

Calendar No. 282112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. 896****[Report No. 112-120]**

To amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service opportunities for young Americans; help restore the nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational and scenic resources; train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts; and promote the value of public service.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 5, 2011

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

JANUARY 13, 2012

Reported under authority of the order of the Senate of December 17, 2011,
by Mr. BINGAMAN, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service opportunities for young Americans; help restore the nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational and scenic

resources; train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts; and promote the value of public service.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Public Lands Service
 5 Corps Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO SHORT TITLE.**

7 Section 201 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993
 8 (16 U.S.C. 1701 note; 107 Stat. 848) is amended to read
 9 as follows:

10 **“SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES.**

11 “(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This title may be cited as the
 12 ‘Public Lands Service Corps Act of 1993’.

13 “(b) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference contained in any
 14 law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the
 15 United States to the ‘Public Lands Corps Act of 1993’
 16 shall be considered to be a reference to the ‘Public Lands
 17 Service Corps Act of 1993’.”.

18 **SEC. 3. REFERENCE.**

19 A reference in this Act to “the Act” is a reference
 20 to the Public Lands Service Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C.
 21 1721 et seq.; title II of Public Law 91–378).

1 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE**
2 **CORPS ACT OF 1993.**

3 (a) NAME AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION CHANGES.—

4 The Act is amended—

5 (1) in the title heading, by striking “**PUBLIC**
6 **LANDS CORPS**” and inserting “**PUBLIC**
7 **LANDS SERVICE CORPS**”;

8 (2) in section 204 (16 U.S.C. 1723), in the
9 heading, by striking “**PUBLIC LANDS CORPS**” and
10 inserting “**PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS**”;

11 (3) in section 210(a)(2) (16 U.S.C.
12 1729(a)(2)), in the heading, by striking “**PUBLIC**
13 **LANDS**”;

14 (4) by striking “Public Lands Corps” each
15 place it appears and inserting “Corps”;

16 (5) by striking “conservation center” each place
17 it appears and inserting “residential conservation
18 center”;

19 (6) by striking “conservation centers” each
20 place it appears and inserting “residential conserva-
21 tion centers”;

22 (7) by striking “appropriate conservation
23 project” each place it appears and inserting “appro-
24 priate natural and cultural resources conservation
25 project”; and

1 (8) by striking “appropriate conservation
2 projects” each place it appears and inserting “ap-
3 propriate natural and cultural resources conservation
4 projects”.

5 (b) FINDINGS.—Section 202(a) (16 U.S.C. 1721(a))
6 of the Act, as amended by subsection (a), is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by striking “Corps can benefit” and
9 inserting “conservation corps can benefit”; and

10 (B) by striking “the natural and cultural”
11 and inserting “natural and cultural”;

12 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
13 paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively;

14 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(2) Participants in conservation corps receive
17 meaningful education and training, and their experi-
18 ence with conservation corps provides preparation
19 for careers in public service.

20 “(3) Young men and women who participate in
21 the rehabilitation and restoration of the natural, cul-
22 tural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and sce-
23 nic treasures of the United States will gain an in-
24 creased appreciation and understanding of the public
25 lands and heritage of the United States, and of the

1 value of public service, and are likely to become life-
2 long advocates for those values.”;

3 (4) in paragraph (4) (as redesignated by para-
4 graph (2)), by inserting “, cultural, historic, archae-
5 ological, recreational, and scenic” after “Many facili-
6 ties and natural”; and

7 (5) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(6) The work of conservation corps can benefit
9 communities adjacent to public lands and facilities
10 through renewed civic engagement and participation
11 by corps participants and those they serve, improved
12 student achievement, and restoration and rehabilita-
13 tion of public assets.”.

