

Partnership Project Success Story

State:	South Dakota	FS Funds Used:	\$ 50,805
National Forest/Grassland:	Black Hills National Forest	Other Funds Used:	\$4,824
		Partners:	\$62,513
Project Name:	Tribal Youth Conservation Corps Program	Total Project Cost:	\$118,142

Project Purpose/Objectives: The Tribal YCC program provides American Indian youth with employment, educational programs, and resource management training through a cost-share partnership between the Black Hills National Forest, National Park Service, and the Cheyenne River, Rosebud, Standing Rock, and Yankton Sioux Tribes. Natural resource management objectives including trail and facility maintenance, fuels piling, wetland restoration, and noxious weed removal are met through the dedicated efforts of program enrollees.

Work Performed: In 2006, 17 Native American youth between the ages of 22 and 16 provided over 3,500 hours of labor to resource projects on the Forest and Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Accomplishments included: 23 miles of trail maintenance, 1 acre of fuels piling, 3 acres of noxious weed removal, 6 miles of old fence removal, one acre of tree planting, and maintenance at 23 camping facilities. At Mount Rushmore the crew assisted with parking for the 4th of July celebration, completed 1 acre of weed removal, stained wood benches, and constructed 8 miles of temporary fencing.

Total work accomplishments for the six year program include: 59 miles of trail work, 81 acres of fuels piling, 35 miles of fence work, 34 facility maintenance projects, 242 acres of wetland restoration, 110 acres of noxious weed removal, and 15 acres of tree planting. A total of 18,990 hours of labor has been contributed to resource management by this program.

Benefits: A total of 128 American Indian youth have received employment and natural resource training through this program. Development of life skills such as being on a work schedule, planning meals, and working as a team member are benefits for the youth, who in many cases are in their first regular job and are experiencing their first extended absence from home. Educational experiences are provided through Thursday evening interpretive programs and Saturday field trips.

A very important benefit of this program is the development of successful working relationships between tribal communities, the Forest, and the Park Service. Through working together tribal enrollees and agency specialists have developed a better understanding of each other and of their respective cultural backgrounds.

A wide variety of natural resource protection, enhancement, and maintenance projects are being accomplished in a time of declining budgets. Hopefully enrollees in this program will become valued members of the Forest service work force.

Additional Information

Partners: A cost-share partnership between the Black Hills National Forest, National Park Service, and the Cheyenne River, Rosebud, Standing Rock, and Yankton Sioux Tribes