuse and typically fired from a bottle. Teens have been known to have bottle rocket wars, firing them at one another and causing chest, head and eye injuries.

Physicians at Vanderbilt Eye Institute at Vanderbilt University Medical Center have seen so many eye injuries caused by bottle rockets they conducted a study they hope will lead to better education and "legislative enhancements" on fireworks safety.



"The majority of the children (in the study) ended up with reduced vision, and probably half of those were deemed legally blind," said Dr. Franco Recchia, associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at Vanderbilt.

### Firecrackers

Firecrackers are designed to explode on the ground. They are often linked together by one long fuse and explode in a series. They are designed to be very noisy, but they also can cause burns and other serious injuries.

### Roman Candles

Roman candles eject multiple exploding shells from a tube the user holds in his or her hand. There have been numerous reports of children losing fingers, severe burns and other injuries, which are sometimes caused when the device gets jammed.

Two Words About M-class Fireworks - Just don't.

You hear them go off every year: M-80s, M-100s, even M-250s. The unmistakable explosions associated with these devices can rattle the windows of homes for blocks. They are produced illegally and without quality control, have short fuses and cause hundreds of extremely severe injuries each year.

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives outlines the risks of these explosive devices.

### If They're Legal

If fireworks are legal to buy where you live and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire

Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back and let the experts handle the show.

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## 10 Years of WaterSense Saved More than a Trillion Gallons of Water and Billions on Utility Bills



Since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched the WaterSense program 10 years ago, Americans have saved \$32.6 billion in water and energy bills and 1.5 trillion gallons of water, which is more than the amount of water needed to supply all of the homes in California for a year.

More than 1,700 utilities, local governments, manufacturers, retailers, distributors, builders, and other organizations have partnered with EPA to produce and promote water-efficient products, programs, and homes, "As we mark 10 years of WaterSense accomplishments, EPA thanks our WaterSense partners for helping American businesses and families save water through the use of water-efficient products and practices," states EPA Associate Administrator Joel Beauvais in his blog post today on the milestone.

WaterSense labeled products, which are independently certified to use at least 20 percent less water and perform as well or better than standard models, have been on the market since 2007 when toilets first earned the label. Since then, the number of labeled models has grown to more than 16,000, including products found in residential and commercial bathrooms, commercial kitchens, and for outdoor irrigation.

In addition to saving water, WaterSense labeled products save the energy associated with treating, pumping, and heating water. Since 2006 WaterSense labeled products saved the energy equal to the amount used to power 19.4 million homes for a year while preventing 78 million metric tons of associated greenhouse gas emissions.

EPA's WaterSense program also certifies homes with WaterSense labeled fixtures and features. Compared to a typical home, a WaterSense labeled home can save a family an estimated 50,000 gallons of water a year, which is enough water to wash 2,000 loads of laundry and could curb utility bills up to \$600. To date more than 700 homes have earned the WaterSense label.

Learn more at [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

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## If You Restore It, Will They Come?

Biocontrol can be an effective, although highly variable, method for controlling invasive saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp. But what happens after the beetles have devoured the saltcedar? Invasive saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) is now the third most abundant tree in Southwestern riparian systems, crowding out native habitat. The biocontrol agent (tamarisk leaf beetle, *Diorhabda* spp.) eats saltcedar and is in turn eaten by several wildlife species. Saltcedar is dying and canopies are reducing along the Virgin River (in Utah, Arizona and Nevada). The question is: how does this change alter physical habitats and how do wildlife species respond? What factors are important for specific wildlife species?

### Implications for Restoration

#### Projects

- Restored sites have the most complex habitat structure.
- Without intervention, biocontrol alone will not increase native trees and riparian habitat structure.
- Several species would benefit from reintroducing water flow.

To provide the information needed, this study brought the Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) in the upper Virgin River (Utah) and the Desert LCC in the lower Virgin River (Arizona and Nevada) together with the Arizona State University. We tracked changes in amphibian, reptile and avian communities as the beetles entered a system dominated by saltcedar.

Overall, this study demonstrated that riparian restoration following saltcedar biocontrol positively affected reptile abundance and diversity compared to sites that experienced biocontrol without restoration. It is likely that restoration efforts created a more open and mosaic habitat able to support a wider range of species. As large-scale biocontrol or mechanical removal may greatly reduce vegetative cover and foliage density, the site may be rendered unsuitable for Southwestern Willow flycatchers. Therefore, our results suggest that restoration efforts should consider multiple approaches that balance selective tamarisk removal with replacement by high-quality, spatially variable habitat and increased access to open water.



