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## What I see for my future in the program

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Wednesday, March 9, 2022

# What I see for my future in the program

Drew Kimes, 2024 Cohort

Hey everyone, I am Drew Kimes and the only male member of the 2024 River Stewards cohort! I take pride in that and we all consider myself “a part of the girls.” I truly have become so close with these girls and If it was not for this program I would not have met my best friend, Cassie Rafter. So I thank this program and cannot wait to create more bonds, friendships and memories with this group.

Anyways the theme for this week's blog post is the future. The future is a very daunting thing to think about because it is something we do not know for certain. However, we all have certain hopes and aspirations for the future and for me and this program I see growth. Speaking from my own observation and experience, my cohort is the smallest this program has had in years, with only 10 members. So we are bound to grow. And sure enough we are already seeing growth with over 30 applications for the 2025 cohort. This is amazing news as I mean we have the opportunity to grow and continue to do great things in our community and the communities around us. I cannot wait to welcome the new River Stewards into the family!

Though I see physical growth in the future, I also see growth in the sustainable projects we will do for the community for years and years to come. By sustainable, I mean they will be continued and executed by future cohorts and by the community members themselves. That way our impacts are lasting and not simply putting a Band-Aid on a situation. Creating sustainable projects and impacts is something our program strives for and I am excited to continue to see this growth in the coming years!

River Love!