

et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 6501 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2005—Pars. (8) to (13). Pub. L. 109-154 added pars. (8) and (12) and redesignated former pars. (8) to (11) as pars. (9) to (11) and (13), respectively.

**§ 1723. Public Lands Corps program**

**(a) Establishment of Public Lands Corps**

There is hereby established in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture a Public Lands Corps.

**(b) Participants**

The Corps shall consist of individuals between the ages of 16 and 25, inclusive, who are enrolled as participants in the Corps by the Secretary. To be eligible for enrollment in the Corps, an individual shall satisfy the criteria specified in section 12591(b) of title 42. The Secretary may enroll such individuals in the Corps without regard to the civil service and classification laws, rules, or regulations of the United States. The Secretary may establish a preference for the enrollment in the Corps of individuals who are economically, physically, or educationally disadvantaged.

**(c) Qualified youth or conservation corps**

**(1) In general**

The Secretary is authorized to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with any qualified youth or conservation corps to perform appropriate conservation projects referred to in subsection (d).

**(2) Preference**

**(A) In general**

For purposes of entering into contracts and cooperative agreements under paragraph (1), the Secretary may give preference to qualified youth or conservation corps located in a specific area that have a substantial portion of members who are economically, physically, or educationally disadvantaged to carry out projects within the area.

**(B) Priority projects**

In carrying out priority projects in a specific area, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, give preference to qualified youth or conservation corps located in that specific area that have a substantial portion of members who are economically, physically, or educationally disadvantaged.

**(d) Projects to be carried out**

**(1) In general**

The Secretary may utilize the Corps or any qualified youth or conservation corps to carry out appropriate conservation projects which the Secretary is authorized to carry out under other authority of law on public lands.

**(2) Projects on Indian lands**

Appropriate conservation projects may also be carried out under this subchapter on Indian lands with the approval of the Indian tribe involved and on Hawaiian home lands with the

approval of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands of the State of Hawaii.

**(3) Disaster prevention or relief projects**

The Secretary may authorize appropriate conservation projects and other appropriate projects to be carried out on Federal, State, local, or private land as part of a Federal disaster prevention or relief effort.

**(e) Preference for certain projects**

In selecting appropriate conservation projects to be carried out under this subchapter, the Secretary shall give preference to those projects which—

- (1) will provide long-term benefits to the public;
- (2) will instill in the enrollee involved a work ethic and a sense of public service;
- (3) will be labor intensive;
- (4) can be planned and initiated promptly; and
- (5) will provide academic, experiential, or environmental education opportunities.

**(f) Consistency**

Each appropriate conservation project carried out under this subchapter on eligible service lands shall be consistent with the provisions of law and policies relating to the management and administration of such lands, with all other applicable provisions of law, and with all management, operational, and other plans and documents which govern the administration of the area.

(Pub. L. 91-378, title II, §204, as added Pub. L. 103-82, title I, §105(6), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 850; amended Pub. L. 109-154, §2(b), (c), (g)(1), Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2891, 2893.)

AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-154, §2(g)(1)(A), substituted “Corps by the Secretary” for “Corps by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture” and “Secretary may” for “Secretaries may” in two places.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-154, §2(b), designated existing provisions as par. (1), inserted heading, substituted “The Secretary is” for “The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture are”, and added par. (2).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109-154, §2(c), designated first sentence as par. (1), inserted heading, and substituted “The Secretary may” for “The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may each” and “the Secretary” for “such Secretary”, designated second sentence as par. (2) and inserted heading, added par. (3), and struck out former third sentence which read “The Secretaries may also authorize appropriate conservation projects and other appropriate projects to be carried out on Federal, State, local, or private lands as part of disaster prevention or relief efforts in response to an emergency or major disaster declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).”

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 109-154, §2(g)(1)(B), substituted “Secretary” for “Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture” in introductory provisions.

**§ 1724. Conservation centers and program support**

**(a) Establishment and use**

**(1) In general**

The Secretary may establish and use conservation centers owned and operated by the Secretary for—

- (A) use by the Public Lands Corps; and
- (B) the conduct of appropriate conservation projects under this subchapter.