Resource managers must often balance the management goals of protecting wildlife species and habitats with control of non-native and invasive plants. Ultimately, the results from our research will help inform efforts to improve and restore riparian habitat value for wildlife in beetle-infested riparian habitats in the western United States.

For more information, see <http://southernrockieslcc.org/project/biocontrol-and-restoration-in-southwestern-riparian-habitats>.

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## The Second Annual Department of the Interior Customer Service Awards

On July 4, 2016, held a ceremony to congratulate all of the winners of the Federal Customer Service Awards for the Department of the Interior. As part of the Independence Day celebration at the Department, Secretary Jewell recognized the winners of the Federal Customer Service Awards for Interior. An Executive Order by President Obama in 2015 established and issued guidance for the Federal Customer Service Award Program to ensure all Federal agency managers work to identify and support improvements in the services provided to citizens and other customers. The Department supports this mission and will utilize the annual program to recognize customer service excellence throughout all the bureaus.

Among all of the awards, two were recognized within Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region.

Water Project Coordinators, Initiative Award  
Provo Area Office



*(L-R) Sally Jewell, Rachele Vanderplas, Kent Kofford, Wayne Pullan and Estevan Lopez*

These eighteen employees volunteered to serve as a Water Project Coordinators within the Provo Area Office. The initiative provides an avenue for Reclamation's customers to actively interact with staff, provide valuable information to customers regarding Federal programs, policies, and procedures, and gives customers a single point of contact who will take the time to courteously and effectively take care of the customer's needs.



## Reclamation Acquisition and Assistance Initiative, Initiative Award



*(L-R) Sally Jewell, Bev Nelson, Meagan Fyffe, Kat Segura, Diana Terrell, Brandon Collins, James Durrant and Estevan Lopez*

Reclamation's Acquisition and Assistance Team improved bureau-wide mission support through timely, transparent, and accountable delivery of acquisitions and financial assistance. Beginning with an all-employee customer service survey, the team identified common areas for improvement. The team's determination to break down barriers, identify and implement best practices, and develop innovative tools and solutions has substantially improved operations across Reclamation. These functions have a direct impact on water and power delivery, water conservation, drought mitigation, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, and other key aspects of Reclamation's mission delivery to the public.

To view all of the winners, check out the [DOI's](#) website.

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## National Disability Independence Day



National Disability Independence Day is celebrated each year on July 26. This day commemorates the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26th, 1990.

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides protection from employment discrimination as well as better access to goods, services and communications for people with disabilities.

“At the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act July 26, 1990, President George Bush stated, “Three weeks ago we celebrated our nation’s Independence Day. Today we’re here to rejoice in and celebrate another ‘Independence Day,’ one that is long overdue. With today’s signing of the landmark Americans for Disabilities Act, every man, woman and child with a disability can now pass through once-closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence and freedom.”

*HAPPY NATIONAL DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE DAY*

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## UC Region Big Picture Issues from the Front Office

### Choose Gratitude

By Mary Halverson  
Manager, Financial Management Division



The 4<sup>th</sup> of July brings out the patriotism in many of us and it renews my gratitude for those who have fought and do fight for the freedom and quality of life I enjoy living in the United States of America.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the good things the Upper Colorado Region does with its funding, talents, and resources. Thanks to each of you for your contribution to accomplishing our mission.

Imagine your life without running water, electricity, enough food, or the beautiful outdoors. Most Americans consider the resources Reclamation provides and manages a necessity of life, yet for many people in the world this is not reality. Choose to be grateful.

To illustrate, a few years ago I attended a communications training class and participated in a word association exercise. Each class member was given thirty seconds to write a list of words that came to our minds when we heard the word “money”. When the allotted time was up we were asked to share our list with the rest of the class. I was surprised and thought it was hilarious when my colleague revealed his list:



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- Greed
- Crime
- Corruption
- Stress

Especially when compared to my list:

- Fun
- Security
- Responsibility
- Making Good Things Happen
- Vacations

While the point of the exercise was to demonstrate the need to communicate clearly given individual perspectives, it reminded me of the choices we have in developing our own opinions.

It is important to remember the work we do improves quality of life for millions of people and the environment. To quote our fearless leader, Brent Rhees, “I choose to be grateful and happy. Go and do good things.”

