

**(e) Transportation**

The Secretary may provide to Corps participants who reside in their own homes transportation to and from appropriate conservation project sites.

(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; Pub. L. 116-9, title IX, §9003(c), Mar. 12, 2019, 133 Stat. 833.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 116-9 added subsec. (e).

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).

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## 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.

**§ 1725. Resource assistants****(a) Authorization**

The Secretary may provide individual placements of resource assistants to carry out research or resource protection activities on behalf of the Secretary. 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

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.)

**Editorial Notes**

## 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”.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## 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;

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

(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.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### 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.

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

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

#### Editorial Notes

##### 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.

##### 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 award 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 indi-