# **PART I - FACE SHEET**

<b>APPLICATION FOR FI</b>	EDERAL ASSISTANC	1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION:			
Modified Standard Form 424 (Rev.02/07 to c	m)	Application X Non-Construction			
2a. DATE SUBMITTED TO CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS):  3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE:			STATE APPLICATION	NIDENTIFIER:	
01/24/11				_	
2b. APPLICATION ID:	4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL A	AGENCY:	FEDERAL IDENTIFIER:		
11ND125130 01/24/11			09NDHCO001		
5. APPLICATION INFORMATION				500 DD0 (507 D)D5070D 0D 07/15D	
LEGAL NAME: Southwest Conservation Corps  DUNS NUMBER: 077309719  ADDRESS (give street address, city, state, zip code and county): 701 Camino Del Rio, Suite 101 Durango CO 81301 - 5597 County: La Plata		NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR OR OTHER PERSON TO BE CONTACTED ON MATTERS INVOLVING THIS APPLICATION (give area codes):  NAME: Harry Bruell  TELEPHONE NUMBER: (970) 259-8607 3  FAX NUMBER:  INTERNET E-MAIL ADDRESS: harry@sccorps.org			
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ( 841450808	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: 7a. Non-Profit 7b. Community-Based Organization				
	PREVIOUS GRANTE  DMENT  DX(es):  VISION				
			DERAL AGENCY: on for National a	and Community Service	
10a. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC A	11.a. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: ClimateCorps  11.b. CNCS PROGRAM INITIATIVE (IF ANY):				
10b. TITLE: AmeriCorps National					
AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (List Cities, Counties, States, etc):     Arizona: All of Southern Arizona including Phoenix and Tucson. SCC-Sonoran Desert office is located in Tucson.     Colorado: Southwest Colorado, San Luis Valley, Upper Arkansas Valley. SCC-Fo					
13. PROPOSED PROJECT: START DATE: 0	14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF: a.Applicant CO 003 b.Program CO 003				
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING: Year #: 3	16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE				
		ORDER 12372 PROCESS?			
a. FEDERAL b. APPLICANT	\$ 576,915.00 \$ 1,764,467.00	YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE:			
c. STATE	\$ 0.00				
d. LOCAL	\$ 0.00	<b>1</b>	NO. PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372		
e. OTHER	\$ 0.00				
f. PROGRAM INCOME	\$ 0.00	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?  YES if "Yes," attach an explanation. X NO			
g. TOTAL	\$ 2,341,382.00			<u> </u>	
18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING IS AWARDED.				CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN ACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE	
a. TYPED NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRES Harry Bruell			c. TELEPHONE NUMBER: (970) 259-8607 3		
d. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRES	ENTATIVE:			e. DATE SIGNED: 01/21/11	

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## **Executive Summary**

N/A

### Rationale and Approach

The Southwest Conservation Corps' (SCC) ClimateCorps will engage 55 young people at five sites across four Southwestern states (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas) in a multi-faceted program to address climate change. ClimateCorps projects will attack climate change from four distinct angles -- water, fire, land and energy -- and will engage young people from both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged backgrounds.

# 1) COMPELLING NEED

Climate change--which is defined as being any change over time in the average weather of a region or the world -- is one of the most predominate environmental issues affecting America and the world today. The impact of climate change -- sometimes referred to as global warming due to the temperatures rising as a result of human activity -- can be far-reaching in that it is known to have dramatic impacts on the environment, the economy and the general well-being of our way of life. The New York Times (November 19, 2008) stated that President-elect Barack Obama's has pledged to cut greenhouse emissions by 80% by the year 2050. In this same article Obama stated that "My presidency will mark a new chapter in America's leadership on climate change that will strengthen our security and create millions of new jobs in the process."

Our country's epicenter for global warming is the American Southwest, a vast arid area where the population explosion over the past twenty-five years has put a huge stress on the region's water, energy and other natural resources. The University of Arizona's Institute for the Study of Planet Earth (ISPE) reports that Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas are among the fastest growing in the nation, with

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an estimated population growth of 13.5 million by 2025. In the same study, it cited that temperatures over the last century have increased from 1.1 to 1.7 degrees Celsius in the Southwest. This warming trend is projected to continue into the next century. The increase in population coupled with the projection in overall temperatures will not only put pressure on the region's already limited water supplies, but increase the demand for energy, alter ecosystems, create risks for human health and stimulate change in agriculture activities.

ClimateCorps will address climate change needs from four approaches:

WATER. Water is undoubtedly the most vital and precious natural resource in the Southwest. Most of the surface water in the Southwest comes from two river basin systems: the Colorado and Rio Grande Rivers and their tributaries. Fed primarily by rainwater and snowmelt, the availability of water is ultimately climate dependent. Recent cycles of drought and global warming have exacted a toll on these water sources that have resulted in diminished snowpack, reduced soil moisture and increased evaporation. In an article addressing the Southwest's dwindling water sources in DesertUSA (May 2008), Jay Sharp cites that global warming has intensified, delaying autumn snowfalls and accelerating snow melts, raising autumn and spring temperatures and drying out soils. Furthermore, a rapidly growing population, especially in cities such as El Paso, Albuquerque and Tucson, will add to the demand of water resulting in potential shortages and imposed water restrictions. Adding to the threat of water availability in the Southwest is that of the noxious plant Tamarisk. Introduced in the 1800s to the US from Africa, Tamarisk has quickly spread into natural wetlands, where it tends to form dense thickets along streams and springs, displacing many native trees such as cottonwood, willow and mesquite. Tamarisk has also invaded almost all watercourses and wetland habitats in the Southwest, severely limiting or drying up available water sources. On average, a single Tamarisk can transpire up to 300 gallons of water per day (National Park Service). Only through efforts of conservation and

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preservation of available water supplies can the effects of climate change on the region's most valuable natural resource be addressed.

FIRE. Forests in the Southwest have experienced fires of catastrophic intensity in recent years. Due to the suppression of forest fires and severe cycles of drought in the Southwest, forests have developed a large amount of dead wood that serve as fuel when a fire breaks out. These large fires such as the Missionary Ridge Fire of Durango, CO and the Rattlesnake Fire in the Coronado National Forest in Arizona are also known to have released large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Researchers, such as retired forestry scientist Tom Bonnicksen believe that forest fires may be one of the primary causes of climate change and global warming in the Southwest. In a November 10, 2008 article in "High Country News," Bonnicksen states that his research shows that each acre of burned forest emits greenhouse gases equal to the annual exhaust from 48 cars. Using these calculations the Missionary Ridge Fire of 2002, which burned 72, 962 acres, released carbon dioxide into the atmosphere equal to the annual exhaust from over three million cars. Prevention of large fires is an important factor in reducing carbon emissions and slowing climate change.

LAND. The Southwest is unique in that it contains huge amounts of undeveloped public land, land that is crucial to maintaining biodiversity and reducing the rate of climate change. The importance of biodiversity to the climate is significant in that healthy ecosystems help regulate the climate. According to the Convention on Biological Diversity online-site, the conservation of habitats can reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. Unfortunately, many of the Southwest's natural ecosystems have become exploited due to over-grazing and over-recreation. Over-grazing in arid areas results in land degradation, which decreases the amount of available vegetative cover and water infiltration. As a result, the land becomes desert-like and barren with little to no biodiversity. This trend is particularly prevalent in Southern New Mexico and Arizona where much of the land is now a desert.

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Similarly, over-recreation of the Southwest's public lands due to an ever-growing population has caused many natural ecosystems to become fragmented, limiting the amount of biodiversity in that area.

Conservation and protection of the Southwest's open space and public lands will slow the rate of climate change.

ENERGY. Electric power remains extremely important for the development and growth in the Southwest. The distribution of water resources, for instance, for urban and agricultural uses is highly dependent on this source of energy. According to the University of Arizona's 2000 ISPE report, approximately one third of carbon dioxide emissions in the US are a result of fossil fueled power plants that use coal, oil and natural gas to produce electricity. In the Southwest, where high temperatures run rampant most of the year in some areas, the demand for electricity increases for cooling purposes. Any increase in temperatures therefore, will only heighten this demand thereby creating an increased amount of carbon emissions. Energy conservation is vital to decrease the amount of carbon emissions entering the atmosphere that ultimately will warm the region even further. Reducing energy use across the region will have a significant impact on reducing climate change.

# 2) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERS ROLES

ClimateCorps will engage 55 AmeriCorps members on nine crews at five SCC offices across the Southwest:

- SCC-Ancestral Lands based in Acoma Pueblo, NM: One crew of seven 450-hour AmeriCorps members
- SCC-Four Corners based in Durango, CO: Three crews of six 450-hour AmeriCorps members
- SCC-Los Valles based in Salida, CO: One crew of six 450-hour AmeriCorps members
- SCC-Sonoran Desert based in Tucson, AZ: Two crews of six 450-hour AmeriCorps members
- SCC-Lone Star based in Austin, TX: Two crews of six 1700-hour AmeriCorps members.

