



RENEW Conservation

Corps Act:

Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work



RENEW Conservation Corps Act Overview

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 40 million Americans have filed for unemployment since March. The United States has not witnessed unemployment levels of this scale since the Great Depression. To help address America's rising unemployment, we propose scaling the existing network of Service and Conservation Corps, as well as broadening the standards of participation to reflect multiple opportunities across our diverse nation, building a movement similar in purpose to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of the New Deal Era.

The outdoor tourism and recreation industry, which employs 5.2 million American workers (3.4% of total U.S. employment), accounts for 2.2% of GDP, and generates \$778 billion in economic output, has gone from one of the fastest growing sectors of our economy (3.9% annual growth) to experiencing record unemployment.

The RENEW Conservation Corps Act is a green infrastructure proposal looking to employ one million Americans over the course of five years to support the growing backlog of deferred conservation projects.

We're estimating this proposal would cost \$55.8 Billion with 86% of program costs going to participants in the program.

Projects

The work would be conducted across a range of locations, from remote wilderness areas on federal lands to state parks and rural communities to preserves, parks and vacant lots in the heart of major American cities. Examples of projects include:

- Plant trees
- Restore and manage wildlife habitat
- Control invasive species
- Conduct prescribed burns
- Restore streams, wetlands, and other aquatic ecosystems
- Monitor water quality in streams and lakes
- Assist with fish and wildlife surveys
- Plant native grasslands
- Construct or maintain trails, bridges, campgrounds, picnic shelters, or other recreational amenities for use by the public.
- Construct or maintain parks and playgrounds
- Restore brownfields in urban areas
- Construct rain gardens, grass waterways, pollinator gardens, or green schoolyards
- Develop urban gardens and farms
- Provide environmental interpretation and outdoor education

Proposal Costs

Employees would earn at least an hourly wage of \$15 per hour.

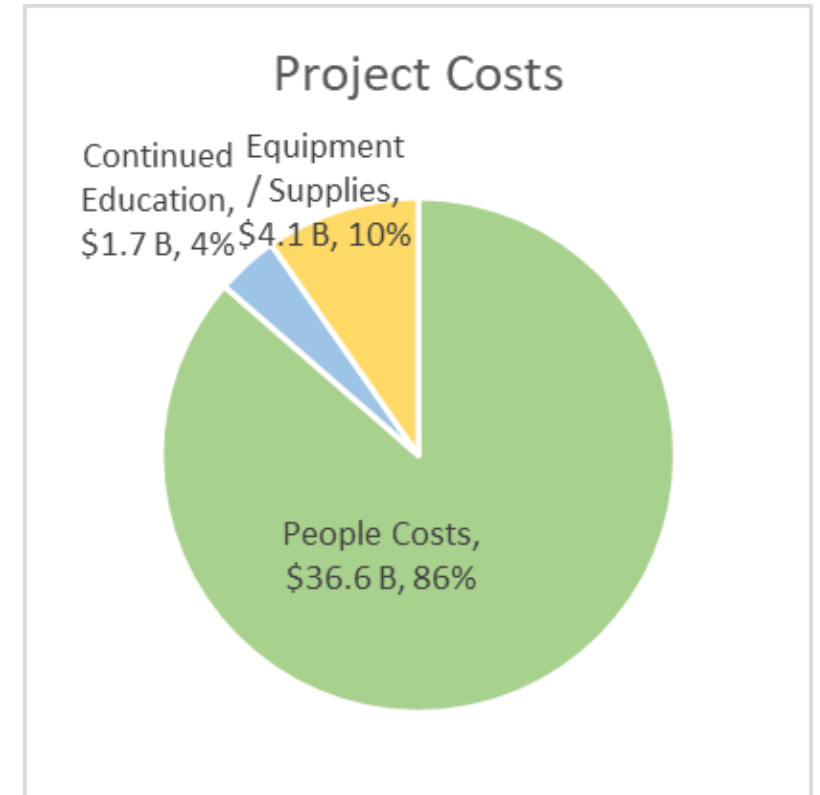
Participation in the program would range from 12 weeks to one year with approximated 20% of people working 12 weeks, 50% working 24 weeks, and 30% of people working one year.

The program would provide two weeks of training for all participants and offer continued education credits for all participants who work an entire year.

Participants would receive all gear, licenses, and uniforms needed for the job.

Conservation groups would receive funding for necessary equipment needed for these projects.

There would be an additional administrative budget at the federal, state and local level to support the necessary recruiting, hiring, and other administrative tasks needed to maintain operations at scale.

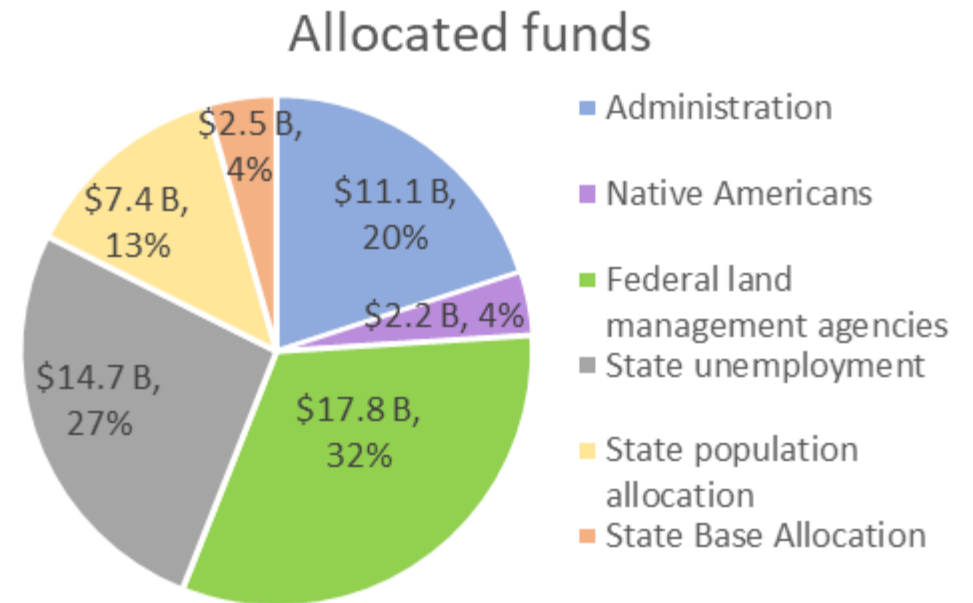


Allocation Methodology

In order to support the administrative needs associated with the program at the federal, state and local level 20% of the funds are set aside to support the necessary recruiting, hiring, and other administrative tasks.

Of the remaining funds, 40% will go to federal land management agencies and 55% will go to states and territories and 5% will go to Native American tribes.

The state and territory portion of the remaining funds will be allocated based on the number of people unemployed (60%), the population (30%), and a base allocation of \$44M each (10%).



State funding assumptions

All funds allocated to states distributed as follows:

- 50% would be allocated State agencies
- 50% will be allocated under a grant program to local open space agencies (forest preserve, conservation districts, park districts, etc.) and not for profits.