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Forest Service

FOREST SERVICE INITIATIVES

Partners for Youth Forest Camps



Your partnership can change the course of a young person's life.

From . . .

- High risk of failure
- Low self-esteem
- No skills, no hope

To . . .

- High chance of success
- Improved self-esteem
- Job skills, new hope for future jobs





Youth Forest Camps

Ever seen a group of teenage street-wise urban boys crying with joy and hugging each other after meeting only two weeks earlier?

Impossible you say? You can see this scene countless times when you visit graduation day at a privately sponsored outdoor camp in the Sequoia National Forest where inner city youth have rediscovered themselves, found pride in hard work, and learned new skills. These young people are crying because they have realized their potential; they have experienced opportunity!

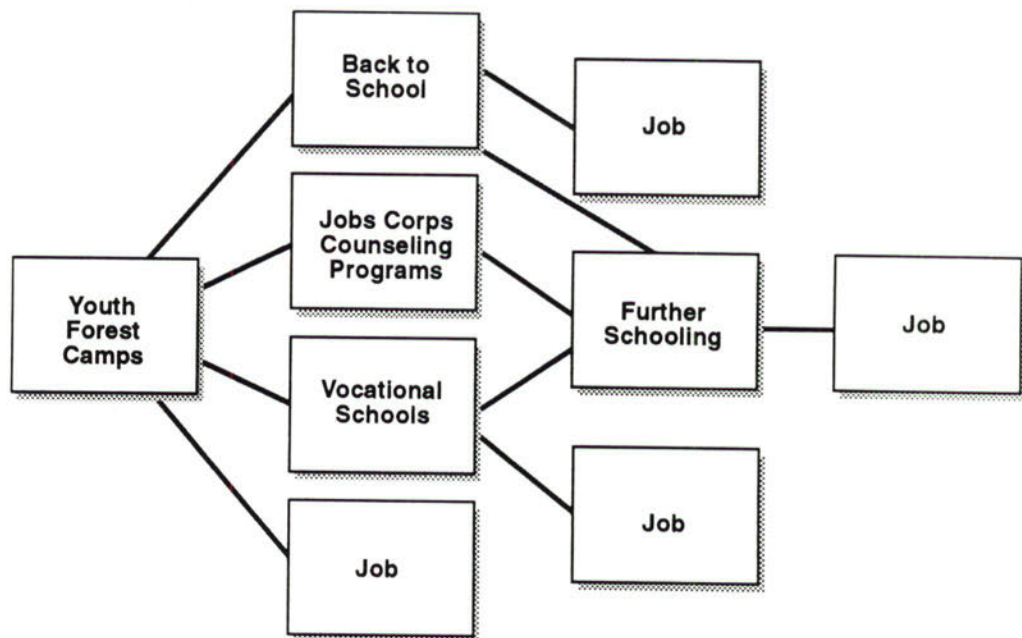
Overview of Youth Forest Camps:

- ▶ **Where are these youth camps?**
The Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation are setting up 3 Youth Forest Camps in the states of Washington, Oregon and Virginia.
- ▶ **Who qualifies?**
Youth at-risk, ages 15-18, males and females.
- ▶ **What will the young people receive?**
Job training, skills and pay for working in the outdoors; work ethics and basic social skill experiences; discipline and confidence; and learning about the environment.
- ▶ **What will these young people receive at graduation?**
Jobs and job skills; greater self esteem; and incentives to stay in school, gain further training, or enter a skilled profession.
- ▶ **Who will run the camps?**
Professional project leaders, teachers, counselors, mentors and volunteers from national and local companies and organizations, the Forest Service, and the National Forest Foundation. Not all camps will be the same. Each camp will be designed to address the local communities' needs with a flexible approach, much the same way the original 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) programs operated. These camps will be different from past ones because of the partnership between the federal government, the National Forest Foundation, community leaders and the private sector. The Forest Service has 60 years of established success using these kinds of programs and is the government leader in developing partnerships. These are pilot camps that will continue as part of the Forest Service's ongoing youth programs.

Long Range Goal for Youth Forest Camps

The ultimate goal is for youth to learn marketable skills so that they are gainfully employed adults. All students that graduate from a Youth Forest Camp will be prepared for the next step – the skills and commitment to further their education at Job Corps Centers, the military, state technical and vocational schools, and career counseling centers — and ultimately, a job. They will also carry away a set of work ethics, self discipline, self esteem and other important life skills to help them continue as a productive contributor to society.

Future Opportunities for Youth Leaving Youth Forest Camps



The program will include a follow-up tracking and incentive package to move the youth through this process.

Partnerships are Needed for Youth Forest Camps

Why support Youth Forest Camps?

The vision of establishing Youth Forest Camps is based on the continuing need to provide training and jobs for thousands of unemployed youth, at-risk in urban and rural communities. The number of unemployed people in the United States during June 1992 reached 9.3 million or 7.8 percent. Unemployment rates have approached 50 percent among various ethnic neighborhoods in inner cities and on Indian Reservations. Labor Statistics from Department of Labor do not list those who no longer actively seek employment.

Why is the Forest Service interested?

A huge backlog exists of unfunded environmental and infrastructure work on public lands. American youth can work, learn and earn on jobs such as tree planting, carpentry, fence repair, fire fighting, stream restoration, surveying and mapping, data collection, trail building, and habitat restoration. For each dollar invested in these camps, nearly two dollars worth of work will be completed.

The National Forest Foundation

The **National Forest Foundation**, created by Congress, has a charter to:

- ▶ Encourage, accept and administer private gifts of money or other contributions-in-kind for the benefit of Forest Service activities.
- ▶ Conduct activities that further the mission of the Forest Service.
- ▶ Conduct educational, technical and other programs for Forest Service activities.

With such a charter, the Youth Forest Camp program is tailor made for the National Forest Foundation.

Forest Service

The Forest Service has been practicing conservation of America's public lands for 100 years. The agency, located in the Department of Agriculture, balances uses such as wilderness, timber, wildlife, watershed, recreation and range on 191 million acres of land in 43 states. Six hundred million visits were made to National Forests last year, making the Forest Service the number one provider of outdoor recreation in the world. The Forest Service is internationally renowned for firefighting expertise; experience in timber management and research; the largest tree planting operation in the world; and a wide-variety of unlimited opportunities for recreation on 115,000 miles of trails; 4,200 campgrounds; and 33 million acres of wildernesses equal to the size of Arkansas.

The Forest Service has a long history of managing conservation work programs. The Forest Service was one of the leading agencies in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) that employed thousands of workers in conservation work during the hard economic times of the 1930's. The Forest Service has 28 years of experience in running Job Corps Conservation Centers and 22 years of experience in running Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Camps. In 1992, the Forest Service operated 18 Job Corps Centers with over 9,000 enrollees.

Partnership Benefits

Youth Forest Camp

Youth	Forest Service	Public
Camp diploma	Repaired infrastructures	Improved recreation facilities
GED Preparation	Community support	Improved landscape
Work Ethics	Trained work force	Safer cities
Technical skills	Future employees	Trained & skilled workforce
On-the-job-training	Work done in outdoors	Lower unemployment
Compensation	Multicultural workforce	Environmentally aware publics
Self-respect	Improved landscape	Lower crime rate
Technical knowledge	Nearly \$2 million of unfunded work completed	Employees with work ethic
Team work skills		Culturally diverse workforce
Environmental awareness		Better Citizens
Future job prospects		Better environment

Youth Testimonials

Here's what campers say about Conservation Camps:



"My stay at camp has really changed my life! Just less than a week ago, some guys in my neighborhood offered me some drugs. I, of course, declined and I was thinking of you guys when I was about to decide not to. I have also started to pursue a career in one of the finest firefighting organizations in the nation—the LA F.D. When I was at camp, I learned to dream and to go out and take those dreams by the tail. I am trying really hard in school... Please, sirs, let me come back...It would mean so much to me. Humbly," **Anthony Fierro, 1992**



....."Camp taught me a lot, about how different people can be, and showed me places that I've never been to before. I learned how everybody has to cooperate and get along with each other to live in a place so long and so far away from home. Even on our job sites we had to study at least one hour or more about something in our environment. Camp is an experience that I think every kid should have and if I could, I would do it all over again; hopefully in the future I will get a chance to go back." **Shantel, 1992.**



....."I feel that the camp made a tremendous effect on me. It helped me to see that I can go beyond my limits I have set in my mind. I made friends with some very dear and special people, and I am very grateful for that. I would do the program 100 more times if I could. I'm grateful the program gave me the opportunities it did." **Margaret Barrett, 1992.**



....."I enjoyed my summer at Camp Cody last year. I believe that it was a very positive experience. It helped me learn how to cooperate with other people to make my work and my everyday living much more enjoyable. I hope the program is continued so that other youths can have the opportunity to experience it like I did." **Tim Hogenkamp, 1992.**

....."Camp was a great experience. I had fun throughout the summer. It is hard work and tiresome but the memories and things that you learn will last you a lifetime." **Jason LaFaver, 1992.**

....."I think camp is a great place to be. I would go back over and over again if that is possible. I learned a lot about the environment and to get along with those you dislike. The councillors (sic) are great, the work is hard but it is fun, and you feel good about it. People should go, you do good work for the forest and it makes you feel good to know you are doing something good for the future. I would recommend it to everyone and everyone to go and experience it. It is a once in a lifetime experience for everyone." **Shawna Edwards, 1992.**

Experts' Support of Youth Forest Camps

What experts say about the benefits of outdoor camps in changing negative behaviors of at-risk youth to positive ones:

The Camping Association defines organized camping as, "a sustained experience that provides a creative recreational and educational opportunity in group living out-of-doors. It utilizes trained leadership and the resources of natural surroundings to contribute to each camper's mental and physical, social and spiritual growth," (Kraus & Scanlin, 1983, *"Introduction to Camp Counseling"*, Englewood Cliffs Prentice-Hall, Inc.)

"The fact that camp claims the undivided attention of the camper day and night to an extent that neither home nor school, nor church nor gang can claim . . .

The fact that counselor-child relationships are often more natural and frank than the parent-child relationships . . .

The fact that the living situation is wholly natural with none of the artificiality of school. . . .

These factors combine to give great social potential to camping and eminence to its social role." (*Camping Magazine*, pp 23-24)

Everett Pigg, executive director of Camp Mountain Rest Drop-Out prevention program for youth at-risk, believes the camp setting is integral to their program's success. "We can put them in to a camp setting, hire a good sensitive staff who try to make learning fun, take away the threat of failure, give them job skills for life. It's amazing what improvements we see in such a short time... They're away from many of the influences that have gotten them where they are now." (*"Drop-Out Prevention, camp allows at-risk students to taste success"* by Kelly Gordon Moxley, *Camping Magazine*, Nov/Dec. 1992, page 29)

Recidivism is defined as a return to a juvenile or adult institution for a new offense. A study of juvenile offenders at an Outward Bound Camp before and afterwards revealed that, two years later, the group with the camp experience showed a significant decrease in recidivism compared to the control group who did not have the camping experience. "The Outward Bound group's rate remained at 20% while the control group's recidivism rate increased 42%. (*"Evaluating Outward Bound for Delinquent Youth"* by Theodore F. Wichmann, *Journal of Experimental Education*, Winter 1983, citing study by Kelley and Baer (1968))

David Charles Kolb, Director of an outdoor camp Discovery Program in Georgia concludes, "The overall self-esteem of the participants increased as did the personal perception of physical self and popularity . . . Similar to team sports, adventure activities engage the student physically as well as mentally and can influence self-esteem change. An important difference in adventure courses is that group and individual participation takes place in a "no-win, no-lose" context where the only feeling of competition is internal. A group living situation in a wilderness setting provides opportunities in which an individual can excel in a variety of areas: Overcoming fear, cooperating, organizing, showing compassion, demonstrating responsibility, following directions, solving problems, demonstrating leadership, as well as showing physical ability." (*"Self-Esteem Change and Mandatory Experiential Education"* by David Charles Kolb, the *Journal of Experiential Education*, Fall, 1988)

Another research article about the positive effects of a camping experience concludes that there is "strong evidence that therapeutic wilderness programs are effective." However, many "compare the impact of the wilderness experience to electricity; we know it works but we are not sure why" (Kimball, 1979). The author applied three tests to provide more quantitative data: the Wichmann-Andrew Behavior Intervention Scale, the Means-Ends Problem Solving Procedure, and the Instructor Checklist of Expectations for Youths at Risk. The conclusion from these tests proved that the program that was tested "significantly reduced asocial behavior Therapeutic wilderness programs increase self-esteem and reduce asocial behavior, and we are beginning to understand how and why." (*"Of Wilderness and Circles: Evaluating a Therapeutic Model for Wilderness Adventure Programs"* by Dr. Ted Wichmann, the *Journal of Experiential Education*, August, 1991.)