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In all cases, ClimateCorps AmeriCorps members will serve in a crew-based model based at an SCC office.

Later in their term of service AmeriCorps members may join other SCC crews as Team Leaders or

Education Mentors to lead other young people and volunteers in service.

ClimateCorps crews will participate in the following activities to combat climate change. Some crews at some locations may focus solely on one or two of these areas while other crews might focus on three or four. In all, ClimateCorps will focus on the entire scope of activities:

WATER. SCC crews will remove Tamarisk from the Dolores River in Colorado (a key tributary of the Colorado River) in partnership with the Dolores Tamarisk Action Coalition, San Juan National Forest and Walton Family Foundation. AmeriCorps members will also remove Tamarisk from the San Jose River in Acoma Pueblo, NM in partnership with Acoma Pueblo and the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps. In Southern Arizona, SCC crews will install rainwater catchment systems and practice techniques of permaculture to create sustainable landscaping practices in the local community. In Southwest Colorado and in Colorado's San Luis Valley SCC crews will conduct energy audits for low-income citizens in partnership with the Governor's Energy Office educating them about water savings and installing low-flow shower nozzles.

FIRE. SCC crews in Colorado will partner with the Colorado State Forest Service, US Forest Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs to conduct sustainable forestry projects reducing the risk of catastrophic forest fires.

LAND. SCC crews in Texas will improve public lands in Texas in partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in Colorado in partnership with the US Forest Service, in Arizona in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and in New Mexico in partnership with the National Park Service.

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In addition, in Texas ClimateCorps AmeriCorps members will lead Austin-area young people in urban 'green jobs' projects in partnership with the City of Austin, Travis County and American YouthWorks.

ENERGY. In Southwest Colorado and in Colorado's San Luis Valley SCC crews will conduct energy audits for low-income citizens in partnership with the Governor's Energy Office educating them about energy savings, installing programmable thermostats, installing compact fluorescent bulbs, installing clothes lines and conducting energy audits.

The ClimateCorps crews at SCC-Lone Star, SCC-Los Valles and SCC-Ancestral Lands will have a leadership component whereby AmeriCorps members will lead other young people in services. At SCC-Lone Star, AmeriCorps members will lead young people in urban projects such as energy efficient home construction and "green" projects in partnership with the City of Austin and Travis County. AmeriCorps members serving at SCC-Ancestral Lands will work as a team for a month and then become team leaders for crews of Acoma Pueblo young people working on projects in the community. SCC-Ancestral Lands AmeriCorps members will become mentors working with Veterans enrolled in the Veterans Green Jobs training program at Homelake State Veterans Home in Monte Vista, CO to jointly complete energy audits across the San Luis Valley. (SCC operates the Veterans program at Homelake in partnership with the Veterans Green Jobs.)

SCC will provide all ClimateCorps members will an orientation and on-going training and development activities specific to their service activities. The orientation will lay out all of the rules on prohibited service activities and the on-going training -- as well as monitoring by staff -- will ensure that members follow those rules. The 1700-hour members will receive more intensive training than the shorter term 450 hour members who will receive much of their training at the service projects. Most of the service projects -- except at SCC-Ancestral Lands -- will be in a residential spike camping setting allowing for

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significant evening and non-service education and training time. More details about the training and supervision plan that will support members in their service can be found in the section on Member Development, Training and Supervision.

SCC has operated crews of participants in residential conservation corps programs since 1998 out of its SCC-Four Corners office. SCC added the Los Valles office in 2005, Sonoran Desert in 2006, Ancestral Lands in 2008 and will add Lone Star in 2010. The ClimateCorps AmeriCorps program will be SCC's first program that covers activities at all five SCC sites and will provide SCC the opportunity to create an umbrella coordinating activities among all SCC sites. It will also add a new project area -- Climate Change -- that encapsulates both existing activities (e.g. wildfire prevention) along with new project areas (e.g. permaculture). This new project area provides an overall focus for a number of different SCC activities and will unite SCC members across five sites in four states in a common goal.

#### 3) MEASURABLE OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

SCC will achieve the following measurable outputs and outcomes in its four service areas:

WATER. ClimateCorps crews will remove Tamarisk from 100 acres along the Dolores River -- starting at the furthest upstream growth line resulting in the removal of at least 10,000 clumps of Tamarisk. This will save three million gallons of water per day, equal to the daily water usage of 33,000 people. Additionally, ClimateCorps will install 25 rainwater catchment and permaculture systems resulting in annual water savings of nearly 400,000 gallons. ClimateCorps will complete 500 energy audits and install 450 low-flow shower nozzles, which result an annual savings of 50% on water usage for those homes and up to 50% on energy usage.

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FIRE. SCC will thin 50 acres of land in the wildland-urban interface reducing the risk of catastrophic forest fire. This will ensure that these 50 acres do not burn; such a fire on those \_\_\_\_ acres would release carbon dioxide to the atmosphere equal to the annual discharge of 2,400 automobiles.

LAND. SCC will protect 800 hundred acres of public lands by improving recreational access and maintaining 80 miles of trails. This will greatly reduce overuse of public lands and social trails that destroy additional acres of public lands. Additionally, it will maintain the biodiversity necessary to combat climate change and have ancillary benefits such as wildlife habitat protection and reducing environmental degradation.

ENERGY. SCC will conduct 500 energy audits installing 6,500 compact fluorescent bulbs, installing 250 programmable thermostats, and installing 450 clothes lines. This result in an annual energy savings of at least 730 kilowatts per home or 365,000 kilowatts per year, which is equal to the amount of electricity needed to power 34 homes per year (US Department of Energy).

At the end of each project SCC Crew Leaders will complete detailed Project Completion Reports and submit them to their Program Director and Executive Directors. The Executive Directors submit the compiled information from all crews to the SCC headquarters office where the Director of Operations develops composite reports on an Excel spreadsheet. SCC is working to develop a Projects database that will compile data electronically, but will rely on the current system until the new system is fully developed. SCC headquarters uses the data to provide internal tracking reports to its program staff and members and external reports for funders, project partners and stakeholders. SCC has been using this system for many years and will incorporate the ClimateCorps outputs/outcomes into the current data collection system.

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# 4) PLAN FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

SCC has detailed data collection and tracking procedures and will use these procedures to track each output and outcome identified above. The most direct procedure is that each crew completes a weekly or bi-weekly (depending upon whether the crew is a day crew or on a two-week camping hitch) accomplishment report. The report details specific accomplishments in a wide range of service outputs such as feet of trail maintained, number of water diversion structures installed, number of bags of debris removed, number of light bulbs installed, number of trees cut, etc. SCC takes this data and uses relational information to determine the outcomes of the service. For instance, SCC uses formulas from the Colorado Governor's Energy Office to calculate the energy savings that result from the number of compact florescent light bulbs installed. Likewise, SCC uses scientific data to calculate the savings that result from protecting each acre of land from wildfire.

SCC is deeply committed to continuous improvement and gathers feedback on multiple levels:

- Members. Members engage in de-briefs with their crew leaders at the service site at the end of each day. At the end of each two-week hitch each crew meets with staff (usually the Program Director) to discuss the hitch and then each member has an individual meeting with the Program Coordinator. Staff members gather this data and use it to make changes and adjustments to program operations. If there are major issues, staff members work to immediately resolve them through mediation, individual conferences and a progressive discipline policy.
- Staff. Each Crew Leader and staff member has a weekly or bi-weekly check-in with their supervisor where they provide feedback, ask questions and problem-solve issues. Each staff team meets weekly to plan activities, de-brief previous week's activities and discuss feedback staff received from Members, partners, etc.
- Partners. SCC works closely with each project partner throughout the project development process to

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ensure that both the SCC crew and the sponsor are prepared for the project. SCC checks in with the

sponsor throughout the project implementation and then solicits a written post-program project

sponsor evaluation at the conclusion of the project. If there are any notable issues identified in the

evaluation SCC follows up in person or by phone with the project sponsor.

- Board. Each SCC office has a Regional Board of Directors and SCC as a whole has an Executive Board

of Directors. Staff members provide regular feedback and updates to each of the Boards. Each Board

meets regularly and all of the Boards meet together in person each Fall to review the past year and plan

to ensuing year. SCC has a Board-approved strategic plan and provides regular updates to the Board on

progress toward meeting the annual objectives.

5) COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

SCC works closely with federal, state and local land management agencies to address conservation needs

throughout the Southwest. Partner agencies identify needs on public and private lands and work with

SCC and community stakeholders to design and plan implementation strategies. These relationships

and roles will continue through the proposed three-year grant cycle. SCC will broaden this collaborative

process by continuing to strengthen partnerships, increase community outreach, and expand project

implementation. A sampling of partners across the SCC service area includes the following:

Arizona

Coronado National Forest; Tonto National Forest; Arizona State Parks; National Park Service (Saguaro

National Park, Organ Pipe, Tumacacuri, Tonto); US Fish and Wildlife Service; Bureau of Land

Management; AZ Game and Fish Department; Arizona Trail Association; STAR Academy; City High

School; Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona; Sky Alliance Institute; Watershed Management Group;

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Friends of Sabino Canyon; and, Tucson Electric Power.

