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Executive Summary

The Nevada Conservation Corps harnesses the energy and idealism of youth to meet the environmental needs of communities and public lands. NCC provides agencies with internship support for planning, implementing, and monitoring ecological research projects, while also advancing clean energy initiatives through public partnerships. Our programs offer training and professional development in renewable energy and green jobs.

Rationale and Approach

Problem(s): Nevada continues to suffer our nation's highest unemployment rate. We are also at or near the bottom of educational performance, maintaining the country's highest percentage of high school dropouts, and lags only behind Alaska for the nation's fewest college graduates. And while Nevada enjoys the most publically-owned land in the lower 48 states (87%), federal and state budget deficits have led to far fewer resources to manage public lands. The NCC, with its well established training and professional development programs, is uniquely positioned to help address the problems these socioeconomic indicators suggest.

INCREASED NEED FOR NATIONAL SERVICE IN NEVADA. Our vast open spaces are under increasing duress from drought, invasive species, flooding, fire, and unmanaged recreation. In the last federal budget cycle, agencies responsible for forestry, conservation, research and education suffered significant cuts. And while state environmental agencies may be funded for specific projects, few departments have the resources to hire new employees to complete long-term conservation initiatives. Further, new renewable energy project also have created an added burden to our public land managers. As a result federal and state agencies seek increased assistance from the NCC to accomplish conservation initiatives. At the same time, the NCC recognizes the need to engage youth in environmental education, community, and conservation activities. A description of Nevada's energy

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and environmental stewardship needs are as follows:

NEED FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN NEVADA-- Nevada has the highest potential for renewable energy of any other state in the country. Vast geothermal and wind resources, combined with more than 300 days of sunshine each year, offer renewable energy potential to power the entire country. This fact has not been lost on the alternative energy industry-the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been aggressively pursued by green energy advocates, with the nation's highest number of solar, wind, and geothermal projects scheduled for implementation over the next five years. The first wave of projects (14 solar, 7 wind, 3 geothermal, and 7 transmission) range in scale from as small as 24 megawatts up to 986 megawatts, large enough to supply power to 900,000 homes. The technologies vary, as does acreage involved, but as the BLM's Director Bob Abbey notes, "they represent the first generation of large-scale renewable energy projects to be carefully sited on public lands over the next several years." A critical step toward realizing these energy projects is an assessment of range conditions to anticipate and model environmental impacts, especially as these actions affect sensitive and endangered species, such as desert tortoise and sage grouse. For this reason, the BLM has requested support for inventories of lands that will host renewable projects. Over the next three years, our Clean Energy Corps will deploy 18 members annually across the state, capturing critical data that will inform resource management policy regarding the potential need for project mitigation. Essential data on vegetation, water quality, noxious weeds, and species richness and diversity will be gathered to aid in the management of renewable energy initiatives on public lands. In doing so, we may move forward with clean energy development without compromising the ecological integrity of landscapes, sensitive species and their habitat.

CONSERVING NEVADA'S ENERGY-- While advancing clean energy will be key to the future

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sustainability of our state's resources, the effectiveness and economic impact of these projects can be greatly increased by improving our energy efficiency. The cheapest kilowatt-hour of electricity is the one that's never used. In order for alternative energy resources to be fully economical, it is critical to first increase the efficiency of buildings being powered statewide. Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective means of reducing our dependence on foreign and fossil fuels. While harnessing renewable energy resources becomes cost-effective, we must also reduce current energy use in homes and businesses as much as possible. Consequently, our Clean Energy Corps will also seek to reduce energy waste. The NCC will support energy conservation through internships to perform energy audit services, as well as assist in direct conservation measures to reduce our energy waste occurring within our state's residential and public facility infrastructure.

CLEAN ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS--Another important aspect of the clean energy movement is public outreach. The significant advancements in green technologies are largely unknown and/or undervalued by the average citizen. The Corps leadership team has held several planning meetings with regional stakeholders and has developed diverse opportunities to display, interpret and educate the public on renewable energy potential on residential and commercial scales. Pilot projects in development include the Carson City Greenhouse Project, an innovative green house facility on the campus of Carson City High School, the California Trails Center in Elko, and the US Forest Service's Galena Creek Visitor Center. Each site will be integral to our efforts in promoting the value, need, and importance of clean energy for our nation's sustainable future.

CONTINUING THE NCC TRADITION OF STEWARDSHIP--While our commitment to addressing the needs of the renewable energy movement requires the best of our efforts, the foundational services of the NCC will continue. To be sure, our support of public agencies and environmental NGOs has

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never been more vital. Many programs are being cut or eliminated, and, as a result, requests for our volunteerism are unprecedented. Our ongoing support services, as described below, will continue to provide land managers with cost-efficient teams. What follows, then, is a succinct summary of those services based upon current needs.

ENDANGERED FORESTS--Nevada's Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest's spectacular 6.3 million acres makes it the largest national forest in the lower 48 states. From the high-risk wildland-urban interfaces of Southern Nevada and the Lake Tahoe Basin to central and eastern Nevada's wilderness, our state's forests are under siege by drought and fire. The NCC's conservation program serves a significant role in reducing forest fuels across the state. Working with public land managers in the Lake Tahoe Basin and across the Humboldt-Toiyabe, the NCC has steadily deployed crews trained for hazardous fuels reduction and remains in high demand.

INVASIVE AND NOXIOUS WEED THREATS--Over 25 million acres of land in Nevada are susceptible to infestation by exotic plants. The NCC has collaborated in implementing a hands-on approach to treating the invasive species crisis. The Corps and its partners have developed eradication teams that employ strategies modeled after approaches used to fight wildfires. Thus, trained and mobile Weed Warrior teams work with plant management specialists to identify, monitor, and control exotic plants such as tamarisk, tall white top and Canadian thistle.

UNMANAGED RECREATIONAL TRAILS--Nevada's public lands are experiencing ever-increasing use. The resulting impacts from off-road vehicle, bike, horse, and foot traffic pose acute threats to Nevada's lands and wildlife. As development expands along the borders of public lands, access points to these lands have become limited. At the same time many recreational trails currently fail to meet

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agency standards. Several NCC partners have solicited our continued and on-going support with expanding and maintaining Nevada's recreational trails over the next three field seasons. Specifically, Humboldt County, the Bureau of Land Management, Great Basin National Park, Nevada State Parks, and the US Forest Service have all requested NCC support for new or ongoing trail construction and maintenance.

WILDERNESS AREAS--Since 2000, Nevada has designated 3.3 million acres of Wilderness. Yet these newly designated wilderness areas have received little federal support. As a result the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service continue to request NCC support for their wilderness management programs. Specifically, the NCC assists these agencies with decommissioning and rehabilitation of illegal roads, off-road vehicle damage, and visitor impacts. The goal is to reduce compaction, trampling, grazing, and water quality degradation caused by anthropogenic activities.