14 (c) PURPOSE.—Section 202(b) (16 U.S.C. 1721(b))
15 of the Act is amended to read as follows:

16 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

17 “(1) to introduce young men and women to
18 public service while furthering their understanding
19 and appreciation of the natural, cultural, historic,
20 archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources of
21 the United States;

22 “(2) to facilitate training and recruitment op-
23 portunities in which service is credited as qualifying
24 experience for careers in the management of such
25 resources;

1 “(3) to instill in a new generation of young men
2 and women from across the United States, including
3 young men and women from diverse backgrounds,
4 the desire to seek careers in resource stewardship
5 and public service by allowing them to work directly
6 with professionals in agencies responsible for the
7 management of the natural, cultural, historic, ar-
8 chaeological, recreational, and scenic resources of
9 the United States;

10 “(4) to perform, in a cost-effective manner, ap-
11 propriate natural and cultural resources conservation
12 projects where such projects are not being performed
13 by existing employees;

14 “(5) to assist State and local governments and
15 Indian tribes in performing research and public edu-
16 cation tasks associated with the conservation of nat-
17 ural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational,
18 and scenic resources;

19 “(6) to expand educational opportunities on
20 public lands and by rewarding individuals who par-
21 ticipate in conservation corps with an increased abil-
22 ity to pursue higher education and job training;

23 “(7) to promote public understanding and ap-
24 preciation of the missions and the natural and cul-
25 tural resources conservation work of the partici-

1 pating Federal agencies through training opportuni-
2 ties, community service and outreach, and other ap-
3 propriate means; and

4 “(8) to create a grant program for Indian
5 tribes to establish the Indian Youth Service Corps so
6 that Indian youth can benefit from carrying out
7 projects on Indian lands that the Indian tribes and
8 communities determine to be priorities.”.

9 (d) DEFINITIONS.—Section 203 (16 U.S.C. 1722) of
10 the Act is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through
12 (7), (8) through (10), and (11) through (13) as
13 paragraphs (5) through (9), (11) through (13), and
14 (15) through (17), respectively;

15 (2) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and in-
16 serting the following:

17 “(1) APPROPRIATE NATURAL AND CULTURAL
18 RESOURCES CONSERVATION PROJECT.—The term
19 ‘appropriate natural and cultural resources conserva-
20 tion project’ means any project for the conservation,
21 restoration, construction, or rehabilitation of nat-
22 ural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational,
23 or scenic resources.

1 “(2) CONSULTING INTERN.—The term ‘con-
2 sulting intern’ means a consulting intern selected
3 under section 206(a)(2).

4 “(3) CORPS AND PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE
5 CORPS.—The terms ‘Corps’ and ‘Public Lands Serv-
6 ice Corps’ mean the Public Lands Service Corps es-
7 tablished under section 204(a).

8 “(4) CORPS PARTICIPANT.—The term ‘Corps
9 participant’ means an individual enrolled—

10 “(A) in the Corps or the Indian Youth
11 Service Corps; or

12 “(B) as a resource assistant or consulting
13 intern.”;

14 (3) by inserting after paragraph (9) (as redesign-
15 nated by paragraph (1)) the following:

16 “(10) INDIAN YOUTH SERVICE CORPS.—The
17 term ‘Indian Youth Service Corps’ means a qualified
18 youth or conservation corps established under sec-
19 tion 207 that—

20 “(A) enrolls individuals between the ages
21 of 15 and 25, inclusive, a majority of whom are
22 Indians; and

23 “(B) is established pursuant to a tribal
24 resolution that describes the agreement between
25 the Indian tribe and the qualified youth or con-

1 servant corps to operate an Indian Youth
2 Service Corps program for the benefit of the
3 members of the Indian tribe.”;

4 (4) by amending paragraph (12) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) to read as follows:

6 “(12) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term ‘public lands’
7 means any land or water (or interest therein) owned
8 or administered by the United States, including
9 those areas of coastal and ocean waters, the Great
10 Lakes and their connecting waters, and submerged
11 lands over which the United States exercises jurisdiction, except that such term does not include Indian lands.”;

14 (5) by amending paragraph (13) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) as follows:

16 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (i) by striking “full-time,”;