Colorado

San Juan National Forest; Bureau of Land Management; CO Division of Forestry; CO State Parks;
Bureau of Indian Affairs; Fort Lewis College; Southwest CO Fire Wise Council; Durango Fire and Rescue
Authority; San Juan Mountains Association; Friends of the Animas River; National Resource
Conservation Service; Salida Trails Association; Rio Grande National Forest; Costilla County; Conejos

County; Chaffee County; Town of Lake City; City of Durango; Town of Ignacio; and Saguache County.

New Mexico

US Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service (Chaco Canyon, Aztec Ruins, Carlsbad Caverns); Acoma Pueblo Game and Fish Department; Acoma Pueblo Tribal Government; New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps; Gila National Forest; and, Cibola National Forest.

Texas

National Park Service (Guadeloupe National Park, Big Bend National Park); Angelina National Forest; US Fish & Wildlife Service; City of Austin; Travis County; City of Baytown; Friends of Herman Park; Hill Country Conservancy; Houston Wilderness; Lower Colorado River Authority; Pines and Prairies Land Trust; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Texas Forest Service; Texas State University--San Marcos; Texas Tech University--Junction; University of North Texas--Denton; and, Texas A&M University.

Utah

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Canyonlands National Park; Arches National Park; and, Four Corners Outdoor School.

SCC staff members serve in numerous leadership roles with community partners. Currently SCC has staff members serving on 31 local, regional and national Boards and/or Committees. A sampling includes the following: Firewise Council of SW Colorado; Youth Council; Colorado Youth Corps Association; Colorado Association for Environmental Education; Friends of the Animas River; Southwest Colorado Trails Roundtable; El Pointe Community Garden; Silverthread Outdoor Club; Monte Vista Arts Council; El Grupo/BICAS; City of Tucson Landscape Advisory Committee; Westside (of Tucson) Coalition Weed and Seed Economic Development Committee; Committee of Tucson Indian Center; The Corps Network; The Mountain Alliance of Conservation Corps; and, US Public Service Academy Board.

6) RELATIONSHIP TO NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

SCC currently operates seven other AmeriCorps programs. SCC serves as an EAP site of the Colorado Youth Corps Association and The Corps Network. SCC is part of a State AmeriCorps program through the Mile High Youth Corps and part of National Direct AmeriCorps programs through The Corps Network and the Coconino Rural Environment Corps. SCC operates VISTA programs in Colorado through the Colorado Youth Corps Association and in Arizona through the Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona. In all areas SCC works closely to ensure that it works closely with the State Commissions and the Corporation State Offices.

SCC sent letters to the State Commission in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas informing them about this application and, if funded, will coordinate services closely with each Commission.

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SCC is a leader in collaboration having founded the Mountain Alliance of Conservation Corps (MACC) in partnership with the Coconino Rural Environment Corps and the Canyon Country Youth Corps. SCC staff members serve on the Boards of Directors of The Corps Network and the Colorado Youth Corps Association. SCC will continue to work closely with conservation corps, State Commissions, State Corporation Offices and other National Service programs to ensure that SCC serves are not duplicative of other programs and to identify additional areas for collaboration.

### 7) POTENTIAL FOR REPLICATION

Since its inception in 1998, SCC has developed into a strong and cohesive inter-regional organization through the merger and evolution of its programs and offices. Its success in creating a solid program model that is able to adapt to the communities it serves has allowed it to open three year-round offices, work in five states, and bolster its corpsmembers from 73 in 2004 to 394 in 2008.

In 2007 SCC re-organized internal systems to better support multiple sites spread across the Southwest by revamping its by-laws, creating an Executive Board/Regional Board structure and creating a Headquarters staff/regional staff structure. SCC now operates corps programs in five states (AZ, CO, NM, TX, UT) out of a headquarters in Durango, CO, year-round offices in Tucson, AZ and Salida, CO and a seasonal office in Acoma, NM.

Major growth milestones include the following:

- 2005 -- Added a seasonal satellite office in the San Luis Valley.
- 2006 -- Merged with the Youth Corps of Southern Arizona resulting in a year-round office in Tucson,
- AZ. This enabled SCC to operate programs year-round with a winter focus in Arizona and a summer

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focus in Colorado.

- 2007 -- Purchased the Federal Building in Durango in partnership with the Adult Education Center to create The Commons, a model multi-tenant non-profit center focused on education.
- 2008 -- Added a seasonal satellite office in Acoma, NM. Transitioned the San Luis Valley office into a permanent year-round office.

SCC's rapid growth is testimony to SCC's ability to replicate both its programs and organizational structure successfully. SCC is now partnering with American YouthWorks (Austin, TX) to create a statewide conservation corps in Texas serving young people and public lands statewide. The planning process for the statewide Texas program began in 2008 and will lead to the launch of the program in January 2010. ClimateCorps will be a critical partner in the development of the new Texas program. ClimateCorps is important not only because it will offer more available positions for young people, but because it will provide the community with additional opportunities for conservation that go beyond trail building and more traditional projects of Conservation Corps. SCC anticipates replicating ClimateCorps on a broader scale to all of its sites and working with additional communities throughout its service area to develop similar programs.

# Organizational Capability

1) SOUND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

SCC is in its 12th season of successfully training and engaging young people to complete conservation projects throughout the Southwest. SCC formed in 1998 as the Southwest Youth Corps (SYC) in Durango, CO serving Southwest Colorado and the Four Corners area. In 2006 SYC merged with the Youth Corps of Southern Arizona (YCOSA) to create the Southwest Conservation Corps. YCOSA formed in 2000 and served Southern Arizona as well as Southern New Mexico and far western Texas.

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SCC has operated an AmeriCorps Education Award Program since 1999 through the Colorado Youth Corps Association and since 2000 through The Corps Network (previously known as the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps). Collectively, these two EAPs have engaged 25-35 MSYs per year, the vast majority as 300 hour positions.

In 2005 SCC obtained two AmeriCorps\*VISTA positions through the Colorado State Office of CNCS and in 2007 SCC obtained two AmeriCorps\*VISTA positions through the Arizona State Office of CNCS. In its final year of the three-year VISTA cycle the Colorado program expanded from two to six VISTA positions after the Corporation requested that SCC expand its program and manage VISTAs at three additional organizations.

SCC obtained AmeriCorps operating funds in 2007 for the first time by serving as a site of the Mile High Youth Corps' AmeriCorps\*State program in Colorado. Subsequently, SCC became an operating site of two AmeriCorps National Direct grants through The Corps Network and the Coconino Rural Environment Corps. SCC's involvement in all three of these projects is relatively small, ranging from 3.5 to 10.5 MSY per year. In 2007, SCC also participated in the Gulf Coast Recovery Corps, an AmeriCorps National Direct augmentation grant through The Corps Network, where it dispatched crews totaling 8.4 MSY to assist with disaster recovery in Mississippi.

SCC has grown from an annual budget of under \$600,000 in 2003 to projected revenues of over \$3,000,000 in 2009. In 2008 SCC engaged 394 corpsmembers, 63 crew leaders and 71 volunteers who contributed over 140,000 hours of service on a budget of \$2.7 million.

SCC managed significant federal funds in 2008 including \$442,000 from the US Forest Service, \$382,000 from the National Park Service and \$214,000 from the Bureau of Land Management. SCC

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has the administrative staffing and capacity to manage these large funds and has reported on AmeriCorps funds for years to national and state partners. SCC has also managed a number of Department of Labor grants and has significant experience working with its multiple offices. SCC currently centralizes its financial operations at its Durango headquarters and manages the fiscal operations of three distinct year-round offices from that location. SCC will continue this practice in ClimateCorps by centralizing the financial operations in Durango and working with each of its sites to ensure that systems are consistent across the organization. SCC developed an AmeriCorps manual covering all paperwork and administrative requirements and will work closely with each site to implement these procedures. Headquarters staff members -- including the CEO and Director of Operations -- travel regularly to each SCC site and will ensure that sites adhere to the requirements.

SCC is not proposing a multi-site program as described in the guidance as all AmeriCorps members will be based at one of five SCC offices. SCC will not face issues of AmeriCorps members placed at other organizations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND STAFF

SCC is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of Colorado and tax-exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. SCC's mission is to empower individuals to positively impact their lives, their communities and the environment. SCC operates as a single organization fiscally, programmatically and managerially. The organization is managed by a professional staff accountable to a CEO and under the management of an Executive Board, which has ultimate fiduciary responsibility for all aspects of the organization. SCC maintains a number of distinct regional offices, each operating as a division of the organization under the direction of a site Executive Director who reports to SCC's CEO or the person(s) at SCC Headquarters designated by the CEO (the "CEO's

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Designee"). Each SCC site has a Regional Board whose roles and responsibilities are established by the SCC by-laws. Teams of AmeriCorps members will serve at each of SCC's regional offices. Effective management of the ClimateCorps program will be accomplished through a transparent and intensely integrated process involving the CEO's Designee, the Executive Director, the site Board and the Executive Board.