FLOODING--Averaging less than eight inches of rain per year, Nevada is the nation's driest state and our waterways are in acute need of restoration. Rivers suffer from development pressures, re-routing, erosion, and the loss of native vegetation. The Truckee River, a 110 mile lifeline running from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake, is an extreme example of how erosion degrades a waterway. The 1997 flood surpassed a 100-year flood event, demonstrating the river's potential for devastation. To aid the restoration of this river, the NCC has partnered with Washoe County and the National Science Foundation to restore reaches of the Truckee River that adjoin the University of Nevada, Reno Main Station Farm. This important restoration work is funded for the next three seasons.

SERVICE-LEARNING--While the NCC has provided diverse programs for Nevada's youth, there is an ongoing need for alternative educational programs and service-learning opportunities. The NCC

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pioneers innovative environmental service-learning opportunities for primary, secondary, at-risk, and college students. Our field programs connect schools, universities, non-profits, and government agencies with service-based learning opportunities. The NCC will increase its commitment to service-learning and educational programs for the coming academic years. We will provide environmental and clean energy service-learning programs at the Galena Creek Visitor Center. Our efforts will focus on climate change research, forest ecology, and adaptive management of our local watershed. Additionally, we have established a new partnership with UNR's Academy for the Environment to assist students seeking internships and to recruit students as community volunteers. The NCC also offers an Alternative Spring Break for college students, providing them with service-learning opportunities statewide. Lastly, we offer a summer service-learning program, Great Basin Naturalists, which engages high school students in conservation through science education and service projects.

AMERICORPS MEMBER ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES: Corps activities reflect service demands currently supported by two CNCS grants, a one-time funded Clean Energy formula grant and our state competitive NCC grant. Corps activities are performed through two service models, team-based conservation and service internships. Each program year the team-based model will include approximately 81 members and the internship program will include approximately 69, based on project partner demand.

TEAM-BASED PROGRAM: Teams of ten will be deployed across the state, conducting clean energy, forestry, trails, and restoration projects for the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and other local, state, and federal agencies. The service NCC teams provide is based on compelling agency needs as identified in project requests received by the NCC. Conservation teams also help recruit, mentor, and train community volunteers who will serve alongside teams during restoration

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projects and community service events. Team members will also serve one or more roles on each crew, including tool, kitchen or vehicle manager, naturalist (provides weekly education programs), and historian (documents the crew accomplishments and experience).

In addition, teams will offer mentorship to high school participants in GBI's Summer of Service conservation program, Great Basin Naturalists. NCC will continue our existing collaboration with the Veterans Green Corps program whose mission is empowering veterans to transition to civilian life by meeting our nation's most pressing land conservation needs. Following the NCC crew model, the VGC program and NCC have successfully placed and mentored eleven veterans by staffing conservation teams with veterans of the US Armed Forces.

SERVICE INTERNSHIPS--Working alone or in small teams, interns provide agencies with a range of support that includes planning, designing, implementing, and monitoring clean energy and conservation initiatives, as well as volunteer programs, research projects, visitor services and education programs. Successful applicants are college educated and seeking experience in the natural sciences, volunteer management, education, and clean energy sector. Clean Energy Interns will support initiatives related to proposed and future energy projects on public lands, including the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service. Interns will also conduct energy audits for residential and public buildings, emphasizing energy resource skills that can be employed immediately for direct installation measures.

Environmental Outreach Interns will serve in a variety of visitor centers and public buildings throughout Nevada and assist with implementation of interpretation and education programs for a variety of agency partners. Specific duties include presenting curriculum-based field trips and

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classroom programs, presenting public outreach programs, informal roving interpretation for the public, and staffing visitor centers. Interns will also work to increase community participation and stewardship of public lands through member and volunteer recruitment. Other tasks include developing and implementing environmental, renewable energy, and climate change programming for all ages. Interns will also help to facilitate GBI's outdoor summer youth nature camp.

Community Support Interns will assist in outreach, volunteer recruitment, and coordination for environmental and renewable energy service events. Our Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Interns will assist the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to collect population data on the desert tortoise, which inhabits public lands that have fast-tracked renewable energy projects.

In an effort to improve the quality of these services the NCC submits quality assurance surveys to project partners, who have consistently given the NCC an overall satisfaction rating of 95%. The NCC has implemented applicable national performance measurements and statewide performance measurements developed in cooperation with NV Volunteers. These project measurements track NCC member performance and are described in detail below.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE--Our program is designed to support 36 full-time members, 28 half-time members, 71 summer members who will fill quarter-time slots, and 9 Summer of Service members who will complete 300-hour slots. Our total MSY for the fiscal year will be 70.69; this includes approximately 75 Conservation Team Members and 69 Service Interns. Additionally, the NCC supports 9.5 FTE staff positions, which include the following: 6 Seasonal Supervisors (1.5 FTE); 2 Full-time Supervisors (2 FTE); 1 Program Director (1 FTE); 1 Associate Program Director (1 FTE); 1 Grant Administrator (1 FTE); 1 Crew Coordinator (1FTE); 1 Intern Coordinator (1 FTE); and 1 Education

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and Training Coordinator (1 FTE). NCC's Program Director, Crew Coordinator, Intern Coordinator, Education and Training Coordinator, and Grant Administrator work out of the Great Basin Institute office at the University of Nevada, Reno and our Mt. Rose campus in Reno. The Associate Program Director serves the southern Nevada region from GBI's Las Vegas field office.

ALIGNMENT OF MEMBER SLOTS WITH PROGRAM DESIGN--To fulfill seasonal project timeline demands in southern and northern NV, we support 28 half-time members, 71 quarter-time members, and 9 Summer of Service members. Our 36 full-time members will meet program demands for both southern and northern NV. NCC conservation team members, crew supervisors, and service interns serve at multiple service sites.

AMERICORPS MEMBER SELECTION--The NCC strives to recruit a wide variety of applicants from diverse ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. We will advertise AmeriCorps member positions over the web at such sites as AmeriCorps, Great Basin Institute, Eco Jobs, and through multiple university outlets. Additionally, the NCC continues to partner with Veterans Green Corps for continued recruitment and placement of veterans within our conservation team program. For our crew placements we will select applicants based on their past experience, skill base, and desire to perform environmental and/or community service. For our internship placements we will look for people with one of two skill sets: college students and graduates with environmental or educational backgrounds, and/or experienced applicants who have taught or worked for agencies or environmental nonprofit organizations in the past. Our plans to ensure corps diversity include advertising on a broad range of websites, presenting our program to a variety of groups, selecting members to reflect national demographics, and organizing community events that include people from many walks of life.

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MEMBER DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, & SUPERVISION--Our plan for member development, training, and supervision achieves the desired outcomes of the NCC by ensuring members possess the skills and motivation to perform needed services. The NCC has developed a weeklong pre-service orientation program for team members and interns during which members are introduced to their service location, the service they will perform, the AmeriCorps service family, prohibited activities, the benefits of National Service, citizenship training, the NCC's support structure, as well as environmental history. Conservation team members receive certification in first aid, as well as training in chainsaw operation, trail construction, or arid lands restoration, and Leave No Trace ethics. Interns also receive training in first aid, as well as specialized training facilitated by their host site supervisor(s) specific to their service site such as volunteer management, grant writing, environmental interpretation, visitor services practices, as well as monitoring and assessment protocols. Additionally, members of the Clean Energy Corps will go through extensive technical training that will prepare them as certified energy auditors and provide them with the skill set to perform simple energy retrofits.