The Pilot Camps

Name: Location: State:	Mt. Adams Gifford Pinchot NF Washington	Camp Cody Mt. Hood NF Oregon	Camp Augusta Springs George Washington NF Virginia
Positions; ages number	15-18 80 co-ed	15-18 72 co-ed	15-18 48 co-ed
Types of Work:	Trail building Improved Recreation Fence building Carpentry Map surveying	Riparian improvements Habitat Improvement Fence building Carpentry Tree planting	Environmental education Recreation improvement Erosion Control Carpentry Tree planting

Camp Basics

Duration of Camp	An 8 week session + a 10 week session for 18 weeks total.
Emphasis Programs:	Math and Science, Analytical skills, Team Work, Self-respect, Environmental Awareness, Social Stability.
Facilities:	Existing Forest Service Camps.
Skills Emphasis:	Life skills, Power tools, Financial skills, Partnerships, Work Ethics, Job Skills.
Life Skills:	Health, financial skills including cooking, checkbook balancing, frugal shopping, eating healthy, conflict resolution and living within a budget.
Camp Supervision:	Constant supervision by trained and certified counselors. Camps will offer health screening, counseling, job interview practice and application training, basic reading and writing skills, environmental education, evening and weekend activities, salaries, and work ethic training.

Partners for Youth Forest Camps

How Can Partners Be Involved?



Here's What Leaders Say About Youth Camps:

President Franklin Roosevelt, two days after his inauguration in 1933, announced, "I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work, not interfering with normal employment, and confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control, and similar projects. More important, however, than the material gains, will be the moral and spiritual value of such work. The overwhelming majority of unemployed Americans, who are now walking the streets and receiving private or public relief would infinitely prefer to work. We can take a vast army of these unemployed out into healthful surroundings. We can eliminate to some extent at least the threat that enforced idleness brings to spiritual and moral stability. It is not a panacea for all the unemployment, but it is an essential step..." In 1932, 25% of young men between the ages of 15-24 were unemployed.

President Bill Clinton, quoted in an interview by Times Mirror Magazines, November, 1992, says, "I will also support a civilian conservation corps to raise environmental awareness among America's young people, to put young people to work on constructive projects, and to protect our natural resources. ...America's public land managers face a huge backlog of maintenance and repair—trails have eroded and camping facilities, picnic areas, and boat ramps have fallen into disrepair. I support a new civilian conservation corps as a low-cost way to restore infrastructure on public lands, while inspiring civic pride and responsibility."

Don Kendall, founder of PepsiCo and Chairman of the National Forest Foundation, says, "Youth Forest Camps are a great partnership for America's future. Your support will benefit American youth, American public land, and American cities and communities. The Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation have already committed time, people, money, and facilities to the Youth Forest Camps. The National Forest Foundation needs to raise \$1,000,000 to open the three pilot camps this spring, and give 200 young people an experience that will change their lives. Your contribution and your partnership will mean success for young people and a better trained and prepared American workforce. We need your help to begin a long and growing list of new camps, new beginning for young people, and new partnerships to make better citizens. These camps are a win-win arrangement for all involved. Your support is returned and can be measured in benefits to American youth, American public land, and our American cities."

Contributions Needed for 1993 Camps

- ▶ 200 youths
\$5,000 per youth*
\$1,000,000 from partners.
- ▶ The camps will need in-kind contributions of services and materials.
- ▶ The Forest Service has contributed \$150,000 for administrative costs such as insurance, supervision of work projects, and contracting. The agency will also provide the existing camp sites and facilities.
- ▶ Contributions for multiple year sponsorship of the camps are encouraged.

* Includes Educational Credit Voucher valued at \$500.00 for completion of the program. Student would submit a receipt for expenses incurred at Community College, Trade School, Tutorial Assistance, Adult Education Classes, etc., for reimbursement by the National Forest Foundation up to \$500.00 limit per position.

In-Kind Contributions Possible from Partners

Materials and Supplies:	Lumber, posts, fence wire, rip rap, hardware, campstoves, food
Equipment:	Personal protective gear (hardhats, gloves, goggles), boots, clothing (T-shirts, jackets, jeans, socks), hand and power tools for field and shop projects
Transportation:	Vehicles/buses, drivers, mileage/gas
Education/Training:	Televisions/VCR's, instructional material, mentoring, volunteering, job training/internship, scholarships, testing and evaluation

April 5, 1993

Volunteerism in the Forest Service

The Forest Service entered into a partnership with Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences in February 1993. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Superintendent of Fairfax Schools to provide a framework for cooperation to promote agriculture, forestry, environmental and conservation education, and to encourage youth to consider careers in USDA.

Bailey's Elementary School is unique in that it epitomizes the concept of the United States as a "nation of nations," and includes students who come from 43 different countries and speak 22 languages in addition to English. The plan is for Bailey's to host enhanced instructional programs and technology facilities and to become a model for the country and the nation.

FS employees will provide guest lecturing, participate in Career Planning activities, do mentoring, tutoring, role model activities, coordinate tours on National Forests, and provide surplus materials and supplies, such as tree seedlings and office equipment.

A copy of the FS MOU and brochures on Bailey's are attached.

To help the FS celebrate "Earth Day" on April 20, about a hundred students will be sharing their cultural messages relating to the natural world and lead in a chorus "It's a Small World".

Volunteerism opportunities abound at Bailey's and other schools in the area.

* * *

All around the country, FS employees are very involved in providing community service. During the past 2 years, the Secretary and Chief of the Forest Service recognized 1029 Forest Service employees for their personal contributions of volunteer time to their community and fellow man. Some FS retirees have also been recognized. Recognition certificates and plaques were presented in local ceremonies, with meaningful publicity, on their contribution of community service.

A few examples of volunteerism by specific focus areas follow:

WORKING WITH YOUTH

--contributes time weekly as Tutor in reading, spelling and English at the Washington Literacy Council

--Coordinator and counselor for World Experience - a Foreign Exchange Program for High School students.

- Instructor and mentor at Van Ness (USDA's adopted school)
- Participate in drug awareness programs such as DARE
- Instructor for Presidential Classroom in Washington to provide leadership training for High School Seniors
- Organized Club Wild on Job Corps Center to stimulate interest in the environment. Money raised from recycling is used for Christmas presents for disadvantaged youth.
- Organizing baseball leagues for socially, economically or ethnically disadvantaged.
- Instructor at local Job Corps Center

ENVIRONMENT

- Organized Can-Do-Kids Recycling Program to teach recycling and provide a small business opportunity to make money and learn good work habits.
- Organized an abandoned car removal and trash clean-up for Earth Day.
- As president of local Audubon Society, works with scouts and other groups on environmental issues such as monitoring bluebird nest boxes and conducting old growth inventories.
- Develop and conduct environmental education programs in local schools
- Organized a Solid Waste Management Board and serves as volunteer Vice President
- Gives hour long programs in local school on how to enjoy the outdoors - how to camp, go on hikes, identify trees and animals, collect rocks and insects.
- Help with High School Nature Trail program
- Help with Project Learning Tree activities

COMMUNITY NEEDS

- Serve on Volunteer Fire Departments and as Emergency Medical Technicians
- Serve as First Aid and CPR Instructor for Red Cross.
- 25 years as coach with local Recreation Department, providing role model and counseling with 13-16 year olds.
- Work with local organizations such as Lions Clubs, Jaycees, Optimists, Kiwanis, veterans groups and senior citizens organizations.

- Organize Craft Bazaars, Fashion Shows and other activities to raise funds for college scholarships, battered women's shelters, Meals on Wheels, homeless organizations, etc.
- Serve as Reserve Peace Officers for County Sheriff's Department and on Search and Rescue organizations.
- work with local Town Council to identify and implement economic diversification projects due to changing timber base
- Coordination of work by local prison trustee unit and local youth forestry camp to provide meaningful project work.
- Serve on Hospital Boards, Town Councils,
- Teach Adult Education classes.
- Obtain grants for restoration work on Historical Society buildings
- Headed task force that successfully implemented 911 service in rural area
- Organized "Friends of the Day Care" that established standards, support group and services needed for child care in local area.

CONSERVATION

- Teach Natural Resource course on the Crow Reservation at the Little Bighorn College.
- Teach Adult Education classes on outdoor subjects.
- Founding President of State Interpretive Association
- Organize and help conduct week long resource career expo for Indian students to learn about forestry.
- Provided materials and developed publicity to organize local Adopt-A-Campground

HUMAN SERVICES

- Organized a Single Parent Support Group.
- Facilitator and leader for Marriage Encounter to improve communication in relationships.
- Advisory Council Member for RSVP

- On Citizens Advisory Board for local Mental Health Organization
- Outreach ministry to prisoners; speaker to groups of harm of drug addiction; works with So Others May Eat (SOME) - a local organization that feeds the hungry.
- Board of Directors for Family Service Center
- conducted "patterning" (physical therapy) for woman injured in a bicycle accident
- On Board of Directors for County Association for Retarded Citizens; responsible for planning and public relations to achieve legislative and financial support for halfway housing, day schooling and other services.
- Supplies transportation for Light House for the Blind and arranges for public services such as food stamps, meals-on-wheels
- Literacy tutor at local Native American Reservation
- Organized tax assistance service for seniors in 4-county area
- Actively work with local Habitat for Humanity

* * *

The Forest Service had about 109,000 volunteers helping with management of the National Forest System. The volunteer program is managed under provisions of the Volunteers in the National Forest Act of 1972.

The Touch America Project (TAP) is a special component of the overall volunteer program effort. It provides opportunities for youths ages, 14-17, to gain work experience and environmental awareness while working on the public lands. In FY 1992, private sector organizations sponsored over 4,600 youths in TAP. Projects included maintaining and building trails and constructing recreation areas. The FS and cooperating private sector entities provide tools, training, and supervision. The government assumes tort and workmen's compensation liability.

* * *

The FS actively participates in USDI's Take Pride in America program. On the average about six national winners come to Washington to participate in the Awards Ceremony in the summer.

POINTS OF LIGHT NOMINATIONS
thru MARCH 30, 1993

	<u>INDIVIDUAL</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
REGION 1	74	7 = 130	204
REGION 2	79	1 = 25	104
REGION 3	37		37
REGION 4	18		18
REGION 5	34	2 = 55	89
REGION 6	205	1 = 30	235
REGION 8	23	2 = 86	109
REGION 9	64	1 = 32	96
REGION 10	18		18
STATIONS:			
RM	4		4
SO	6		6
SE	5		5
NE/NA	33		33
PSW	3		3
FPL		1 = 14	14
WASHINGTON OFFICE	54		54
<u>TOTAL</u>			1029

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service



DRAFT

Empowering a Community

*The USDA Forest Service's Role
in Rebuilding Los Angeles*



Sowing the Seeds of Change

"The Urban Greening Initiative and Opportunity LA programs are truly important projects for the Forest Service. They are giving us a chance to build relationships with the urban communities. And they are providing us a true opportunity to make a difference in people's lives."

F. Dale Robertson, Chief
USDA Forest Service

White House Administration

Presidential Task Force

Housing & Urban Development (HUD)	Department of Commerce
Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Department of Labor
Office of Management & Budget (OMB)	Health & Human Services
Small Business Administration (SBA)	Department of Education
Office of Personnel Management (OPM)	Department of Treasury

Leader: David Beightol

United States Department of Agriculture

Secretary Mike Espy

Cleo Davis, USDA Task Force Representative

Forest Service

F. Dale Robertson, Chief
George Leonard, Associate Chief
Paul Johnson, Regional Forester Representative

Opportunity LA

Terry Ellis
Program Director

Urban Greening

John Ronald
Program Director

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Empowering a Community

The USDA Forest Service's Role
in Rebuilding Los Angeles

Sowing the Seeds of Change

"This is our first urban forestry project. We are providing tree planting in Korea Town. And we're also taking this opportunity to do community organizing – including working together with a Latino group."

Johng Ho Song, Korean Youth Center
(Located in South Central Los Angeles' "Korea Town")
Urban Greening Initiative grantee

"This is hard work. But I have two kids to take care of and it's a blessing just to have a job. I want to work. I don't want to receive welfare, and I'm not going to stay home and wait for a job."

Sue Rogers, 35
South Central Los Angeles resident
Opportunity LA employee

I Introduction: A New Step — *Possibly an Evolution*



“The riots brought a lot of groups to the surface. Bonding between these people is going to benefit this community. This is a classic environmental education opportunity for the Forest Service. It is the beginning to a new step — possibly an evolution.

Urban and agro forestry crosses racial and cultural boundaries, bringing people together on neutral ground for a common goal. I feel very proud that the Forest Service is providing a means to facilitate this bonding. We are a catalyst in the ongoing effort to forge a new, more tolerant society.”