Key staff members responsible for the ClimateCorps project include the following:

Harry Bruell, CEO, has worked with AmeriCorps programs since 1994 when he developed and managed a Summer of Safety program with the Durham (NC) Service Corps. He subsequently spent 10 years at the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (now The Corps Network) where he served as Chief Operating Officer managing a CNCS-funded T/TA program for five years and developing one of the country's largest AmeriCorps EAP programs. Bruell has led SCC since 2004 and overseen the growth of the organization from one site serving 73 corpsmembers to four sites across five states serving nearly 400 corpsmembers.

The Financial Management team is led by Kathryn Coryell, SCC Vice President for Business, who has more than 20 years of financial management experience and has been with SCC since 2004. Prior to joining SCC she served as the Business Manager in the Dean's Offices at the University of Arizona College of Fine Arts. Coryell's expertise runs the gamete from monitoring funding allocations to accounting for student scholarships to reporting on AmeriCorps grants to performing feasibility analyses.

Amy Foss, Director of Operations, will oversee the ClimateCorps program and ensure consistency among sites. Each site Executive Director will oversee their ClimateCorps crews on a day-to-day basis.

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Foss has been with SCC since 2003 serving as a Crew Leader, Logistics Coordinator and Program Director for the SCC-Four Corners site before joining the Headquarters staff in 2008 as Director of Operations.

Each SCC site is managed by an Executive Director or, in the case of the seasonal Ancestral Lands office, by a Program Director. Each has significant experience with national service, AmeriCorps and conservation corps. Christina Nesset, Executive Director of SCC-Four Corners in Durango, CO, began her work with national service with the National Civilian Community Corps in 2002. She has served as an AmeriCorps member, Crew Leader, Education Coordinator, Program Director and Executive Director. Kamillia Hoban, Executive Director of SCC-Sonoran Desert in Tucson, AZ, has been engaged with national service since serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA member in 1999. She went on to serve as an AmeriCorps member, Crew Leader, Field Coordinator, Program Director and Executive Director. Heather MacSlarrow, Executive Director of SCC-Los Valles in Salida, CO, served as an AmeriCorps member, Crew Leader, Program Coordinator and Program Director with five AmeriCorps conservation corps programs in the West before becoming Executive Director of SCC-Los Valles. Parc Smith, Executive Director of SCC-Lone Star, has been involved with AmeriCorps as a program staff member from the onset of AmeriCorps in the mid 1990s. Cornell Torivio, Program Director of SCC-Ancestral Lands on Acoma Pueblo, has served with SCC as a Crew Leader and Board of Directors member. He currently directs the SCC-Ancestral Lands program in the spring/summer and works with the National Park Service in the winter.

### PLAN FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT OR IMPROVEMENT

The SCC Board developed and approved a comprehensive strategic plan in 2005 and updated the plan in 2007. Each year, the organization undergoes an intensive process of developing annual objectives

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engaging site staff, regional Boards, headquarters staff and the Executive Board. An integral part of this process is an annual all-Board and staff retreat to reflect back on the prior year's objectives and plan the ensuing year.

SCC also seeks external review and has been accredited annually by the Colorado Youth Corps
Association since 2000. In 2003, SCC completed The Corps Network's Excellence in Corps Operations
(ECO) process and in 2008 underwent a successful renewal of its status as an ECO corps. ECO is a selfassessment and peer review process which recognizes Corps making a commitment to high-quality
standards and continuous improvement. Its purpose is to promote and recognize excellence in the
Corps movement and provide evidence of a Corps' continued self and outside evaluation.

#### PLAN FOR EFFECTIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SCC operates through a Management Team (comprised of the Executive Directors, CEO, Director of Operations and VP for Business) that makes all of the major decisions affecting the organization. The Management Team meets by teleconference every two weeks and in person three times per year. In addition, the Program Directors at each site meet by teleconference every two weeks. The Director of Operations participates in both groups and serves as the link between the Program Directors and the Management Team. In addition, the CEO conducts individual check-ins each week with each of the Executive Directors and the Director of Operations.

Each SCC staff member develops an annual Individual Development Plan (IDP) that is based upon the annual objectives outlined in the strategic plan. Each employee meets regularly with her supervisor to monitor progress toward meeting the outcomes of the IDP.

**Narratives** 

SCC will use the Management Team meetings, the Program Director meetings, the CEO individual check-ins and the IDPs to determine training and technical assistance (T/TA) needs. SCC will first determine whether it has the internal capacity to respond to the T/TA need and, if so, respond internally. If it does not have the capacity to meet the need, SCC will look for locally available resources through organizations such as the Colorado Non-Profit Association or the Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona. If there is not a local resource SCC will contact the Corporation's network of T/TA providers.

2) SOUND RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AS AN ORGANIZATION

**VOLUNTEER GENERATION AND SUPPORT** 

SCC engages volunteers in episodic service projects as well as extended service programs. Throughout the region SCC has engaged volunteers in special service projects including MLK Day and National Public Lands Day. In Colorado and Southern Arizona SCC has engaged middle and high school youth in on-going public service projects. In Arizona, SCC -- in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and area high schools -- has operated week-long service learning programs along the US-Mexico border. Students work with SCC to mitigate the environmental impacts of border crossings and engage in education sessions with people on every side of the border issues. In Colorado, SCC partners with local towns and counties to operate community corps programs that engage young people for four weeks in service projects and education.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

SCC is recognized nationally and locally as an exemplary organization. Recent awards include the following:

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# **Narratives**

- National Strategic Partnership of the Year. The Corps Network, February 10, 2008
- Non-Profit of the Year (co-award with Adult Education Center). Durango Chamber of Commerce, January 17, 2008
- Annual Achievement Award (as part of Continental Divide Trail Alliance). Coalition for Recreational Trails, June 14, 2007
- National Corpsmember of the Year -- Yvette Chischillie. The Corps Network, February 13, 2007
- Outstanding Community Partner Agency. United Way of Southwest Colorado, February 24, 2006
- National Project of the Year Fire Careers Training Program. National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, February 5, 2006

SCC staff members currently serve on 31 Boards of Directors and/or Committees. These include national Boards (e.g. The Corps Network, US Public Service Academy), regional (Mountain Alliance of Conservation Corps, Colorado Youth Corps Association), and local (Firewise Council of SW Colorado; Southwest Colorado Trails Roundtable; El Pointe Community Garden; City of Tucson Landscape Advisory Committee; Committee of Tucson Indian Center).

SCC does not currently have its own National Direct grant so is not reporting on prior success in securing match resources.

3) SUCCESS IN SECURING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**COLLABORATION** 

SCC is a strong believer in collaboration having co-founded the Mountain Alliance of Conservation

### **Narratives**

Corps and being an active member of a number of regional and local collaborations. An example of one of SCC's most important collaborations is when

SCC partnered with the Durango Adult Education Center and Pueblo Community College to develop the nation's first multi-site non-profit center focused on education. The organizations formalized their partnership in 2007 with the purchase of a 43,000 square foot facility and raised \$7.7 million for purchase and renovations in 2007 and 2008.

The Durango Chamber of Commerce awarded the partnership its "Non-Profit of the Year" award in early 2008 and the New Markets Tax Credit Coalition chose the project as its Colorado representative in its "50 Projects -- 50 States" Report in October 2008.

SCC and its partners used a number of unique strategies to raise the resources to purchase and renovate the facility including New Market Tax Credits, Bargain Sale, USDA Rural Development Loans, and Community Development Block Grants.

Development of "The Commons" --as the facility is known -- has provided a bounty of direct benefits to SCC and the 12 other non-profit or educational partners that share the building:

- Seamless transition on-site between SCC to GED programs at Adult Education Center and postsecondary education at Pueblo Community College, Fort Lewis College and the University of Denver;
- 5,000 square feet of completely re-modeled and customized offices and shop with plenty of parking in downtown Durango;
- On-site childcare for low-income families that use the facility;
- Vastly increased visibility in the local community; and,
- Increased relationships with funders, donors, elected officials and community leaders.

Pueblo Community College and the Adult Education Center have each seen enrollment jumps of 30-40% since the opening of the facility in late 2007.

**Narratives** 

The Durango Herald summed up the project best in an editorial, "Two Durango nonprofits have joined forces to buy the old federal building on Camino del Rio... The real advantages come in terms of enhanced stability, greater coordination among the various organizations and the cooperation made possible by having such a fertile mix of educational groups under one roof. It will be a full-spectrum educational center... With a building of their own, the conservation corps and education center can also focus their efforts on their missions without worrying what might happen to the building they rent. Their tenants, too, can rest easily knowing that their landlords want them -- not just for their rent, but for their complementary goals as well. In Durango's commercial real estate market that certainty has great value, and comes only with ownership. For its part, the community gets the benefit of more and better continuing education. That has to translate into better careers, increased opportunities and an overall better Durango."