We will also continue to implement a week-long Leadership Academy. Topics will include conflict management, advanced wilderness first aid, team building, project quality-assurance, reporting protocols, professional communication, advanced restoration techniques, and substance abuse training. Much of this training will be provided by partner agencies, who are asked to give guest lectures on the ways in which civic obligation can be met through careers in federal, state, and county public environmental agencies. This training also equips members with the skills to complete the conservation work identified in our performance measurements. All NCC field staff supervisors take part in an orientation session where they are trained in Great Basin Institute and AmeriCorps policies;

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many are former members who relate well to incoming members with less experience. Our focus on member development enables AmeriCorps participants, over the course of 2-3 years, to move from a team member position to a crew leader position and, finally, to a staff supervisor position.

Additionally, our conservation team comprising veteran members is supervised by a trained veteran advocate and fully supported through our relationship with Veterans Green Corps (VGC). VGC staff provide support to the veteran crew field staff supervisor and team members through peer facilitated discussions, risk management and prevention, individual case management, and transitional assistance from military to civilian culture. NCC program staff maintains contact with conservation team members on a weekly basis and communicates daily with field staff supervisors. The NCC Intern Coordinator maintains weekly contact with service interns and host site supervisors through email and phone conversations. The continuous communication between conservation team members, service interns, and NCC program staff ensures that the members will receive adequate support and guidance throughout their term of service.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES--The measurable outputs and outcomes we expect to achieve encompass several categories including environmental restoration, clean energy, land health assessments, engaging veterans, member development, capacity building, students served, and interns placed. Each category is defined in detail below. Environmental Restoration--The measurable accomplishments that members achieve while performing conservation field projects, including miles of trail or rivers that are cleaned, improved, or created, and the number of acres of public lands cleaned or improved. Clean Energy--The measurable accomplishments that members achieve while performing clean energy projects, including number of energy audits conducted, and number of students and youth receiving education or training in energy-efficient and environmentally-conscious

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practices. Land Health Assessments--The measurable accomplishments that members achieve while performing land health assessments, including the number of acres of public lands assessed for renewable energy project impacts. Engaging Veterans--The measured success of engaging veterans in service opportunities. Capacity Building--The measured success of our ability to develop new projects and partnerships, ensuring the sustainability of our program. Students Served--Our measured success in reaching student audiences and providing experiential education opportunities that will impact their attitudes regarding conservation and the environment. Interns Placed--The measured success of our ability to place interns in professional positions that will benefit communities and other service organizations.

TRACKING OUTPUTS & OUTCOMES--Environmental restoration outputs and outcomes will be tracked using weekly reports, submitted by staff supervisors that document the accomplishments of AmeriCorps members. Clean energy projects will be tracked through the completion of energy audit reports and classroom forms completed by teachers whose classes are served by NCC members. Land health assessment projects will be tracked through a final report in the form of a standards determination document submitted to the project partner at the conclusion of the state wide assessments. Engaging veterans will be tracked through member files documenting veteran status of NCC members. Capacity building outputs and outcomes will be tracked using emails and meeting minutes related to project and partnership development. Outputs and outcomes related to students served will be tracked with classroom forms completed by each teacher whose classes are served by NCC members. Interns placed will be tracked using documentation from member agreements with partner agencies and member timesheets.

The Nevada Conservation Corps has a proven track record in defining and meeting community-based

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performance measures. During the last grant cycle we met or exceeded all of our performance measures and outcome goals. For example, during the 2009-10 program year we met and exceeded all of our environmental restoration, capacity building, and volunteer recruitment goals including building trail at 161% of our original goal, planting trees at 123% of our goal, recruiting episodic volunteers at 115% and continuous volunteers at 126.6% of our original goal. In fact, many of our output and outcome targets have been adjusted upward to account for our ability to exceed these well-defined performance measures. The current measures have been developed over time with the assistance from Nevada Volunteers and through internal organizational evaluations. Our system of documenting and reporting data on these performance measures has continually improved, and is now an established part of the Great Basin Institute's daily functions.

VOLUNTEER GENERATION--The Great Basin Institute has supported volunteerism and community building since its inception 12 years ago. The Nevada Conservation Corps mobilizes citizens to volunteer across our service region. From 2007-2009, a total of 3,429 continuous and episodic volunteers completed 66,941 hours of community service. These numbers reflect our increased capacity to organize and implement successful volunteer events that foster local stewardship. The diverse groups of volunteers that have helped us increase our capacity span the state and include K-12 students, university students, corporations, nonprofit organizations, families, and at-risk youth. We have recruited these volunteers not only through the presence of our AmeriCorps program but also through field studies programs, outreach to public and private schools, collaborations with nonprofits and agencies, and with the assistance of our Board of Directors. Members play a significant role in volunteer recruitment and support, training and mentoring volunteers during events and programs, and instituting ongoing volunteer appreciation protocols. The NCC Program Director will serve as the volunteer coordinator, ensuring that events and programs are

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effectively planned and marketed in order to sustain our proposed level of volunteerism and inspire community support for AmeriCorps and the Nevada Conservation Corps. The Corps will fully participate in 9/11 National Day of Service, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful Day, Make a Difference Day, the Martin Luther King Day of Service, and Earth Day. Volunteers will be recruited through several means, such as recruiting at events, presentations to community groups and schools, website postings, and statewide collaboration and outreach with service-oriented organizations. The NCC will manage participants by documenting service hours, providing extensive training, and tracking volunteers through a database. Volunteers will be recognized on our website, in our program newsletters and outreach materials, and in our press releases and media coverage. In addition, Service Interns will recruit a substantial number of volunteers and crews will continue to participate in community projects.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION--NCC objectives have been based on multi-agency needs, especially in southern and eastern Nevada where there is a concerted effort to protect diminishing habitat and lands. Planning meetings with the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Great Basin National Park, Death Valley National Park, and Lake Mead Recreational Area have resulted in several public land projects informed by regional conservation plans. Severe drought, weakened forests, unprotected wilderness, polluted watersheds, degraded trail systems, an epidemic of noxious weeds and exotic species, and underserved park visitors have resulted in a backlog of conservation and restoration projects. Further, stakeholders will be involved through our feedback loop, which includes their evaluation of each project completed by NCC members. These evaluations help us revise our approaches, trainings, and systems to better meet the needs of target communities. The key ongoing role of community partners and stakeholders is to inform us of new management strategies, needs, and projects. The NCC has also developed ongoing

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collaborations with Nevada EcoNet, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, the Nature Conservancy, Friends of Black Rock, Friends of Red Rock, Nevada Food Bank, Patagonia, REI, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, the Truckee River Flood Project, and Washoe County Schools. We collaborate with the University of Nevada and K-12 schools in both Reno and Las Vegas in order to provide courses and training to community members related to conservation, natural resource protection, leadership development, and environmental literacy.

