(C) To address the impact of insect or disease infestations or other damaging agents on forest and rangeland health.

(D) To protect, restore, or enhance forest ecosystem components to—

(i) promote the recovery of threatened or endangered species;

(ii) improve biological diversity; or

(iii) enhance productivity and carbon sequestration.

(9) Public lands

The term ''public lands'' means any lands or waters (or interest therein) owned or administered by the United States, except that such term does not include any Indian lands.

(10) Qualified youth or conservation corps

The term ''qualified youth or conservation corps'' means any program established by a State or local government, by the governing body of any Indian tribe, or by a nonprofit organization that—

(A) is capable of offering meaningful, full-time, productive work for individuals between the ages of 16 and 25, inclusive, in a natural or cultural resource setting;

(B) gives participants a mix of work experience, basic and life skills, education, training, and support services; and

(C) provides participants with the opportunity to develop citizenship values and skills through service to their community and the United States.

(11) Resource assistant

The term ''resource assistant'' means a resource assistant selected under section 1725 of this title.

(12) Secretary

The term ''Secretary'' means—

(A) with respect to National Forest System land, the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) with respect to Indian lands, Hawaiian home lands, or land administered by the Department of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior.

(13) State

The term ''State'' means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(Pub. L. 91–378, title II, § 203, as added Pub. L. 103–82, title I, § 105(6), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 849; amended Pub. L. 109–154, § 2(a), Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2890.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, referred to in par. (4), is act July 9, 1921, ch. 42, 42 Stat. 108, as amended. Section 204 of that Act was classified to section 698 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions, and was omitted from the Code.

Section 4 of Public Law 86–3, referred to in par. (4), is set out as a note preceding section 491 of Title 48.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, referred to in par. (6)(D), is Pub. L. 92–203, Dec. 18, 1971, 85 Stat. 688, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 33 (§ 1601 et seq.) of Title 43, Public Lands. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1601 of Title 43 and Tables.

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, referred to in par. (8), is Pub. L. 108–148, Dec. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 1887, which is classified principally to chapter 84 (§ 6501 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) of this section.

(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