18 (ii) by inserting “on eligible service
19 lands” after “resource setting”; and

20 (iii) by striking “16” and inserting
21 “15”;

22 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
23 “and” at the end;

24 (C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
25 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (D) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(D) makes available for audit for each fis-
3 cal year for which the qualified youth or con-
4 servation corps receives Federal funds under
5 this Act, all information pertaining to the ex-
6 penditure of the funds, any matching funds,
7 and participant demographics.”;

8 (6) by inserting after paragraph 13 (as redesign-
9 nated by paragraph (1)) the following:

10 “(14) RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION CEN-
11 TERS.—The term ‘residential conservation centers’
12 means the facilities authorized under section 205.”;

13 (7) in paragraph (15) (as redesignated by para-
14 graph (1)), by striking “206” and inserting
15 “206(a)(1)”; and

16 (8) in paragraph (16) (as redesignated by para-
17 graph (1))—

18 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
19 “and” at the end;

20 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
21 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

22 (C) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(C) with respect to the National Marine
24 Sanctuary System, coral reefs, and other coast-
25 al, estuarine, and marine habitats, and other

1 lands and facilities administered by the Na-
 2 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
 3 the Secretary of Commerce.”.

4 (e) PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM.—Sec-
 5 tion 204 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1723), as amended by sub-
 6 section (a), is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) and
 8 subsections (d) through (f) as subsections (c) and
 9 (d) and subsections (f) through (h), respectively;

10 (2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
 11 following:

12 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE
 13 CORPS.—There is established in the Department of the
 14 Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Depart-
 15 ment of Commerce a Public Lands Service Corps.

16 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF CORPS OFFICE; COORDI-
 17 NATORS; LIAISON.—

18 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES.—

19 “(A) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—
 20 The Secretary of the Interior shall establish a
 21 department-level office to coordinate the Corps
 22 activities within the Department of the Interior.

23 “(B) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—
 24 The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish

1 within the Forest Service an office to coordinate
2 the Corps activities within that agency.

3 “(C) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—The
4 Secretary of Commerce shall establish within
5 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
6 istration an office to coordinate the Corps ac-
7 tivities within that agency.

8 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF COORDINATORS.—
9 The Secretary shall designate a Public Lands Serv-
10 ice Corps coordinator for each agency under the ju-
11 risdiction of the Secretary that administers Corps
12 activities.

13 “(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF LIAISON.—The Sec-
14 retary of the Interior shall establish an Indian Youth
15 Service Corps liaison that will—

16 “(A) provide outreach to Indian tribes
17 about opportunities for establishing Corps and
18 Indian Youth Service Corps programs; and

19 “(B) coordinate with the Tribal Liaison of
20 the Corporation for National Service to identify
21 and establish Corps and Indian Youth Service
22 Corps opportunities for Indian youth.”;

23 (3) by amending subsection (c) (as redesignated
24 by paragraph (1)) to read as follows:

25 “(c) PARTICIPANTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enroll
2 in the Corps individuals who are—

3 “(A) hired by an agency under the juris-
4 diction of the Secretary to perform work au-
5 thorized under this Act; or

6 “(B) members of a qualified youth or con-
7 servation corps with which the Secretary has
8 entered into a cooperative agreement to perform
9 work authorized under this Act.

10 “(2) RESOURCE ASSISTANTS AND CONSULTING
11 INTERNS.—The Secretary may also enroll in the
12 Corps resource assistants and consulting interns in
13 accordance with section 206(a).

14 “(3) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligi-
15 ble for enrollment as a Corps participant, an indi-
16 vidual shall—

17 “(A) be between the ages of 15 and 25, in-
18 clusive; and

19 “(B) satisfy the requirements of section
20 137(a)(5) of the National and Community Serv-
21 ice Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12591(a)(5)).

22 “(4) TERMS.—Each Corps participant may be
23 enrolled in the Corps for a term of up to 2 years of
24 service, which may be served over a period that ex-
25 ceeds 2 calendar years.

