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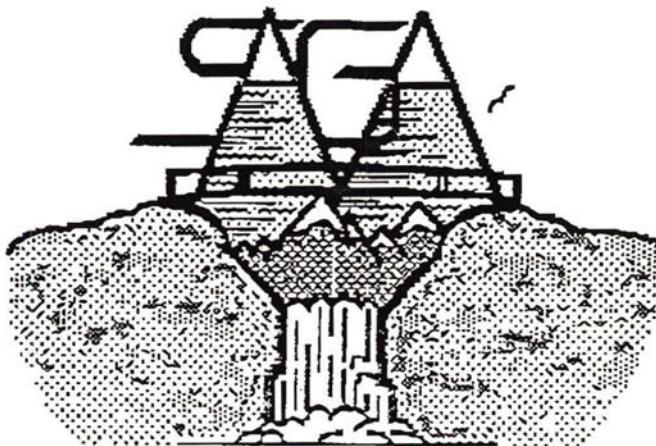
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Proposal

Southeast Alaska Guidance Association

Adventure Based Education

Since 1986

Mission

Helping people make the connection between what they learn
and how they live.

TO (AGENCY) USDA

FAX # 202-720-5043

ATTENTION JOEL BERG

FROM JOE DARRISH

FAX 907-789-3118 OFFICE 907-789-6172

COMMENTS

*Joel, please, whatever enlightenment
you can provide would be greatly
appreciated. Thanks, Joe Darrish*

DATE 2-22-94 TIME 5:50 PM # OF PAGES 5
(INCL. COVER)

**Southeast Alaska Guidance Association**

P.O. BOX 35063 • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99803

TELEPHONE (907) 789-6172

FAX NO. (907) 789-3118

Joel Berg
USDA
Office of Public Affairs
Washington DC

February 22, 1994

Dear Joel,

We've met briefly in January at the NASCC conference where you presented information regarding the USDA Americorps program. Later that month you helped me by phone regarding some questions I had.

Joel, the only information the federal land agencies in Alaska have about the Americorps program is what I've sent them. I have enclosed a copy of Regional Forester Michael Barton's response to the information packet (i.e. USDA Americorps Draft Action Plan, and Public Lands Corps Act) I sent to him. I have received similar response from the various Forest Supervisors and District Rangers plus NPS, and BLM personnel.

I'm concerned that the April deadline for proposals is going to come and go without Alaska even having a clue about what is happening. Alaska is already at such a disadvantage with the National Americorps funding, due to its population based formula funding, that we must take advantage of all available funding avenues. In addition, it's clear that Region Ten's budget, especially for the Tongass, is being reduced and could benefit from pursuing USDA Americorps funding.

Please, if you have any information about the status of the program, please let me know. I do feel awkward pursuing this issue further until the land agencies have received the information internally.

Also included herein is a copy of draft regulations concerning PL 94-148. These proposed changes are causing concern regarding the Forest Service's ability to cooperate with groups like SAGA who receive federal funding (see underlined section under "Funding" for specific language that is causing concern). If you have any insights or clarification it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please feel free to contact me at 907-789-6172.

Sincerely,

Joe Parrish
Director, SAGA





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Alaska Region

P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Reply to: 1700

Date: FEB 16 1994

Mr. Joe Parrish
Southeast Alaska Guidance Association (SAGA)
P.O. Box 35063
Juneau, AK 99803

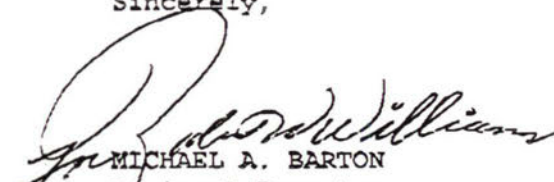
Dear Mr. Parrish,

This is in response to your letter dated January 27, 1994, in which you forwarded information regarding the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993, and the AMERICORPS/USDA Draft Action Plan.

Thank you for sharing with me the information packet from the conference you attended. I had not seen it previously. I have not yet received information or guidance regarding the topic of youth corps from our Washington Office, and am therefore not in a position to make any specific plans or commitments on the direction Region 10 will take in this regard.

