



Our Moment

Jerry Ingersoll, Acting National Director, Job Corps National Office



You inspire me. In just one month as Acting Director, I've heard stories of staff shortages, lingering effects of last summer's closure announcement – and leadership at every level, student success, and caring, dedicated service. Despite everything, you continue to excel. Thank you!

Month after month, most of the top 10 Job Corps centers in the nation are Civilian Conservation Centers (CCCs), and almost all of the CCCs are in the top 50. Your students graduate to good jobs across America, stay with those jobs, and succeed. You change lives. It makes me very proud to have this opportunity to serve with you, and proud that the Forest Service is still engaged in this work.

Reversal of the closure order shows just how much you've earned the trust, respect, and support of our communities and partners. The Secretary of Agriculture committed us to strengthening the connection between the CCCs and the agency mission and pledged his support. The Chief and Forest Service leadership are with us. This gives us a unique window of opportunity. Bold action today can win the changes we need to set the Job Corps CCCs on a sustainable path as a core function of the Forest Service, returning to our mandate to "conserve, develop and manage public natural resources and recreational areas and develop community projects in the public interest."

Every CCC should provide students the opportunity to engage in conservation work, and Job Corps should be the premier vocational training program for Forest Service careers. Most students will still graduate into jobs in the private sector or the military, but we need to hire more of our own. So, we need trades and training programs connected to conservation. Our integration strategy will:

Sustain Our Success: In the end Job Corps is always about the students, and while pivoting some of our focus toward conservation, we must also sustain our record of positive student outcomes.

Hire Students Now: Hiring students into the Forest Service in 2020 through Fire and Public Land Corps would be an early win. A large number here would show what we can do, support the need for trade changes with the Department of Labor, and tie us even closer to the rest of the Forest Service.

Build for the Future: To supply a reliable pipeline of conservation workers, we need a conservation-related trade at each center. Having a conservation trade allows us to recruit students seeking out this work, focus trade instruction, and provide the right mix of training for Forest Service careers. This summer we hope to pilot conservation-related trade changes on four centers.

Engage in Fire Suppression and Conservation Work: Job Corps students maintain facilities, fight fire, treat fuels, and engage in the full range of Forest Service work. Last year, students contributed almost 200,000 hours of work with a value of \$8 million. This work, more than anything else, connects us to USDA. Work-based learning also teaches and motivates students and provides them the cash they need to transition to jobs. We must keep up and expand these efforts.

Hire the Staff and Fill the Centers: We lost a third of our workforce last summer, and some of our centers are well below funded on-board strength. Recruiting, advertising, and filling positions will take hard work, and we must likewise build relationships with contract recruiters to fill every center.

These are ambitious plans and won't be realized overnight. Your dedication and your leadership have brought the program this far. CCCs are the embodiment of caring for the land and serving people. Civilian Conservation Center students and staff *are* the Forest Service. This is our moment.

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**Jerry Ingersoll
Acting Job Corps
National Director**

Thirty-one Boxelder Job Corps complete innovative Natural Resources Career Exploration Class

With the renewed focus on returning the Civilian Conservation Centers (CCCs) to their original mandate of conserving, developing and managing public natural resources, these are exciting times for the Forest Service Job Corps program.

An integral element of this new direction is creating a pipeline of well-trained, motivated Job Corps graduates for natural resource careers within the Forest Service. With this in mind, Boxelder Job Corps CCC Academic Manager Bonnie Fuller has moved quickly by establishing a Natural Resources Career Pathway curriculum.

Students who complete the required classes earn credits towards a high school diploma with a Career and Technical Training (CTE) Certification in an agriculture, food and natural resources cluster, certified by the South Dakota Department of Education.

Students must complete a career exploration course, followed by either a Fundamental Natural Resources, Advanced Natural Resources, Wildlife and Fisheries, or Fundamental Plant Science course. The final step is to complete a Capstone Course where they can elect to complete either a Youth Apprenticeship, Service Learning, Youth Internship or Senior Experience.