LOCAL FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

SCC's revenue has grown from \$560,000 in 2003 to over \$2,700,000 in 2008. SCC generates over 80% of its revenue through partnerships with project sponsors. These partnerships have expanded significantly over the past five years both in the contributions from individual sponsors and the number of different sponsors contributing. Local donations have also increased as grants increased tenfold from less than \$50,000 in 2003 to over \$500,000 in. 2008. SCC does not rely significantly on in-kind resources though received over \$200,000 of in-kind resources in 2007, primarily through a bargain sale donation associated with the purchase and development of the SCC headquarters in Durango.

WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

**Narratives** 

SCC Stakeholders fit into three distinct groups:

- 1. Members, parents and families. In many communities, SCC has become an integral part in the lives of young people and family members. It is typical that one young adult will join SCC and then be followed in subsequent years by his or her sibling, friends, and neighbors. For instance, SCC enrolled a Corpsmember from Navajo, NM in 2004. He returned in 2005 and generated over 20 additional applications from his high school. Overall, SCC received 981 corpsmember applications in 2008, a significant increase from just 223 applications in 2004.
- 2. Project Sponsors: Public land managers play an integral role in SCC; developing cooperative agreements and securing resources to support conservation projects on public lands and in communities. Each SCC site is growing, almost astronomically, in response to demand for services for the public benefit. Public land managers and other sponsors provide mentoring, training, and other inkind resources to support program operations.
- 3. Community Partners: SCC has scores of local partners that assist with recruiting, identifying projects, providing wrap-around services as needed for members, undertaking joint ventures and often serve as some of the strongest program advocates. Examples include the Vallecito Service League, STAR Academy, Chaffee County Boys and Girls Club and DeNier Youth Center.

SCC has grown significantly in the last five years and the list of stakeholders and their involvement in SCC has grown in a corresponding manner. Indeed, SCC would never have been able to grow fivefold in five years without significant stakeholder involvement and support.

#### Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

1) CORPORATION COST PER MEMBER SERVICE YEAR

# **Narratives**

The ClimateCorps budget has a cost per member service year of \$12,600.

### 2) DIVERSE NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT

SCC engages in substantial cooperative and partnership agreements with a host of federal and non-federal land management partners and only expects the Corporation to cover 25% of the over cost of operating ClimateCorps. In 2008 SCC raised over \$2,000,000 in funds from project partners including the National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona State Parks, Colorado State Parks, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps, Colorado Governor's Energy Office, Colorado State Forest Service, and Arizona Trail Association. Most of these partners are long-time SCC supporters who have partnered with SCC each year, typically with increasing commitment in each ensuing budget cycle.

SCC has already obtained commitments from each of these project partners to support additional SCC program operations including those covered by ClimateCorps crews. What's more, ClimateCorps will enable SCC to secure funding from new partners such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. While most of these agencies do not finalize their 2010 budgets until much later in calendar year 2009, they have provided verbal commitments to SCC to continue their partnerships and SCC will work with them over the year -- as it has done in previous years -- to finalize funding commitments before the start of the AmeriCorps program year.

SCC does not currently have its own National Direct grant.

**Narratives** 

3) BUDGET ADEQUACY

ClimateCorps is an intensive, primarily residential, crew-based model. The staff to corpsmember ratio is 1:3, much lower than most other AmeriCorps programs. The residential model involves longer staff hours and additional costs (e.g. food, tents, camping gear, etc.). SCC dispatches crews across a huge area of the Southwest requiring significant transportation costs for vehicles and fuel. The SCC program model, which it will use in ClimateCorps, typically costs SCC between \$6,000 and \$7,000 per week each year. This weekly cost is within the range for weekly crew costs for the 11 conservation corps that form the Colorado Association of Youth Corps and the seven conservation corps that form the Mountain Alliance of Conservation Corps. SCC regularly evaluates its costs against similar conservation corps to ensure that its costs are appropriate for its activities. ClimateCorps will operate for 172 total crew-weeks at a total cost of \$1,145,059, or \$\$6,657 per crew-week.

**Evaluation Summary or Plan** 

NA

Amendment Justification

N/A

**Clarification Summary** 

CLARIFICATIONS NARRATIVE -- YEAR 3 -- APRIL 2011

**BUDGET CLARIFICATION ITEMS** 

SCC revised the budget in accordance with the funding and MSY amounts listed in the clarifications letter. As discussed with SCC's Program Officer, SCC had discretion to a configuration of slots equal or lesser than 45.89 MSY. SCC chose a breakdown of 4 FT, 31 HT, 76 QT and 29 MT for 140 total AmeriCorps members and 45.75 MSY. SCC revised the budget maintaining the same cost/MSY of

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### **Narratives**

\$12,610/MSY for a total CNCS share of \$576,915.

SCC utilizes a cost allocations methodology and provided a detailed copy of its written Cost Policy Statement to its Program Officer and Grants Officer. The purpose of this cost policy statement is to describe, in writing, the methods and procedures that SCC uses to allocate costs to various programs, grants, contracts and agreements. The CNCS OIG went through this methodology extensively during an audit in 2008 and 2009 of a The Corps Network grant where SCC was a sub-grantee. The OIG had no issues with this methodology. SCC provided additional detail in the application budget in eGrants and refers back to this Cost Policy Statement.

# A few updates are as follows:

- Section I. A. Personnel Expenses. SCC's fourth Executive Director is the Executive Director of Interregional Initiatives who oversees SCC's Ancestral Lands office, Environmental Stewards program and National Service programs. This position replaces the position of Director of Operations. SCC's Four Corners office, its largest office, has two Program Directors. The Sonoran Desert and Los Valles offices each have one Program Director.
- Section I. C. Staff and Member Travel. SCC estimates travel for one person to CNCS sponsored meetings at \$1,200 including airfare (\$500), hotel (\$600) and per diem (\$100). Per its cost allocation statement, SCC uses a "service week" as the standard allocation unit rather than a mile driven. SCC's travel allocation per its cost allocation policy is \$471/week and includes fuel, fees, repairs, maintenance and depreciation.
- Section I. E. Supplies. SCC's supplies allocation per its cost allocation policy is \$1,039/week and includes camp food, gear, incentives, tools, field supplies, field communications, programmatic share of operations centers, programmatic share of insurance, staff support, office supplies, recruitment, technology, and marketing.

### **Narratives**

- Section I. F. Contractual and Consultant Services. SCC's contractual and consultant services allocation per its cost allocation policy is \$51/week and includes consultants who support the SCC program by developing project partners and service projects and/or providing support to year-round staff.
- Section I. G. Staff and Member Training. SCC's staff and member training allocation per its cost allocation policy is \$96/week and includes training providers, materials, class expenses, etc. to provide training. All Crew members participate in a fairly standard orientation, but crew member training varies considerably by crew and service project. For instance, the crews involved in removing invasive plants on the Colorado River Basin and in fuels work have extensive training in chainsaw operation. SCC typically engages a professional provider to conduct these trainings. The weatherization crew receives a comprehensive training at the onset of their term of service and then on-going training on a regular basis throughout the term. Crew leaders participate in a comprehensive training prior to the arrival of the members that typically lasts two weeks or more.
- Source of Funds. SCC corrected the source of funds in each section so that it matches the amounts listed as grantee share for each budget section.
- Federal Funds as Match. SCC receives direct Federal Funds as match from the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. After nearly two years of effort, SCC finally has the final draft of a national letter from the Department of Interior covering all DOI funds for all AmeriCorps programs. SCC has a national agreement with USFS that allows federal funds to be used as match for AmeriCorps and is working on securing a similar letter. Peg Rosenberry has been very helpful in this process.

#### PROGRAMMATIC CLARIFICATION ITEMS

There is not an additional office and SCC apologizes for the confusion with the fourth Executive Director and fourth Program Director. SCC's fourth Executive Director is the Executive Director of Interregional Initiatives who oversees SCC's Ancestral Lands office, Environmental Stewards program and

### **Narratives**

National Service programs. This position replaces the position of Director of Operations. SCC's Four Corners office, its largest office, has two Program Directors. The Sonoran Desert and Los Valles offices each have one Program Director. Listed below is each office at which members will be based, the territory the office covers, the staff at each location working on the project (Executive Directors, Program Directors, and Program Coordinators) and the number of members and crews serving at each location:

#### SCC- Ancestral Lands

- Based in Acoma, NM
- Serves Acoma Pueblo, Grants, Mescalero Apache and national parks throughout the Southwest.

  Sampling of Public Lands Served: El Malpais National Monument, Petrified Forest National Park,

  Arches National Park, Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Park.
- Staffing: Cornell Torivio (Program Coordinator), Amy Foss (Executive Director of Interregional Initiatives). Amy also coordinates National Service programs agency-wide and oversees SCC-Environmental Stewards. The latter program is not part of ClimateCorps.
- ClimateCorps members: Six MT members.

