Program Focus
OCS directs its resources towards projects based on social, cultural and economic inclusiveness, participatory democracy, community ownership, and capacity building.

Methods
OCS utilizes neutral, non-partisan, objective methods of convening a diversity of people and organizations, and developing collaborative working partnerships that build social equity.

The Office of Community Services began in 1978 with rural development funding from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Since 1984, OCS has worked in partnership with the Department of Local Affairs (DoLA) to provide community development technical assistance to Region 9, working collaboratively with the DoLA Field Representative in Southwest Colorado in a co-officing arrangement on the Fort Lewis College Campus.

In recent years, the OCS Regional Technical Assistance Program has taken on a number of large-scale regional projects—facilitating the Colorado Department of Transportation-ISTEA funded Regional Transportation Plan and assisting Region 9 Economic Development District in the preparation of a new Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP). In the last five years, the OCS staff developed a partnership with the San Juan National Forest to increase community stewardship of public land by establishing the Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership and improving public involvement in forest resource planning.

Public land issues and resource policy development are critical to this region because of the high percentage of federal land ownership in western Colorado. Because this is an important area of state interest, as well, and offers many opportunities for collaborative planning, OCS administers an association known as the Community Public Land Partnership.

The basic tenet of OCS’ assistance program is citizen participation or public involvement. We facilitate community planning and development processes, gather varieties of local and regional information, and help communities and local governments establish needed projects in human services, land use planning, historic preservation, and public policy. We produce products, such as plans, reports, assessments and secure grants for communities and non-profit organizations. Most of OCS work is conducted in partnership with local governments, nonprofit organizations, community service groups, and school districts. Projects are conducted on a cost-sharing basis where possible. Members of OCS’ staff voluntarily assist in facilitating many citizen and group decision-making processes and with board development workshops.

In summary, the Office of Community Services is a multipurpose community development program, supported by Fort Lewis College, federal, state, and local governments, communities and citizens in Southwest Colorado. It serves the public interest by involving community members in diverse local improvement efforts, designed to sustain the well being and high quality of life of the region.
The Office of Community Services program consists of four areas of activity:
- Regional Community Development
- Natural Resource Stewardship
- Heritage Resource Conservation
- Applied Research and Dissemination

Regional Community Development
The annual funding from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs provides support for many of the following regional Community Development Projects from 1/1/99 - 12/31/99. $40,000

Town of Rico
Greenway and Trails Plan (GOCO)
Helped Rico Board and Trail Committee evaluate feasibility of the Dolores River Trail and Greenway project. Assisted in developing scope of work and wrote successful $34,000 GOCO Grant for greenway and trail planning.

Town of Dove Creek
Plan and assist in acquiring funds for trail development connecting Dove Creek, Snaggletooth, and Slick Rock with the intent of establishing Dove Creek as a focal point for area trail heads.

City of Durango
Open Space and Trails Plan
Prepared open space and trails elements of City’s current Comprehensive Plan. Prepared site plans for five city park and river recreation areas.

Streetscape and Park Design 1997-1998
Prepared a landscape improvement plan for streetscape/park design for the City of Durango and the Town of Bayfield. Assisted in design, plant selection, and cost estimates for garden at Gateway Park for the Durango Garden Club. Planned trails and greenway improvements for the Town of Ignacio. $1,100

Fourth Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration
Participated in planning for the Third and Fourth Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration, a project of the Durango Latino Education Coalition.

Durango Community Access Television 98-99
Assist DCAT with outreach and communication efforts to start up community broadcasting and find financial support.

Montezuma County provides approximately $57,000/year for the following programs:

Montezuma County Jail Facilities 1999
Developing site development plans for new jail facilities.

Montezuma County Fairground Improvements and Long Range Plan 1999
Design and facilitate entryway beautification project and work with the Fairgrounds’ Advisory Committee and County Commissioners on long-term planning for the fairgrounds.

Dolores River Watershed Forum 1998-1999
Assisted the Dolores Water Conservancy District and Montezuma and Dolores Counties in organizing the Dolores River Watershed Forum to address participation from wide-ranging interests concerned about water quality, water quantity, and aquatic and recreation resource protection.