We will further our work with numerous nonprofits and agencies to identify the most critical needs related to the conservation of Nevada's public lands. These collaborations increase the quality and scope of the services we provide by: 1. engaging a diverse range of volunteers and professionals in community projects; 2. creating a network of community organizations working together on shared goals; 3. facilitating the flow of ideas, experience, training, and knowledge between professionals, students, volunteers, and our service participants. As a pioneer Nevada community service program, the NCC strives for continuous improvement, accountability, and community involvement. A significant aspect of our mission is collaborating with other service programs state and region wide. During several community service projects the NCC has collaborated with the Parasol Foundation, United Way of Southern NV, and the LUZ Community Coalition, three AmeriCorps State programs. We have also collaborated with the VISTA program through the Northern Nevada Food Bank and on local environmental restoration projects. Further, we utilize NCCC teams for landmark conservation projects throughout our region. The NCC is an active member of the Mountain Alliance of Conservation Corps (MACC). Since 2008, in collaboration with MACC and supported by a national direct grant, we have staffed a 10-person Sustainable Forestry and Restoration Team. With Corporation support, the NCC will continue to foster collaborations with other NCNCS programs.

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SUSTAINABILITY--Based on Nevada's current environmental conditions, ongoing discussions with our partners, and national trends, it is clear that the communities our program serves are unable to perform these services without the help of NCC AmeriCorps members. The obvious demand for NCC services reflects the reality that the federal, state, and local agencies and nonprofits we serve do not have the staff or funding to ensure that conservation and restoration work is done. The critical services that NCC members provide in terms of protecting the land, wildlife, and public of Nevada will not be completed at the current scale without the presence of federal support. Nor were these service projects completed before the NCC program began. The mission and structure of the NCC program, along with Corporation funding, therefore makes our conservation work possible. Nonetheless, through strategic diversification our program is also increasing its capacity within the community. By providing interns to a variety of agencies and organizations in order to fulfill unmet community needs, we are ensuring the impact of our program beyond federal support. By establishing these internships and demonstrating their positive, long-term community impacts we will encourage these organizations to continue to seek interns and community volunteers to fill needed gaps, without the help of AmeriCorps members and/or federal support. Finally, as GBI continues to work towards expanding its capacity for developing partnerships, fundraising, and generating ongoing community volunteer support, the services we provide become more sustainable beyond federal funding sources.

The number and diversity of partnerships established over the past decade is a testament to our success and ability to meet community needs. Since 2007, the NCC has developed 43 new partnerships statewide at the private, federal, state, and county levels. Continual improvements in NCC member education and training programs, as well as quality recruitment of members and field staff, have resulted in an average member retention rate of 91.7% since 2007. Our current efforts in the arena of sustainability include seeking private donations and foundation support, seeking grants

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from conservation-minded institutions, developing fundraising events, and creating more organizational visibility in the community.

NCC SUPPORTS A MULTISITE PROGRAM--Our conservation team members and service interns serve at hundreds of sites throughout Nevada. Each conservation team is managed daily by a GBI-trained field staff supervisor. Each service intern host site supervisor is trained by the NCC Program Director. This allows the NCC to maintain consistent policies and programmatic functions while working with different partners, and at different sites. Service sites are selected based on the needs of our project partners. In selecting service sites the NCC seeks projects that are innovative and sustainable by design, that reflect strong leadership, and that benefit communities. Project partners are selected based on their commitment to our program and to the AmeriCorps experience. Partners agree to provide leadership to members and to enhance member experience through education and training. A majority of the service provided to a project site or partner is based on a fee-for-service relationship. This funding relationship assures program sustainability. Programmatically, all our partners are educated about National Service and are provided with detailed policies regarding the treatment of our members. All NCC service sites are monitored through a feedback loop that includes written evaluations of the service performed by members, in addition to verbal communication with NCC's staff supervisors. Our conservation team members have an organizational representative present at every service site. Moreover, each field supervisor receives training from GBI to make certain the common elements of the program are reflected at each site.

ENROLLMENT--NCC member enrollment has been exemplary. During the 2006-07 program year we enrolled 98.9% of our member slots, and we enrolled 97.8% of our member slots during the following program year. During the 2008-09 program year we enrolled 100% of our member slots.

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During the 2009-10 program year, to date we have enrolled 100% of our 1700-hour positions.

RETENTION--NCC member retention rates for the past three years remain consistently strong and are as follows. In 2007-08, our program achieved a 92% retention rate. In 2008-09, our retention rate was 90%. In 2009-10, our retention rate reached 92.6%. Our retention rate has historically been attributed to a lack of commitment from some members and the financial difficulties of being an AmeriCorps member. We continue to support our members through surveys, providing more feedback and recognition, and circulating a member newsletter. The newsletter recognizes member service, maintains a sense of connection between members and the organization, informs AmeriCorps alumni of benefits, announces upcoming projects, highlights features profiling member accomplishments, and includes a current letter from GBI's Director and the NCC Program Director. All of these measures have resulted in a higher retention rate. Lastly, in 2010 we developed a member appreciation committee made up of NCC program staff, field staff, and members to enhance NCC's member appreciation. The committee is tasked with developing member appreciation events to recognize member service.

Organizational Capability

BRIEF HISTORY OF GBI--The Great Basin Institute is an interdisciplinary field studies organization that promotes environmental research, education, and conservation throughout the West. A public 501 (c)(3) non-profit, the institute advances ecological literacy and habitat restoration through educational outreach and direct service programs. GBI offers accredited courses and workshops in the environmental arts and sciences, providing a collaborative outreach network for the University and Community College system of Nevada. The Nevada Conservation Corps, a program of GBI, is currently administering its 11th continuous AmeriCorps program year, with successful applications for three-year Corporation funding cycles. Each of these competitive grants secured incremental increases

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in partner match. Over the past 11 years, the NCC has established a track record of providing service to federal, state, and county natural resource managers and environmental nonprofits. Quantifiable outcomes of our partnerships are as follows: NCC treated 8,358 acres of wildlands for fuels, built and maintained 1,123 miles of recreational trail, and restored over 204 miles of riparian habitat by eradicating invasive species and introducing 26,000 native plants. During our most recent grant cycle, NCC year-round and summer programs placed 354 AmeriCorps members in the field for a total of 312,448 hours of service. NCC members, along with 3,429 volunteers, reduced 1,358 acres of forest fuels, removed invasive species from 18,346 acres, built and/or maintained 543 miles of trail system, planted 31,491 native trees, restored 55 miles of streambed, and provided environmental education to 1,596 K-12 students.