1 “(5) CIVIL SERVICE.—An individual may be en-
2 rolled as a Corps participant without regard to the
3 civil service and classification laws, rules, or regula-
4 tions of the United States.

5 “(6) PREFERENCE.—The Secretary may estab-
6 lish a preference for the enrollment as Corps partici-
7 pants individuals who are economically, physically,
8 or educationally disadvantaged.”;

9 (4) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by para-
10 graph (1))—

11 (A) in paragraph (1)—

12 (i) by striking “contracts and”; and

13 (ii) by striking “subsection (d)” and
14 inserting “subsection (f)”;

15 (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

16 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
17 following:

18 “(2) RECRUITMENT.—The Secretary shall carry
19 out, or enter into cooperative agreements to provide,
20 a program to attract eligible youth to the Corps by
21 publicizing Corps opportunities through high schools,
22 colleges, employment centers, electronic media, and
23 other appropriate institutions and means.

24 “(3) PREFERENCE.—In entering into coopera-
25 tive agreements under paragraph (1) or awarding

1 competitive grants to Indian tribes or tribally au-
2 thorized organizations under section 207, the Sec-
3 retary may give preference to qualified youth or con-
4 servation corps that are located in specific areas
5 where a substantial portion of members are economi-
6 cally, physically, or educationally disadvantaged.”;

7 (5) by inserting after subsection (d) (as redesign-
8 nated by paragraph (1)) the following:

9 “(e) TRAINING.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
11 lish a training program based at appropriate resi-
12 dential conservation centers or at other suitable re-
13 gional Federal or other appropriate facilities or sites
14 to provide training for Corps participants.

15 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing a train-
16 ing program under paragraph (1), the Secretary
17 shall—

18 “(A) ensure that the duration and com-
19 prehensiveness of the training program shall be
20 commensurate with the projects Corps partici-
21 pants are expected to undertake;

22 “(B) develop department-wide standards
23 for the program that include training in—

24 “(i) resource stewardship;

25 “(ii) health and safety;

1 “(iii) ethics for individuals in public
2 service;

3 “(iv) teamwork and leadership; and

4 “(v) interpersonal communications;

5 “(C) direct the participating agencies with-
6 in the Department of the Interior, the Forest
7 Service in the case of the Department of Agri-
8 culture, and the National Oceanic and Atmos-
9 pheric Administration in the case of the De-
10 partment of Commerce, to develop agency-spe-
11 cific training guidelines to ensure that Corps
12 participants are appropriately informed about
13 matters specific to that agency, including—

14 “(i) the history and organization of
15 the agency;

16 “(ii) the mission of the agency; and

17 “(iii) any agency-specific standards
18 for the management of natural, cultural,
19 historic, archaeological, recreational, and
20 scenic resources; and

21 “(D) take into account training already re-
22 ceived by Corps participants enrolled from
23 qualified youth or conservation corps.”;

24 (6) in subsection (f) (as redesignated by para-
25 graph (1))—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) in the heading, by striking “IN
3 GENERAL.—” and inserting “USE OF
4 CORPS; PROJECTS.—”;

5 (ii) by striking “The Secretary may
6 utilize the Corps or any qualified youth or
7 conservation corps to carry out” and in-
8 serting the following:

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
10 use the Corps to carry out, with appropriate su-
11 pervision and training,”;

12 (iii) by striking “on public lands” and
13 inserting on “on eligible service lands”;
14 and

15 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(B) PROJECTS.—Appropriate natural and
18 cultural resources conservation projects carried
19 out under this section may include—

20 “(i) protecting, restoring, or enhance-
21 ing ecosystem components to promote spe-
22 cies recovery, improve biological diversity,
23 enhance productivity and carbon sequestra-
24 tion, and enhance adaptability and resil-
25 ience of eligible service lands and resources

1 to climate change and other natural and
2 human disturbances;

3 “(ii) promoting the health of eligible
4 service lands, including—

5 “(I) protecting and restoring wa-
6 tersheds and forest, grassland, ripar-
7 ian, estuarine, marine, or other habi-
8 tat;