Randi R. Jorgensen,
USDA Forest Service
Public Affairs Specialist
Angeles National Forest

Background

After the Disorder — A Strategy to Respond: Needs, Goals, **Solutions**

The April, 1992 acquittal of four Los Angeles city police officers in the beating of motorist Rodney King generated two days of rage that resulted in 50 deaths, 2,300 people wounded, 17,000 arrested, and \$1 billion in destruction to businesses and homes.

Before the smoke had cleared, members of the Los Angeles community approached the federal government with visions of hope and a strategy for the future.

Their vision was melded with prompt actions by the Presidential Administration to create an unprecedented opportunity of cooperation between the government, business, and citizens of Los Angeles.

The People and Place

Los Angeles County includes 9 million individuals who speak no fewer than 106 languages, and represent 96 different countries.

Resident population in the civil disorder-impacted South Central Los Angeles area: 50 percent Hispanic; 45 percent African-American; 3 percent Asian and Southeast Asian; and 2 percent American Indian.

Unemployment in this area has reached an astounding 50 percent — including those who have dropped out of official labor force statistics, along with people counted in the 8.6 percent unemployment figures.

Unquestionably, unemployment is chronic here. It crosses the lines of race as well as generations. After factoring in the basic costs of living, shelter, food and clothing — even many **employed** Los Angeles area residents still earn subsistence wages.

Median income in the affected civil unrest areas is approximately \$18,000. And, for people at the poverty threshold, annual income remains less than \$10,000 in actual cost-of-living (minus federal and state assistance) adjusted dollars. Yet the price of an average home in South Central Los Angeles hovers around \$110,000.

Furthermore, the percentage of single-parent households in this largely neglected area of Los Angeles is increasing.

Certainly, the more subtle impacts of economic depression buttress these hard statistics of economic difficulty: imperiled schools; community deterioration; collapsing infrastructure; culture shock resulting from an immigrant population explosion; and scapegoating based on insidious racial prejudice and discrimination.

Facilitating the Healing Process

In May, 1992, immediately following the violent disturbances in Los Angeles, the U.S. Department of Agriculture — in conjunction with the Presidential Task Force on the Los Angeles recovery efforts — identified the following objectives for the affected residents and their communities:

- ☛ **Trigger immediate and long term employment.**
- ☛ **Facilitate the healing process.**
- ☛ **Develop community leadership skills to insure long-term commitment and involvement among community members.**

Under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service was asked to support these objectives by taking specific action to promote:

- ☛ **Long-term urban tree planting, agroforestry, and community horticulture involvement of young people and adults in Los Angeles's economically distressed communities.**
- ☛ **Immediate and potential long-term employment opportunities to provide economically productive and stable communities.**
- ☛ **An empowered and responsible citizenry.**
- ☛ **Models for sustainable communities that address the underlying causes of racial and ethnic strife.**

The Department of Agriculture's strategy — outlined in this document — addresses the long-term involvement of young people and adults residing in economically distressed Los Angeles communities through direct involvement in: urban forestry; community horticulture; and urban agriculture activities.

The strategy — two individual programs — is designed to create immediate and long-term employment opportunities while simultaneously creating models for sustainable multi-racial and multi-cultural communities that begin to address the underlying causes of racial and ethnic strife.

Strategy: *The Government as Catalyst*

Two Solutions

“Peter V. Ueberroth (Rebuild LA Chairman), a frequent critic of government bureaucracy, praised the Agriculture Department for moving swiftly to set up the new programs (Urban Greening Initiative and Opportunity LA). ‘There wasn’t a big debate,’ he said. ‘It didn’t take six months or six years.’”

Los Angeles Times
June 26, 1992

Utilizing the collective input, vision and experience of various local Los Angeles area grass-roots groups and organizations, as well as a variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations, the Department of Agriculture — through the USDA Forest Service — identified and developed two specific strategies to accomplish these important goals:

The Urban Greening Initiative

A mere four weeks after the Los Angeles disturbances, a special partnership — between the California Department of Forestry, TreePeople, Los Angeles Conservation Corp, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Cooperative Extension Service, and Forest Service — launched a \$2.75 million community matching funds grant program to encourage urban and agro forestry (tree planting, greening and gardening) projects among nonprofit and non-federal government agencies within Los Angeles County’s traditionally neglected areas. Administered through the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry programs, the initiative is targeted to build self-esteem and simultaneously create jobs and job training opportunities for area residents in tree planting, tree care, and environmental management — leading to entry level employment in the nursery, landscape, and arboriculture industries. The program also encourages networking between a diversity of cultural and racial inner-city factions.

Opportunity LA

The Department of Agriculture initiated a full scale \$5.8 million employment opportunity program targeted to the city’s unemployed population. The 647 community members — ranging in age from 18 to 63 — who signed up to be temporary national forest employees for the six-month program, received training and skill-building tasks that they could take back to their neighborhoods. This special Forest Service program created a temporary positive, productive environment where these citizens of the riot-impacted areas could train, improve their job resumes, and earn a living — as their communities likewise recuperated and rehabilitated. The program provided a constructive steppingstone and opportunity for people to get on with their lives in the wake of the civil unrest.

Hope and Healing — Successful Results

“This is an exciting collaboration. A way for the people of Los Angeles to restore themselves. You (the Forest Service) gave the people of Los Angeles a means to get started — and enough time to give their projects a chance to work . . . There is a level of empowerment out there. With a little bit of support and group effort, we can change L.A.

All cities have a Rodney King incident waiting to happen.”

Brenda Funches, Managing Advisor
LA Harvest (Urban Greening Initiative
grant recipient)

“I’ve never worked with Blacks before. We found respect for each other instead of fighting each other. Now, if we see people we know from Opportunity LA on the street, we can say ‘Hi.’ The Forest Service is keeping a lot of people out of trouble. One guy I know says his time working for Opportunity LA is the longest he’s been out of jail.”

Armando Rivera
Opportunity LA Employee

As this report outlines, both of these approaches — the **Urban Greening Initiative** and **Opportunity LA** — have already reaped successful results. They have also provided positive, realistic examples of what can be done to begin to address the malaise — the underlying causes of frustration, desperation, and racial and ethnic strife — in our nation’s urban areas.

Through a myriad of new partnerships, these people — participants in both programs — came forth **themselves**, with a desire to take the “initiative” to help create the promise of a better future for themselves and their inner-city Los Angeles neighborhoods.

Certainly, the benefits growing out of these two programs include: potential future employment; providing new opportunities for self-esteem building; citizens better informed about Southern California’s natural resource issues; environmental education opportunities; increased values for urban and agro forestry — tree planting, greening and gardening; exposure of more inner-city residents to urban ecosystem management (horticulture, tree care and planting, etc.); networking and bonding between a diversity of groups; and sustaining a new community energy.

Economic Success

Under **Opportunity LA**, 647 unemployed Los Angeles residents went to work in a special employment and job skills training program.

At the same time, under **The Urban Greening Initiative**, 33 culturally diverse groups and organizations serving traditionally neglected portions of Los Angeles County embarked on urban forestry community improvement projects designed to better their environment and create jobs, as well as promote and enhance cross-cultural relations. The program's 33 approved projects represent more than 300 full-time jobs and more than 200 temporary positions.

This new potential for urban forestry jobs can mean long-term job and business development opportunities in urban forest management. (Currently, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power combines with Southern California Edison to spend more than \$25 million per year on pruning trees under their power lines alone — illustrating work needs in this area.)

Environmental Success

Under the efforts of the **Urban Greening Initiative**, vast numbers of new trees and agroforestry plantings will have a significant **positive** impact on the Los Angeles urban ecosystem.

Environmental benefits from such comprehensive urban forestry programs include: creating small spots of green in a sea of concrete and asphalt; cooler inner-city areas; lower utility bills; lower levels of air pollution; water conservation; lessening of storm water pollution; and a reduction of materials flowing into landfills.

In addition, **Opportunity LA** employees helped reduce a large backlog of necessary work projects on four Southern California national forests. Their work projects ranged from recreation site and trail maintenance, to erosion control and watershed improvement, to wildland fire suppression.

Community and Personal Success

Just as important are the intangible benefits resulting from these two programs' efforts . . .

Through the **Urban Greening Initiative**: peaceful retreats; pride in neighborhoods; providing a common ground to meet, bond and plan for sustainable, positive change; and building important networking and bonding between a diversity of groups and individuals.

Through **Opportunity LA**: new opportunities for self-esteem building; training and skill building tasks; and important networking and bonding between a diversity of groups and individuals.

To be sure, not all results will be evident immediately. But through these two progressive programs, the seeds have been planted. Subsequent growth and beneficial outcomes — that could include long-term sustainable economic development and an increase in property values within inner-city neighborhoods — will continue to sprout and develop over the next several years.

Setting an Example

The creation and implementation of these two programs can also serve as a creative “how to” approach to urban issues in other cities. There's no question that metropolitan areas elsewhere in this country harbor the same symptoms that led to the notorious 1992 Los Angeles unrest.

The Department of Agriculture's actions and partnerships in Los Angeles, therefore, could serve as a model in other cities to help prevent and remedy the unfortunate conditions that precipitated the violent eruption in Los Angeles.

II Urban Greening Initiative



"With this program the Forest Service has successfully opened the door into an area we had not been visible in before.

The bonds that we are now forming are building a bridge on which we will continue to go forward in the future.

And if it can work here, it can also work in other cities."

John Ronald, USDA Forest Service
Urban Greening Initiative
Program Manager

"You have to take a lot of little success stories and replicate them. I really believe as this program becomes successful, other cities are going to come here to learn from this model."

Alfred A. DelliBovi, Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development

Quoth Webster: **"EMPOWER** — To give ability to; to enable, permit."

Blueprint for Other Cities

"Urban forestry is proving to be as much about people as it is about trees."

Larry Costello, Chair
California Urban Forestry
Advisory Council

"Urban forests are the buffer that makes for sustained, viable and livable cities. A healthy urban forest indicates a healthy, viable community. A deteriorating urban forest is one of the first indicators of a community in decay and decline."

Andy Lipkis, President
TreePeople (*Urban Greening Initiative*
Grantee)
Los Angeles

In September, 1992 — a mere four months after the Los Angeles outbreak of civil unrest — 33 culturally and ethnically diverse Los Angeles **Urban Greening Initiative** grantee groups and organizations rolled up their sleeves to begin work in a common, unified effort to improve the plight of the city's afflicted and traditionally neglected areas through urban forestry.

The USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry branch — in partnership with TreePeople, the University of California Cooperative Extension in Los Angeles County, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps — all collaborated on the program's successful implementation strategy.

Matching grants totaling \$2,750,000 were made available to: non-profit groups; community service organizations; non-federal government agencies; and volunteer community greening groups. All grant applicants were required to serve Los Angeles County's traditionally neglected areas — including those affected by the April, 1992 disturbances.

Projects include: tree planting and maintenance along inner-city neighborhood streets; creating new green spaces with trees and ground cover; planting urban gardens; and helping prepare tree planting and urban forestry site plans for Los Angeles communities. All projects also provide the development of basic skills in forestry, arboriculture, landscape design, and pest management.

The 33 approved **Urban Greening Initiative** projects represent more than 300 full-time jobs and more than 200 temporary positions.

Initially, a broad range of 86 indigenous inner-city Los Angeles organizations and agencies responded to the extensive grant outreach efforts — requesting more than \$9 million in matching funds. The proposals came from a diverse cross-section of Los Angeles communities — representing a broad cultural, geographical, and demographical variety, including youth groups, municipalities, county, family, neighborhood, civic, church, ethnic, and educational organizations.

Twenty-four of the selected 33 projects received their total requested funding amount; the remaining grantees received approximately 80 percent of their original request. Terms of the grants require that all proposed projects be completed within 18 months. (This somewhat generous time period was deemed more advantageous to insuring optimum, successful results.)

Collaborating on: *Work Needs, Objectives, Goals*

In October, 1992, representatives from the 33 grantee groups met in a networking session to update and discuss their individual projects' goals and efforts. A remarkable interaction between various ethnic backgrounds was evident throughout the entire session. The common positive bond of urban and agro forestry — actually working to improve the environment — was obviously linking these ethnically diverse Los Angeles residents. These community-based groups — many of whom are, for the most part, traditionally at odds with one another — were suddenly collaborating on work needs, objectives and goals of urban and agro forestry.

A significant objective of the Department of Agriculture's Presidential Task Force on the Los Angeles recovery efforts — empowering a responsible citizenry and facilitating the healing process — is truly being realized.

These **Urban Greening Initiative** partnerships will undoubtedly reap ongoing positive results. Furthermore, this networking opportunity is surely improving cross-cultural and cross-racial sensitivities and interactions. The **Urban Greening Initiative** is giving the City of Los Angeles so many benefits besides jobs and greening. It's offering a connection between a diversity of social groups — and the tools to talk to one another.