#### **SCC- Four Corners**

- Based in Durango, CO. Serves Southwest Colorado, Southeast Utah and Western New Mexico including communities of Cortez, Durango, Ignacio, Ouray, Pagosa Springs, Ridgway and Telluride, CO. Sampling of Public Lands Served: San Juan National Forest, San Juan Public Lands Center, Mesa Verde National Park, Chaco Culture National Historic Park, Cibola National Forest, Aztec Ruins National Historic Site, Mancos State Park, Ridgway State Park.
- Staffing: Ron Hassel (Executive Director), Kevin Heiner (Program Director), Laura Faubion (Program Director), Linnaea Renz (Program Coordinator) and Richard Brown (Program Coordinator). Sarah

### **Narratives**

Shade, the third Program Coordinator, left SCC on April 15th. SCC expects to have her position re-filled shortly.

- ClimateCorps members: 20 QT members, 12 HT members and 4 FT members.

#### SCC- Los Valles

- Based in Salida, CO. Serves San Luis Valley and Upper Arkansas Valley including communities of Chaffee County, Conejos County, Costilla County, Lake City and Saguache County. Sampling of Public Lands Served: Rio Grande National Forest, Great Sand Dunes National Park, City of Salida, Salida BLM, Arkansas Headwaters State Park, San Isabel National Forest.
- Staffing: Heather MacSlarrow (Executive Director), Todd Loubsky (Program Director), Julie Mach (Program Coordinator), Meagan Strauss (Program Coordinator).
- ClimateCorps members: 11 MT members, 20 QT members and 6 HT members.

### SCC- Sonoran Desert

- Based in Tucson, AZ. Serves Southern Arizona, Southern New Mexico, West Texas.

  Sampling of Public Lands Served: Coronado National Forest, Saguaro National Park, Arizona BLM,

  Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park.
- Staffing: Kamillia Hoban (Executive Director), Attila Boros (Program Director), Scout Phillips (Program Coordinator), Holly Schempf (Program Coordinator), Jean Hickman (Program Coordinator), Josh Burt (Program Coordinator)
- ClimateCorps members: 12 MT members, 36 QT members and 13 HT members.

Texas is no longer a service location in this continuation request.

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURE CLARIFICATION ITEMS

### **Narratives**

SCC reviewed its performance measures in relation to the funding and MSY amounts listed in the clarifications letter and in relation to the progress to date on the current year's performance measures and made changes in eGrants.

\*\*\*\*\*

YEAR 2

CHANGES

SCC has two changes for the year two continuation of ClimateCorps: the use of the National Performance Measures and a request to increase MSY.

SCC will use the National Performance Measures for the "Clean Energy/Environment" Serve America Act priority area in 2011. These measures fit well with the focus of ClimateCorps.

SCC seeks an increase in MSY for the second year of ClimateCorps. There are three reasons for this request: 1) Program alignment; 2) Capacity; and 3) Consolidation of AmeriCorps programs.

1. Program Alignment. SCC developed ClimateCorps, in part, to provide an overall umbrella to SCC's multiple programs across five states. ClimateCorps fits solidly within SCC's mission and SCC has found that nearly all of its current and new programs fit within the ClimateCorps focus. What's more, ClimateCorps fits directly within the Corporation's national service priority area of "Clean"

### **Narratives**

Energy/Environment" and the "Clean Energy Corps" described in the Serve America Act. By expanding ClimateCorps, SCC continues the process of aligning its current and new programs under a common banner and common performance measures.

- 2. Capacity. SCC had 585 AmeriCorps and non-AmeriCorps positions in 2009 and filled every position (100%). SCC received 2,612 applications in 2009 and, by mid-January, had already received more than 500 applications for 2010 positions. SCC has many more qualified applicants than it can serve and is seeking to expand to serve a greater number of these qualified applicants. SCC has the staffing capacity, facilities, infrastructure and match funds to serve additional participants under ClimateCorps.
- 3. Consolidation of AmeriCorps Programs. As stated in the original narrative, SCC is part of two National Direct AmeriCorps programs, a State AmeriCorps program, two Education Award programs and two VISTA programs. After it submitted its ClimateCorps proposal, SCC became a sponsor of the Western Hardrock Watershed Team VISTA program and participated in three American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) AmeriCorps programs. SCC's goal has been to consolidate its four funded AmeriCorps programs (ClimateCorps, The Corps Network TCN, Coconino Rural Environment Corps CREC, and Mile High Youth Corps MHYC) to streamline management, reporting and operations. To that end, SCC declined to participate in the recomplete of the MHYC program, developed specific targets for its TCN and CREC programs, and proposes to expand its ClimateCorps program.

There are a few other factors that impact this request: 1) Breakdown of numbers; 2) Cost; and, 3) Additional proposal.

1. Breakdown of Numbers. In 2009, prior to the launch of ClimateCorps, SCC received 34.3 MSY of funded AmeriCorps positions -- including both ARRA and non-ARRA positions -- and filled every

### **Narratives**

position (100%). In 2010, SCC expects to receive a total 67.6 MSY -- some funded through ARRA -- and expects to easily fill all positions. In 2011, SCC will no longer have positions through MHYC or funded through ARRA. However, SCC has the match funding secured, has the increased capacity, and anticipates no issues maintaining a high level of interest to fill at least as many positions as 2010. SCC requests an increase in ClimateCorps from 23.9 MSY to 46 MSY. This will bring SCC's total to 64.9 MSY funded positions in 2011.

- 2. Cost. Although the new AmeriCorps guidance allows the cost per MSY to increase to \$13,000, SCC has determined that it can continue to operate ClimateCorps at a cost of \$12,600 per MSY.
- 3. Additional Proposal. It is important to note that SCC is also applying for a separate National Direct for the award-winning Western Hardrock and Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Teams. These are currently VISTA programs (SCC is the VISTA sponsor for the Western team) and have been encouraged to add an AmeriCorps component to the VISTA teams. The program model is to individually place AmeriCorps members in rural communities facing environmental degradation and economic hardship due to historic mining and resource extraction. The program is distinctly different from any other SCC program, though there are important complementary program linkages. For instance, individual members in rural communities may call on ClimateCorps teams when they need additional capacity to complete environmental service projects that meet ClimateCorps goals. In addition, ClimateCorps alumni may choose a second year placement as an individual member on the Watershed teams.

#### **ENROLLMENT**

SCC has a strong record of filling every funded AmeriCorps position. As noted above, SCC received 34.3 MSY of funded AmeriCorps positions in 2009 from three different programs and filled every position

# **Narratives**

(100%). SCC launched ClimateCorps in January 2010 and expects to easily fill every 2010 position for ClimateCorps and all other funded AmeriCorps positions.

SCC had a total of 585 corpsmember positions in 2009 -- including both AmeriCorps and non-AmeriCorps positions -- and filled every single position (100%). SCC received 2,612 applications in 2009 and had many more qualified applicants than available positions.

SCC anticipates receiving at least as many applications in 2010 and 2011, and expects to easily fill every funded position. By mid-January SCC had already received over 500 applications for 2010 positions.

### **RETENTION**

In 2009, SCC received AmeriCorps funding to support 74 positions (34.3 MSY) through three different sources. Of those positions, SCC had a retention rate of 93%. Overall in 2009, SCC had a retention rate of 88% for all of its 585 participants. This overall rate includes many non-AmeriCorps programs such as programs for younger youth that often have lower retention rates.

Based upon this past performance, SCC anticipates that its retention rates with ClimateCorps in 2010 and 2011 will remain high.

### MULTI-SITE CONTINUATION

SCC plans to continue to place AmeriCorps members through ClimateCorps in 2011 in Arizona,
Colorado, New Mexico and Texas, and SCC contacted all four State Commissions. The Commissions
from Colorado, New Mexico and Texas requested an "Initial Consultation Form" and SCC submitted

**Narratives** 

completed forms to all three Commissions. The Arizona Commission did not request a form, but SCC

met in person with the Commission's Executive Director in Phoenix on January 13, 2010 to discuss SCC

and continuation. SCC did not receive questions or concerns from any Commission about the

continuation of ClimateCorps.

CLARIFICATIONS NARRATIVE -- YEAR 2 -- MAY 2010

SCC made the following five changes in the proposal during the "clarifications" process:

1. Service Locations. After a discussion with its Program Officer, SCC made the decision to not sub-

grant AmeriCorps slots to American YouthWorks (AYW) in Texas and to re-distribute those slots to its

own regional offices. The arrangement of sub-granting to a Texas-based program originally came when

AYW had approached SCC about a merger. Subsequent to submitting its original proposal to the

Corporation, SCC and AYW decided not to consummate a merger. SCC retained AYW as a sub-grantee

in Year One of ClimateCorps. However, it has been challenging for SCC to manage another organization

located more than 900 miles away. SCC, while highly experienced in operating exemplary conservation

corps programs, has little experience in serving as an intermediary organization managing grants to

separate organizations. For the purposes of operating a high quality program and for the purposes of

consolidating ClimateCorps to its own sites and singular mission, SCC re-allocated the eight MSY from

AYW to its own sites. This necessitated a small change to the 'applicant information' in terms of 'areas

affected by the project' and then changes to the budget to reflect the shift of the slots from AYW back to

SCC. SCC will continue to have a presence in Texas, but just in West Texas (primarily Guadalupe

Mountains National Park) rather than statewide.