Additionally, 65 AmeriCorps interns completed various environmental research projects, service-learning events, and volunteer coordination for agencies and nonprofit organizations. Internships included community-based service-learning and environmental education and outreach with the Red Rock Interpretive Association, USFS Galena Creek Visitor Center, and the BLM California Trails Historic Interpretive Center, as well as volunteer coordination and event planning for Nevada EcoNet and Friends of Red Rock Canyon. Science-based internships supported endangered species studies and restoration for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. These accomplishments illustrate the NCC's ability to successfully complete a wide range of conservation activities that benefit communities and public lands and require specialized skills, training, and equipment. From contour tree felling and arid land rehabilitation, to dry stone masonry and science-based ecological assessments, the NCC has proven itself as a top-tier service provider for Nevada's public land managers. In addition to crew-based service, our intern program continues to place participants in land management agencies and NGOs throughout the state. Interns conduct a range of conservation and educational service activities,

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including rare plant and wildlife surveys, invasive species inventorying, as well as delivering environmental education programs. Indeed, the NCC strives to be Nevada's most comprehensive environmental service-learning program, including the delivery of newly established clean energy curricula. AmeriCorps education interns collaborate with alternative high schools, colleges, and agency departments to serve K-16 populations. Our affiliation with the University of Nevada, Reno has allowed the NCC to utilize college faculty to educate a diverse population of learners that includes our members, volunteers, youth, and the general public.

ROLES OF KEY STAFF MEMBERS--The Great Basin Institute receives direction from its Board of Directors, eight PhD faculty from the University of Nevada, Reno, representing a range of environmental departments, and one retired United States Forest Service Forest Supervisor. Jerry Keir, Executive Director of the Great Basin Institute and founder of the NCC, has served as an AmeriCorps Service-Learning Coordinator, a Promise Fellow, and NCC Program Director. Jerry has twelve years of experience coordinating service-learning activities at the university and K-12 level, and 12 years of administrative experience working for nonprofit, university based centers. He has successfully trained, supervised, and managed AmeriCorps members, Promise Fellows, and VISTAs and will dedicate 40% of his time to administering the NCC. Gwen Bourne (MBA, University of Nevada, Reno) is the Associate Director at GBI and Director of Finance. Gwen has over 15 years experience in accounting and financial management, ranging from working with law firms to engineering firms. Gwen will be dedicating 60% of her time to the program. Terry Christopher (B.S. Biology, Texas A&M University) is an Associate Director at GBI and manages GBI's Las Vegas Field Station. Terry has over 16 years experience working on projects dedicated to the endangered desert tortoise and continues to serve as project coordinator for the US Fish and Wildlife Service desert tortoise line distance sampling project. Terry will be dedicating 60% of his time to the program. NCC Program Director Kevin Dose (B.S.

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Environmental Health & Safety, Purdue University) completed two terms of service with AmeriCorps and two seasons as the NCC Crew Coordinator. He will be dedicating 100% of his time to administering the NCC Program. NCC's Associate Director for Southern Nevada Programs, Robert Vaghini (B.S. Environmental Geography, Ohio University), interned with GBI's Research Associate Program before joining the NCC team. His years with GBI as a crew leader and research associate have provided him with ample experience leading crews, logistics, data collection and administrative management.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES--Since its inception in 1999 the NCC has led the way in serving Nevada's under-managed public lands. Rural and urban communities directly benefit from the conservation and environmental education our members provide. An ongoing shortage of federal and state funds to support land stewardship continues to increase demand for NCC's services. While philanthropy is expected to decrease and our state budget is in deficit, AmeriCorps funding has never been more important to leverage federal, state, and local resources. GBI has a proven ability to function in this volatile financial environment, which was clearly demonstrated over the course of this year. Most notably GBI has shown an adaptive capacity to accommodate unprecedented fluctuations in service requests. During the 2009-2010 program year, in addition to our competitive grant, GBI and the NCC managed four additional CNCS initiatives, matching over \$670,000 in stimulus-funded AmeriCorps grants.

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

COST EFFECTIVENESS & BUDGET ADEQUACY--During our eleven years as an AmeriCorps program, the NCC has developed partnerships that enable the program to move toward sustainability. In 1999, we began with 3 partnerships. We have since increased this number to 99 partnerships. Non-corporation funding sources include a diverse portfolio of federal and non-federal partnerships. We

Narratives

have cooperative agreements with several cities and counties, as well as with every natural resource management agency in Nevada. Federal, state, county, and nonprofit environmental agencies, listed elsewhere in this application, have provided substantial funds to collaborate on a diversity of environmental service projects. NCC's cash match and in-kind contributions reflect a steady increase in broad-based financial support and demonstrate the viability of NCC's programmatic design and goals. The University and Community College System of Nevada will provide ongoing support for our program with an in-kind investment on the behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno, providing our program with desks, phone lines, Xerox copiers, Internet access, computers, printers, equipment storage, and parking facilities. We are also provided with access to educational resources and materials.

SUCCESS IN SECURING MATCH RESOURCES--The organization has been tremendously successful in this effort. During the current three-year grant cycle we have been able to secure more than \$6.4 million in cash match. Non-federal sources of cash match will be found through grants obtained from the existing statewide conservation bond actions, recreational trails program funds, Lake Tahoe's Environmental Improvement Program, as well as foundation support from NV Energy, the Redfield Foundation, and the Goggio Foundation. The Institute has also been successful in securing a variety of local contributions through fee-for-service environmental programming. These contributions include financial donations, in-kind volunteer support, infrastructure donations, in-kind training, equipment, program evaluation, a no cost lease from the US Forest Service for the use of a residential and training center, as well as donations from such companies as REI, Patagonia, Skoosh Ink, and the El Dorado Casino. Additional non-federal cash match will be obtained through our increased efforts in fee for service programming at the Galena Creek Visitor Center.

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Our cost per MSY has increased to approximately \$13,290.00. Although our cost per MSY has increased from previous years, this is a direct result of a programmatic shift involving a decrease in conservation teams and increase in service interns and directly correlates to a diversification in funding sources.

Evaluation Summary or Plan

EVALUATION SUMMARY & PLAN--Currently the NCC participates in both an internal and external evaluation on an annual basis and will continue to follow this process during future years. The internal evaluation consists of a self-assessment focused on NCC's performance in the following areas: Purpose and Activities; Organization and Management; Program Design; Corps member Development; Work Experience and Service Projects; and Evidence of Success. In addition to this evaluation program, the NCC will continue to undergo an annual external evaluation of its program facilitated by the University of Nevada, Reno's Center for Program Evaluation. A copy of our 2009 external evaluation has been provided with this application.

PLAN FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT & IMPROVEMENT--The NCC regulates, monitors, and evaluates progress toward objectives. Site supervisors, agency partners, and stakeholders will complete weekly project evaluations. AmeriCorps members will also complete an evaluation of their experience on a weekly basis. This feedback is used to continually improve member experience, and to ensure that partners are satisfied with the service members provide. Mid-term and end-of-term member and staff performance reviews will also be used to inform our own internal self-assessment process.

Amendment Justification

NA

Clarification Summary

This application is under consideration for a grant in the amount of:

Narratives

\$617,500, 66.1 Member Service Years (MSYs) and 125 member positions (or a number of slots and slot configuration which does not change the number of MSY listed here).

Response: Due to a decrease in funding, we restructured our program design by eliminating the clean energy auditing program due to capital investments required for auditing equipment and decreased the total number of service interns. By doing so, we have also eliminated the Intern Coordinator position and increased remaining staff salaries to account for added responsibility in managing the intern program. In addition, we increased the number of full time field staff supervisors from two to four to reflect a change in crew structure and eliminated the seasonal field staff supervisor position. Our MSY remain below 66.1, while our total members have increased from 125 to 143.