There's no question that this program is helping dismantle some of the root causes of Los Angeles' urban decay. ***Thus, the success of this initiative's approach in Los Angeles can serve as a blueprint for other major cities across this country.***

Visitors from all over the nation and even Israel have already traveled to Los Angeles to witness the broad range of urban forestry projects underway with **Urban Greening Initiative** matching grant monies.

Urban Greening Initiative: *How We Did It*

Significant Outreach Effort

A significant outreach effort was launched to ensure a widespread awareness of this special grant availability throughout the traditionally neglected areas of Los Angeles.

As part of this undertaking, the nearby Angeles National Forest and University of California Cooperative Extension Service — under its Urban Agricultural Forestry Initiative — circulated a request for proposals to more than 800 agencies, organizations and individuals via fliers, press releases, and personal letters.

In addition, to ensure all segments of the communities had a chance to participate, these 1,500 fliers — announcing and describing the program — were distributed in four different languages: Spanish, Korean, Chinese, and English. A special public service announcement was also circulated among Los Angeles radio stations.

Through this intensive community outreach during the grant availability process, churches and service clubs, as well as existing community forestry and greening groups, were encouraged to become involved directly, or function as umbrella groups — to allow the involvement of individuals and smaller community organizations such as block clubs.

These larger groups were also encouraged to assist the smaller, more loosely organized groups obtain matching funds and in-kind contributions. In doing so, groups without 501 c.3 tax-exempt status teamed up with umbrella tax-exempt organizations. LA Harvest and the University of California Cooperative Extension Service also served a valuable role in helping match these appropriate partners.

Several efforts were made to simplify the process. Grant application forms were modified to be user-friendly and non-bureaucratic. Forest Service representatives met one-on-one with grant recipients in their own communities to help them fill out the necessary forms. In addition, the Extension Service conducted two technical workshops — attended by approximately 150 people — to help provide information and assistance for potential **Urban Greening Initiative** grant applicants.

Primary Umbrella Group Grantees:

Three \$250 thousand grants were provided to capacity-building grass roots groups: L.A. Harvest; TreePeople; and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. These three local organizations were identified as the most capable to instigate immediate urban and agro forestry job creation for long-term success.

These three primary umbrella grantees also agreed to provide training and assistance for smaller groups who lacked technical and administrative skills and experience.

The collective insights and experience of these three local grass roots umbrella groups helped expedite a quick and yet far-reaching start-up for the **Urban Greening Initiative's** broad-based matching grant program.

L.A. Conservation Corp

- Hire and train 75 young adults to work in the urban forestry industry. Twenty-four will complete a one-year training program preparing them for apprentice positions in the arborist field.
- Provide important support for long-term success of **Urban Greening Initiative** by helping community groups clear sites and maintain plantings.
- Help establish partnerships with local governments, industry and university systems.

Tree People

- Involve high school students in tree planting and greening in surrounding neighborhoods and communities to reduce *heat island* effects, and enhance pride and community ownership of local schools, businesses, and homes.
- Through their Citizen Forester Program, coordinate and train people in community-based groups to provide volunteer leadership in tree planting and tree care projects in local community green space development.

L.A. Harvest

- Coordinate and evaluate the **Urban Greening Initiative's** \$2,750,000 matching grant program. Develop broad neighborhood needs assessment for the Initiative's cooperating agencies and community groups.
- Expand urban and agro forestry projects to traditionally neglected areas of Los Angeles — including the development of youth and adults in production, marketing, and management activities.
- Provide USDA Forest Service liaison with grantees, including record keeping, feedback and grant results.
- Coordinate and train people in community-based groups to provide volunteer leadership in gardening and urban and agro forestry projects in local community green space development.

Reflecting A Cultural Diversity

Eighty-six individual grant application proposals — reflecting the cultural diversity of the area and a broad range of organizations and agencies — were submitted. After a thorough evaluation and ratings process by a special multicultural evaluation team, grant requests were prioritized and selected for funding based on: agroforestry and urban forestry objectives; job training potential; job creation potential; and location.

Of the 33 selected grantee projects, 25 encompass urban forestry; 7 involve urban agroforestry; and one is a demonstration garden project with juvenile offenders. Twenty-nine were awarded to nonprofit groups; three to local government cities; and one to the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Success Stories

Grantees Join Forces to Provide Better Environment, Jobs, Hope.

As you read this, in a plot of ground in South Central Los Angeles — where **no** truce yet exists between gangs — rival Crips and Bloods gang members nonetheless work together — literally side by side — with opposing Latino gang members.

This positive and beneficial transition is occurring in the John Hope Continuation School's horticulture project — an Urban Greening Initiative \$200 thousand grantee.

"I've been dreaming about this grant for a long time," project director George Singleton says of the Urban Greening matching monies that have helped sustain his school's urban garden and mini-orchard program activities.

"We have tremendous problems in this area. This is probably the worst area in South Central Los Angeles," Singleton says.

Even so, within his project, young men and women learn self-esteem and valuable skills as they train and prepare for positions in urban and agro forestry fields. Several organizations have already promised to give his graduates **jobs**.

In addition, another Urban Greening Initiative grantee recently teamed up with Singleton's efforts. The Offspring Urban Farms, a group that offers juvenile offenders the opportunity to learn skills in demonstration gardens, has joined forces with the John Hope Continuation School's horticulture project.

When youth have completed their incarceration time, they now have an opportunity to return to school and work at John Hope.

Likewise, Urban Greening Initiative grantee Alice Callaghan, director of Las Familias del Pueblo — an organization dedicated to providing housing to Los Angeles' skid row residents — has joined hands with fellow grantee LA Conservation Corps.

The two groups have collaborated to plant 40 trees in a desolate portion of the city's skid row area.

"Many street people approached us and expressed excitement over the idea of planting trees in their concrete jungle," says Callaghan. "I'm ecstatic that a government agency cared enough to try and bring the forest to those who could not reach it."

Examples of grantees and their proposed projects

The Pacific Asian Consortium

Improve existing agroforestry project. Adds three part-time employees. Will impact 30 families by providing food, green, and open space. Match is almost 40 to 1.

Search to Involve Philippino Americans

Agroforestry involving 40 youth in tree care and horticulture training; 200 youth, 12 senior citizens in environmental education; 7 partners.

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center for Developmentally Disabled Persons

Urban forestry project employing 20 people for 40 weeks.

Guatemala Support Network

Agroforestry, environmental education for 100 youth.

Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

Agroforestry demonstration project for community groups. Matched 3 to 1.

KARE (Kids Army to Rescue the Earth)

School project to create park. 75-plus students educated and trained. Materials, labor donated.

Aviva Center

Agroforestry and urban forestry at residential treatment center for abused and neglected children. Conduct training in citizen forestry.

Melrose Hill Neighborhood

Street trees and neighborhood involvement for 29 trees.

Korean Youth Center

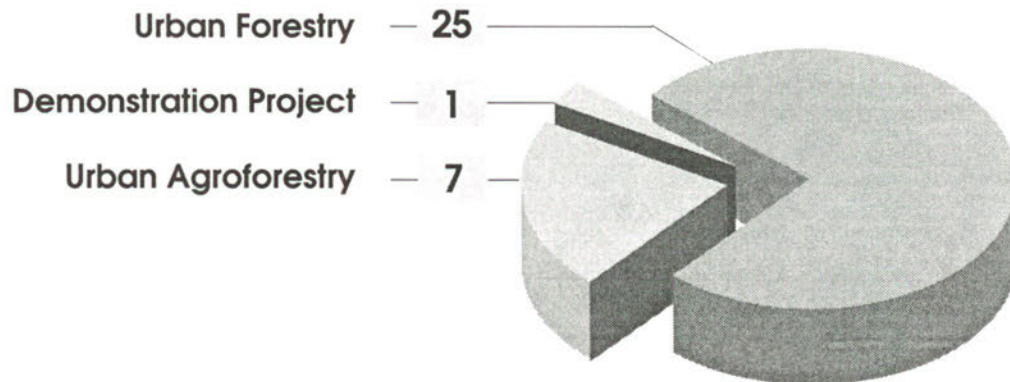
Urban forestry, youth operated. Planting trees in "Korea Town". Impacts 6,000 youth annually. Proposed project activities include networking with Los Angeles Latino youth group.

Faithful Central Missionary Baptist Church

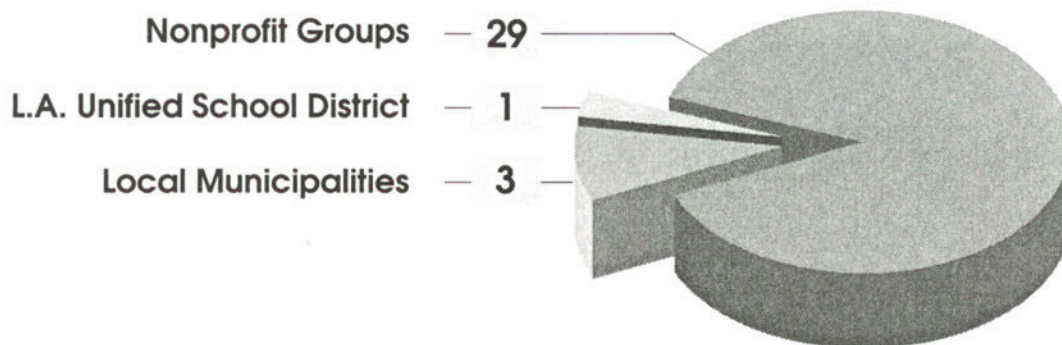
Involves 300 children in environmental education program, and on-the-job training for 10 in transitional living facility.

Urban Greening Projects Distribution

Nature of Project



Grant Recipients



Urban Greening Initiative: Grant Review and Evaluation Process

A seven-member multicultural, ethnically diverse review team was charged with screening the 86 proposals. The team was comprised of Hispanic, Korean, African-American, Laotian, and Caucasian members of the USDA Forest Service.

All grant application projects were plotted on a map to verify they originated in one of Los Angeles' 16 disturbance impacted communities. In this manner, an equitable geographic distribution of grantees was ensured.

"We are keeping all the grant requests that were not selected," explains John Ronald, the Forest Service's *Urban Greening Initiative* Program Manager. "And, we're sharing these requests with the various other umbrella agencies. We haven't ignored these grant requests."

Ronald said the Forest Service continues to seek additional funding from both public and private sources to assist with these remaining project proposals. As part of honoring this Forest Service commitment to try and ascertain more dollars for more of these projects, the non-selected applicants have also been informed about the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and California Releaf's sources of other urban forestry grant funds.

Follow-up

The Forest Service, State and Private Forestry branch, in partnership with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, is responsible for follow-up, project monitoring, and evaluation of the 33 selected projects. Rebuild LA also continues to search for ways to further assist these groups.

In addition, LA Harvest will hire one or more persons from the impact area to monitor the grantee's project progress and potential problems, and to provide feedback for project tracking and future assistance.

These efforts will provide better ground service for the grantees, while maintaining up-to-date grant status information.

III Opportunity LA



Quoth Webster:

“Opportunity — A good chance or occasion, as to advance oneself.”

“It feels good to work again. There’s lots of different people out here. But we all work together and show each other respect.”

Rick Rodriquez, 40
Opportunity LA Employee
(unemployed seven months prior to this program’s availability)

“It’s always good to get some experience. The more you know, the better chance you have of getting a job. You also get some self-esteem back for yourself.”

James Lee, 35
Unemployed truck driver
Opportunity LA Employee

Opportunity LA — Training, Jobs, Hope

Just four weeks after the April, 1992 Los Angeles civil disturbances, the USDA Forest Service had launched a full scale employment opportunity and job skills training program targeted to the city’s unemployed population.

Appropriately named **Opportunity LA**, the undertaking — along with its Forest Service partner effort **Urban Greening Initiative** — served as an important strategy in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Presidential Task Force on the Los Angeles recovery efforts.

In the wake of the violent outbreak of urban unrest, this immediate \$5.8 million mission went into quick action to help mobilize the city’s rebuilding process by providing its residents meaningful employment and future job skills. Moreover, the program offered training and skill-building tasks that the 647-total **Opportunity LA** participants took back to their communities.

In addition, the program proved beneficial to the Forest Service by helping reduce a large backlog of necessary work projects on four Southern California national forests. These tasks represented a myriad of Forest Service responsibilities, including: facility repair; recreation site and trail maintenance; clerical and accounting needs; erosion control and watershed improvement; fire suppression; surveying; and visitor information staffing and services.

