

SENATE RESOLUTION #2134

Title: **A resolution encouraging the Wyoming State Legislature to fund the one-time start-up of a Wyoming Conservation Corps**

Date: **February 2, 2006**

Authors: **President Hughes and Vice President Freeburn**

Sponsors: **Senators Berry and Lawson**

1. WHEREAS, over 100 Conservation Corps in 36 states have been created
2. since 1985 to provide community development and personal growth
3. opportunities for young adults; and
4. WHEREAS, Wyoming is not currently among these 36 states; and
5. WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW)
6. recognize the need for student accessibility to hands-on, academic
7. experiences; and
8. WHEREAS, the creation of a Wyoming Wildlife Conservation Corps
9. (WWCC) would provide such hands-on experiences; and
10. WHEREAS, an on-campus location for a WWCC program would
11. significantly increase student accessibility; and
12. WHEREAS, Wyoming's diverse environmental landscapes create an ideal
13. setting for the creation of a Wildlife Conservation Corps; and
14. WHEREAS, the Wildlife Conservation Corps will facilitate positive
15. relationships between the University of Wyoming and conservation
16. organizations across the state of Wyoming (see Addendum A); and
17. WHEREAS, the proposal to create a WWCC is a student-led initiative; and
18. WHEREAS, the ASUW has the responsibility to respond to such initiatives.

19. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Student Senate of the Associated Students
20. of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) that ASUW supports efforts by the
21. Wyoming State Legislature to fund the one-time start-up costs associated with
22. the creation of the Wyoming Wildlife Conservation Corps (see Addendum A);
23. and
24. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that upon passage, the ASUW Director
25. of Legislative Affairs, in coordination with the proper ASUW officials, be
26. responsible for representing the interests of the students of the University of
27. Wyoming to the Wyoming State Legislature; and
28. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that upon passage, copies of this
29. resolution be provided to the President of the University of Wyoming, the
30. University of Wyoming Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Governor
31. of Wyoming, interested members of the Wyoming State Legislature, and
32. members of the University Board of Trustees.

Referred to: Student Relations Committee

Date of Passage: February 7, 2006

Signed: 

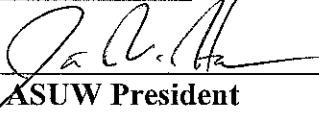
UNANIMOUSLY

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on February 9, 2006

, I do hereby sign my name hereto

and approve this Senate action.”


ASUW President

ADDENDUM A

PROPOSAL FOR ONE-TIME, START-UP FUNDING, TO CREATE A WYOMING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CORPS

PROPOSAL PREPARED BY:

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PROPOSED BUDGET PERIOD: May 2006 through September 1, 2008

PROPOSED FUNDING AMOUNT: \$337,000.00

PROPOSAL SUMMARY: The Wyoming Wildlife Conservation Corps will aim to provide Wyoming's young adults important personal and technical skills and experience in natural resource and environmental career fields, through projects focusing on the management and restoration of Wyoming's wildlife habitat and related projects. Participants will gain first hand experience dealing with Wyoming's complex landscape, providing them with real world skills and a deeper appreciation for the state's environmental challenges and riches. Furthermore, the WWCC program would provide financial support for higher education, at Wyoming's community colleges or the University of Wyoming. The WWCC will be a self-sufficient entity by the end of the proposed funding period.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CORPS MISSION STATEMENT

To connect young adults in Wyoming to hands-on natural resource and environmental management, and promote higher education through community service projects working to maintain Wyoming's wildlife habitat.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1985 over 100 Conservation Corps in 36 states have been created, successfully implementing diverse projects ranging from conservation work to health and human services. The Conservation Corps of today are modeled after the depression era Civilian Conservation Corps. Today's Conservation Corps seek to provide similar opportunities for community development and personal growth for the nation's young men and women. Wyoming does not currently have a Conservation Corps and could benefit from the development of one.

COMMUNITY NEED:

Conservation Corps from Utah, Montana, and Colorado have completed service projects with the Wyoming State Parks Division, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service in numerous Wyoming counties including: Big Horn, Park, Teton, Washakie, Johnson, Sheridan, Crook, Fremont, and Sublette. By creating a Wyoming Wildlife Conservation Corps, similar service projects could be completed by Wyoming's young citizens, promoting further education of the state's youth.

Wyoming's young adults who are members of the WWCC will gain valuable hands-on education and skills development. Each member will come away with a deeper understanding of wildlife management in Wyoming, and the skills necessary to pursue long-term gainful employment in

this state. Participants, upon completion of the program, will be eligible for federal education awards through the Corporation for National Service.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND STRUCTURE:

This program would be housed at the University of Wyoming's Haub School and Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources (SIENR) during the initial three year start-up period. It would serve both agencies working on habitat restoration and industries reclaiming natural resource development sites. Through this partnership, the WWCC will be able to provide low-cost conservation crews to these organizations. By being placed at the University of Wyoming the program can actively recruit corps members from a wide range of departments, working in conjunction with various agriculture related disciplines, biology and wildlife management departments, geography, geology and any other related existing programs.