Section C

1. Please identify the auto costs; if it is for mileage reimbursement, list the rate. If it is for car rental, state so.

Response: The auto costs are associated with vehicle rental expenses for average two day rental (rental cost estimate based on Great Basin Institute account with Enterprise Rent A Car for 4xDrive truck @ \$50/day) and/or a GBI vehicle usage fee predicated on actual straight line depreciation costs of vehicles.

2. Please explain the purpose of the per diem costs in the three line items included for a. 664 days for staff travel; b. crew members; c. service interns and d.itemize costs for service intern travel

Response: The purpose for per diem is to provide NCC staff and members funding for food while

Narratives

conducting service in remote field locations. Per diem is a direct cost to the program paid to members based on total days in the field. Daily rate for participants varies based on the size of each crew; 10-person NCC restoration crew receives a \$6.50/day daily rate and 4-person NCC intern crews receives a \$10/day daily rate to compensate for a lesser total group per diem. The total days represented in the budget is based on the number of days participants will be in the field.

Section E

3. Please explain why 50 new chainsaws and 6 new laptops with GPS are needed.

Response: This budget line item was incorrectly interpreted. The total number of new chainsaws is four, not (50), as indicated in the original budget request. The new chainsaws are requested due to depreciation of existing inventory. In addition, we would like to clarify the request for laptops and GPS units. We are requesting the replacement of (6) laptops and (6) GPS units valued at \$300/laptop and \$200/GPS unit as a result of depreciation within current inventory. Laptops and GPS units enable our crews to capture accurate quantitative data for performance measure reporting and project partners reporting.

4. Please confirm that member service gear displays the AmeriCorps logo.

Response: We confirm that all our member service gear displays the AmeriCorps logo on member's shirts.

5. Please provide an itemized list of costs included in a. NCC Crew Supplies; b. Project Specific; c.

Narratives

Clean Energy Audit Supplies; and d. NCC Clean Energy Crew Supplies. Be sure to list any single supply item over \$1000.

Response:

a. Project Specific NCC Restoration Crew Supplies

a. Fencing Materials: 50 timbers @ \$91.66 = \$4,583.00

b. Fencing Tools: T-Post Pounders @ \$99/unit x 4 per crew x 8 crews = \$3,168.00; T-Post Pullers @ \$57/unit x 4 per crew x 8 crews = \$1824.00

c. Signs: Gateway Signs @ \$834/sign x 2 signs = \$1,668.00;

Flexible Signs @ \$17.50/sign x 60 signs = \$1,050.00; Rectangular Signs @ \$80/sign x 26 signs = \$2,080.00

d. Generator @ \$899/unit x 4 units = \$3,596.00

e. Forestry Chipper Rental @ 950/week x 15 weeks = \$14,250.00

f. Brush Cutters @ \$950/unit x 2 units per crew x 8 crews = \$15,200.00

g. Total Project Specific Supplies \$66,019

b. Additional NCC Crew Supplies for 8 Restoration Crews

a. Camping Equipment (i.e. stove, food/water coolers, dishes, utensils, totes) comprised of 25 items; detailed cost allocation available upon request; no single item over \$1,000; Total Cost per crew is \$564.81

b. General Tools (i.e. shovel, polaski, pick mattock, mcleod, etc.) comprised of 21 unique tools totaling 73 items; detailed cost allocation available upon request; no single item over \$1,000; Total Cost per crew is \$1,615.02

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- c. Vehicle Supply Kit (i.e. fluids, tow straps, jumper cables, tire repair, air compressor) @ \$127/kit x 2 kits/crew = \$254.00 per crew
- d. First Aid Supplies comprised of 14 items; detailed cost allocation available upon request; no single item of \$1,000; Total Cost per crew is \$238.23
- e. Personal Protective Equipment (i.e. gloves, hard hats, eye glasses) comprised of 5 unique items totaling 54 items; detailed cost allocation available upon request; no single item over \$1,000; Total Cost per crew is \$227.94
- f. Emergency Assistance SPOT Messenger @ \$200 per crew
Total NCC Crew Supplies per crew = \$4,500
- g. Total of \$4,500 per crew for 8 crews = \$36,000.00

c. Clean Energy Audit Supplies

- a. Given the reduction in available funding, the energy audit portion of the grant has been eliminated due to the high cost of the equipment required to perform this service.

d. Clean Energy Crew Supplies for 18 Clean Energy Interns

- a. Other Supplies: 18 Waterproof Journals @ \$10/journal = \$180.00; 18 All Weather Pens @ \$12/pen = \$216.00
- b. Member Service Gear: Work Pants @ \$50/person/18 people = \$900.00; Shirts displaying AmeriCorps logo @ \$20/per person/18 people = \$360.00; Personal Protective Equipment = \$245.16; First Aid Supplies = \$238.23
- c. Total of \$4,639.39 for 18 Clean Energy Interns

Section G:

Narratives

6. Please provide additional information on the staff training professional development (i.e. who is being trained, in what subject areas and for what purpose).

Response: The following staff will take part in professional development training courses: GBI Financial Manager, NCC Program Director, NCC Associate Program Director, NCC Crew Coordinator Reno, NCC Crew Coordinator Las Vegas, and NCC Training and Education Coordinator. Subject areas will include financial management, leadership training, and software training. Training will serve to increase competency in subject areas and improve overall program management.

7. Please explain the In-kind On the Job Training line item (i.e. what the training is and by whom).

Response: The in-kind on the job training sessions will be facilitated by our project partners while members are serving at their project sites. Training topics will include but are not limited to lessons on field identification on native flora and fauna, natural history, natural resource management techniques, data collection methodologies, habitat restoration, recreation management, and technical skills required to complete projects.

8. Provide more detail about how the daily charges for member trainings were calculated and what each line item covers.

Response: The daily charges for member trainings are calculated based on the daily costs incurred by the program during the member five day or daily orientation sessions held during the first week of service for each program (restoration crew members, service interns, clean energy interns and NCC interns). The daily rate is equal to the hourly cost of managing each member, multiplied by an eight-

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hr day, multiplied by five or one day(s).

Crew Member Orientation Calculation:

a. Full Time Restoration Crew Member - $\$9.23 \times 8\text{hrs} = \$73.84/\text{day} \times 16 \text{ members} \times 5 \text{ days} =$
\$5,907.20

b. Summer Restoration Crew Member - $\$8.14 \times 8\text{hrs} = \$65.12/\text{day} \times 48 \text{ members} \times 5 \text{ days} =$
\$15,628.80

c. Youth Summer Crew Member = $\$5.15/\text{hr} \times 8\text{hrs} = \$41.12/\text{day} \times 8 \text{ members} \times 5 \text{ days} =$
\$1,648.00

Service Intern Orientation Calculation:

a. Desert Tortoise Field Technician @ $\$11.69/\text{hr} \times 8\text{hrs} = \$93.52 \times 19 \text{ members} \times 5 \text{ days} =$
\$8,884.40

b. Desert Tortoise Telemetry Technician - $\$13.03/\text{hr} \times 8\text{hrs} = \$104.24 \times 4 \text{ members} \times 5 \text{ days} =$
\$2,084.40

9. Please confirm that the first aid training (daily rate of \$1800) is not for a single person but for an organization.

Response: The wilderness first aid & CPR training rate of \$180 per member is for 80 members. Total expense is based on historic 3rd party cost estimates to conduct a single one-day training event.

