TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 45-11
	DATE May 14, 2012

TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
ALL ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER LEADS
ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS
ALL WIA SECTION 166 INDIAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN GRANTEES
ALL DISCRETIONARY GRANTEES

FROM: JANE OATES
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Partnering to Create or Expand Summer Youth Employment Opportunities on Public Lands

1. Purpose. To (a) share with the workforce system a joint memorandum by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Assistant Secretary of the Army, and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality to agency leadership recommending they encourage their respective field staff build on or create new partnerships to employ young Americans this summer, and (b) provide the workforce system with information on partnering with public land management agencies and conservation corps to create or expand summer employment opportunities for Worforce Investment Act (WIA) youth and young adults on public lands.

2. Background. The President's America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/, challenged Federal, state, tribal and local governments to be creative and collaborative in working together to connect Americans to our vast network of public lands. In particular, the AGO report to the President in February 2011 recommended finding additional ways to provide meaningful work and service learning opportunities to young people, building on existing Federal, state, tribal, local, and non-profit programs to create a 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) for youth. A new Federal advisory committee, http://www.doi.gov/21CSC/, recommended in the AGO report, has begun its work and will submit initial recommendations for action on establishing the 21CSC to the Secretary of the Interior by mid-summer. The long-term goal is to build on existing programs and partnerships to interest and employ more young people in natural and cultural resource work.

Attached is a joint memorandum by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality to agency leadership

explaining that while the new committee is working on long-term recommendations, it is important to continue building their youth employment and engagement programs throughout 2012, since many agencies already host programs and are engaged in partnerships that support these opportunities. Specifically, the letter states that, "[**A**]**s your field offices begin planning this summer's work, we challenge you to build on existing partnerships and programs or create new partnerships with each other, conservation corps organizations, the workforce system, and other partnering organizations to employ young Americans this summer within current funding levels."**

3. <u>Opportunities for the Public Workforce System.</u> The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is sharing the attached joint memorandum with the workforce system so that workforce providers are aware of potentially valuable partnership opportunities with public land management agencies and conservation corps. These partnerships have the potential to create or expand summer employment opportunities for WIA youth and young adults on public lands.

Similar information was provided in the February 14, 2011, Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 24-10, *Joint Letter in Support of Youth Work Experiences on Public Lands* available at: http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2988. The TEN announced a joint letter between ETA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) encouraging the creation or expansion of partnerships in support of youth work experiences on public lands, and provided contact information for land management agencies within USDA and DOI. Additionally, on May 16, 2011, ETA released TEN 40-10, *Joint Letter in Support of Indian and Native American Youth Work Experiences on Public and Tribal Lands* (http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=3024, encouraging Workforce Investment Act of 1998 Section 166 Indian and Native American Youth Program grantees to partner with public and tribal land management agencies in an effort to increase work experience opportunities for Indian and Native American youth on public and tribal lands. This TEN also provided contact information for land management agencies within USDA and DOI.

For more information on developing partnerships, please review TENs 24-10 and 40-10. Also, see the webinar, "Youth Work Experiences on Public Lands," https://www.workforce3one.org/view/5001131339251952297/info, recorded on December 6, 2011. This webinar outlines available resources and activities offered to support work experiences on public lands, as well as highlights four state/local workforce, land management agency, and corps partnerships that were developed in order to put youth to work on public lands.

4. <u>Inquiries</u>. Questions concerning this TEN should be directed to the appropriate regional office or the Division of Indian and Native American Programs.

5. <u>Attachment</u>. See attached memorandum.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Assistant Secretaries
Bureau Directors
Department of the Interior

Chief
United States Forest Service

Assistant Administrators
Regional Administrators
Environmental Protection Agency

Acting Chief of Engineers
Army Corps of Engineers

FROM: Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar

Secretary of Agriculture Tom J. Vilsack APR - 5 2012

Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Chair, Council on Environmental Quality Nancy Sutley

Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Jo-Ellen Darcy

The President's America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative challenged all of us to be creative and collaborative in working together to connect Americans to our vast network of public lands. Nowhere is that connection more important than in finding opportunities for young people to experience the great outdoors. We admire the work that you perform every day in offering outstanding recreation and learning experiences and in giving youth meaningful work, learning, and volunteer opportunities.

In response to numerous AGO listening sessions, we received thousands of comments from young Americans about their interest in protecting America's natural and cultural resources and the need to offer career-building experiences on our public lands. The AGO Report to the President recommended finding additional ways to provide meaningful work, service, and learning opportunities to young people, building on existing Federal, state, tribal, local, and non-profit programs to create a 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) for youth.

An initiative of this scale will challenge us but will also offer tremendous opportunities to address significant operations and maintenance backlogs on our public lands and help meet our workforce planning and diversity-recruitment goals. Work and service opportunities have multiple benefits: they engage our youth in important stewardship and outdoor experiences; they provide job training and employment to youth at a time of great need; and they help us to accomplish necessary projects on public lands, often with savings for the taxpayers.

We are pleased to share with you that a new Federal Advisory Committee, recommended in the AGO report, has begun its work and will submit initial recommendations for action on establishing the 21CSC to us by mid-summer. Our long-term goal is to build on existing programs and partnerships to interest and employ more young people in natural and cultural resource work.

While the new Committee is working on long-term recommendations, it is important that we continue building our youth employment and engagement programs throughout 2012. Many of your agencies already host programs and are engaged in partnerships that support these opportunities. **As your field offices begin planning this summer's work, we challenge you to build on existing partnerships and programs or create new partnerships with each other, conservation corps organizations, the workforce system, and other partnering organizations to employ young Americans this summer within current funding levels.**

Please consider currently funded projects that might benefit from youth corps assistance, such as maintenance of trails, data collection, volunteer and visitor programs, and monitoring of important natural and cultural resources. We encourage you to be creative in finding ways to add to the number of youth who will have an opportunity this year to have a meaningful work experience.

We also want to hear about your successes. Later this year, we will be seeking examples of outstanding youth employment partnership programs that help exemplify AGO objectives. We anticipate that these will help illustrate important issues identified by the Committee in promoting youth partnerships and work experiences across the country.

Information about the proposed 21st Century Conservation Service Corps is available at http://www.doi.gov/21CSC/