“The work accomplished by the **Opportunity LA** participants was of great quantity, good quality, and at a substantial cost savings to the Forest Service,” reports Larry Edmond, member of the **Opportunity LA** Forest Service administration team. “Carpenters, electricians, mechanics and masons remodeled interiors of buildings, built structures and repaired existing facilities. Acting as assistants, **Opportunity LA** clerical employees provided essential office support in personnel, logistics, finance, and public affairs.”

The six-month employment and job skills program, while open to all people 18 years and older, was aimed towards 18-25 year-olds — the population hit with the highest Los Angeles-area unemployment statistics. The program’s employee roster, however, eventually spanned from 18 to 63-year-olds.

Opportunity LA participants received from \$6.68 to \$9.34 per hour and were guaranteed 40 hours of work each week.

Logistically, numerous pick-up points were located throughout the city — to which **Opportunity LA** employees walked, drove, or rode busses. The Forest Service provided charter busses that collected people from these locations and transported them to five various “drop zones” — from which employees were then shuttled to their specific work sites. (Typically, an **Opportunity LA** employee could leave for work at 4 a.m. and not be home until 6 p.m.)

Job Recruitment Blitzkrieg: An Overwhelming Response

“Nobody could believe that there were really jobs. Everyone in my neighborhood thought it was a hoax. I had been wastin’ time and goin’ nowhere fast. At first, I was the only one in my neighborhood to check this out (Opportunity LA**). And when I actually got a job, all of my friends were shocked.”**

Richard Watson, 24
South Central Los Angeles resident
Opportunity LA Employee

"One young man said that he had not slept the night before because he was afraid he wouldn't wake up in time to get to the job. Another told me that he got up at 4:30 a.m. so he could be sure to make all his bus connections. All the people who spoke with me said that they were glad to get to work.

Another man said he filled out at least 40 applications and the Forest Service was the only organization that offered him employment. Though many of the people have spent little or no time in a forest environment, the overall comments I hear again and again are that people are happy to be working. They said they were ready to do anything the job required."

Judy Behrens, USDA Forest Service
Public Affairs Officer
Angeles National Forest

An intensive two-week job recruitment blitzkrieg by a special 14-member Forest Service team included circulating 5,000 informational fliers in four languages (Spanish, Korean, Chinese and English) throughout the city's civil unrest impacted and high unemployment areas — ensuring all Los Angeles area residents had an opportunity to participate. In addition, 65 organizations — including grass roots community groups with special sensitivities to the area's needs — were contacted to help with distribution.

The effort reaped an overwhelming response.

A total of 2,200 people submitted applications for the initially available 560 **Opportunity LA** positions. The Forest Service made a concerted effort to ensure that the application process was as user-friendly as possible — accepting simple resumes for the initial application, then assisting applicants in properly completing the traditional (and sometimes cumbersome) "SF 171 Application for Federal Employment" form. Forest Service personnel, in conjunction with Office of Personnel Management specialists, worked seven days a week to process the applications as quickly as possible.

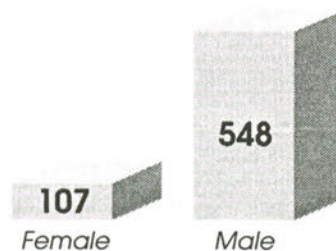
Demographics: A Diverse Cross Section

The **Opportunity LA** hirees represented a fairly diverse cross section of age and ethnic backgrounds from both sexes. They also shared an equally wide range of skills and experiences. (See adjacent chart for specific demographics.)

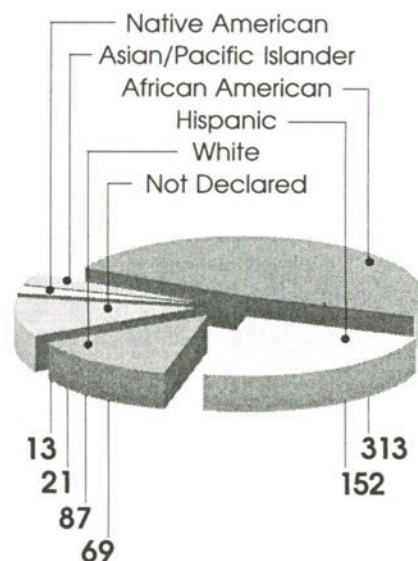
Opportunity LA Employees Race, Gender, National Origin

Gender	Race/National Origin	Hired	Finish
Male	Native American	12	8
	Asian/Pacific Islander	18	12
	African American	254	179
	Hispanic	141	97
	White	72	51
	Not Declared	51	43
	Total	548	390
Female	Native American	1	1
	Asian/Pacific Islander	3	2
	African American	59	51
	Hispanic	11	8
	White	15	11
	Not Declared	18	11
	Total	107	84
Both	Native American	13	9
	Asian/Pacific Islander	21	14
	African American	313	230
	Hispanic	152	105
	White	87	62
	Not Declared	69	54
	Total	655	474

Gender of Participants



Race/National Origin



Developing Skills — *Providing Hope*

"This program is giving me a lot of hope. It's the best thing I ever did. I filled an application out on Tuesday, and they called me Thursday. I have so much gratitude for this government."

Barry Stewart, 50
Salvation Army shelter resident
Opportunity LA Employee

"Having a good job like this keeps you straight and out of trouble. There are no jobs in the city — just McDonalds and selling peanuts on the freeway. If that's all there is, I'll probably fall back into drugs and gangs."

Ricardo Sanchez, 22
East Los Angeles resident
Opportunity LA Employee

Ongoing activities and training were designed to develop skills in these temporary **Opportunity LA** employees that could lead to permanent jobs back in the community.

Program employees acquired a diversity of job skills and training, including: career hunting, job interview and resume writing techniques; supervisory training; clerical skills; fire fighting training and experience; first aid and CPR; vehicle maintenance; chainsaw operation; masonry skills; roofing; and general construction.

State of California Employee Development Department representatives also visited with **Opportunity LA** employees just prior to the program's Dec. 18, 1992 completion, to match available skills to existing positions, and to establish unemployment profiles on interested individuals.

In December, as the program came to a close, networks put out the word that a pool of skilled employees was available. USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) coordinated with the Forest Service to notify all **Opportunity LA** alumni of fifty available positions within the Los Angeles area.

At this same time, the Los Angeles Free Clinic contacted the Forest Service requesting a list of potential job applicants for an opening in its Project STEP, a federal grant-funded program operated through the Hollywood Beautification Project. (Through an earlier **Urban Greening Initiative** grant workshop, the Free Clinic agency had learned that the **Opportunity LA** employee pool listing would still be available after the program's conclusion.)

Likewise, other ***Urban Greening Initiative*** grantees have offered to hire departing ***Opportunity LA*** personnel. This beneficial networking system illustrates a satisfying connection between the two programs initiated at the ***Urban Greening Initiative*** grant recipient workshops and continued at the ***Opportunity LA*** Job Fair.

More than 25 partner organizations offered volunteer assistance to help make this employment mobilization a success. Contributors — who later received Forest Service certificates of merit in a special appreciation ceremony — saved the government more than \$300,000.

"Nobody should be scared of us. We're just up here to work. I want to be a fireman. That would be a good job, and this will hopefully get me a good recommendation."

Fernando Gonzales
Opportunity LA Employee

"Some of our jobs are boring, like picking up picnic ground trash. Some are hot and tedious, like chopping weeds on tree plantations. Some are exciting, like driving far on a dirt road to reach a wilderness trailhead. And some of the jobs are fun, like clearing up rock dams from a creek so native fish might have a better chance of surviving."

All the jobs are important, and we're glad to be doing something positive for the forest."

Anton Sommer
Opportunity LA Employee

A Temporary, Positive, Productive Environment

A total of 647 people were hired — in stages — throughout the six-month **Opportunity LA** program.

At the program's Dec. 18 conclusion, 445 people were still employed. Several program employees worked on until Jan. 13, 1993, to perform close-out activities.

As previously stated, the **Opportunity LA** program was **not** designed to offer permanent job placement for its participants. Rather, it was intended to create a temporary positive, productive environment where citizens of the riot-impacted areas could train, improve their job resumes, and earn a living as their communities likewise recuperated and rehabilitated.

The program successfully provided an opportunity for people to get on with their lives in the wake of the unrest. **It was never intended to serve as a final solution.** Therefore, the overall results, effects and long-term benefits of this program cannot be easily determined at this time. Future sociological studies will eventually reveal the program's long-term net impacts.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

IV Conclusion - Amazement and Appreciation



"The last few days have been so exciting. We've been developing a video on the Urban Greening Initiative project – driving the streets of Los Angeles, meeting with grant recipients and video taping their preliminary efforts. The experience has been incredibly gratifying. The people we have met and interviewed are deeply committed to their projects and the people they are assisting. They all expressed amazement and appreciation at the responsiveness of the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture in contributing to the Los Angeles recovery effort."

Randi R. Jorgensen,
USDA Forest Service
Public Affairs Specialist
Angeles National Forest

Where Do We Go From Here?

The success of both of these programs was centered on:

- ☛ Funding targeted specifically for these programs
- ☛ A willingness to innovate, simplify, and not necessarily do it "the way we always have."

No single program can cure the ills that led to the uprising in Los Angeles. Yet, if allowed to continue and encouraged, programs such as these can serve as much more than mere Band-Aids.

Opportunity LA and the **Urban Greening Initiative** have proven to be catalysts that bring people together and get them talking and working for a common goal. These efforts have truly helped empower the community, generated enthusiasm, and raised expectations.

Now, it is imperative that we keep this momentum moving forward.

Both of these innovative undertakings will receive ongoing evaluation aimed at sharing and applying lessons learned with future efforts.

The seeds for a restored and improved inner-city Los Angeles have been planted. Further support of these and similar programs will provide the nourishment that will allow these seeds of hope to actually flower and grow.

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ECO-TEAMS

A New Approach to Litter Prevention
and Environmental Education



A Cooperative Effort of California Environmental Project
and the United States Forest Service

ECO-TEAMS, otherwise known as Ecology Education Teams, were created through a partnership between the California Environmental Project (CEP) and the United States Forest Service. The partnership is also made possible through previously existing agreements between CEP and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and between the U.S. Forest Service and the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. Parking fees collected by Los Angeles County currently represent the primary funding source for the program. The objectives of the ECO-TEAM program include:

- Protecting public health, safety and environmental quality.
- Communicating directly with forest users about the negative effects of litter and other human impacts on the natural environment.
- Distributing trash bags and other information about forest rules and regulations, wildlife and vegetation, history and recreational opportunities to forest users.
- Providing for the regular maintenance of heavily used forest areas.
- Educating the public on resource ethics.
- Creating environmental jobs.
- Providing valuable work experience for volunteers, inner-city youth, students and other participants.
- Instilling a sense of ownership and responsibility for the protection of public lands among participants and forest users.
- Assisting the Forest Service in maintaining a high quality resource for the benefit of the community and the environment.

How it Began

Previous to the formation of the ECO-TEAMS, CEP organized numerous volunteer clean-ups in San Gabriel Canyon involving volunteers, community groups and the Forest Service. CEP has organized scores of environmental clean-up, restoration and education projects all over southern California including other Ranger Districts in the Angeles National Forest.

Following a year of volunteer efforts to clean-up and restore areas of the canyon, CEP and the Forest Service began discussing the concept of direct public contacts. CEP volunteers and crews were convinced that education and communication were critical elements in maintaining a high level of quality of the resources in our National Forests.

Results

CEP's partnership with the Forest Service officially began in May of 1992. As of November 1, 1992 the program appears to be a success. The canyon is cleaner than it has been in a number of years and it's staying that way. The following lists some of the results and benefits of the first six months of the partnership which includes ECO-TEAMS and volunteer clean-up efforts.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount*</u>	<u>Recycled?</u>
Trash	1,800 Bags	no
Aluminum	200 Pounds	yes
Glass	2,500 Pounds	yes
Diapers	4,000	no
Plastic	150 Pounds	yes
Tires	25	yes

*Estimated

Other results and benefits of the ECO-TEAM program include:

- A forty-eight percent increase in parking permit purchases over the previous year.
- Forest users packing out an estimated five hundred ECO-TEAM supplied trash bags.
- Direct contact made with over twenty-five thousand visitors to San Gabriel Canyon.
- An overwhelmingly positive response from forest users, canyon businesses, residents and Forest Service staff.
- A visibly more attractive, less littered National Forest.

Additional benefits include:

- Fire prevention through direct public contact education.
- Accident prevention through health and safety education.
- Improved water quality.
- Increased public awareness and education on resource ethics.
- Positive experiences for ECO-TEAMS, forest visitors, students and volunteers.
- Reduction of human activities that are degrading to the forest environment.
- Providing economic assistance to inner-city minority participants in a direct, cost-effective way to the Forest Service and thus the tax-payers.
- Increased public awareness through CEP educational presentations and media.



