

MEDIA RELEASE

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Conservation Corps Coalition Pitches a 21st Century Corps to Washington DC.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Conservation Corps North Bay joined forces with The Corps Network and member organizations throughout the country to initiate discussion on building on the Corps Network’s successful foundation to create a federally funded conservation corps for the 21st century.

Representatives from local Conservation Corps met with highly placed government officials and land managers to make their case. Even a 13 year old alumni from the CCNB Summer program made a presentation.

The plan responds to President Obama and Interior Secretary Salazar's push to involve young people in our nation's public lands. It also efficiently addresses some of the most pressing issues of the day.

The Conservation Corps model is based on the paradigm used by FDR in creating the Civilian Conservation Corps (WPA) which was instrumental in putting America back to work during the depression. The Corps Network already employs and educates over 30,000 young people a year, while teaching them about preserving our environment and natural resources and giving them their first steps in green careers.

Those young people put in over 21 million hours a year, restoring and maintaining our parks and public spaces, protecting wildlife habitats, enhancing neighborhoods and communities, improving campgrounds and recreational facilities, removing litter and teaching and implementing recycling.

The coalition hopes that by capitalizing on the experience and infrastructure that's already being utilized so successfully by the corps network, the plan will educate and put more young people to work, help reduce alarming youth obesity statistics, preserve and protect our environment and create the environmental stewards and leaders of the future.

It's estimated that an initial 50 million dollar investment by the government will put 15,000 more young people outdoors, exercising, and working towards a greater good.

Which as one member put it, yields an almost 900% better rate of return than the stimulus plan produced, with far more environmental and social benefits.

While no commitment of funds were made in the preliminary meeting, the conversation is scheduled to continue. Stay tuned. Or better yet, get involved.

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