



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** ★★ ★

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AMONG DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

I. INTRODUCTION

On April 26, 2010, through a Presidential Memorandum, President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative to develop a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda. On February 7, 2011, after 51 listening sessions and over 105,000 public comments, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency delivered the AGO Report to the President in partnership with a number of Federal agencies, including the Departments of Commerce, Defense, and Labor. The Report's first recommendation is to "catalyze the establishment of a 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) to engage young Americans in public lands and water restoration".

The 21CSC is a bold national effort to put America's youth to work protecting, restoring, and enhancing America's great outdoors. Recognizing the need for job opportunities for youth and recent veterans, the need for restoration of our natural resources, the need to connect Americans to this country's lands and waters, the need to effectively recruit the next generation of public employees, and the need to develop the next generation of conservation stewards, the goals of the 21CSC are to:

- *Build America's future.* Through service to America, the 21CSC will develop a generation of skilled workers, educated and active citizens, future leaders, and stewards of natural and cultural resources, communities, and the Nation.
- *Put Americans to work.* The 21CSC will provide service, training, education, and employment opportunities for thousands of young Americans, including low income, disadvantaged youth, and other youth with limited access to outdoor work opportunities.
- *Preserve, protect, and promote America's treasures.* The 21CSC will protect, restore, and enhance public and tribal lands and waters as well as natural, cultural, and historical resources, along with urban and distressed communities. With high-quality project work, the 21CSC will increase public access and use while spurring economic development and outdoor recreation.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Labor, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Army, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Corporation for National and Community Service (the Parties) is to establish the interagency National Council for the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (National Council), and form an interagency 21CSC Working Group to assist the National Council in its mission.

The National Council will provide leadership and commitment within its agencies and throughout the Federal Government to help build and promote the 21CSC. The National Council will, primarily through 21CSC non-Federal partners and consistent with all laws, regulations, and policies, coordinate inter-agency efforts to: 1) develop and implement a plan to significantly increase the number of young people who have work, training and service opportunities on public lands and to bring the 21CSC to scale by developing and implementing a plan to double the current number of participants with an ultimate goal of engaging 100,000 participants per year; 2) support high-quality programs and participant experiences, and pathways to careers; and 3) demonstrate national impact.

In implementing the 21CSC, the National Council will work to: support program expansion, including by matching natural resource management needs with 21CSC opportunities and identifying potential sources of funding and other resources; remove barriers and streamline processes for supporting 21CSC programs; support participant pathways to careers; facilitate technical assistance; develop and support partnerships; coordinate messaging; and ensure national representation.

III. AUTHORITIES

- Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 460d)
- Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. § 460l)
- Section 313 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. § 2320)
- Section 225 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, (33 U.S.C. § 2328)
- Section 213 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. § 2339)
- Public Lands, Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. § 1701 *et seq.*)
- National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*)
- Public Land Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. § 1721 *et seq.*)
- Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970 (16 U.S.C. § 1701 *et seq.*)
- Take Pride in America Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 4601-4608)
- National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (16 U.S.C. § 668dd)
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1801 *et seq.*)
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. § 1361 *et seq.*)
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. § 1431 *et seq.*)
- Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 *et seq.*)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. § 661 *et seq.*)
- Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. § 742a *et seq.*)
- Coral Reef Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 6401 *et seq.*)
- Coast and Geodetic Survey Act (33 U.S.C. § 883a *et seq.*)
- Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (33 U.S.C. § 892 *et seq.*)
- Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1451 *et seq.*)

- Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. § 3951 *et seq.*)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. § 9601 *et seq.*)
- Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 note)
- Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act of 2006 (33 U.S.C. § 1954)
- Oil Pollution Act (33 U.S.C. § 2701 *et seq.*)
- National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. § 1121 *et seq.*)
- America COMPETES Act (33 U.S.C. § 893)
- The National and Community Service Act (42 U.S.C. §12501 *et seq.*)
- Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as amended (29 U.S.C. §2801 *et seq.*)

V. MEMBERSHIP

Members of the National Council will include the Corporation for National and Community Service; the Council on Environmental Quality; the Environmental Protection Agency; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the Department of Labor, and those bureaus and offices within the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce that are committed to and engaged in 21CSC implementation: the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Surface Mining, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Forest Service.