10. Please describe the costs included in the \$3,840 for Supervisor Training (i.e. registration or other).

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Response: The cost included in the Supervisor Training is equal to the daily rate for employing NCC Field Staff Supervisors at average \$13/hr x eight-hrs = \$104/day, during the training sessions, as the employee will not be billable to a project.

Due to program design changes the Seasonal Staff Supervisor training is deleted from the budget.

Section H:

11. Please itemize the external evaluation costs and include the daily rate of consultants or how costs were determined.

Response: We do not have a "daily rate" with our external evaluators. The expense is calculated by an existing annual contract with the University of Nevada's evaluation program. Consultants evaluate project partner/member program evaluation data, while also conducting NCC staff interviews, holding quarterly meetings with NCC staff, and provide an annual report to NCC and GBI management.

Section I:

1. Please verify that background checks include FBI fingerprint criminal history checks in addition to state registry checks and the NSOPR for members with exposure to vulnerable populations.

Response: The NCC conducts FBI fingerprint checks and NSOPR Sex Offender checks for every member and staff supported by the AmeriCorps grant. In addition, the NCC will conduct state

Narratives

registry checks for every member who may have potential exposure to vulnerable populations; state registry checks will include the state from which the member is applying and each state where they will potentially provide service (i.e. NV and CA). The cost breakdown is listed below:

d. State Registry Check = Average \$25.00/check x 34 staff/members with potential exposure to vulnerable populations = \$850.00

e. Total Background Check Cost - \$6,817.00

2. Please explain the purpose of intern housing.

Response: The intern housing allowance was created to assist the Desert Tortoise interns with securing housing in the Las Vegas area. Since our original grant submission in January 2011, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has agreed to cover 100% of this program cost.

3. Please provide the basis for calculation for the office expenses (\$5500/month). If these are supply costs, they should be moved to Section E. Also, confirm there are no office IT costs budgeted here.

Response: Office expense line item does not include office supplies. The basis for calculation of the office expenses line item is detailed in the budget narrative.

4. Please explain why 10 vehicles will be needed, each for 12 months, in addition to your own 38 vehicles, for 36 full-time and 28 half-time members. Explain how the 38 vehicles and these 10 vehicles relate to the crews and the slot types.

Narratives

Response: The 10 additional vehicles have been included in the budget to cover potential transportation needs during our peak field season. Based on the anticipated damages to our vehicle fleet as a result of heavy off-road use, prior vehicle damages require for us to supplement our fleet. Additional field vehicles are required to support staff transportation needs during peak usage. NCC fleet allocation by members is as follows:

- a. NCC Program Staff Reno = 2 vehicles for 3 staff members
- b. NCC Program Staff Las Vegas = 2 vehicles for 3 staff members
- c. Full Time Restoration Crew (16 1700hr members & 4 staff) = 1 vehicle per 5 individuals = 4 vehicles
- d. Summer Restoration Crew (54 450hr members) = 1 vehicle per 5 individuals = 11 vehicles
- e. Clean Energy Interns (18 900hr members) = 1 vehicle per 3 individuals = 6 vehicles
- f. Desert Tortoise Interns (23 450hr members) = 1 vehicle per 4 individuals = 6 vehicles
- g. NCC Summer Youth Crew (8 300hr members & 1 staff) = 1 vehicle per 5 individuals = 2 vehicles
- h. NCC Service Interns Galen Park (2 1700hr and 4 450hr members) = 1 vehicle to support summer camp efforts
- i. NCC Backup Vehicles required for vehicle failure and scheduled maintenance contingencies = 4 vehicles
- j. Additional Rental Backup Vehicles (to be used in event NCC vehicles breakdown and require maintenance; for use by all members) = 10 vehicles
- k. Total NCC Vehicle Fleet = 38 vehicles
- l. Total Vehicle Contingency Fleet = 10 vehicles

Section IIB:

Narratives

1. Please correct the calculation for health care for 43 members for 12 months as there are only have 36 full-time members (or confirm if half time members will serve in a FT capacity and will receive health care).

Response: Based on the redesign of the program, there are now 27 full time members that will receive health care benefits; the budget has been updated.

Match Sources of Funds:

1. Please explain the intended purpose of the federal, state and local in-kind match funds.

Response: The intended purpose of the federal, state, and local in-kind match funds are to support the implementation of clean energy intern, service intern and restoration crew projects. Partnering agencies provide additional man power, equipment, and supplies to ensure the successful completion of clean energy, restoration, and conservation projects throughout Nevada.

Programmatic Clarification Items:

1. Please provide more information about the contribution that additional intern positions will make to the overall community impact of the program.

Response: The Corps has requested additional support for internships due to the dramatic decline of programmatic support and in discretionary funds made available. For the past eight years, our partners have enjoyed a unique source of funding that led to the creation of important conservation

Narratives

initiatives made necessary by the rapid growth in Las Vegas and the Reno-Tahoe area. Several efforts, including the BLM's Desert Restoration Program, Lake Tahoe's Environmental Improvement Program, the US Forest Service's Travel Management Program (OHV mitigation), and the State of Nevada's Recreational Trails Program, have seen declines in funding but ongoing increases for services. Our AmeriCorps internships will support community needs by restoring and maintaining forest, river and desert ecosystems while providing volunteer recruitment for environmental stewardship of these imperiled bioregions. More than ever, our program is vital for maintaining the health and welfare of our water, air, and soil quality.

2. Please provide a more detailed explanation of the energy audit component. How will members be trained in energy auditing? Will members' training result in a certification or specific job-related skills? How will low-income households be selected to receive energy services? If the clean energy corps is working in support of an energy efficiency program, explain the level of equipment that is needed to conduct energy audits.

Response: Given the reduction in available funding, the energy audit portion of the grant has been eliminated due to the high cost of the equipment required to perform this service.

3. Please provide additional information about the training that host site supervisors will receive.

Response: The NCC has developed a host site supervisor training resource packet that includes an extensive review of our program as it relates to the national service movement. Every host site agreement contains very detailed language outlining their requirements as a host site supervisor. We schedule a one day training for each partnering agency prior to any intern start date or whenever

Narratives

there is a new site supervisor. During the training we cover AmeriCorps prohibited activities, service logs, the details of the site's Memorandum of Understanding, required paperwork (i.e. evaluations), as well as an overview of data reporting, service days, training, AmeriCorps signage, and the need member uniform requirements.