2. Slot Distribution. In the re-allocation of positions from AYW to SCC's own sites, SCC converted the

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**Narratives** 

eight full time positions to 13 one year part time positions and six quarter time positions. SCC made

changes in the budget to reflect this conversion.

3. Criminal Background Checks. SCC had previously separated the cost for background checks for the

AmeriCorps members from its allocations methodology in the budget. However, SCC neglected to

separate out the cost of background checks for staff members. SCC modified the budget to separate

from its allocations methodology the cost of background checks for both members and staff.

4. Priority Areas. SCC completed the MSY chart indicating the proportion of AmeriCorps members'

time it expects to be devoted to each Priority Area.

5. Performance Measures. SCC re-entered its performance measures using the new National

Performance Measures drop-down boxes.

**Continuation Changes** 

YEAR 3 CONTINUATION (2011-2012)

**CHANGES** 

SCC proposes two changes for its year three continuation request for ClimateCorps: 1) continue the

consolidation of its AmeriCorps programs by increasing the MSYs covered under ClimateCorps; and, 2)

a slight increase in the cost per MSY due to the increased cost of background checks.

JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUESTING ADDITIONAL MSY:

In 2009 SCC was part of nine AmeriCorps programs (2 EAP, 1 State, 2 National Directs, 1 EAP ARRA, 1

# **Narratives**

State ARRA, and 2 National Direct ARRA) and, while it enjoyed participation in so many different aspects of AmeriCorps, the multiple programs presented significant administrative and programmatic challenges. Program staff members were entering Members through multiple e-grants accounts, business staff members were dealing with multiple financial reporting requirements, and, most importantly, there was no overarching programmatic theme tying together SCC programming.

The advent of ClimateCorps in 2010 allowed SCC the opportunity to begin consolidating its AmeriCorps programming under one common umbrella. In 2010 SCC added ClimateCorps but dropped three other AmeriCorps programs (1 National Direct, 2 National Direct ARRA). In its Year 2 continuation of ClimateCorps the Corporation granted SCC additional slots so that SCC could drop three more AmeriCorps programs (1 State, 1 State ARRA, 1 EAP ARRA); in 2011 SCC will operate just four AmeriCorps programs (ClimateCorps, 1 other National Direct, 2 EAP), a significant decrease from the nine programs in 2009.

SCC requests to continue this consolidation in its Year 3 continuation by increasing from 45.89 MSY to 55.49 MSY, an increase of 9.6 MSY. This would allow SCC to bring additional Members under the ClimateCorps banner while decreasing reliance on EAP programs and centralizing programming under a common theme and common performance measures.

It is important to note that SCC is also applying for a separate National Direct for the award-winning Western Hardrock and Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Teams. These are currently VISTA programs (SCC is the VISTA sponsor for the Western team) and have been encouraged to add an AmeriCorps component to the VISTA teams. The program model is to individually place AmeriCorps members in at-risk ecosystems in rural communities throughout Appalachia and the Four Corners states. The program is distinctly different from any other SCC program, though there are important

# **Narratives**

complementary program linkages. For instance, individual members in rural communities may call on ClimateCorps teams when they need additional capacity to complete environmental service projects that meet ClimateCorps goals. In addition, ClimateCorps alumni may choose a second year placement as an individual member on the Watershed teams.

In 2010, SCC received 2,136 more applications than it had positions available for crew leader and member service opportunities. SCC has never had a Member position that it has been unable to fill and SCC seeks to serve as many of these qualified applicants as possible. SCC has the staffing capacity, facilities, infrastructure and match funds to serve additional participants under ClimateCorps and anticipates no issues maintaining a high level of interest to fill all positions in 2012 and a continued high level of program quality.

AN EXPLANATION OF ANY CHANGES IN THE BUDGET INCLUDING THE SLIGHTLY INCREASED COST PER MSY:

SCC previously budgeted \$33 per person for background checks but has since learned that the actual costs necessary to meet the CNCS background check requirements average \$63.67 per person. For ClimateCorps Year 3, SCC will need to conduct background checks on 183 AmeriCorps members and 50 staff members and crew leaders at a total cost of \$14,835. However, SCC's previous budget -- at \$33/person for background checks -- only covered a cost of \$7,689, leaving a shortfall of \$7,146 or \$128.78 per MSY (assuming a total of 55.49 MSYs). SCC, therefore, requests an increase in its cost per MSY from \$12,600 to \$12,725 to cover the increased cost of the background checks.

SCC made other proportional changes to its budget to reflect the increased number of MSYs, SCC's most up-dated staffing structure and the allocations based upon SCC's FY09 audit. (Previous allocations in

# **Narratives**

SCC's Year 2 Continuation budget were based upon its FY08 audit as the FY09 audit was not completed until mid-2010.)

## **ENROLLMENT**

SCC has a 100% enrollment rate for both AmeriCorps and non-AmeriCorps positions. There is no reason to believe that this will not continue, especially in light of the continued flood of applications SCC receives each year. In 2010, SCC received over 2,100 more applicants than it had available positions for all of its programs. SCC anticipates a sizable applicant pool for 2011 and 2012 and a continuing 100% enrollment rate.

#### RETENTION

SCC's retention rate for all of its programs has hovered between 85 and 90% for the past seven years. The first year retention rate of ClimateCorps fit right in that range at 87%. SCC's Board policy is to, "emphasize recruitment and engagement of individuals who will benefit most from the program. In determining who will most benefit, SCC will consider factors that may place individuals at risk of not achieving productive lives. Further, SCC will strive to represent, racially and ethnically, the communities that make up the Southwest." Recruiting such a diverse and representative group of Members includes enrolling Members who do not have a significant work history and those who have had barriers in their lives to being successful. SCC feels that this diversity is a critical element of its program model and that a retention rate between 85 and 90% with this Member population is a strong achievement. However, SCC's ultimate goal remains to have a retention rate of 100% and SCC will continue to work towards retaining each and every individual Member who participates in the program.

# **Narratives**

MULTI-STATE APPLICANTS HAVE CONSULTED WITH STATE AND TERRITORY SERVICE COMMISSIONS TO ENSURE NON-DUPLICATION AND COORDINATION OF CORPORATION RESOURCES:

SCC plans to continue to place AmeriCorps members through ClimateCorps in 2012 in Arizona,
Colorado and New Mexico. SCC has worked with all three affected State Commissions through Year 1 of
ClimateCorps and submitted an "initial consultation form" to each Commission. SCC mailed the forms
to the Commissions in early December and SCC has not received questions or concerns from any
Commission regarding its application for a continuation of ClimateCorps.

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

SCC updated the targets in its performance measures to be consistent with the increased MSY request.

The specific performance measures remain unchanged.

## **CHANGES YEAR 2**

SCC has two changes for the year two continuation of ClimateCorps: the use of the National Performance Measures and a request to increase MSY.

SCC will use the National Performance Measures for the "Clean Energy/Environment" Serve America Act priority area in 2011. These measures fit well with the focus of ClimateCorps.

SCC seeks an increase in MSY for the second year of ClimateCorps. There are three reasons for this request: 1) Program alignment; 2) Capacity; and 3) Consolidation of AmeriCorps programs.

# **Narratives**

- 1. Program Alignment. SCC developed ClimateCorps, in part, to provide an overall umbrella to SCC's multiple programs across five states. ClimateCorps fits solidly within SCC's mission and SCC has found that nearly all of its current and new programs fit within the ClimateCorps focus. What's more, ClimateCorps fits directly within the Corporation's national service priority area of "Clean Energy/Environment" and the "Clean Energy Corps" described in the Serve America Act. By expanding ClimateCorps, SCC continues the process of aligning its current and new programs under a common banner and common performance measures.
- 2. Capacity. SCC had 585 AmeriCorps and non-AmeriCorps positions in 2009 and filled every position (100%). SCC received 2,612 applications in 2009 and, by mid-January, had already received more than 500 applications for 2010 positions. SCC has many more qualified applicants than it can serve and is seeking to expand to serve a greater number of these qualified applicants. SCC has the staffing capacity, facilities, infrastructure and match funds to serve additional participants under ClimateCorps.
- 3. Consolidation of AmeriCorps Programs. As stated in the original narrative, SCC is part of two National Direct AmeriCorps programs, a State AmeriCorps program, two Education Award programs and two VISTA programs. After it submitted its ClimateCorps proposal, SCC became a sponsor of the Western Hardrock Watershed Team VISTA program and participated in three American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) AmeriCorps programs. SCC's goal has been to consolidate its four funded AmeriCorps programs (ClimateCorps, The Corps Network TCN, Coconino Rural Environment Corps CREC, and Mile High Youth Corps MHYC) to streamline management, reporting and operations. To that end, SCC declined to participate in the recomplete of the MHYC program, developed specific targets for its TCN and CREC programs, and proposes to expand its ClimateCorps program.