Program Participants

The cost-share agreement between CEP and the Forest Service has brought together a wide variety of elements in the community for the common goal of caring for the land. The following lists some of the primary partnership participants and contributors:

U.S.. Forest Service
California Environmental Project
Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
Occidental College
TransAmerica Life Companies
Stephen S. Wise Middle School
Cub Scouts of America
Crossroads School
L.A. WORKS
Asuza Light and Water Department
Temple Adat Ari El
Pressman Academy
University of California Los Angeles



A Model for the Nation

CEP believes that the **ECO-TEAM** program can be replicated in many other forest and park areas around the nation. While litter may not be as serious of a problem in some areas as it is in San Gabriel Canyon, other information addressing the issues and problems in any given area can be effectively communicated directly to user populations via **ECO-TEAMS**.

The **ECO-TEAM** program represents an efficient, cost-effective mechanism for restoring damaged or degraded areas, educating the public, creating environmental jobs and encouraging wise stewardship and the sensitive treatment of our precious natural resources.





(ECO-TEAM poses for a "photo-op" before they hit the Canyon)



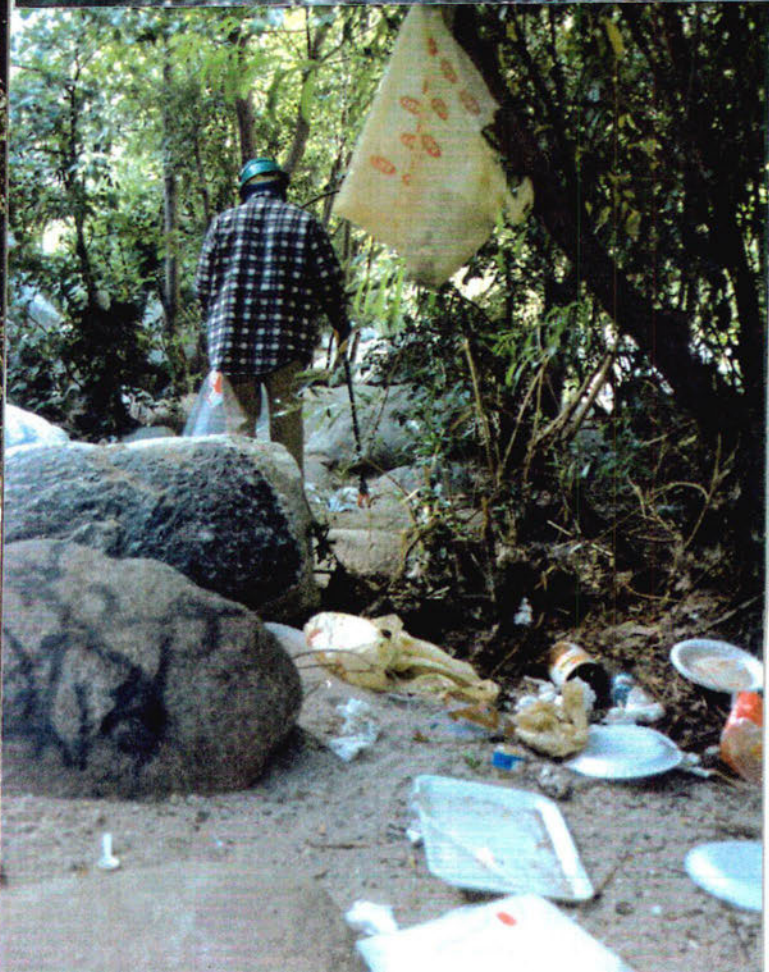
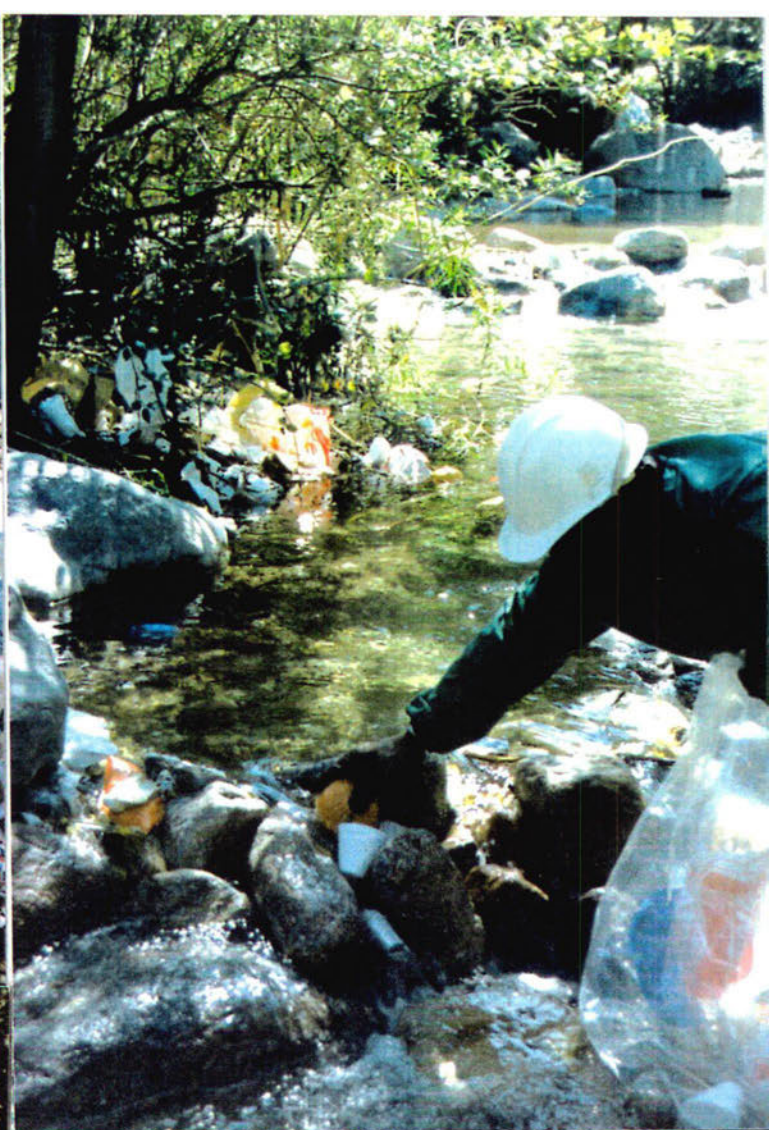
(Everything about the teams is bi-lingual, right down to their tee shirts)



(ECO-TEAM contacts the 22nd Street Gang,
who are "signing" their "tag")



(Contact is made with an "extended family" in San Gabriel Canyon)



Daily News

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 1992

'Eco-teams' help visitors' behavior in national forest

By Laurence Darmiento
Daily News Staff Writer

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST — Martha Rodriguez believes that little can surprise her about the behavior of picnickers and other visitors to the forest.

This summer, Rodriguez has watched forest visitors wash their hair and bodies in streams, toss litter and chop down trees. She even confronted a man about to kill a harmless snake he thought was threatening his wife.

But the 20-year-old Los Angeles woman also believes that urban residents, unfamiliar with wilderness but seeking a haven from their concrete surroundings, often just need a little education.

"Most of the people out there just don't know anything," Rodriguez said. "But when we tell about what they should do, some people have attitudes, but most take it pretty good."

Rodriguez is a member of one of the U.S. Forest Service's "eco-teams," groups sent out this summer to tell recreational users of the forest how to co-exist with nature.

Rodriguez works primarily in the area near the San Gabriel River. The river's north, east and west forks, above the San Gabriel Reservoir, are among the heaviest-used recreation areas in the forest, drawing up to 25,000 people on a hot Sunday, said Roger Richcreek, a forest service spokesman.

"We have two established picnic grounds in the area. One has a capacity of about 80 people. The other is really a trail head for trails going into Bear Canyon," Richcreek said. "This canyon has a long history of overuse, and it's a

problem that is not going to go away."

Without enough full-time staff members to handle the visitors, Richcreek said the Forest service entered into an agreement with the California Environmental Project to send eco-teams into the area on weekends. The program started May 1 and will end next April.

Scott Mathes, director of the nonprofit environmental organization, said five to seven teams have been fanning out each weekend into the San Gabriel River canyon, armed only with courtesy trash bags.

Mathes helped conceive the teams after he realized that mass cleanups of the canyon by his organization were not solving the problem.

"We thought that the only way to change the behavior of the public was by talking to them, educating them," Mathes said. "The authority trip doesn't work very well for people. They will see a ranger and put their stuff away, and act very good for five minutes."

Members of the eco-teams are largely drawn from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, a nonprofit group that offers conservation-oriented jobs to young people.

Mathes said that teams, which consist of two to three people, receive a day's training on forest regulations and how to deal with the public. At least one member of the teams must be bilingual, as most of the canyon's users are Latino.

Mathes said he hopes to expand the project into other heavily used forest canyons.



In the San Gabriel River in the Angeles National Forest, visitors relax on a Saturday afternoon.

Tim Gannon/Daily News

THE HERALD Azusa

Azusa's only hometown newspaper

Volume 105 No. 45

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2 Sections

28 Pages



Staff photos / Daniel Sexton

EcoTeam member Maria Diego (left photo) works through one of the piles of trash left behind after a typical busy weekend in San Gabriel Canyon. Peter Martinez explains to canyon visitors the hazards of drinking stream water. Rivers in the canyon have developed high bacteria counts from human waste and rotting garbage.

ECOTEAMS

From 1

The Forest Service, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and the California Environmental Project have joined forces to create EcoTeams — groups of young, mostly bilingual, Angelenos whose job is to educate visi-

tors in the canyon to what CEP Executive Director Scott Mathes calls "environmental ethics." In short, how to take care of your canyon, and yourself while you're in it.

"The only way to change people's behavior is by communicating with them in a meaningful way," Mathes said. "Not as authority figures, but as brothers."

Since May 18, Conservation Corps workers have been

trained in the duties of the EcoTeams, telling canyon visitors, many of whom speak only Spanish, about the dangers of drinking river water and encouraging them to clean up after themselves before they leave the mountains. Mathes said the corps, which concentrates on urban environmental projects and recycling programs, was the perfect place from which to draw committed watchdogs for the



Canyon visitors greeted with environmental ethics

By Jim Bourne
Staff Writer

Join the crowds who make weekend trips up Highway 39 into Azusa Canyon and you'll see some of the usual sights: roadside parking areas clogged with vehicles, swimmers frolicking in the gently gurgling waters of the San Gabriel River, families cooking (sometimes illegally) in the shade of trees or tents on the river banks.

Some other scenes might be less expected, and a whole lot more disturbing: a mother half burying her baby's soiled diaper at the riverside or casually stuffing it underneath a bush, whole families drinking river water and risking bacterial diseases like giardiasis, visitors leaving behind mounds of trash that the next family just sweeps off to the

side before starting to create their own mess.

The San Gabriel Mountains and Angeles National Forest are among the most popular vacation and day trip spots in the western United States, a relatively cheap and scenically spectacular getaway for many people for whom Disneyland is a financial impossibility. Unfortunately, the popularity of the area just over the hills from Azusa, Glendora and San Dimas has made it a wilderness garbage dump as well.

The undermanned U.S. Forest Service does not have the resources to eyeball and ticket all litterers, but a new group on the scene is taking an original approach to keeping the canyon clean.

Please see ECOTEAMS / 5

canyon.

"The people we want are people who want to make a difference in the environment," he said. "It's a real grass roots way of educating people."

Financed by a \$20,000 grant from the Forest Service, EcoTeam members are trained in environmental ethics and communication skills before being sent into the canyon on weekends, where they work in pairs.

Daily News

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1993

Eco-teams learn to patrol Angeles forest for trash

By Susan B. Postema
Daily News Staff Writer

On a recent mountain bike trip into Tujunga Canyon, Luis Cuadrado of Glendale was horrified by what he saw — five 5-gallon drums of toxic paint remover dumped 200 yards from a mountain stream. The area had become a collection point for other trash.

"It was the most irresponsible thing I've seen in a while," said Cuadrado, 28. "I couldn't take it anymore. I had to do something."

Cuadrado, along with 27 other Los Angeles County residents, decided to spend two days training to

become part of the U.S. National Forest Service's "eco-teams." The groups will be sent out this summer to tell park visitors about forest regulations and proper care of the environment.

This is the second year of the program, which also is coordinated by the California Environmental Project. Last year, team members contacted more than 25,000 visitors in the San Gabriel Canyon and distributed about 2,000 bags to collect trash, officials said.

Because the program was so successful, it will be expanded from the San Gabriel Canyon to all recreation centers in the Angeles Na-

tional Forest this summer, said Tom Spencer, a forest recreation officer.

"We're very excited about the program, because we haven't had a way to contact this many people face to face," Spencer said. "We couldn't do that on our own because we haven't been able to hire in recent years. Signs don't necessarily work. People need that personal interaction."

