

Tess Richey: I was raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico where my parents built a home on the backside of a mountain that overlooked National Forest land. Here my love for nature grew, it served as my backyard, a place to play, get away and most of all enjoy. As I was entering middle school, my parents and I moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Here my passion for nature was not stifled by the big city. I started working for Southwest Youth Services (SYS), a local non-profit that works with at-

risk Native American youth, in early high school as an after school soccer coach and mentor. I continued working for SYS and when I turned 18, and became an AmeriCorps Vista serving through their organization. During my time with AmeriCorps and SYS, I was assigned to be the supervisor of the Youth Conservation Corps. I supervised a group of 20 youth as we completed various restoration projects including: trail maintenance and tree transplanting.

I followed my love of the outdoors to Colorado State University where I studied and received my B.S. in Natural Resources Management with a Minor in Spanish. For nearly two years during my time at Colorado State University, I interned for I-cubed, a GIS company based out of Fort Collins, CO. There I learned many GIS and coding skills, but mainly acted as a technical writer developing manuals for products and their clients. I moved to DC this past June, and became the Government Relations and Development Intern for The Corps Network. I am excited to be at The Wilderness Society, and look forward to the opportunity to continue exploring my passion for nature.

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