Dolores River Trail 1998
Prepared application that brought an AmeriCorps Team to work on construction and improvements to the Dolores River Trail and Riverside Park. Provided supervision of Team and its work. Worked with the Town of Dolores on development of river trail, river habitat improvements, and street trees.

Town of Mancos
Town Park 1998
Developed and researched costs for a new playground area.

Region
Operation Healthy Communities Community Indicator Project 1998-1999
Contributed to the Community Indicator Project for Operation Healthy Communities.

Regional Resource Council 1997-1998
Participate in Regional Resource Council consisting of Region Nine Economic Development District, San Juan Forum, San Juan RC&D, DoLA Field Representative, US Forest Service, and Southwest Community Resources. Provide administrative assistance to the council and facilitate resources for community development projects. Provided $5,000/year to OHC.

2000 Census (DoLA) 1/1/99-12/31/99
Work in cooperation with Operation Healthy Communities to facilitate disbursement and accountability for DoLA funds to help county governments prepare for 2000 Census. $10,000 passed through to OHC.
Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership Case Study
(USFS) 1/1/97-9/30/98
Chronicled and examined restoration forestry demonstration projects in Southwest Colorado. Published practitioner and reflective case studies with financial assistance from the Ford Foundation and the USDA Rural Community Assistance Program. $14,500

San Juan Forest Plan Revision
(USFS) 7/1/94-9/30/99
Organize Forest Plan Study Group and Working Group input into formats adapted to the needs of Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team. Worked with San Juan Forest and BLM managers to build capacity to manage community stewardship initiatives, and design public involvement on cross-country ski and snowmobile use. $416,000

USDA Forest Service Region II Recreation Strategy Publication (USFS) 10/1/98-6/30/99
Develop publication from concept to camera-ready for US Forest Service’s five-state Rocky Mountain Region’s long-term strategy for recreation planning, use and management in national forests. $10,050

Red Mountain Historic Preservation Plan Project
(CHS) 3/30/98-6/30/99
Expanded the partnership between OCS, Ouray and San Juan Counties Historical Societies and the Boards of County Commissioners with the appointment of an official bi-county task force. Attained services of the Trust for Public Lands to secure Land and Water Conservation Funds to acquire approximately 10,000 acres of the Red Mountain area—anticipated to become designated as the Red Mountain Heritage Area. $26,000

Historical Interpretive Panels 1996
Located in Durango, Silverton, Ouray, Dolores, Mancos, and San Miguel County. $60,000

Alpine Loop Byway Management Strategies
(BLM, USFS) 4/8/98-12/31/99
Developing a management strategy that incorporates community values, projects, and recommendations for tourism development and resource management. $36,200

San Juan Skyway Open Space Plan 1/96-5/98
Developed strategic plan for preserving key open space/privately owned parcels. $25,000

San Juan Skyway Interpretation and Protection Project (CDOT) 1997—Present
Administrates interpretation and protection of historic mining and railroad sites. $49,160

San Juan Skyway Heritage Resources Strategic Action Plan (CHS) 4/10/96-9/30/98
Researched southwestern Colorado mining and railroading history for projects involving historical designations, stabilization and preservation to mining and railroading sites, as well as adaptive reuse for trail development along abandoned rail beds. Over one million dollars has been raised for both community and federal land management projects along the Skyway. $72,000

SJS Historic Preservation Projects

**Ouray County**
- Idarado/Yankee Girl Interpretive Site ................... $267,000
- Red Mt. District Preservation, Interpretive Plan $13,000
- Uncompahgre Riverway Bikeway .......................... $39,200
- Ouray County/Uncompahgre National Forest
  - Idarado Overlook ......................................... $338,000

**San Juan County**
- Mayflower Mill .......................................... $60,000
- Red Mountain Mining District Historic Preservation
  and Interpretive Plan .................................. $13,000
- Red Mountain Site Improvements, Plans/Designs
  for rest area and interpretation ........................ $81,600
- Mayflower Mill Interpretive Site ........................ $4,000

**San Miguel County**
- Fall Creek Tram Tower .............................. $32,000
- Vance Junction Coal Chutes ........................... $37,000
- Trout Lake Trestle ..................................... $78,000
- Leopard Cr. Interp., Trailhead, Rails to Trails ... $48,000