Members and Affiliated Members may include other Federal departments, agencies, bureaus, and offices that can support 21CSC operations including, but not limited to, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Office of Personnel Management, and the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

Members will be represented on the National Council by members of the senior leadership of each department, agency, bureau, or office. The National Council will initially be co-chaired by representatives from the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, for a one-year term, after which the two co-chair positions will be chosen from among the National Council members by consensus.

Within 90 days of signing this MOU, the National Council will convene and each member will appoint a representative to the 21CSC Working Group to help the National Council set priorities and develop action plans.

The National Council will determine the type and degree of staff support needed and how to meet those needs in accordance with relevant statutes and regulations.

VI. 21CSC WORKING GROUP

Members of the National Council shall each appoint representatives to conduct work on behalf of the members. The 21CSC Working Group (Working Group), composed of Federal employees designated by the National Council's member agencies, will:

- set priorities and coordinate annual action plans under this MOU;
- participate in scheduled 21CSC Working Group meetings at least semi-annually;
- establish any necessary interagency ad hoc task groups or sub-teams; and

- encourage actions among agencies, bureaus, and offices that facilitate partnerships and collaboration at multiple levels.

All major recommendations and work products emanating from the Working Group will be referred to the National Council for review and final decision.

VII. RELATIONSHIP TO THE FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON OUTDOOR RECREATION

The America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Report calls for the establishment of the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (FICOR). The purpose of the FICOR is to support and enhance outdoor recreation access and opportunities on Federal public lands, waters, and shores.

The National Council will coordinate and align its efforts with the FICOR to maximize opportunities to engage youth in the outdoors through access to recreation and employment.

VIII. REPORTING

Within 180 days from the final signature on this MOU, and at 1-year intervals thereafter, all departments, bureaus, agencies, and offices implementing this MOU will report to the National Council their accomplishments and progress in support of the 21CSC.

IX. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Nothing in this agreement may be construed to obligate the agencies to any current or future expenditure of resources in advance of the availability of appropriations from Congress. Nor does this agreement obligate the agencies to spend funds on any particular project or purpose, even if funds are available. Any endeavor involving reimbursement, contribution of funds, or other transfer of anything of value among the Parties will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures, including those for government procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that will be made in writing by representatives of the Parties and will be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority.
- B. Modifications to this MOU shall be made by mutual consent of all Parties through issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all Parties.
- C. This MOU is not intended to, and does not create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by persons who are not party to this agreement against the United States, its agencies, its officers or employees, or any other person. This MOU does not direct or apply to any person outside of the Parties.
- D. This MOU does not alter, limit, or expand the Parties' statutory and regulatory authority.


- E. This MOU in no way restricts the Parties from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- F. The Parties will comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, to the extent it applies.

X. DURATION OF AGREEMENT, AMENDMENTS AND TERMINATION

This MOU is effective immediately upon signature of all listed Parties and shall remain in effect until it is amended, superseded, or terminated, whichever occurs first. This MOU may be amended or terminated at any time by mutual written consent of all Parties. Any Party may withdraw from this MOU by providing 60 days written notice to all other Parties.


XI. SIGNATURES


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the departments/agencies hereto executed this Memorandum of Understanding on the date(s) set forth below:

 _____ Secretary Department of the Interior	<u>DEC 10 2012</u> _____ Date
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 _____ Secretary Department of Agriculture	<u>JAN - 4 2013</u> _____ Date
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 _____ Secretary Department of Commerce	<u>12/21/2012</u> _____ Date
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 _____ Secretary Department of Labor	<u>12/21/2012</u> _____ Date
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 _____ Administrator Environmental Protection Agency	<u>1/3/2013</u> _____ Date
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Jo-ellen Dancy

Assistant Secretary for Civil Works
Department of Army

DEC 19 2012

Date

Larry W. King

Chair
Council on Environmental Quality

December 21, 2012

Date

Wendy Spencer

Chief Executive Officer
Corporation for National and Community Service

December 17, 2012

Date