9 “(II) reducing the risk of
10 uncharacteristically severe wildfire
11 and mitigating damage from insects,
12 disease, and disasters;

13 “(III) controlling erosion;

14 “(IV) controlling and removing
15 invasive, noxious, or nonnative spe-
16 cies; and

17 “(V) restoring native species;

18 “(iii) collecting biological, archae-
19 ological, and other scientific data, includ-
20 ing climatological information, species pop-
21 ulations and movement, habitat status, and
22 other information;

23 “(iv) assisting in historical and cul-
24 tural research, museum curatorial work,
25 oral history projects, documentary photog-

1 raphy, and activities that support the cre-
2 ation of public works of art related to eligi-
3 ble service lands; and

4 “(v) constructing, repairing, rehabili-
5 tating, and maintaining roads, trails,
6 campgrounds and other visitor facilities,
7 employee housing, cultural and historic
8 sites and structures, and other facilities
9 that further the purposes of this Act.”;

10 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
11 (3) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

12 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
13 following:

14 “(2) VISITOR SERVICES.—The Secretary may—

15 “(A) enter into or amend an existing coop-
16 erative agreement with a cooperating associa-
17 tion, educational institution, friends group, or
18 similar nonprofit partner organization for the
19 purpose of providing training and work experi-
20 ence to Corps participants in areas such as
21 sales, office work, accounting, and management,
22 provided that the work experience directly re-
23 lates to the conservation and management of el-
24 igible service lands; and

1 “(B) allow Corps participants to help pro-
2 mote visitor safety and enjoyment of eligible
3 service lands, and assist in the gathering of vis-
4 itor use data.

5 “(3) INTERPRETATION.—The Secretary may
6 permit Corps participants to provide interpretation
7 or education services for the public under the direct
8 and immediate supervision of an agency employee—

9 “(A) to provide orientation and informa-
10 tion services to visitors;

11 “(B) to assist agency employees in the de-
12 livery of interpretive or educational programs
13 where audience size, environmental conditions,
14 safety, or other factors make such assistance
15 desirable;

16 “(C) to present programs that relate the
17 personal experience of the Corps participants
18 for the purpose of promoting public awareness
19 of the Corps, the role of the Corps in public
20 land management agencies, and the availability
21 of the Corps to potential participants; and

22 “(D) to create nonpersonal interpretive
23 products, such as website content, Junior Rang-
24 er program books, printed handouts, and audio-
25 visual programs.”;

1 (7) in subsection (g) (as redesignated by para-
2 graph (1))—

3 (A) in the matter preceding the first para-
4 graph, by striking “those projects which” and
5 inserting “priority projects and other projects
6 that”; and

7 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
8 ing the following:

9 “(2) will instill in Corps participants a work
10 ethic and a sense of public service;”; and

11 (8) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(i) OTHER PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary may
13 allow volunteers from other programs administered or des-
14 ignated by the Secretary to participate as volunteers in
15 projects carried out under this section.

16 “(j) CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of sec-
18 tion 189D(b) of the National and Community Serv-
19 ice Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12645g(b)) shall apply
20 to each individual age 18 or older seeking—

21 “(A) to become a Corps participant;

22 “(B) to receive funds authorized under this
23 Act; or

1 “(C) to supervise or otherwise have regular
2 contact with Corps participants in activities au-
3 thorized under this Act.

4 “(2) ELIGIBILITY PROHIBITION.—If any of
5 paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 189D(c) of
6 the National and Community Service Act of 1990
7 (42 U.S.C. 12645g(c)(1)–(4)) apply to an individual
8 described in paragraph (1), that individual shall not
9 be eligible for the position or activity described in
10 paragraph (1), unless the Secretary provides an ex-
11 emption for good cause.”.