**(2) Assistance for conservation centers**

The Secretary may provide to a conservation center established under paragraph (1) any services, facilities, equipment, and supplies that the Secretary determines to be necessary for the conservation center.

**(3) Standards for conservation centers**

The Secretary shall—

- (A) establish basic standards of health, nutrition, sanitation, and safety for all conservation centers established under paragraph (1); and
- (B) ensure that the standards established under subparagraph (A) are enforced.

**(4) Management**

As the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the Secretary may enter into a contract or other appropriate arrangement with a State or local government agency or private organization to provide for the management of a conservation center.

**(b) Logistical support**

The Secretary may make arrangements with the Secretary of Defense to have logistical support provided by the Armed Forces to the Corps and any conservation center established under this section, where feasible. Logistical support may include the provision of temporary tent shelters where needed, transportation, and residential supervision.

**(c) Use of military installations**

The Secretary may make arrangements with the Secretary of Defense to identify military installations and other facilities of the Department of Defense and, in consultation with the adjutant generals of the State National Guards, National Guard facilities that may be used, in whole or in part, by the Corps for training or housing Corps participants.

**(d) Assistance**

The Secretary may provide any services, facilities, equipment, supplies, technical assistance, oversight, monitoring, or evaluations that are appropriate to carry out this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 91-378, title II, §205, as added Pub. L. 103-82, title I, §105(6), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 851; amended Pub. L. 109-154, §2(d), (g)(2), Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2891, 2893.)

AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-154, §2(d)(1), inserted “and program support” after “Conservation centers” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-154, §2(d)(2), added subsec. (a) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (a). Text read as follows: “The Secretary of the Interior

and the Secretary of Agriculture are each authorized to provide such quarters, board, medical care, transportation, and other services, facilities, supplies, and equipment as such Secretary deems necessary in connection with the Public Lands Corps and appropriate conservation projects carried out under this subchapter and to establish and use conservation centers owned and operated by such Secretary for purposes of the Corps and such projects. The Secretaries shall establish basic standards of health, nutrition, sanitation, and safety for all conservation centers established under this section and shall assure that such standards are enforced. Where necessary or appropriate, the Secretaries may enter into contracts and other appropriate arrangements with State and local government agencies and private organizations for the management of such conservation centers.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-154, §2(g)(2)(A), substituted “Secretary may” for “Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-154, §2(g)(2)(B), substituted “Secretary may” for “Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109-154, §2(d)(3), added subsec. (d).

**§ 1725. Resource assistants**

**(a) Authorization**

The Secretary is authorized to provide individual placements of resource assistants with any Federal land managing agency under the jurisdiction of the Secretary to carry out research or resource protection activities on behalf of the agency. To be eligible for selection as a resource assistant, an individual must be at least 17 years of age. The Secretary may select resource assistants without regard to the civil service and classification laws, rules, or regulations of the United States. The Secretary shall give a preference to the selection of individuals who are enrolled in an institution of higher education or are recent graduates from an institution of higher education, with particular attention given to ensure full representation of women and participants from historically black, Hispanic, and Native American schools.

**(b) Use of existing nonprofit organizations**

Whenever one or more existing nonprofit organizations can provide, in the judgment of the Secretary, appropriate recruitment and placement services to fulfill the requirements of this section, the Secretary may implement this section through such existing organizations. Participating nonprofit organizations shall contribute to the expenses of providing and supporting the resource assistants, through private sources of funding, at a level equal to 25 percent of the total costs of each participant in the Resource Assistant program who has been recruited and placed through that organization. Any such participating nonprofit conservation service organization shall be required, by the respective land managing agency, to submit an annual report evaluating the scope, size, and quality of the program, including the value of work contributed by the Resource Assistants, to the mission of the agency.

(Pub. L. 91-378, title II, §206, as added Pub. L. 103-82, title I, §105(6), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 852; amended Pub. L. 109-154, §2(g)(3), Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2893.)

<sup>1</sup> So in original.