Continuation Changes

NA

Performance Measures

SAA Characteristics

- AmeriCorps Member Population - None c Geographic Focus - Rural
 Geographic Focus - Urban Encore Program

Priority Areas

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Opportunity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Stewardship | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Selected for National Measure</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Selected for National Measure</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Futures | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Selected for National Measure</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Selected for National Measure</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterans and Military Families | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Selected for National Measure</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <i>Selected for National Measure</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Services | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| <i>Selected for National Measure</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Grand Total of all MSYs entered for all Priority Areas 73.06

Service Categories

Energy Use Reduction

At-risk Ecosystems Improvement

National Performance Measures

Priority Area: Environmental Stewardship

Strategy to Achieve Results

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

The NCC will target several areas for restoration and improvement of public lands and waterways. The water quality of Nevada's lakes, rivers, and watersheds are being degraded by erosion. Homes are being threatened by hazardous fuels and the wildfires that result. Native plants and animals are being displaced by invasive non-indigenous plants. Habitat and communities are being threatened by catastrophic floods. The NCC will work with land management agencies to perform services on public lands and waterways to improve habitat, reduce the risk of wildfire, and by decreasing erosion through planting native species.

Result: Intermediate Outcome

Result.

Sustainably built and approved trails will be available to Nevadans for public recreational use. Habitat and waterways will be restored by eliminating fuels, eliminating invasive species, improving boundaries, and introducing native plants. The completion and partnering agency satisfaction of the projects will be documented through trail logs, photos, project reports, and partnering agency satisfaction.

Indicator: Completed Service Projects

Target :Four projects will document the partnering agencies approval through project evaluations that detail qualitative and quantitative performance measures, as well as additional relevant project reporting.

Target Value: 4

Instruments: Weekly Reports, Project Photos, Project Reports, Project Partner Surveys

PM Statement: Restoration of habitat and waterways will be documented in four projects that will document the partnering agencies approval through project evaluations that detail qualitative and quantitative performance measures, as well as additional relevant project reporting.

Result: Output

Result.

Nevada's public lands and waterways will be maintained and restored statewide.

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

Target :NCC members will treat 4,400 acres of public lands to remove invasive species and reduce hazardous fuels.

Target Value: 4400

Instruments: Weekly accomplishment reports, member service logs, project partner site evaluations

PM Statement: Nevada's public lands and waterways will be maintained and restored statewide by treating 4,400 acres of public lands to remove invasive species and reduce hazardous fuels. Weekly Reports filled out by NCC Crew Supervisors shall capture progress on these performance measures.

National Performance Measures

Priority Area: Veterans and Military Families

Strategy to Achieve Results

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

NCC will collaborate with Veterans Green Jobs and their Veterans Green Corps program, by staffing conservation teams entirely with veterans of the US armed forces. Together, NCC and VGC, will recruit veterans on a national basis utilizing combined recruitment resources and staff.

Result: Intermediate Outcome

Result.

The NCC will provide veterans enrolled in our program exposure to the field of public land management and provide them with new skills that will aid in their post program transition into the field of public land management.

Indicator: Veterans exposed to public land management

Target :Veterans will be trained and placed in a minimum of one field based project providing them with a minimum of two new skills that will aid in their post program transition into the field of public land management.

Target Value: 2

Instruments: Veterans will be provided pre and post service surveys that will measure their increased understanding and enhanced skill sets in the field of public land management.

PM Statement: The NCC will provide veterans enrolled in our program exposure to the field of public land management. Veterans will be trained and placed in a minimum of one field based project providing them with a minimum of two new skills that will aid in their post program transition into the field of public land management.

Result: Output

Result.

The NCC will staff veterans to serve as conservation team members participating in a variety of conservation projects throughout the state of Nevada.

Indicator: (PRIORITY)V2: Veterans engaged in service (other than mentoring disadvantaged

Target :A minimum of 9 veterans will be hired to serve as conservation team members.

Target Value: 9

Instruments: AmeriCorps application, resumes

PM Statement: NCC staff in collaboration with VGC staff will recruit and hire a minimum of 9 US veterans to serve as conservation team members on conservation projects throughout the state of Nevada.

National Performance Measures

Result.

youth).

Priority Area: Environmental Stewardship

Strategy to Achieve Results

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

The NCC will improve public land in Nevada by focusing services on building sustainable trails to provide appropriate recreational access for residents and visitors. Our efforts will also focus on habitat restoration and protection by removing illegal roads and trails that fragment habitat and impact the land in undesirable ways.

Result: Intermediate Outcome

Result.

Sustainably built and approved trails will be available to Nevadans for public recreational use and illegal trails and roads will be removed. These projects will be documented through trail logs, photos, and project reports.

Indicator: Completed Service Projects

Target :Four projects will document the partnering agencies approval through project evaluations that detail qualitative and quantitative performance measures, as well as additional relevant project reporting.

Target Value: 4

Instruments: Weekly reports, photographs, project partner evaluations, and trail logs will be used to complete a final project report.

PM Statement: Sustainably built and approved trails will be available to Nevadans for public recreational use and illegal trails and roads will be removed. Four projects will document the partnering agencies approval through project evaluations that detail qualitative and quantitative performance measures, as well as additional relevant project reporting.

Result: Output

Result.

NCC Members will construct new trail, maintain existing trail, and remove illegal roads and trails through their service activities.

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

Target :NCC members will measure the length of trails built, maintained, and removed in miles.

Target Value: 150

Instruments: Weekly reports documenting distances, project partner evaluations

PM Statement: NCC Members will construct new trails, maintain existing trails, and remove illegal roads and trails in the amount of 150 miles and this will be documented on their weekly reports.

Priority Area: Environmental Stewardship

Strategy to Achieve Results

National Performance Measures

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

Members will perform public outreach and education on building efficiency, energy conservation, and environmental consciousness. Members will work with energy conservation groups to raise awareness of the benefits of energy audits and weatherization and retrofit installations. In addition to building efficiency members will also facilitate information to the public regarding renewable energy development projects in Nevada (including solar, wind and geothermal). Outreach and educational efforts will also focus on the connection between energy efficiency and the environment. Members will discuss a variety of topics which may include the effects of energy consumption on greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of clean energy development on the environment. Outreach and educational activities will be provided to the general public with directed efforts towards engaging student and youth populations.

Result: Output

Result.

AmeriCorps Members will provide educational outreach for energy efficiency, environmental consciousness and general conservation practices.

Indicator: EN3: Individuals receiving education in energy-efficiency.

Target :Members will facilitate outreach, education and recruitment to 600 students and youth.

Target Value: 600

Instruments: Sign-in sheets

PM Statement: AmeriCorps members will facilitate outreach and education to 300 students and youth for energy conservation and environmentally conscious practices.

Result: Intermediate Outcome

Result.

Participants taking part in educational outreach sessions will demonstrate improved understanding and appreciation of the need for conserving energy, alternative forms of clean energy, and environmental consciousness.

Indicator: Increased knowledge of Renewable Energy & Environmental Consciousness

Target :450 participants will demonstrate improved understanding of the need for conserving energy, alternative forms of clean energy, and environmental consciousness.

Target Value: 450

Instruments: Participant pre and post surveys

PM Statement: 450 participants taking part in educational outreach sessions will demonstrate improved understanding and appreciation of the need for conserving energy, alternative forms of clean energy, and environmental consciousness.

Required Documents

Document Name

Status

Labor Union Concurrence

Not Applicable

Evaluation

Sent