12 (f) RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION CENTERS AND
13 PROGRAM SUPPORT.—Section 205 (16 U.S.C. 1724) of
14 the Act is amended—

15 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**CON-**
16 **SERVATION**” and inserting “**RESIDENTIAL CON-**
17 **SERVATION**”;

18 (2) in subsection (a)—

19 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
20 follows:

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may estab-
22 lish residential conservation centers for—

23 “(A) such housing, food service, medical
24 care, transportation, and other services as the

1 Secretary deems necessary for Corps partici-
2 pants; and

3 “(B) the conduct of appropriate natural
4 and cultural resources conservation projects
5 under this Act.”;

6 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

7 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and
8 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively;

9 (D) in paragraph (2) (as redesignated by
10 subparagraph (C)), in the heading, by striking
11 “FOR CONSERVATION CENTERS”; and

12 (E) in paragraph (3) (as redesignated by
13 subparagraph (C)), by striking “a State or local
14 government agency” and inserting “another
15 Federal agency, State, local government,”;

16 (3) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) by striking “The Secretary” and in-
18 serting the following:

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

20 (B) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(2) TEMPORARY HOUSING.—The Secretary
22 may make arrangements with another Federal agen-
23 cy, State, local government, or private organization
24 to provide temporary housing for Corps participants
25 as needed and available.

1 “(3) TRANSPORTATION.—In project areas
2 where Corps participants can reasonably be expected
3 to reside at their own homes, the Secretary may
4 fund or provide transportation to and from project
5 sites.”;

6 (4) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
7 section (f);

8 (5) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(d) FACILITIES.—The Secretary may, as an appro-
11 priate natural and cultural resources conservation project,
12 direct Corps participants to aid in the construction or re-
13 habilitation of residential conservation center facilities, in-
14 cluding housing.

15 “(e) MENTORS.—The Secretary may recruit from
16 programs, such as Federal volunteer and encore service
17 programs, and from veterans groups, military retirees, and
18 active duty personnel, such adults as may be suitable and
19 qualified to provide training, mentoring, and crew-leading
20 services to Corps participants.”; and

21 (6) in subsection (f) (as redesignated by para-
22 graph (4)), by striking “that are appropriate” and
23 all that follows through the period and inserting
24 “that the Secretary determines to be necessary for
25 a residential conservation center.”.

1 (g) RESOURCE ASSISTANTS AND CONSULTING IN-
2 TERNS.—Section 206 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1725) is
3 amended—

4 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND**
5 **CONSULTING INTERNS**” before the period;

6 (2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-
7 serting the following:

8 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

9 “(1) RESOURCE ASSISTANTS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
11 provide individual placements of resource assist-
12 ants with any agency under the jurisdiction of
13 the Secretary that carries out appropriate nat-
14 ural and cultural resources conservation
15 projects to carry out research or resource pro-
16 tection activities on behalf of the agency.

17 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for se-
18 lection as a resource assistant, an individual
19 shall be at least 17 years of age.

20 “(C) PREFERENCE.—In selecting resource
21 assistants for placement under this paragraph,
22 the Secretary shall give a preference to individ-
23 uals who are enrolled in an institution of higher
24 education or are recent graduates from an insti-
25 tution of higher education, with particular at-

1 tention given to ensuring full representation of
2 women and participants from Historically Black
3 Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving in-
4 stitutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities.

5 “(2) CONSULTING INTERNS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
7 provide individual placements of consulting in-
8 terns with any agency under the jurisdiction of
9 the Secretary that carries out appropriate nat-
10 ural and cultural resources conservation
11 projects to carry out management analysis ac-
12 tivities on behalf of the agency.

13 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for se-
14 lection as a consulting intern, an individual
15 shall be enrolled in, and have completed at least
16 1 full year at, a graduate or professional school
17 that has been accredited by an accrediting body
18 recognized by the Secretary of Education.

19 “(b) USE OF EXISTING NONPROFIT ORGANIZA-
20 TIONS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever 1 or more non-
22 profit organizations can provide appropriate recruit-
23 ment and placement services to fulfill the require-
24 ments of this section, the Secretary may implement
25 this section through such organizations.

