There are other places in life where we get an opportunity for our investment to grow, and I’d argue that one of most impactful places this can happen is in the world of gratitude. The more I express my gratitude, the more opportunities I will have to be grateful. The less I express, the fewer the opportunities.

When I express my gratitude to you, there is a good chance you will carry that forward and express gratitude to another, resulting in more opportunities for you to be grateful, and a wonderful cycle is created. Today I am taking my opportunity to write to you, my Forest Service Job Corps family members, to express my gratitude because I can think of no better way to use this platform.

Dear Family,

Each and every day I am amazed that I am given the good fortune of working alongside you in the pursuit of changing lives. I am in awe of the passion, dedication, and love that is poured into each of these young people. There is incredible and hard work that you do that earns you a paycheck but what makes me brag about this program (to ANYONE that will listen) is what you do that isn’t written in your position description. Every time I walk onto a campus and a student raises their chin and offers a smile, I see that you have given of yourself. When I shake the hand of a young person and there is confidence in their grip, I feel the empowerment you showed them they deserved. Thank you a million times.

Warmly,

Jeanne

“Gratitude and opportunity create more of the same.” –Seth Godin

If we are lucky in life, we find places where our investment is self-proliferating. “Self-Proliferating” might seem like an unfamiliar concept but we see it all over in the natural world. Rabbits are a common example of a self-proliferating species in the sense that if you start the month with two rabbits, you can quickly end with fourteen, and then that fourteen can grow exponentially in a matter of just a few months.

Often times we hope our money has the opportunity to self-proliferate in the same way. I certainly am not opposed to the idea of starting with two dollars and ending with fourteen dollars without any significant effort on my part, and then that new-to-me money continuing to grow at a similar rate!
If you’re looking for young people with an amazing work ethic, look no farther than Weber Basin Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center. Last month, nine students and four staff helped the Geospatial Technical Applications Center (GTAC) set up a vault for historic aerial film. Facing a tight deadline, and responsible for unpacking, arranging, and shelving 15,000 aerial film canisters with an average weight of seven pounds each, they knew to arrive on-site well rested for the task ahead. Ultimately, the Weber Basin crew’s speed, accuracy, and attention to detail allowed it to beat its deadline by four days!

Weber Basin students have donated their time supporting the GTAC Historical Aerial Photography Program since 2018 when Historical Aerial Photography Program Leader Gary Nebeker sought the assistance of Weber Basin students in scanning aerial photography records into PDF files. Aerial photography views provide a way to view and capture the entire scope of a landscape impossible to capture on a ground level which makes them an excellent planning tool.

The mission of the 24 Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers is to train eligible youth ages 16 to 24 with educational, social, and vocational skills while assisting in the conservation of the nation’s public natural resources.