

SUBCHAPTER II—PUBLIC LANDS CORPS

§ 1721. Congressional findings and purpose**(a) Findings**

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Conserving or developing natural and cultural resources and enhancing and maintaining environmentally important lands and waters through the use of the Nation's young men and women in a Public Lands Corps can benefit those men and women by providing them with education and work opportunities, furthering their understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources, and providing a means to pay for higher education or to repay indebtedness they have incurred to obtain higher education while at the same time benefiting the Nation's economy and its environment.

(2) Many facilities and natural resources located on eligible service lands are in disrepair or degraded and in need of labor intensive rehabilitation, restoration, and enhancement work which cannot be carried out by Federal agencies at existing personnel levels.

(3) Youth conservation corps have established a good record of restoring and maintaining these kinds of facilities and resources in a cost effective and efficient manner, especially when they have worked in partnership arrangements with government land management agencies.

(b) Purpose

It is the purpose of this subchapter to—

(1) perform, in a cost-effective manner, appropriate conservation projects on eligible service lands where such projects will not be performed by existing employees;

(2) assist governments and Indian tribes in performing research and public education tasks associated with natural and cultural resources on eligible service lands;

(3) expose young men and women to public service while furthering their understanding and appreciation of the Nation's natural and cultural resources;

(4) expand educational opportunities by rewarding individuals who participate in national service with an increased ability to pursue higher education or job training; and

(5) stimulate interest among the Nation's young men and women in conservation careers by exposing them to conservation professionals in land managing agencies.

(Pub. L. 91-378, title II, §202, as added Pub. L. 103-82, title I, §105(6), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 848.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Subchapter effective Oct. 1, 1993, see section 123 of Pub. L. 103-82, set out as an Effective Date of 1993 Amendment note under section 1701 of this title.

SHORT TITLE

For short title of title II of Pub. L. 91-378, as added by Pub. L. 103-82, title I, §105(6), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 848, as the "Public Lands Corps Act of 1993", see Short Title note set out under section 1701 of this title.

§ 1722. Definitions

For purposes of this subchapter:

(1) Appropriate conservation project

The term "appropriate conservation project" means any project for the conservation, restoration, construction or rehabilitation of natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, or scenic resources.

(2) Corps and Public Lands Corps

The terms "Corps" and "Public Lands Corps" mean the Public Lands Corps established under section 1723 of this title.

(3) Eligible service lands

The term "eligible service lands" means public lands, Indian lands, and Hawaiian home lands.

(4) Hawaiian home lands

The term "Hawaiian home lands" means all lands given the status of Hawaiian home lands under section 204 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 110), or under the corresponding provision of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii adopted under section 4 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the admission of the State of Hawaii into the Union", approved March 18, 1959 (Public Law 86-3; 73 Stat. 5).

(5) Indian

The term "Indian" means a person who—

(A) is a member of an Indian tribe; or

(B) is a "Native", as defined in section 3(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(b)).

(6) Indian lands

The term "Indian lands" means—

(A) any Indian reservation;

(B) any public domain Indian allotments;

(C) any former Indian reservation in the State of Oklahoma;

(D) any land held by incorporated Native groups, regional corporations, and village corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.]; and

(E) any land held by dependent Indian communities within the borders of the United States whether within the original or subsequently acquired territory thereof, and whether within or without the limits of a State.

(7) Indian tribe

The term "Indian tribe" means an Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Native village, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation, as defined in subsection (c), (g), or (j), respectively, of section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(c), (g), or (j)), that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States under Federal law to Indians because of their status as Indians.

(8) Priority project

The term "priority project" means an appropriate conservation project conducted on eligible service lands to further 1 or more of the purposes of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), as follows: