

the<sup>1</sup> 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; Pub. L. 116-9, title IX, § 9003(d)(1), Mar. 12, 2019, 133 Stat. 833.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116-9 substituted “The Secretary may provide individual placements of resource assistants to carry out research or resource protection activities on behalf of the Secretary.” for “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.”

2005—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-154, § 2(g)(3)(A), substituted “Secretary is” for “Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture are each”, “the Secretary to carry out” for “such Secretary to carry out”, “Secretary may” for “Secretaries may”, and “Secretary shall” for “Secretaries shall”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-154, § 2(g)(3)(B), substituted “the Secretary, appropriate” for “Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, appropriate”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 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.

### § 1725a. Direct hire authority

(1) During fiscal year 2012 and thereafter, the Secretary (as defined in section 1722 of this title) may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title, a qualified candidate described in paragraph (2) directly to a position for which the candidate meets Office of Personnel Management qualification standards.

(2) Paragraph (1) applies with respect to a former resource assistant (as defined in section 1722 of this title) who—

(A) completed a rigorous undergraduate or graduate summer internship with the Secretary (as so defined), such as the National Park Service Business Plan Internship;

(B) successfully fulfilled the requirements of the internship program; and

(C) subsequently earned an undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

(3) The direct hire authority under this section may not be exercised with respect to a specific qualified candidate after the end of the two-year period beginning on the date on which the candidate completed the undergraduate or graduate degree, as the case may be.

(Pub. L. 112-74, div. E, title I, § 121(a), Dec. 23, 2011, 125 Stat. 1012; Pub. L. 116-9, title IX, § 9003(d)(2), Mar. 12, 2019, 133 Stat. 834.)

#### CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012, and also as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012, and not as part of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 which comprises this subchapter.

#### AMENDMENTS

2019—Par. (1). Pub. L. 116-9, § 9003(d)(2)(A), substituted “Secretary (as defined in section 1722 of this title)” for “Secretary of the Interior” and “paragraph (2)” for “paragraph (1)” and struck out “with a land managing agency of the Department of the Interior” after “position”.

Par. (2)(A). Pub. L. 116-9, § 9003(d)(2)(B), substituted “with the Secretary (as so defined)” for “with a land managing agency”.

### § 1725b. Forest Service hire authority

#### (a) In general

The Secretary of Agriculture may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title, a qualified candidate described in subsection (b) directly to a position with the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service for which the candidate meets Office of Personnel Management qualification standards.

#### (b) Qualifications

Subsection (a) applies to a former resource assistant (as defined in section 203 of the Public Land Corps Act<sup>1</sup> (16 U.S.C. 1722)) who—

(1) completed a rigorous internship with a land managing agency, such as the Forest Service Resource Assistant Program;

(2) successfully fulfilled the requirements of the internship program; and

(3) earned an undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education (as defined in section 1001 of title 20).

#### (c) Limitation

The direct hire authority under this section may not be exercised with respect to a specific qualified candidate after the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date on which the candidate completed the undergraduate or graduate degree, as the case may be, or has successfully fulfilled the requirements of the internship program, whichever is later.

(Pub. L. 115-334, title XII, § 12518, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 5001.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 203 of the Public Land Corps Act, referred to in subsec. (b), probably means section 203 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993, title II of Pub. L. 91-378, which is classified to section 1722 of this title.

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

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

## CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and not as part of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 which comprises this subchapter.

**§ 1726. Compensation and terms of service****(a) Living allowances**

The Secretary shall provide each participant in the Public Lands Corps and each resource assistant with a living allowance in an amount established by the Secretary.

**(b) Educational credit**

The Secretary may provide a Corps participant with an educational credit that may be applied toward a program of postsecondary education at an institution of higher education that agrees to allow the credit for participation in the Corps.

**(c) Terms of service****(1) In general**

Each participant in the Corps and each resource assistant shall agree to participate in the Corps or serve as a resource assistant, as the case may be, for such term of service as may be established by the Secretary enrolling or selecting the individual.

**(2) Indian Youth Service Corps**

With respect to the Indian Youth Service Corps established under section 1727b of this title, the Secretary shall establish the term of service of participants in consultation with the affected Indian tribe.

**(d) Hiring****(1) In general**

The Secretary may—

(A) grant to a member of the Public Lands Corps credit for time served with the Public Lands Corps, which may be used toward future Federal hiring; and

(B) provide to a former member of the Public Lands Corps noncompetitive hiring status for a period of not more than 2 years after the date on which the member's service with the Public Lands Corps is complete.

**(2) Time-limited appointment**

For purposes of section 9602 of title 5, a former member of the Corps hired by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(B) for a time-limited appointment shall be considered to be appointed initially under open, competitive examination.

**(e) Applicability to qualified youth or conservation corps**

The hiring and compensation standards described in this section shall apply to any individual participating in an appropriate conservation project through a qualified youth or conservation corps, including an individual placed through a contract or cooperative agreement, as approved by the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 91-378, title II, §207, as added Pub. L. 103-82, title I, §105(6), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 852; amended Pub. L. 109-154, §2(e), Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2892; Pub. L. 114-289, title III, §302(3), Dec.

16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1487; Pub. L. 116-9, title IX, §9003(e), Mar. 12, 2019, 133 Stat. 834.)

## AMENDMENTS

2019—Pub. L. 116-9, §9003(e)(1), substituted “Compensation and terms of service” for “Living allowances and terms of service” in section catchline.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116-9, §9003(e)(3), added subsec. (b). Former subsec. (b) redesignated (c).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-9, §9003(e)(4), designated existing provisions as par. (1), inserted heading, and added par. (2).

Pub. L. 116-9, §9003(e)(2), redesignated subsec. (b) as (c). Former subsec. (c) redesignated (d).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 116-9, §9003(e)(5), designated existing provisions as par. (1) and inserted heading, redesignated former pars. (1) and (2) as subpars. (A) and (B), respectively, of par. (1) and realigned margins, and added par. (2).

Pub. L. 116-9, §9003(e)(2), redesignated subsec. (c) as (d).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 116-9, §9003(e)(6), added subsec. (e).

2016—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 114-289 substituted “2 years” for “120 days”.

2005—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-154, §2(e)(1), 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 shall provide each participant in the Public Lands Corps and each resource assistant with a living allowance in an amount not to exceed the maximum living allowance authorized by section 140(a)(3) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 for participants in a national service program assisted under subtitle C of title I of such Act.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-154, §2(e)(2), added subsec. (c).

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 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.

**§ 1727. National service educational awards****(a) Educational benefits and awards**

If a participant in the Public Lands Corps or a resource assistant also serves in an approved national service position designated under subtitle C of title I of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 [42 U.S.C. 12571 et seq.], the participant or resource assistant shall be eligible for a national service educational award in the manner prescribed in subtitle D of such title [42 U.S.C. 12601 et seq.] upon successfully complying with the requirements for the award. The period during which the national service educational award may be used, the purposes for which the award may be used, and the amount of the award shall be determined as provided under such subtitle.

**(b) Forbearance in collection of Stafford loans**

For purposes of section 1078 of title 20, in the case of borrowers who are either participants in the Corps or resource assistants, upon written request, a lender shall grant a borrower forbearance on such terms as are otherwise consistent with the regulations of the Secretary of Education, during periods in which the borrower is serving as such a participant or a resource assistant.

(Pub. L. 91-378, title II, §208, as added Pub. L. 103-82, title I, §105(6), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 853.)