1 “(2) EXPENSES.—Participating organizations
2 shall contribute to the expenses of providing and
3 supporting the resource assistants or consulting in-
4 terns from sources of funding other than the Sec-
5 retary, at a level of not less than 25 percent of the
6 total costs (15 percent of which may be from in-kind
7 sources) of each participant in the resource assistant
8 or consulting intern program who has been recruited
9 and placed through that organization.

10 “(3) REPORTING.—Each participating organi-
11 zation shall be required to submit an annual report
12 evaluating the scope, size, and quality of the pro-
13 gram, including the value of work contributed by the
14 resource assistants and consulting interns, to the
15 mission of the agency.”.

16 (h) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The Act is amended
17 by redesignating sections 207 through 211 (16 U.S.C.
18 1726 through 1730) as sections 209 through 213, respec-
19 tively.

20 (i) INDIAN YOUTH SERVICE CORPS.—The Act is
21 amended by inserting after section 206 (16 U.S.C. 1725)
22 the following:

23 **“SEC. 207. INDIAN YOUTH SERVICE CORPS.**

24 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREE-
25 MENTS AND COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary is au-

1 thORIZED to enter into cooperative agreements with, or
2 make competitive grants to, Indian tribes and qualified
3 youth or conservation corps for the establishment and ad-
4 ministration of Indian Youth Service Corps programs to
5 carry out appropriate natural and cultural resources con-
6 servation projects on Indian lands.

7 “(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive assist-
8 ance under this section, an Indian tribe or a qualified
9 youth or conservation corps shall submit to the Secretary
10 an application in such manner and containing such infor-
11 mation as the Secretary may require, including—

12 “(1) a description of the methods by which In-
13 dian youth will be recruited for and retained in the
14 Indian Youth Service Corps;

15 “(2) a description of the projects to be carried
16 out by the Indian Youth Service Corps;

17 “(3) a description of how the projects were
18 identified; and

19 “(4) an explanation of the impact of, and the
20 direct community benefits provided by, the proposed
21 projects.”.

22 (j) GUIDANCE.—The Act is amended by inserting
23 after section 207 (as amended by subsection (i)) the fol-
24 lowing:

1 **“SEC. 208. GUIDANCE.**

2 “Not later than 18 months after funds are made
3 available to the Secretary to carry out this Act, the Sec-
4 retary shall issue guidelines for the management of pro-
5 grams under the jurisdiction of the Secretary that are au-
6 thorized under this Act.”.

7 (k) LIVING ALLOWANCES AND TERMS OF SERV-
8 ICE.—Section 209 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1726) (as redes-
9 igned by subsection (h)) is amended by striking sub-
10 sections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting the following:

11 “(a) LIVING ALLOWANCES.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
13 each Corps participant with a living allowance in an
14 amount established by the Secretary.

15 ~~“(2) COST-OF-LIVING DIFFERENTIAL; TRAVEL~~
16 ~~COSTS.—The Secretary may—~~

17 ~~“(A) apply a cost-of-living differential to~~
18 ~~the living allowances established under para-~~
19 ~~graph (1); and~~

20 ~~“(B) if the Secretary determines reim-~~
21 ~~bursement to be appropriate, reimburse Corps~~

22 ~~“(2) TRAVEL COSTS.—The Secretary may reim-~~
23 ~~burse Corps participants for travel costs at the be-~~
24 ~~ginning and end of the term of service of the Corps~~
25 ~~participants.~~

26 “(b) TERMS OF SERVICE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Corps participant
2 shall agree to participate for such term of service as
3 may be established by the Secretary.

4 “(2) CONSULTATIONS.—With respect to the In-
5 dian Youth Service Corps, the term of service shall
6 be established in consultation with the affected In-
7 dian tribe or tribally authorized organization.

