

Careers in Natural Resources: Inspiring the Next Generation

August 13, 2013



Agenda

- Recap and Accomplishments
- Challenges and Opportunities
 - Meghan Wilhite– Colorado Parks and Wildlife
 - Stephanie Dixon – Goodwill Industries of Denver
 - Dr. John Hausoerffer- Western State Colorado University
 - Chad Cookinham – Generation Schools
- Small Group Discussions
- Report Out
- Next Steps



The Issue

- Environmental and Recreation based programs for youth struggle guiding Alumni into Natural Resource Careers
- Land management agencies need better qualified candidates and those from non-traditional backgrounds
- Colleges and universities have difficulty attracting students from non-traditional populations to their natural resource degree programs.

Developing Pathways: Opportunities and Barriers Across the Spectrum

- In the last 20 years time spent playing outside has been cut in half while **childhood** obesity has doubled and adolescent obesity has tripled.
Source: H. White, No Child Left Inside, Reversing NDD, NWF, 2008.
- **Youth and young adult** unemployment is 16% greater than twice that of adults, even higher for minority youth.
- High **Retirement** Rates. Approximately 33,000 retired from NPS in 2011. Typically, 11,000 employees retire annually.
Source: NPS employee, 2012



Pathways to Natural Resource Careers

Summit 2012



Purpose: Work collaboratively to create more pathways to enable ALL young adults to be educated, prepared, and qualified to enter and maintain professional, sustainable natural resources careers. Let's empower them to be self-sufficient and capable public land stewards.

Careers in Natural Resource Initiative Spectrum

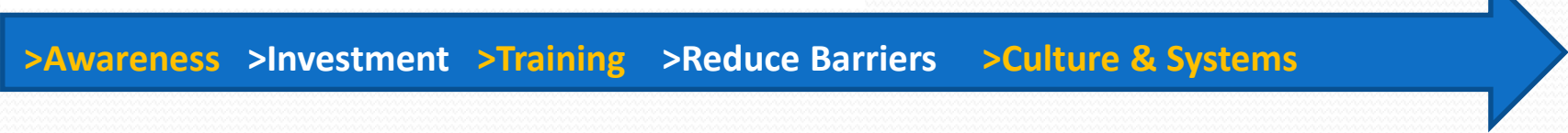
Audience: Young people



Audience: Career Influencers



Audience: Agency Staff



Pathways to Natural Resource Careers

Goals

- Raise awareness of Natural Resource Career Opportunities for Youth and Career Influencers: [Career Fair and Training](#)

Reduce Barriers in Applying for State and Federal Jobs: [Career Path Manual](#)

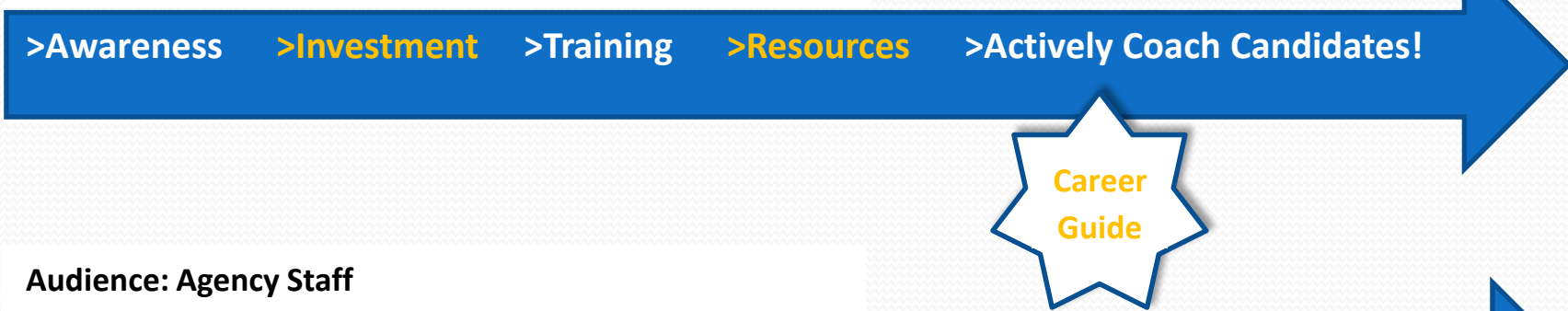
Increase access to information about Natural Resource Careers and Jobs Available: [Online Portal](#)

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Audience: Young people



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Audience: Agency Staff



Career Fair and Training

- 76 Students
- West Generation High School
- Highly Interactive Stations



- 94.6% of participants felt they understood opportunities in Natural Resource Careers better
- 32.3% Reported they would consider pursuing a Natural Resource Career

Online Portal

- **What:** Searchable Springboard to Other Websites and Information for Jobs, Resources etc.
- 2nd Partner Summit in April 2012
To gather information

www.getoutdoorscolorado.org



Career Path Manual

- Step- by- Step Manual to Help Navigate State and Federal listings and Application Process
- Aimed at Entry Level Candidates
- Subcommittee worked to gather resources and identify needs



Perspectives from the Field

Challenges and Opportunities



Meghan Wilhite– Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Stephanie Dixon – Goodwill Industries of Denver

Dr. John Hausoerffer- Western State Colorado University

Chad Cookinham – Generation Schools

Discussion:

Challenges and Opportunities



Has our context changed since we began the initiative?
In what ways?
What challenges and opportunities do you see?

Small Group Discussions

Where do you see yourself in the initiative?
Join a small group to discuss next steps.

- Career Fair
- Online Portal
- Career Path Manual

Next Steps

- Moving Forward: Kim Burgess, Department of Natural Resources
- Get Involved in a Committee!
- Next Partners Meeting: Spring
- Questions? Comments.