

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2253

To permit young adults to perform projects to prevent fire and suppress fires, and provide disaster relief, on public land through a Healthy Forest Youth Conservation Corps.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 29, 2004

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. DOMENICI, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. DAYTON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To permit young adults to perform projects to prevent fire and suppress fires, and provide disaster relief, on public land through a Healthy Forest Youth Conservation Corps.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Healthy Forest Youth  
5 Conservation Corps Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

1 (1) the natural fire regimes of forested public  
2 land have been altered by intensive fire suppression;

17 (5) cooperative agreements between public  
18 agencies empower communities and are cost-effective  
19 tools that provide positive social and environmental  
20 benefits;

(7) joint collaborations between the public agencies and service and conservation corps are particularly beneficial, as the collaborations provide—

4 (A) young adults the opportunity to pre-  
5 pare for productive lives while engaged in  
6 meaningful and educational public service op-  
7 portunities; and

(B) the public with cost-saving human resources to assist in conserving, maintaining, and protecting public land.

## 11 SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

12 The purposes of this Act are—

1 (4) to expand educational opportunities by re-  
2 warding individuals who participate in the Healthy  
3 Forest Youth Conservation Corps with an increased  
4 ability to pursue higher education or employment.

## 5 SEC. 4. HEALTHY FOREST YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS.

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a  
7 Healthy Forest Youth Conservation Corps.

8 (b) PARTICIPANTS.—The Corps shall consist of low-  
9 income young adults who are enrolled as members of a  
10 service and conservation corps.

11 (c) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary  
12 may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements di-  
13 rectly with—

14 (1) any service and conservation corps to carry  
15 out rehabilitation and enhancement projects to pre-  
16 vent fire and suppress fires, rehabilitate public land  
17 affected or altered by fires, and provide disaster re-  
18 lief; or

25 (d) PROJECTS.—

10 (B) a project relating to the Healthy For-  
11 ests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6501  
12 et seq.); and

13 (C) other activities allowed under—

14 (i) a national forest and grassland  
15 land management plan; or

16 (ii) a Bureau of Land Management  
17 land use plan.

18 (2) PRIORITY.—In entering into contractual or  
19 cooperative agreements with service and conservation  
20 corps under paragraph (1), each Secretary shall give  
21 priority to projects that will—

22 (A) reduce hazardous fuels on public land;  
23 (B) restore public land affected or imme-  
24 ntly threatened by disease or insect infesta-  
25 tion;

- (C) rehabilitate public land affected or altered by fires;
- (D) assess windthrown public land or public land at high risk of reburn;
- (E) work to address public land located within relative proximity to a municipal watershed and municipal water supply;
- (F) provide related emergency assistance, such as natural disaster relief and the rescue of lost or injured persons;
- (G) instill in members of the service and conservation corps a work ethic, and a sense of personal responsibility;
- (H) be labor-intensive; and
- (I) be planned and initiated promptly.

16 (e) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—Each Secretary may  
17 provide such services as the Secretary considers to be nec-  
18 essary to carry out this Act.

19 (f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—To carry out this Act,  
20 the Secretaries shall provide technical assistance, over-  
21 sight, monitoring, and evaluation to or for—

22 (1) State departments of natural resources and  
23 agriculture (or equivalent agencies);  
24 (2) service and conservation corps;

5 (5) in the case of land under the jurisdiction of  
6 an Alaska Native Corporation, the applicable Alaska  
7 Native Corporation.

## 8 SEC. 5. USE OF FUNDS.

9        Funds made available under this Act may be used  
10 to support implementation, monitoring, training, technical  
11 assistance, and administrative work of local and State con-  
12 servation corps that have entered into cooperative agree-  
13 ments with public land management agencies.

#### 14 SEC. 6. NONCOMPETITIVE HIRING STATUS.

15        Each Secretary may grant credit for time served to-  
16 ward future Federal hiring, and provide noncompetitive  
17 hiring status, for former members of the Corps for not  
18 more than 120 days after service is complete.

## 19 SEC. 7. NONDISPLACEMENT.

20 The nondisplacement requirements of section 177(b)  
21 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42  
22 U.S.C. 12637(b)) shall apply to activities carried out by  
23 the Corps under this Act.

## 24 SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

25 In this Act:

14 (4) INDIAN LANDS.—The term “Indian lands”  
15 has the meaning given the term in section 203 of  
16 Public Law 91–378 (commonly known as the  
17 “Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970”) (16  
18 U.S.C. 1722).

(A) land of the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) administered by

1 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the  
2 Chief of the Forest Service;

3 (B) public lands (as defined in section 103  
4 of the Federal Land Policy and Management  
5 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)), the surfaces of  
6 which are administered by the Secretary of the  
7 Interior, acting through the Director of the Bu-  
8 reau of Land Management;

9 (C) public lands, the surfaces of which are  
10 administered by the Secretary of the Interior,  
11 acting through the Director of the United  
12 States Fish and Wildlife Service;

13 (D) land owned by a State or local agency;

14 (E) Indian lands, with the approval of the  
15 applicable Indian tribe;

16 (F) Hawaiian home lands, with the ap-  
17 proval of the applicable State agency in the  
18 State of Hawaii; and

19 (G) land under the jurisdiction of an Alas-  
20 ka Native Corporation, with the approval of the  
21 applicable Alaska Native Corporation.

22 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
23 means—

4 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-  
5 spect to public lands described in paragraph  
6 (5)(B); and

7 (C) the Secretary of Agriculture and the  
8 Secretary of the Interior jointly, with respect to  
9 land owned by a State or local agency described  
10 in paragraph (5)(C).

15 (A) has a research-validated demonstrable  
16 capability to provide productive work to individ-  
17 uals;

(B) gives participants a combination of work experience, basic and life skills, education, training, and support services; and

21 (C) provides participants with the oppor-  
22 tunity to develop citizenship values through  
23 service to their communities and the United  
24 States.

25 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means—

- 1 (A) a State;  
2 (B) the District of Columbia;  
3 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;  
4 (D) Guam;  
5 (E) American Samoa;  
6 (F) the Commonwealth of the Northern  
7 Mariana Islands;  
8 (G) the Federated States of Micronesia;  
9 (H) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;  
10 (I) the Republic of Palau; and  
11 (J) the United States Virgin Islands.

12 (9) YOUNG ADULTS.—The term “young adults”

## 14 SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

15 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
16 this Act \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through  
17 2009.

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