8 “(c) HIRING PREFERENCE AND FUTURE EMPLOY-
9 MENT.—The Secretary may—

10 “(1) grant to a Corps participant credit for
11 time served as a Corps participant, which may be
12 used toward future Federal hiring;

13 “(2) provide to a former participant of the
14 Corps or the Indian Youth Service Corps non-
15 competitive hiring status for a period of not more
16 than 2 years after the date on which the service of
17 the candidate in the Corps or the Indian Youth
18 Service Corps was complete, if the candidate—

19 “(A) has served a minimum of 960 hours
20 on an appropriate natural or cultural resources
21 conservation project that included at least 120
22 hours through the Corps or the Indian Youth
23 Service Corps; and

1 “(B) meets Office of Personnel Manage-
2 ment qualification standards for the position for
3 which the candidate is applying;

4 “(3) provide to a former resource assistant or
5 consulting intern noncompetitive hiring status for a
6 period of not more than 2 years after the date on
7 which the individual has completed an under-
8 graduate or graduate degree, respectively, from an
9 accredited institution, if the candidate—

10 “(A) successfully fulfilled the resource as-
11 sistant or consulting intern program require-
12 ments; and

13 “(B) meets Office of Personnel Manage-
14 ment qualification standards for the position for
15 which the candidate is applying; and

16 “(4) provide, or enter into contracts or coopera-
17 tive agreements with qualified employment agencies
18 to provide, alumni services such as job and edu-
19 cation counseling, referrals, verification of service,
20 communications, and other appropriate services to
21 Corps participants who have completed the term of
22 service.”.

23 (l) NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—
24 Section 210 (16 U.S.C. 1727) of the Act (as redesignated
25 by subsection (h)) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a) (as amended by subsection
2 (a)(4)), in the first sentence—

3 (A) by striking “participant in the Corps
4 or a resource assistant” and inserting “Corps
5 participant”; and

6 (B) by striking “participant or resource as-
7 sistant” and inserting “Corps participant”; and
8 (2) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) by striking “either participants in the
10 Corps or resource assistants” and inserting
11 “Corps participants”; and

12 (B) by striking “or a resource assistant”.

13 (m) NONDISPLACEMENT.—Section 211 of the Act
14 (16 U.S.C. 1728) (as redesignated by subsection (h)) is
15 amended by striking “activities carried out” and all that
16 follows through the period and inserting “Corps partici-
17 pants.”.

18 (n) FUNDING.—Section 212 of the Act (16 U.S.C.
19 1729) (as redesignated by subsection (h)) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) in the second sentence, by striking
23 “non-federal sources” and inserting
24 “sources other than the Secretary”; and

1 (ii) by inserting after the second sen-
2 tence the following: “The Secretary may
3 pay up to 90 percent of the costs of a
4 project if the Secretary determines that the
5 reduction is necessary to enable participa-
6 tion from a greater range of organizations
7 or individuals.”; and

8 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or In-
9 dian Youth Service Corps” after “Corps” each
10 place it appears;

11 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
12 lows:

13 “(b) FUNDS AVAILABLE UNDER NATIONAL AND
14 COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT.—To carry out this Act, the
15 Secretary shall be eligible to apply for and receive assist-
16 ance under section 121(b) of the National and Community
17 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 12571(b)).”; and

18 (3) in subsection (c)—

19 (A) by striking “section 211” and insert-
20 ing “section 213”; and

21 (B) by inserting “or Indian Youth Service
22 Corps” after “Corps”.

23 (o) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
24 213 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1730) (as redesignated by sub-
25 section (h)) is amended—

1 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 “~~(a) IN GENERAL.—~~There are authorized to be ap-
4 propriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out
5 this Act.”;

6 (1) *in subsection (a), by striking “year” and all*
7 *that follows through the period and inserting “year.”;*

8 (2) by striking subsection (b); and

9 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
10 section (b).

Calendar No. 282

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 896

[Report No. 112-120]

A BILL

To amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service opportunities for young Americans; help restore the nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational and scenic resources; train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts; and promote the value of public service.

JANUARY 13, 2012

Reported with amendments