# **Narratives**

There are a few other factors that impact this request: 1) Breakdown of numbers; 2) Cost; and, 3) Additional proposal.

- 1. Breakdown of Numbers. In 2009, prior to the launch of ClimateCorps, SCC received 34.3 MSY of funded AmeriCorps positions -- including both ARRA and non-ARRA positions -- and filled every position (100%). In 2010, SCC expects to receive a total 67.6 MSY -- some funded through ARRA -- and expects to easily fill all positions. In 2011, SCC will no longer have positions through MHYC or funded through ARRA. However, SCC has the match funding secured, has the increased capacity, and anticipates no issues maintaining a high level of interest to fill at least as many positions as 2010. SCC requests an increase in ClimateCorps from 23.9 MSY to 46 MSY. This will bring SCC's total to 64.9 MSY funded positions in 2011.
- 2. Cost. Although the new AmeriCorps guidance allows the cost per MSY to increase to \$13,000, SCC has determined that it can continue to operate ClimateCorps at a cost of \$12,600 per MSY.
- 3. Additional Proposal. It is important to note that SCC is also applying for a separate National Direct for the award-winning Western Hardrock and Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Teams. These are currently VISTA programs (SCC is the VISTA sponsor for the Western team) and have been encouraged to add an AmeriCorps component to the VISTA teams. The program model is to individually place AmeriCorps members in rural communities facing environmental degradation and economic hardship due to historic mining and resource extraction. The program is distinctly different from any other SCC program, though there are important complementary program linkages. For instance, individual members in rural communities may call on ClimateCorps teams when they need additional capacity to complete environmental service projects that meet ClimateCorps goals. In addition, ClimateCorps alumni may choose a second year placement as an individual member on the Watershed teams.

**Narratives** 

**ENROLLMENT** 

SCC has a strong record of filling every funded AmeriCorps position. As noted above, SCC received 34.3 MSY of funded AmeriCorps positions in 2009 from three different programs and filled every position (100%). SCC launched ClimateCorps in January 2010 and expects to easily fill every 2010 position for

SCC had a total of 585 corpsmember positions in 2009 -- including both AmeriCorps and non-AmeriCorps positions -- and filled every single position (100%). SCC received 2,612 applications in

ClimateCorps and all other funded AmeriCorps positions.

2009 and had many more qualified applicants than available positions.

SCC anticipates receiving at least as many applications in 2010 and 2011, and expects to easily fill every funded position. By mid-January SCC had already received over 500 applications for 2010 positions.

RETENTION

In 2009, SCC received AmeriCorps funding to support 74 positions (34.3 MSY) through three different sources. Of those positions, SCC had a retention rate of 93%. Overall in 2009, SCC had a retention rate of 88% for all of its 585 participants. This overall rate includes many non-AmeriCorps programs such as programs for younger youth that often have lower retention rates.

Based upon this past performance, SCC anticipates that its retention rates with ClimateCorps in 2010 and 2011 will remain high.

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# **Narratives**

# MULTI-SITE CONTINUATION

SCC plans to continue to place AmeriCorps members through ClimateCorps in 2011 in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas, and SCC contacted all four State Commissions. The Commissions from Colorado, New Mexico and Texas requested an "Initial Consultation Form" and SCC submitted completed forms to all three Commissions. The Arizona Commission did not request a form, but SCC met in person with the Commission's Executive Director in Phoenix on January 13, 2010 to discuss SCC and continuation. SCC did not receive questions or concerns from any Commission about the continuation of ClimateCorps.

# **Performance Measures**

SAA Characteristics				
AmeriCorps Member Population - None	x Geographic Focus - Rural			
x Geographic Focus - Urban	Encore Program			
Priority Areas				
Education	Healthy Futures			
Selected for National Measure	Selected for National Measure			
x Environmental Stewardship	Veterans and Military Familie			
Selected for National Measure	Selected for National Measure			
Economic Opportunity Other				
Selected for National Measure	Selected for National Measure			
Grand Total of all MSYs entered for all P	riority Areas 45.75			
Service Categories				
Disaster Response				
Service-Learning				
Leadership Development				
Community Restoration/Clean Up				
Energy Use Reduction				
At-risk Ecosystems Improvement				
Other Environment				
Job Development/Placement				

Homeland Security: Disaster Preparedness and Relief

# **National Performance Measures**

# Priority Area: Environmental Stewardship

# Strategy to Achieve Results

Briefly describe how you will achieve this result (Max 4,000 chars.)

The Southwest Conservation Corps' (SCC) ClimateCorps will engage 140 young people at four sites across three

Southwestern states (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico) in a multi-faceted program to address climate change.

ClimateCorps projects will attack climate change from four distinct angles 'water, fire, land and energy and will engage young people from both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged backgrounds.

Serving on crews, ClimateCorps members will tackle projects improving access for recreation and preserving biodiversity (land), reducing fuel hazards (fire), eliminating invasive species (water) and weatherizing low-income homes (energy).

# **Result: Output**

Result.

SCC will weatherize 55 low income housing units for energy conservation

Indicator: EN1: Housing units weatherized or retrofitted.

Target: Number of housing units weatherized.

Target Value: 55

Instruments: Project work logs as reported by ClimateCorps crews and Project Partners. Entered into the organizational database for compilation and analysis.

PM Statement: SCC will weatherize 55 low income housing units for energy conservation reported through project logs and the organizational database.

### **Result: Output**

Result.

SCC will improve and/or clean 500 acres of public land through eliminating invasive species in sensitive riparian areas, cutting excessive fuels in wildland-urban interface areas, and reducing the environmental impact of illegal border activity in transit areas along the US-Mexico border.

Indicator: (PRIORITY) EN4: Acres of parks cleaned or improved.

Target: Number of acres improved and/or cleaned

Target Value: 500

Instruments: Project work logs as reported by ClimateCorps crews and Project Partners. Entered into the organizational database for compilation and analysis.

PM Statement: SCC will improve and/or clean 500 acres of public land through eliminating invasive species in sensitive riparian areas, cutting excessive fuels in wildland-urban interface areas, and reducing the environmental impact of illegal border activity in transit areas along the US-Mexico border as reported through project work logs and the organizational database.

## **Result: Intermediate Outcome**

Result.

90% of land manager partners will rate the quality of SCC service activities as satisfactory or very satisfactory in written surveys.

Indicator: Land Manager partners reporting a high satisfaction on the accomplishments of the

# **National Performance Measures**

Result.

project

Target: Percent of land manager partners reporting who rate the quality of the SCC service as

satisfactory or very satisfactory

Target Value: 90

Instruments: SCC will send a post-program satisfaction survey to each project partner and request that the

partner complete the survey and remit to SCC.

PM Statement: 90% of project partners will rate the quality of SCC service activities as satisfactory or very satisfactory in written surveys.

#### **Result: Intermediate Outcome**

Result.

SCC's weatherization efforts will result in 2,532 Mbtu of energy savings for community residents, 46 Mbtu per low

income housing unit.

Indicator: (DELETED) EN7: Annual energy usage reduction (in units).

Target: Number of units (millions of btu) saved.

Target Value: 2532

Instruments: Project work logs as reported by ClimateCorps crews and Project Partners. Entered into the

organizational database for compilation and analysis.

PM Statement: SCC's weatherization efforts will result in 2,532 Mbtu of energy savings for community residents as

reported through project work logs and the organizational database.

# **Result: Output**

Result.

SCC will improve and/or create 200 miles of trail through trail maintenance and construction. This work will

include building and maintaining erosion structures, creating durable tread, and clearing trail corridor.

Indicator: (PRIORITY) EN5: Miles of trails or rivers improved and/or created.

Target: Number of miles of trail created and/or improved

Target Value: 200

Instruments: Project work logs as reported by ClimateCorps crews and Project Partners. Entered into the

organizational database for compilation and analysis.

PM Statement: SCC will improve and/or create 200 miles of trail through trail maintenance and construction activities such as building and maintaining erosion structures, creating durable tread, and clearing

trail corridor, and be tracked through project work logs and the organizational database.

# **Subapplicants**

<u>ID</u>	Organization		Amount Requested	Amount Approved	# FTEs Requested	# FTEs Approved	<u>Status</u>
		Totals:	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00	

# **Required Documents**

Document Name	<u>Status</u>
Evaluation	Not Applicable
Federally Approved Indirect Cost Agreement	Not Applicable
Labor Union Concurrence	Not Applicable