Scott Mathes, director of the nonprofit environmental project, said he created the teams after realizing that cleanups by his group were not solving the problem.

"Talking is one of the most effective

ways to encourage heightened awareness and to change people's behavior," Mathes said. "When you get the public involved in maintaining areas, conditions start to improve because they become watchdogs for an area."

Members are drawn largely from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, a nonprofit group that offers conservation-oriented jobs to young people. At least one of member of the team is bilingual, since many of the 30 million annual visitors to the forest are Latino, Spencer said.

Anyone interested in joining should call (818) 500-1025.



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Scott Mathes
Executive Director
(818) 500-1025

“ECO-TEAMS” ON PATROL TO PROTECT LOCAL FORESTS

Tired of finding that someone else's garbage has beaten you to a tree-lined picnic spot? Disgusted by seeing disposable diapers floating in forest streams? Angry about the careless pollution of water sources and habitat?

Then take heart: **ECO-TEAMS** are on patrol! Armed with garbage bags and environmental education, ECO-TEAMS tackle trash before it happens by employing a simple idea: clean up the forest by getting the public to clean its own mess.

ECO-TEAMS are proving to be a highly successful experiment in forest protection, bringing with them cleaner canyons and streams, increased environmental awareness and even jobs. This cost-effective program of public contact and environmental education may become a model for forests across the nation.

On **Sunday, August 30th**, members of the press are invited to observe the ECO-TEAMS in action as they make their weekend patrols in the Angeles National Forest. Seven different ECO-TEAMS will be operating, giving a wide variety of contacts and locales to see. The patrols will begin at 11:00 a.m. in heavily-visited San Gabriel Canyon.

This will be a very busy weekend in the forest, and can provide a good preview story on the up-coming Labor Day weekend, traditionally one of the busiest, and most polluting, of the year. Interested press members should meet at the San Gabriel Canyon **Forest Service entrance station**, just 1 mile beyond Asuza on **highway 39** at **10:30 AM**. Late arrivals can be accommodated.

ECO-TEAMS, officially known as San Gabriel Canyon Ecology Education Teams, are a first-in-the-nation cooperative effort that has already had a dramatic affect on how people use and view the forest. A joint venture of the U.S. Forest Service and the California Environmental Project (CEP), and using crews mainly provided to CEP by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), ECO-TEAMS are a creative approach to tackling a thorny series of problems: how to keep heavily-used forest areas clean when visitation is way up and Forest Service resources are down.

ECO-TEAMS patrol heavily-used forest locations on foot, contacting hundreds of forest

visitors each patrol day. They not only hand out garbage bags and encourage their use, but also explain to people why protecting the forest is so important. Often this message of "caring" and why it's necessary has never reached the forest visitors involved. ECO-TEAMS also give people important advice and information regarding health and safety issues such as: water pollution, fire regulations, emergency information, and other rules and regulations designed to protect land and water resources from degradation.

Trained as "environmental educators" by the California Environmental Project and the U.S. Forest Service, and using LACC workers as well as CEP volunteers, this multi-lingual program of direct contact forest education has been highly successful. Part of the reason for that success is that CEP has strongly recruited ECO-TEAM crew members from among inner-city L.A. communities. Not only do they personally gain a greater understanding of the forest ecosystem and why it needs to be preserved, but they're also ideal messengers to share that understanding with today's ethnically diverse forest visitors. For ECO-TEAM members, the program offers them a paid apprenticeship program, a chance to interact with forest users, and an opportunity to gain skills and experience that will help them with a future career in the environmental field.

How did it start? Like all good ideas, from necessity. CEP is a non-profit organization founded in response to the degradation and abuse of environmentally sensitive areas. But after performing many clean-ups in the San Gabriel Canyon area, CEP, along with the Forest Service, realized more was necessary. Without any changes in how people were treating the forest, many recently cleaned sites were quickly filling back up with human debris and pollution.

The ECO-TEAMS concept was born to solve that. Now CEP continues its on-going clean-up activities, while also operating the ECO-TEAMS under contract to the Forest Service. And since much of the funding comes from the Los Angeles County parking permit fees paid by San Gabriel Canyon visitors, the public gets to see that part of what they pay goes to keep the forest clean.

So come spend a day in the forest, and find out how a low-cost program to help the public take responsibility for their own resources is working in San Gabriel Canyon.

- For additional information, please contact Scott Mathes, Executive Director of CEP, at (818) 500-1025; or Tom Spencer or Shawn Jerzykowski with the Mt. Baldy Ranger District of the Angeles National Forest at (818) 335-1251.

* ECO-TEAMS are being mobilized practically every weekend (Saturdays and/or Sundays). If August 30th isn't convenient please contact CEP for ECO-TEAM schedule.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

2032 Eden Avenue Glendale, California 91206 (818) 500-1025

Partners for Youth Forest Camps



Your partnership can change the course of a young person's life.

From . . .

- High risk of failure
- Low self-esteem
- No skills, no hope

To . . .

- High chance of success
- Improved self-esteem
- Job skills, new hope for future jobs





Youth Forest Camps

Ever seen a group of teenage street-wise urban boys crying with joy and hugging each other after meeting only two weeks earlier?

Impossible you say? You can see this scene countless times when you visit graduation day at a privately sponsored outdoor camp in the Sequoia National Forest where inner city youth have rediscovered themselves, found pride in hard work, and learned new skills. These young people are crying because they have realized their potential; they have experienced opportunity!

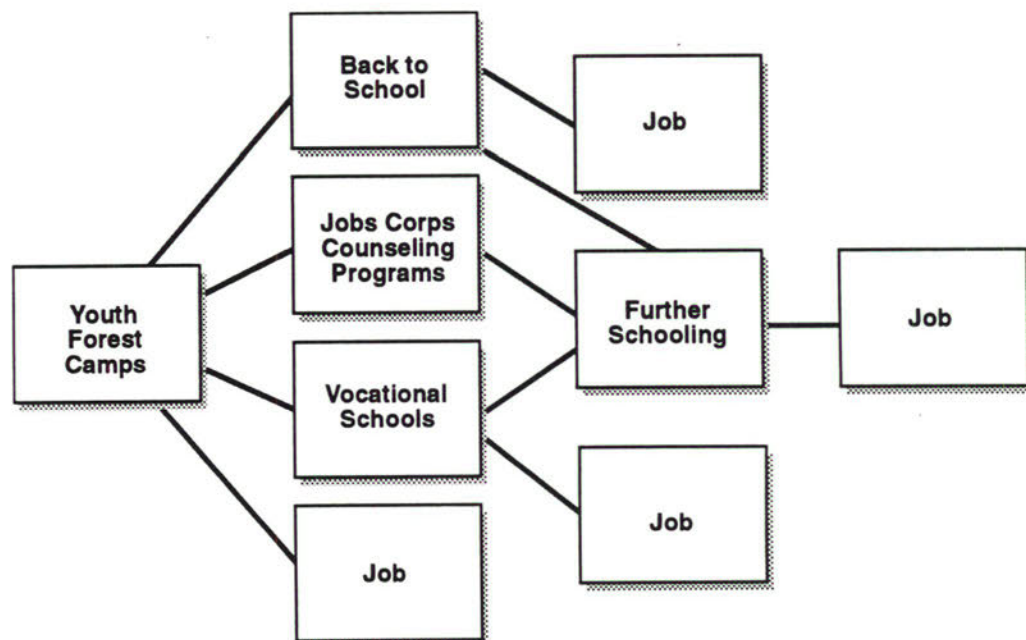
Overview of Youth Forest Camps:

- ▶ **Where are these youth camps?**
The Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation are setting up 3 Youth Forest Camps in the states of Washington, Oregon and Virginia.
- ▶ **Who qualifies?**
Youth at-risk, ages 15-18, males and females.
- ▶ **What will the young people receive?**
Job training, skills and pay for working in the outdoors; work ethics and basic social skill experiences; discipline and confidence; and learning about the environment.
- ▶ **What will these young people receive at graduation?**
Jobs and job skills; greater self esteem; and incentives to stay in school, gain further training, or enter a skilled profession.
- ▶ **Who will run the camps?**
Professional project leaders, teachers, counselors, mentors and volunteers from national and local companies and organizations, the Forest Service, and the National Forest Foundation. Not all camps will be the same. Each camp will be designed to address the local communities' needs with a flexible approach, much the same way the original 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) programs operated. These camps will be different from past ones because of the partnership between the federal government, the National Forest Foundation, community leaders and the private sector. The Forest Service has 60 years of established success using these kinds of programs and is the government leader in developing partnerships. These are pilot camps that will continue as part of the Forest Service's ongoing youth programs.

Long Range Goal for Youth Forest Camps

The ultimate goal is for youth to learn marketable skills so that they are gainfully employed adults. All students that graduate from a Youth Forest Camp will be prepared for the next step – the skills and commitment to further their education at Job Corps Centers, the military, state technical and vocational schools, and career counseling centers — and ultimately, a job. They will also carry away a set of work ethics, self discipline, self esteem and other important life skills to help them continue as a productive contributor to society.

Future Opportunities for Youth Leaving Youth Forest Camps



The program will include a follow-up tracking and incentive package to move the youth through this process.

Partnerships are Needed for Youth Forest Camps

Why support Youth Forest Camps?

The vision of establishing Youth Forest Camps is based on the continuing need to provide training and jobs for thousands of unemployed youth, at-risk in urban and rural communities. The number of unemployed people in the United States during June 1992 reached 9.3 million or 7.8 percent. Unemployment rates have approached 50 percent among various ethnic neighborhoods in inner cities and on Indian Reservations. Labor Statistics from Department of Labor do not list those who no longer actively seek employment.

Why is the Forest Service interested?

A huge backlog exists of unfunded environmental and infrastructure work on public lands. American youth can work, learn and earn on jobs such as tree planting, carpentry, fence repair, fire fighting, stream restoration, surveying and mapping, data collection, trail building, and habitat restoration. For each dollar invested in these camps, nearly two dollars worth of work will be completed.

The National Forest Foundation

The **National Forest Foundation**, created by Congress, has a charter to:

- ▶ Encourage, accept and administer private gifts of money or other contributions-in-kind for the benefit of Forest Service activities.
 - ▶ Conduct activities that further the mission of the Forest Service.
 - ▶ Conduct educational, technical and other programs for Forest Service activities.
- With such a charter, the Youth Forest Camp program is tailor made for the National Forest Foundation.

Forest Service

The Forest Service has been practicing conservation of America's public lands for 100 years. The agency, located in the Department of Agriculture, balances uses such as wilderness, timber, wildlife, watershed, recreation and range on 191 million acres of land in 43 states. Six hundred million visits were made to National Forests last year, making the Forest Service the number one provider of outdoor recreation in the world. The Forest Service is internationally reknown for firefighting expertise; experience in timber management and research; the largest tree planting operation in the world; and a wide-variety of unlimited opportunities for recreation on 115,000 miles of trails; 4,200 campgrounds; and 33 million acres of wildemesses equal to the size of Arkansas.

The Forest Service has a long history of managing conservation work programs. The Forest Service was one of the leading agencies in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) that employed thousands of workers in conservation work during the hard economic times of the 1930's. The Forest Service has 28 years of experience in running Job Corps Conservation Centers and 22 years of experience in running Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Camps. In 1992, the Forest Service operated 18 Job Corps Centers with over 9,000 enrollees.