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## Who’s New

### Bryan Lawlis

Albuquerque Area Office – Hydro Technician



Bryan Lawlis, the new Hydro Technician in the Technical Services Division of the Albuquerque Area Office, comes to us from U.S. Geological Survey. After 4 years there, he saw an opportunity for a new challenge and a promotion at Reclamation. Bryan’s special interests include fisheries and hydrology, and his hobbies include collecting cactus and breeding rare Australian knob-tailed geckos. He lives with his wife, Jessica, an urban planner who is finishing her Master’s degree in urban planning and landscape architecture, and their two dogs, Khan, a brindle Bullmastiff, and Kayla, a Pit Bull/Mastiff mix.

Bryan enjoys reading National Geographic and watching comedies. His favorite movie character is James Bond. Bryan likes alternative reggae, such as 311, Sublime, and Iration. In his free time he enjoys hiking on the Bosque or at Fourth of July Canyon in the Manzano Mountains, with his dogs. Bryan describes himself as outgoing, and his favorite quote is from Caddyshack, Bill Murray as Carl Spackler, “So I got that going for me.”



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## In Transition

### Denise Marie Westenskow 1960-2016



Denise Marie Westenskow, 56, passed away Saturday, June 25, 2016, peacefully at home surrounded by her family after a courageous four month battle with calciphylaxis.

She was born January 5, 1960 in Murray, Utah the daughter of Don Evan and Lois Mae Willden Westenskow.

Denise had recently retired from the Bureau of Reclamation after 35 years.

She was a loving aunt to all her nieces and nephews, who were the highlight of her life.

Denise was an active member of the LDS Church. She held callings in all organizations, but Primary was her favorite and the children loved her.

She is survived by her mother, siblings, Alan (Linda), Carl (Denise), Kathryn (Brad) Brown, Alisa, many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by her father, brother, nephew and niece.

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## What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

[Federal Plan Threatens Future of the Rio Grande](#)

[Navajo Farm Pipeline Repairs Finally Finished](#)

[It's Time to let Lake Powell go](#)

[The first heat wave hits the area](#)

[Toshiba wins contract for Gunnison River hydropower plant cascade rehab](#)

[Can cutting down trees protect New Mexico's water?](#)

[Partnership discussed for Ute Project](#)

[Snowpack runoff helps predict compact compliance in San Luis Valley](#)

[Utah looking or link between San Juan River, Lake Powell water quality and Gold King Mine spill](#)



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[Flaming Gorge releases water, will hold public meeting](#)

[Study finds surprising source of Colorado River water supply](#)

[Lake Powell on Upward Trend Despite Extra Water Released for Lake Mead](#)

[A big night for Colorado River Discovery](#)

[Interior Department Supported \\$106 Billion in Recreation, Conservation, Water and Renewable Energy Investments](#)

[Is Glen Canyon Dam Obsolete?](#)

[Daggett sheriff warns of danger on Green River below dam](#)

[Navajo releases to be reduced](#)

[Northern Utah water, energy projects awarded millions in federal funds](#)

[US giving \\$48 million to help West deal with long drought](#)

[Meet the Most Badass Advocate of Outdoor Adventure Employed by the US Government](#)

[Drone inspects New Mexico river dam](#)

[Roosevelt County to get PILT money](#)

[Utah Received \\$5.7 Million from Obama Administration for Water Conservation | UPR Utah Public Radio](#)

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*Glen Canyon Dam high scalers by Chad Douglas*

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# Reclamation Trivia

## Here's this week's set of questions:

1. An Executive Order by \_\_\_\_\_ in 2015 established and issued guidance for the Federal Customer Service Award Program to ensure all Federal agency managers work to identify and support \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ provided to citizens and other customers.
2. What office was the first Reclamation remodeling effort to achieve 100 percent of the Guiding Principles? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What don't parents realize about sparklers? \_\_\_\_\_

## Last week, We asked,

1. The liaison has two primary purposes, the first is to be an **information conduit** the second is to be a **fly on the wall**.
2. Bicycling benefits our **health**, reduces **traffic congestion, air pollution** and **greenhouse gas emissions** associated with automobile use.
3. How many 5<sup>th</sup> grade students attended the Western Colorado Children's Festival in Grand Junction? **Over 700**

Last winner was – **Tyler Larsen**

Please use this [link to send your answers](#). To be fair we will draw names from the winners and one person will receive a prize. We will reach into the prize bin for something suitable for the winner...as long as supplies last.

[Return to UC Today](#)



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