**Dolores County**
- Rico RGS Railroad Water Tower ...................... $54,000
- Galloping Goose Recreation Trail-Lizard Head Pass to
  Cayton Campground .................................... $82,084

**Montezuma County**
- San Juan NF Access Road, Parking Lot ........... $233,000

**Regional**

SJS Historic Assessments, Easements, Improvements
- Chattanooga Loading Structure
- Silver Ledge Headframe
- Red Mountain/Ironton Park
- Van Winkle Tram Tower and Hoist House .... $75,000
- Atlantic Cable Tram Tower and Hoist House .... $75,000
- Strategic Plan SJS Open Space Plan ............ $25,000
- SJS Recreation Map/Brochure ....................... $60,000
- Project Planning and Management ................ $12,000
- Roads & Rails-to-Trails Feasibility Study and Historic
  Preservation Plan ................................. $72,000

**San Juan Skyway Capital Improvements Program**
- Inventory, Assessment, Public Participation .... $68,840
- SJS Recreation, Interpretive, Info. Signage .... $13,400

Animas Forks Ghost Town 1997&1998
- Wrote grant to bring AmeriCorps teams to Silverton
  stabilization and preservation project at Animas Forks
  ghost town for the San Juan County Historical Society.
Community Ecosystem Stewardship Project
1/1/97-12/30/98
Conducted economic and ecological assessment studies for Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership, disseminated partnership model, prepared case studies and position papers, and contributed to capacity building within the community stewardship movement, funded by the Ford Foundation
$200,000

University of Arkansas USDA Research Initiative
10/96-12/98
Co-conducted research of 19 Rural Community Assistance projects regarding integration of project efforts with National Forest Planning.
$43,752 (subcontract)

Community-Based Partnerships Course, BLM National Training Center
Present “A Partnering Story,” describing local collaborative stewardship efforts to rural communities throughout the West.
$12,000

CPLP Stewardship Initiatives Newsletter
Quarterly
Publish quarterly periodical of news and events around the Four Corners and beyond about initiatives to enhance stewardship of lands and communities in the region. Resources from funded projects.

Homeless Services
3/99-8/99
Analysis of gaps in shelter, transitional housing and support services.

Staff
- Director of Research—Sam Burns (970) 247-7193
- Landscape Designer—James Dietrich (970) 565-8525
- Associate Director—Ken Francis (970) 247-7310
- Project Developer—Gaye Furry (970) 247-7033
- Community Development Associate—Shannon Manfredi (970) 247-7333
- Director—Mike Preston (970) 565-8525
- Research Associate—Tim Richard (970) 247-7066

Financial Resources (Annual)
Grant funds ....................................................... $348,540
Fort Lewis College ............................................ $93,140
Budget .............................................................. $441,680

Board Memberships
- Colorado Preservation, Inc.
- FLC Employee Council Advisory Board
- FLC Environmental Center
- Operation Healthy Communities
- Mercy Medical Center
- Southwest Colorado Youth Corps

Primary Partners and Funders
- Colorado Region 9 towns and counties: Archuleta; Dolores; La Plata; Montezuma; San Juan
- Department of Local Affairs, State of Colorado
- San Juan National Forest, US Forest Service
- San Juan Resource Area, US Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Department of the Interior
- Operation Healthy Communities
- Colorado Historical Society
- Colorado State University
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Region Nine Economic Development District
- Four Corners Heritage Council

Awards
- Rocky Mountain Regional Forester’s Special Achievement Award for Ecosystem Restoration
- USDA Forest Service Rural Community Assistance National Spirit Award
- Colorado Governor’s Regional Smart Growth Award
- USDA Forest Service Rural Community Assistance National Leadership Award
- Project Sponsor of the Year, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps
- Letter of Special Recognition for Outstanding Community Benefit, City of Durango Planning Commission
- Presented the San Juan Skyway designation of All-American Road by US Secretary of Transportation

Publications
- A Historical Touring Guide of the San Juan Skyway
- The Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership: Forging New Relationships to Restore a Forest
- The Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership: Community Stewardship in Southwest Colorado
- USDA-Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region Recreation Strategy