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Conservation Corps Minnesota

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<http://www.conservationcorps.org/>

AT A GLANCE

Conservation Corps Minnesota, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, provides youth (ages 15-18) and young adults (ages 18 to 25), with hands-on service-learning opportunities that improve access to outdoor recreation, restore habitat, protect water waterways, and respond to natural disasters.

In 2019, 208 Young Adult participants received education awards after completing service:

- 133 field crew participants working in natural resource management.
- 22 individuals serving with various natural resource agencies and non-profits.
- 53 participants serving as youth leaders for summer and afterschool youth programs.

189 Youth participants earned wages or a stipend restoring resources and gaining job skills:

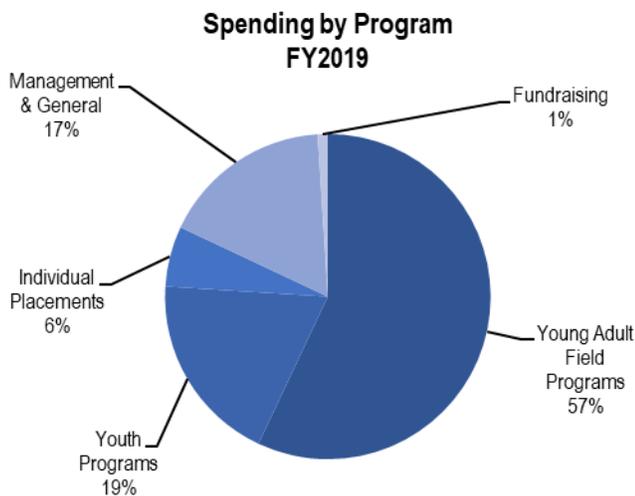
- 89 youth who serving as part of the rural residential Summer Youth Corps
- 100 youth who serving in an afterschool program providing job training, science education, and outdoor service-learning for participants from low-income urban communities.

PURPOSE

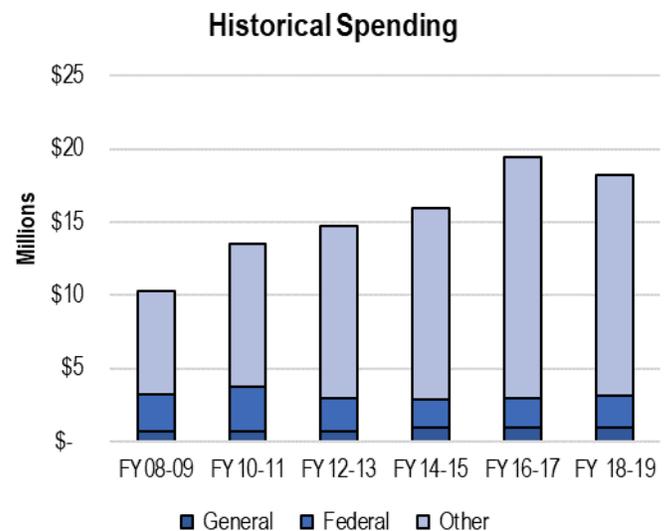
Conservation Corps Minnesota’s purpose is to help young people from diverse backgrounds become more connected to natural resources and the environment, promote their equitable access to nature, equip them to succeed in career and life, and empower them to make a difference in conserving natural resources.

Conservation Corps Minnesota’s mission is to engage youth and young adults in meaningful service, leadership development, and environmental stewardship. The organization provides training to members in natural resource management, technical skills, and job readiness and helps develop personal responsibility and a strong work ethic.

BUDGET



Source: Conservation Corps’ Audited Financial Statements



Source: Conservation Corps’ Audited Financial Statements

Despite a diverse funding base, fee-for-service revenue supports more than 73 percent of Conservation Corps’ expenses and serve as the primary funding source for the young adult service programs in combination with

federal funding. Youth programs also derive revenue from fee-for-service contracts but rely more heavily on individual giving, private foundations, corporate contributions, and government grants. Fee-for-service partners include federal, state, local and nonprofit partners. General funds include state appropriations. Federal funds include grants awarded through AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Other funding also includes various state and local grants and funding, private foundation, corporate and individual giving, and miscellaneous.