Partnership Benefits

Youth Forest Camp

Youth	Forest Service	Public
Camp diploma	Repaired infrastructures	Improved recreation facilities
GED Preparation	Community support	Improved landscape
Work Ethics	Trained work force	Safer cities
Technical skills	Future employees	Trained & skilled workforce
On-the-job-training	Work done in outdoors	Lower unemployment
Compensation	Multicultural workforce	Environmentally aware publics
Self-respect	Improved landscape	Lower crime rate
Technical knowledge	Nearly \$2 million of unfunded work completed	Employees with work ethic
Team work skills		Culturally diverse workforce
Environmental awareness		Better Citizens
Future job prospects		Better environment

Youth Testimonials

Here's what campers say about Conservation Camps:



"My stay at camp has really changed my life! Just less than a week ago, some guys in my neighborhood offered me some drugs. I, of course, declined and I was thinking of you guys when I was about to decide not to. I have also started to pursue a career in one of the finest firefighting organizations in the nation—the LA F.D. When I was at camp, I learned to dream and to go out and take those dreams by the tail. I am trying really hard in school... Please, sirs, let me come back...It would mean so much to me. Humbly," **Anthony Fierro, 1992**



....."Camp taught me a lot, about how different people can be, and showed me places that I've never been to before. I learned how everybody has to cooperate and get along with each other to live in a place so long and so far away from home. Even on our job sites we had to study at least one hour or more about something in our environment. Camp is an experience that I think every kid should have and if I could, I would do it all over again; hopefully in the future I will get a chance to go back." **Shantel, 1992.**



....."I feel that the camp made a tremendous effect on me. It helped me to see that I can go beyond my limits I have set in my mind. I made friends with some very dear and special people, and I am very grateful for that. I would do the program 100 more times if I could. I'm grateful the program gave me the opportunities it did." **Margaret Barrett, 1992.**



....."I enjoyed my summer at Camp Cody last year. I believe that it was a very positive experience. It helped me learn how to cooperate with other people to make my work and my everyday living much more enjoyable. I hope the program is continued so that other youths can have the opportunity to experience it like I did." **Tim Hogenkamp, 1992.**

....."Camp was a great experience. I had fun throughout the summer. It is hard work and tiresome but the memories and things that you learn will last you a lifetime." **Jason LaFaver, 1992.**

....."I think camp is a great place to be. I would go back over and over again if that is possible. I learned a lot about the environment and to get along with those you dislike. The councillors (sic) are great, the work is hard but it is fun, and you feel good about it. People should go, you do good work for the forest and it makes you feel good to know you are doing something good for the future. I would recommend it to everyone and everyone to go and experience it. It is a once in a lifetime experience for everyone." **Shawna Edwards, 1992.**

Experts' Support of Youth Forest Camps

What experts say about the benefits of outdoor camps in changing negative behaviors of at-risk youth to positive ones:

The Camping Association defines organized camping as, "a sustained experience that provides a creative recreational and educational opportunity in group living out-of-doors. It utilizes trained leadership and the resources of natural surroundings to contribute to each camper's mental and physical, social and spiritual growth," (Kraus & Scanlin, 1983, *"Introduction to Camp Counseling"*, Englewood Cliffs Prentice-Hall, Inc.)

"The fact that camp claims the undivided attention of the camper day and night to an extent that neither home nor school, nor church nor gang can claim . . .

The fact that counselor-child relationships are often more natural and frank than the parent-child relationships . . .

The fact that the living situation is wholly natural with none of the artificiality of school. . . .

These factors combine to give great social potential to camping and eminence to its social role." (Camping Magazine, pp 23-24)

Everett Pigg, executive director of Camp Mountain Rest Drop-Out prevention program for youth at-risk, believes the camp setting is integral to their program's success. "We can put them in to a camp setting, hire a good sensitive staff who try to make learning fun, take away the threat of failure, give them job skills for life. It's amazing what improvements we see in such a short time... They're away from many of the influences that have gotten them where they are now." (*"Drop-Out Prevention, camp allows at-risk students to taste success"* by Kelly Gordon Moxley, *Camping Magazine*, Nov/Dec. 1992, page 29)

Recidivism is defined as a return to a juvenile or adult institution for a new offense. A study of juvenile offenders at an Outward Bound Camp before and afterwards revealed that, two years later, the group with the camp experience showed a significant decrease in recidivism compared to the control group who did not have the camping experience. "The Outward Bound group's rate remained at 20% while the control group's recidivism rate increased 42%. (*"Evaluating Outward Bound for Delinquent Youth"* by Theodore F. Wichmann, *Journal of Experimental Education*, Winter 1983, citing study by Kelley and Baer (1968))

David Charles Kolb, Director of an outdoor camp Discovery Program in Georgia concludes, "The overall self-esteem of the participants increased as did the personal perception of physical self and popularity . . . Similar to team sports, adventure activities engage the student physically as well as mentally and can influence self-esteem change. An important difference in adventure courses is that group and individual participation takes place in a "no-win, no-lose" context where the only feeling of competition is internal. A group living situation in a wilderness setting provides opportunities in which an individual can excel in a variety of areas: Overcoming fear, cooperating, organizing, showing compassion, demonstrating responsibility, following directions, solving problems, demonstrating leadership, as well as showing physical ability." (*"Self-Esteem Change and Mandatory Experimental Education" by David Charles Kolb, the Journal of Experiential Education, Fall, 1988*)

Another research article about the positive effects of a camping experience concludes that there is "strong evidence that therapeutic wilderness programs are effective." However, many "compare the impact of the wilderness experience to electricity; we know it works but we are not sure why" (Kimball, 1979). The author applied three tests to provide more quantitative data: the Wichmann-Andrew Behavior Intervention Scale, the Means-Ends Problem Solving Procedure, and the Instructor Checklist of Expectations for Youths at Risk. The conclusion from these tests proved that the program that was tested "significantly reduced asocial behavior Therapeutic wilderness programs increase self-esteem and reduce asocial behavior, and we are beginning to understand how and why." (*"Of Wilderness and Circles: Evaluating a Therapeutic Model for Wilderness Adventure Programs" by Dr. Ted Wichmann, the Journal of Experiential Education, August, 1991.*)

The Pilot Camps

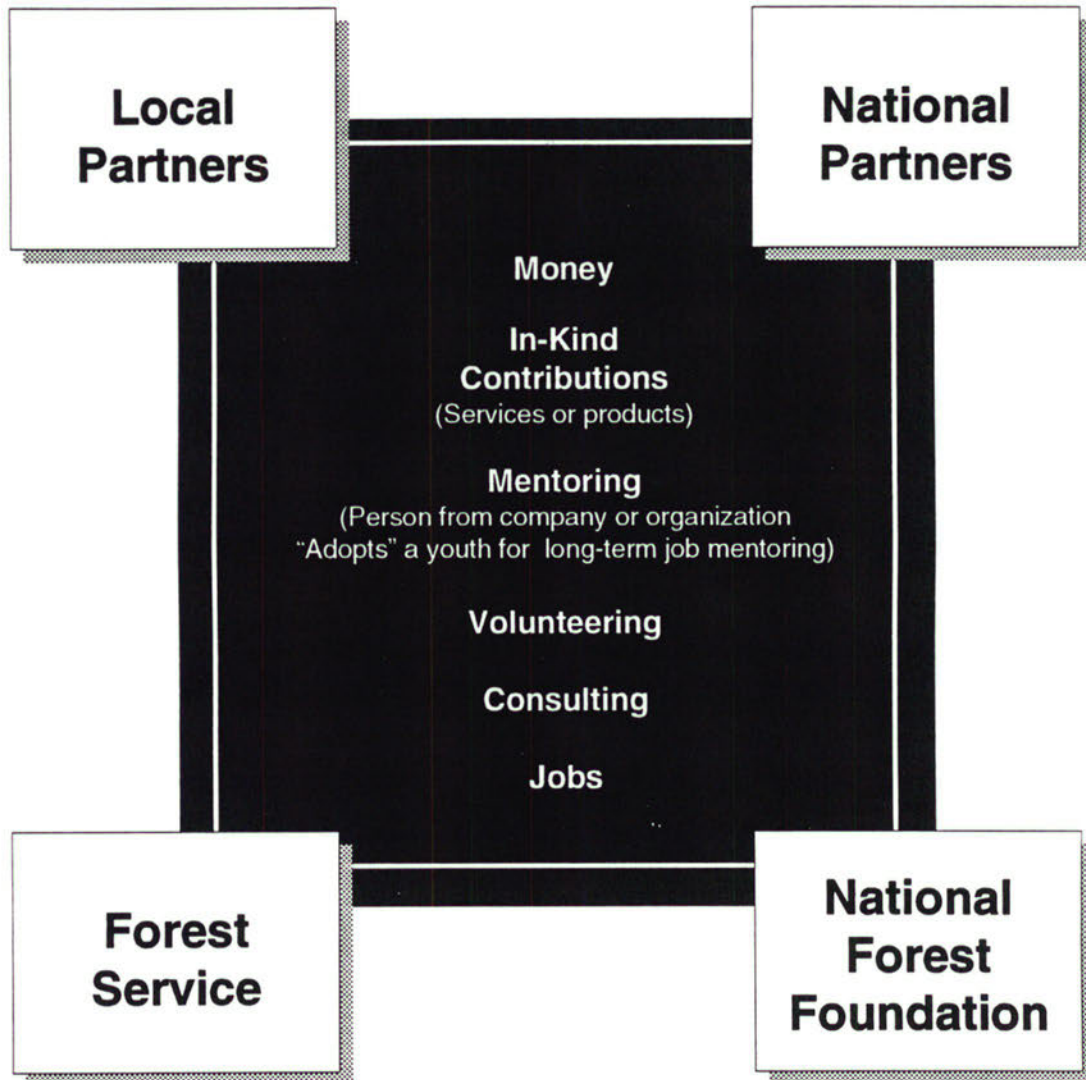
Name: Location: State:	Mt. Adams Gifford Pinchot NF Washington	Camp Cody Mt. Hood NF Oregon	Camp Augusta Springs George Washington NF Virginia
Positions; ages number	15-18 80 co-ed	15-18 72 co-ed	15-18 48 co-ed
Types of Work:	Trail building Improved Recreation Fence building Carpentry Map surveying	Riparian improvements Habitat Improvement Fence building Carpentry Tree planting	Environmental education Recreation improvement Erosion Control Carpentry Tree planting

Camp Basics

Duration of Camp	An 8 week session + a 10 week session for 18 weeks total.
Emphasis Programs:	Math and Science, Analytical skills, Team Work, Self-respect, Environmental Awareness, Social Stability.
Facilities:	Existing Forest Service Camps.
Skills Emphasis:	Life skills, Power tools, Financial skills, Partnerships, Work Ethics, Job Skills.
Life Skills:	Health, financial skills including cooking, checkbook balancing, frugal shopping, eating healthy, conflict resolution and living within a budget.
Camp Supervision:	Constant supervision by trained and certified counselors. Camps will offer health screening, counseling, job interview practice and application training, basic reading and writing skills, environmental education, evening and weekend activities, salaries, and work ethic training.

Partners for Youth Forest Camps

How Can Partners Be Involved?



Here's What Leaders Say About Youth Camps:

President Franklin Roosevelt, two days after his inauguration in 1933, announced, "I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work, not interfering with normal employment, and confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control, and similar projects. More important, however, than the material gains, will be the moral and spiritual value of such work. The overwhelming majority of unemployed Americans, who are now walking the streets and receiving private or public relief would infinitely prefer to work. We can take a vast army of these unemployed out into healthful surroundings. We can eliminate to some extent at least the threat that enforced idleness brings to spiritual and moral stability. It is not a panacea for all the unemployment, but it is an essential step..." In 1932, 25% of young men between the ages of 15-24 were unemployed.

President Bill Clinton, quoted in an interview by Times Mirror Magazines, November, 1992, says, "I will also support a civilian conservation corps to raise environmental awareness among America's young people, to put young people to work on constructive projects, and to protect our natural resources. ...America's public land managers face a huge backlog of maintenance and repair—trails have eroded and camping facilities, picnic areas, and boat ramps have fallen into disrepair. I support a new civilian conservation corps as a low-cost way to restore infrastructure on public lands, while inspiring civic pride and responsibility."

Don Kendall, founder of PepsiCo and Chairman of the National Forest Foundation, says, "Youth Forest Camps are a great partnership for America's future. Your support will benefit American youth, American public land, and American cities and communities. The Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation have already committed time, people, money, and facilities to the Youth Forest Camps. The National Forest Foundation needs to raise \$1,000,000 to open the three pilot camps this spring, and give 200 young people an experience that will change their lives. Your contribution and your partnership will mean success for young people and a better trained and prepared American workforce. We need your help to begin a long and growing list of new camps, new beginning for young people, and new partnerships to make better citizens. These camps are a win-win arrangement for all involved. Your support is returned and can be measured in benefits to American youth, American public land, and our American cities."

Contributions Needed for 1993 Camps

- ▶ 200 youths
\$5,000 per youth*
\$1,000,000 from partners.
- ▶ The camps will need in-kind contributions of services and materials.
- ▶ The Forest Service has contributed \$150,000 for administrative costs such as insurance, supervision of work projects, and contracting. The agency will also provide the existing camp sites and facilities.
- ▶ Contributions for multiple year sponsorship of the camps are encouraged.

* Includes Educational Credit Voucher valued at \$500.00 for completion of the program. Student would submit a receipt for expenses incurred at Community College, Trade School, Tutorial Assistance, Adult Education Classes, etc., for reimbursement by the National Forest Foundation up to \$500.00 limit per positon.

In-Kind Contributions Possible from Partners

Materials and Supplies:	Lumber, posts, fence wire, rip rap, hardware, campstoves, food
Equipment:	Personal protective gear (hardhats, gloves, goggles), boots, clothing (T-shirts, jackets, jeans, socks), hand and power tools for field and shop projects
Transportation:	Vehicles/buses, drivers, mileage/gas
Education/Training:	Televisions/VCR's, instructional material, mentoring, volun- teering, job training/internship, scholarships, testing and evaluation