Thirty-one Boxelder students earned their certificates of completion for the career exploration course that ended the week of March 2, 2020 and they also will be recognized at the next Leadership Team Meeting of the Black Hills National Forest.

Fuller initially surveyed the range of natural resource careers within Boxelder’s immediate geographical area and recruited and received commitments from natural resource specialists from a wide range of public land management agencies to contribute their time and expertise.

Natural resource specialists from the Bear Lodge, Hell Canyon, Northern Hills, and Mystic Ranger Districts and Fire and Aviation Management on the Black Hills National Forest, the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, and National Weather Service, and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

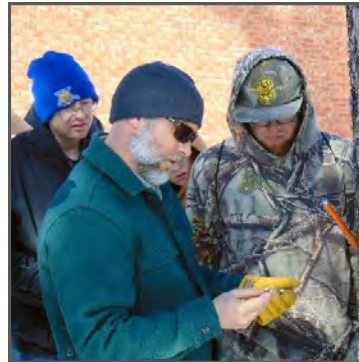
The first series of classes were a success and both students and presenters. Student Mercedes White reflected, “I learned how to age a tree, measure a tree, and how to identify tree leaves.” Bearlodge Ranger District Support Services Specialist Halley Legge thoroughly enjoyed her time with Boxelder students and exclaimed, “Thank you so much for allowing us to speak with your students.”



Forester Kara Dunlap explains how a tree harvester works. Photo by Bonnie Fuller.



Archaeological Technician Marissa Lee educates the students on artifacts. Photo by Bonnie Fuller.



District Ranger James Gubbels demonstrates how to measure a tree. Photo by Bonnie Fuller.



Forestry Technician Ben Schumacher demonstrates how to take a tree core sample. Photo by Bonnie Fuller.



Hydrologic Technician Kayla Jamerson and District Ranger Steve Kozel explain the importance of water bugs. Photo by Bonnie Fuller.



Forester Lily Zahor helps students with the Dichotomous Key. Photo by Bonnie Fuller.



South Dakota State Forester Allyssa Gregory demonstrates how to select which trees to measure and gave students the opportunity to try out a few tools of the trade. Photo by Bonnie Fuller.

Trapper Creek Job Corps graduates win Natural Resources Public Lands Stewardship Awards

The Bitter Root Resource Conservation and Development Area (Bitter Root RC&D) awarded Christian Carter, Bailey Hayes and Kyler Mueller Natural Resources Public Lands Stewardship Awards in December 2019.

The Bitter Root RC&D mission is to provide leadership and support on natural and human resource issues which promote sustainable rural lifestyles for current and future generations. Recognizing the enormous potential of Trapper Creek students, the Bitter Root RC&D wanted to contribute financial support and guidance to give center students additional motivation to pursue natural resource careers.

"I'm very impressed with the students. They're all smart young people trying to chart their path in the world," said Board President Tim Peterson, who also is a Forest Service natural resources biological technician.

Carter, Hayes, and Mueller earned their Public Lands Corps certificates by working at least 640 service hours on public lands and are accepting jobs that relate to their training.

The students received a cash award of \$500 to help them transition back into the community and which had to be matched by money they saved from paid work-based learning assignments. To improve their financial literacy, the students created household budgets to follow once they graduated.

Carter, Hayes and Mueller all gained a deepened appreciation for the nation's wild spaces and the importance of stewardship. "Before coming to Trapper Creek, I failed to grasp the enormity of the wild places in the west," wrote Carter. "But just as the smallest vibration can cause violent avalanches to come careening down the mountainside, all of our actions in nature have a tremendous impact on it."

Angell Job Corps students complete fire details on the Apalachicola Ranger District



Angell Job Corps wildland firefighter Alex Kintaro completed a detail on Apalachicola Ranger District Fire Engine FL-FNF E613 in January and February. Photo by Forest Service staff.



Angell Job Corps wildland firefighter Dustin Rizzo completed a detail on Apalachicola Ranger District Fire Engine FL-FNF E613 in January and February. Photo by Forest Service staff.