STRATEGIES

Throughout Conservation Corps' five program areas, young people are involved in hands-on, service-learning activities that protect, enhance natural resources, and promote workforce skills and readiness.

1. **AmeriCorps Field Crew program** for young adults, ages 18-25, includes non-residential crews in northern, central, and southern Minnesota that engage young adults in natural resource management and disaster response work from February to December. Crew members receive a monthly stipend, health insurance, and an education award for college expenses. Beside career and work-skills training, members receive certifications in wildfire suppression, defensive driving, chainsaw safety and first aid.
2. **AmeriCorps Single Placement program** for young adults, ages 18-25, provides positions as natural resource and community outreach specialists at natural resource agencies and nonprofit organizations, from February to December. In addition, Apprentice Academy program during the summer provides apprentice service opportunities with Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Single Placement members receive a monthly stipend, health insurance, and an education award for college expenses.
3. **Youth Outdoors**, an afterschool service-learning program for Twin Cities youth, serves predominantly youth, (ages 15-18), from low-income households. Youth receive an hourly training-wage, participate for one academic semester at a time, meet two days a week after school and on Saturdays to explore science and the environment and complete projects to improve local public parks, and restore natural resources and native habitat. Summer opportunities are also available. Youth in this program, 90 percent of whom are people of color, are predominantly from low income communities and high schools in the Twin Cities. This program engages young adult AmeriCorps members as youth leaders.
4. **Summer Youth Corps** residential program serves youth, (ages 15-18), and engages young adult AmeriCorps members (18-24) as youth leaders, in environmental restoration field crew-oriented work in national and state forests for two summer sessions. Participants, —about 10 percent of whom are deaf or hard of hearing— receive a living stipend as well as room and board. Youth Leaders at the residential program, receive a monthly stipend, health insurance, and an education award for college expenses.
5. **Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers (IDEC)** engages college students pursuing STEM degrees who are interested in a career in natural resources. Established in 2018 and initiated in 2019, through partnership between the Conservation Corps, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, students participate in fellowships, mentorships, and paid internships. The program targets students from backgrounds typically underrepresented in natural resource careers, including women, people of color, and individuals with disabilities. Participants receive a fellowship payment to support academic expenses for the school year.

RESULTS

Type	Performance Measures	2018	2019
Output (quantity)	Number of youth and young adults engaged in job skills training, education and natural resource and conservation work	580	432
Output (quantity)	Hours of education/training provided to young people	56,541	45,625
Output (quantity)	Acres of habitat restored	47,469	42,705
Output (quantity)	Miles of trail restored	1,557	2,711
Outcome (result)	Percent of young people who gained workforce readiness skills including self-confidence, teamwork, and problem solving	86%	93%
Outcome (result)	Percent of young people who gained an appreciation for nature and protecting the environment	96%	94%
Outcome (result)	Number of college-age participants, from underrepresented communities, provided fellowships, mentorships, and paid internships served through IDEC program	N/A	16

Performance measures follow the calendar year in alignment with Conservation Corps' program schedule and fiscal year.

The legal authority for the Minnesota Conservation Corps is found in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 84, Section 991 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=84.991>.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY18	Actual FY19	Actual FY20	Estimate FY21	Forecast Base	
					FY22	FY23
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>						
1000 - General	455	455	455	455	455	455
2100 - Water Recreation	50	50	25	25	25	25
2101 - Snowmobile	75	75	75	75	75	75
2102 - All-Terrain Vehicle	50	50	50	50	50	50
2103 - Off-Highway Motorcycle	10	10	10	10	10	10
2104 - Off-Road Vehicle	30	30	30	30	30	30
2106 - State Park	150	150	125	125	125	125
2107 - State Pks & Trls Lott In Lieu	25	25	50	50	50	50
2112 - Invasive Species	25	25	40	40	40	40
2113 - Forest Management Investment	50	50	60	60	60	60
2116 - Cross Country Ski	15	15	15	15	15	15
2117 - Natural Resource Misc Statutory	10	10	10	10	10	10
Total	945	945	945	945	945	945
Biennial Change				0		0
Biennial % Change				0		0
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>						
Conservation Corps Mn	945	945	945	945	945	945
Total	945	945	945	945	945	945
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>						
Grants, Aids and Subsidies	945	945	945	945	945	945
Total	945	945	945	945	945	945