As soon as national direction is received, my staff in Civil Rights and Human Resources will begin work to shape the Region's program. At that time interested organizations such as SAGA will be notified of the processes we intend to follow, if indeed the decision is to utilize external youth corps. If you have any further questions, please contact Christine LeMasters, Acting Assistant Director, Civil rights and Human Resource Programs at 586-8825.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL A. BARTON
Regional Forester

cc:
Forest Supervisors



1589.41 - Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act of December 12, 1975, 16 U.S.C. 565a1-a3, Pub. L. 94-148, authorizes the Forest Service to enter into cooperatively performed, mutually beneficial National Forest projects with non-Federal parties in four specific areas: (1) Cooperative Pollution Abatement, (2) Cooperative Manpower, Job Training and Development Programs, (3) Development and Publication of Cooperative Environmental Educations and Forest History Materials, and (4) Forestry Protection.

1589.41a - General Requirements. The following conditions apply:

1. Funding. The Forest Service may provide its share of the costs from any funds that are otherwise available for carrying out the purposes of the agreement. In all instances, the Forest Service and the cooperator(s) shall contribute resources, jointly perform the work, share a mutual interest and benefit in the same qualitative way. The cooperator's contributions may include cash, real or personal property, services, and/or in-kind contributions, such as volunteer labor. There is no set formula for determining the amount each party contributes. Each agreement must be negotiated on its own merits. The key is that the cooperator's contribution must be commensurate with benefits gained. The less the cooperator's contribution, the more likely the activity will have to be accomplished through procurement or personnel procedures. As a general rule, if the cooperator's only contribution is overhead, the contribution is extremely weak and should not qualify for a PA. The cooperator may not use funds from other Federal agencies for its contribution to the Forest Service unless specifically provided by the Federal statute authorizing these funds. The cooperator should itemize funding from other Federal agencies in the financial plan.

The Forest Service may provide reimbursable or advance payments. Advance payments may be authorized, however, reimbursable agreements shall be negotiated unless the cooperator can justify the need for advance payments. Cash advance to a cooperator shall be limited to the minimum amount needed or no more than is needed for a 30-day period, whichever is less. The timing and amount of cash advances shall be as close as is administratively feasible to the actual disbursements by the cooperator for direct program costs and proportionate share of any allowable indirect costs.

1589.41b - Type of Work. Sample agreements are contained in FSH 1509.11, Chapter 70. The act authorizes the Forest Service to enter into agreements for projects that benefit National Forest programs involving the following four specific areas:

1. Cooperative Pollution Abatement.

2. Cooperative Manpower, Job Training and Development Programs. This section of the Act authorizes the Forest Service to cooperate with other parties to do projects benefitting Forest Service programs where the primary purpose is to provide a work environment, i.e., to host trainees in order to accomplish the goals of others' existing manpower and job training programs. The use of this section is appropriate only where the other party has a specific job training program currently in place and the parties to the agreement share in costs. The cooperator shall contribute all or a portion of their administrative expenses and the trainees and supervisors salary and

DOES THIS INCLUDE
JTPA, AMERICORPS OR
CORPORATION FUNDING?

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benefits. In addition to sharing the costs of salary and benefits, the parties may contribute other costs such as materials, equipment, lodging, etc.

This section of the Act requires that there be mutual interest and that the Forest Service host the other party's program. The Act shall not be used to enhance Forest Service employment or recruitment programs. The mutual interest criterion is met for the Forest Service by (1) getting work accomplished that benefits the public lands and (2) supporting an existing job training/development program. The mutual interest criterion is met for the cooperator by obtaining (1) professional supervision and (2) meaningful on-the-job work experience for the trainees. If another entity, such as an institute of higher learning, a public or private employment agency, tribal organization, state, county, or other local job training/development department has an existing manpower and/or job training/development program for which the Forest Service can provide appropriate projects and supervision, the groundwork for a proper agreement is present.

1589.41c - Form of Agreement. A PA shall be bilaterally executed prior to receipt of funds or performance of work by the Government or cooperator. The narrative agreement shall (a) cite the appropriate statutory authority to enter into the PA, (b) cite a Forest Service PA number for tracking, (c) provide a clear description of the terms and conditions for performance of the work, (d) include a financial plan reflecting a detailed break-down of costs if applicable, (e) specify an appropriate period for performance, (f) include any reporting requirements, and (g) include mandatory Forest Service clauses.