The Angell Job Corps Center fire program works hard to develop fit, motivated, well-trained Firefighter Type 2s (FFT2) and this work is paying off. Angell Job Corps FFT2s Dustin Rizzo and Alex Kintaro, with a season of wildland firefighting under their belt, were detailed to the Apalachicola Ranger District on the Apalachicola National Forest from January 26, 2020 through February 11, 2020 to work on prescribed burns and forest project work.

Kintaro and Rizzo helped burn two hundred acres which thinned the palmetto canopy. The overarching goal of this particular burn was to protect the habitat of the endangered Red Cockaded Woodpecker, which nest in the trees.

Kintaro and Rizzo also assisted with the post-hurricane clean-up of the Revolutionary War battlefield Prospect Bluff and prepped powerlines to help prevent the spread of fire.



Angell Job Corps wildland firefighters Alex Kintaro and Dustin Rizzo with their co-workers on the Apalachicola Ranger District Fire Engine FL-FNF E613. Photo by Forest Service staff.

Don't wait for the next Courier newsletter for CCC news. Visit the Forest Service Job Corps WWW page! The Forest Service Job Corps home page is hosted under "Working with Us" on the U.S. Forest Service WWW. Bookmark the link below to learn about and keep up-to-date on the exciting projects Civilian Conservation Center students and staff are working on.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/opportunities-for-young-people/forest-service-job-corps>

What Can Civilian Conservations Centers Do For Your National Forests and Grasslands?

Sample Work Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers	
National Forest Systems	
Recreation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail construction, trail maintenance Recreation site improvements: painting (signs, picnic tables), facilities maintenance, construction, brush removal, mowing, trailhead maintenance) Installation of picnic tables, fire rings Kiosk construction and installation 	
Forestry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-commercial thinning, tree planting, timber marking Stream maintenance -gabion installations Nursery work -tree lifting and packing, seedling planting Cone collection 	
Wildlife/Fisheries/Hydrology/Soils	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install Inserts for Red Cockcaded Woodpecker Boundary marking of Red Cockcaded Woodpecker area Snag/grouse drumming log creation Mid-story removal Gabion installations Infestation surveys 	
Engineering	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carpentry, painting Heavy equipment repair and maintenance, auto Maintenance Electrical, plumbing, welding Brick and concrete masonry Fashion stone foundations for forest portal signs Stream inventory Boundary/landline location, marking, inspection and maintenance Road Maintenance - sawing and chipping for site clearance on FS roads Greening of Job Corps Centers, research stations, and district offices 	
Administrative	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Front desk operator /services Data input, clerical, computer installation (Job Corps IT Team), record keeping 	
State and Private Forestry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire suppression, rehabilitation, mop-up, catering Prescribed fire 	
Research	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection Inventory 	

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTER MISSION

Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (CCCs) are associated with national forests or grasslands and are operated by the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor. CCCs provide youth, ages 16 to 24, with the opportunity to earn high school diplomas, GEDs, and certification in traditional vocational trades, including carpentry, welding, heavy equipment operations, and natural resources trades such as forestry, firefighting, and urban forestry.

CCCs strengthen rural and urban economies by providing youth with the skills and work experience to obtain and keep a living wage job. They are a rare alignment of solutions to the challenges of youth unemployment and the urgent need to protect our nation's natural resources. CCCs harness the enormous potential of young people, helping them fulfill their potential while changing their lives, the lives of their families and, through civic engagement, their communities. Civilian Conservation Centers embody the Forest Service mission, "To care for the land and serve people."



**1964 – 2019
CONSERVING
AMERICA'S
NATURAL RESOURCES
FOR OVER 50 YEARS**



USDA Forest Service operates 24 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (CCCs) with a capacity to house, educate, and train 3,800 enrollees. To subscribe to the Courier, send your e-mail address to: alicia.d.bennett@usda.gov

Forest Service Job Corps WWW:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/opportunities-for-young-people/forest-service-job-corps>

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