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY18	Actual FY19	Actual FY20	Estimate FY21	Forecast Base	
					FY22	FY23
1000 - General						
Direct Appropriation	455	455	455	455	455	455
Expenditures	455	455	455	455	455	455
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0

2100 - Water Recreation						
Direct Appropriation	50	50	25	25	25	25
Expenditures	50	50	25	25	25	25
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(50)		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				(50)		0

2101 - Snowmobile						
Direct Appropriation	75	75	75	75	75	75
Expenditures	75	75	75	75	75	75
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0

2102 - All-Terrain Vehicle						
Direct Appropriation	50	50	50	50	50	50
Expenditures	50	50	50	50	50	50
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0

2103 - Off-Highway Motorcycle						
Direct Appropriation	10	10	10	10	10	10
Expenditures	10	10	10	10	10	10
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0

2104 - Off-Road Vehicle						
Direct Appropriation	30	30	30	30	30	30
Expenditures	30	30	30	30	30	30

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY18	Actual FY19	Actual FY20	Estimate FY21	Forecast Base	
					FY22	FY23
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0

2106 - State Park

Direct Appropriation	150	150	125	125	125	125
Expenditures	150	150	125	125	125	125
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(50)		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				(17)		0

2107 - State Pks & Trls Lott In Lieu

Direct Appropriation	25	25	50	50	50	50
Expenditures	25	25	50	50	50	50
Biennial Change in Expenditures				50		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				100		0

2112 - Invasive Species

Direct Appropriation	25	25	40	40	40	40
Expenditures	25	25	40	40	40	40
Biennial Change in Expenditures				30		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				60		0

2113 - Forest Management Investment

Direct Appropriation	50	50	60	60	60	60
Expenditures	50	50	60	60	60	60
Biennial Change in Expenditures				20		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				20		0

2116 - Cross Country Ski

Direct Appropriation	15	15	15			
Transfers In				15	15	15
Expenditures	15	15	15	15	15	15
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base	
	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23

2117 - Natural Resource Misc Statutory

Direct Appropriation	10	10	10	10	10	10
Expenditures	10	10	10	10	10	10
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0

Conservation Corps Minnesota

Agency Change Summary

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	Biennium 2022-23
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2021 Appropriations	455	455	455	910
Forecast Base	455	455	455	910
Fund: 2100 - Water Recreation				
FY2021 Appropriations	25	25	25	50
Forecast Base	25	25	25	50
Fund: 2101 - Snowmobile				
FY2021 Appropriations	75	75	75	150
Forecast Base	75	75	75	150
Fund: 2102 - All-Terrain Vehicle				
FY2021 Appropriations	50	50	50	100
Forecast Base	50	50	50	100
Fund: 2103 - Off-Highway Motorcycle				
FY2021 Appropriations	10	10	10	20
Forecast Base	10	10	10	20
Fund: 2104 - Off-Road Vehicle				
FY2021 Appropriations	30	30	30	60
Forecast Base	30	30	30	60
Fund: 2106 - State Park				
FY2021 Appropriations	125	125	125	250
Forecast Base	125	125	125	250
Fund: 2107 - State Pks & Trls Lott In Lieu				
FY2021 Appropriations	50	50	50	100
Forecast Base	50	50	50	100
Fund: 2112 - Invasive Species				
FY2021 Appropriations	40	40	40	80
Forecast Base	40	40	40	80
Fund: 2113 - Forest Management Investment				
FY2021 Appropriations	60	60	60	120

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	Biennium 2022-23
Forecast Base	60	60	60	120
Fund: 2117 - Natural Resource Misc Statutory				
FY2021 Appropriations	10	10	10	20
Forecast Base	10	10	10	20