CORPS PROJECTS

Participants in the program will work to conserve and restore Wyoming's wildlife habitats through specific community service work projects sponsored by public and private entities within the state dealing with wildlife issues. Some examples of projects include: restoration of native vegetation following natural resource development, trail maintenance and restoration, and wildfire reduction measures.

CORPS PARTICIPANTS

Participants will apply for one of two positions: Corps Leader or Corps Member. Each crew will be made up of 2 leaders and 6 members. Crew leaders begin their work in February, working part time through the school year and full-time throughout the summer. This extra time is used on additional trainings and preparing for the summer hitches. Corps members work during the summer (early May to late August). Both leaders earn the following benefits:

- Education award (\$2,362 for leaders and \$1250 for members) towards higher education.
- Monthly living stipend (\$250/wk for leaders and \$200 for members)
- Health insurance during time of service

WORKSITES

The staff member from the SIENR will work with state and federal government agencies and members of the private sector to find appropriate work sites and projects for conservation crews. Partnerships will be established with agencies and industries who can provide projects that benefit both the members and Wyoming's wildlife. Project sponsors will pay \$9000 for each 640 hour work project and will provide supervision and camping sites during the project.

Corps Member Development

Corps programs provide Corps Leaders and Corps Members with structured opportunities to learn both academic and practical skills that meet the individual needs of each partner.

TIMELINE:

Task	Tentative Deadline
Secure Funding	Spring 2006
Hire staff person	May 2006
Purchase Equipment	Summer 2006
Select projects and create partnerships	Fall 2006

Begin recruiting leaders and crew members	Fall 2006
Select leaders/members for Summer 2007 crews	January 2007
Training for leaders	February 2007
Crew member training	May 2007
Crews in action	May-August 2007

BUDGET AND FUNDING NARRATIVE:

As indicated in the timeline, if funds are secured during spring 2006 then the full-time staff person can be hired in May 2006. No crews would start this summer, but rather the time will be used by the full-time staff person to begin purchasing equipment and start developing partnerships with various organizations. During the summer 2007 and 2008, two crews of eight members (two leaders, six members) would work on wildlife conservation projects from May-August.

A. Equipment

The equipment section itemizes the cost of outfitting a single work crew, then multiples that number by the initial two work crews. Necessary equipment for a conservation corps includes tools, camping equipment and trailers. The total cost of this is estimated at \$16,400.

B. Personnel

There will be one full-time staff position for all three years and two crews each made up of two team leaders and six crew members for each of the two years with active crews (summer 2007 and 2008).

Full-Time Personnel: The staff person will be full-time, year round position. This person would be paid a salary of \$35,000 per year with a benefits package (including health insurance, pension, and federal tax responsibilities) calculated at 34% of total salary.

Seasonal Personnel:

- *Corps Leader Living Stipend:* each Corps Leader will receive \$250 per week during the 24 weeks of service.
- *Corps Member Living Stipend:* this item includes the living stipends for Corps Members. Each Corps Member will receive \$200 per week during the 13 weeks of service.
- *Corps Leader and Member FICA:* this item will cover federal tax responsibilities (this amount is figured at 16% of the total salary).
- *Corps Leader Health Insurance:* this item will cover basic health care coverage for the 4 leaders at \$30 per month for the corps participants during their time of service.
- *Workman's Compensation:* this item will cover workman's compensation for all 28 participants. The figure is based on currently available Wyoming Workman's Comp coverage at a 16% of salary.

C. Operating Costs

Operating costs include the rental of university vehicles for hitches, storage space for equipment, office expenses, membership to the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, training, and board for the corps members.

D. Revenue

Revenue will be generated through the partnerships with the agencies and industry through a *project fee* where the agencies pay \$9000 for 640 member service hours on projects.

The WWCC is seeking funding for all equipment, operating and personnel costs during the first two years of the program. During this time, any revenue generated will be saved and used in future years to continue the program as it becomes financially self sustaining. It is likely that it

will take one to two years to reach these revenue goals. By placing this money in an account, any revenue generated will help assure future viability beyond the three year funding period. In addition to revenue generated through service projects, funding will be sought through ServeWyoming, Corporation for National and Community Service, foundation grants, and private donations.

Budget				
	Program year 1 (Fiscal 2006)	Program year 2 (Fiscal 2006 & 2007)	Program year 3 (Fiscal 2007)	3 year total
Total Equipment Costs	\$ 16,400.00	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Total Personnel Costs	\$ 46,900.00	\$ 122,044.00	\$ 82,960.67	
Total Operating Costs	\$ 5,920.00	\$ 31,400.00	\$ 31,400.00	
Total Costs	\$ 69,220.00	\$ 153,444.00	\$ 114,360.67	\$337,024.67