

Union Calendar No. 177

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1612

[Report No. 111-312, Part I]

To amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service-learning opportunities on public lands, help restore the Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources, train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts, and promote the value of public service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself and Mr. RAHALL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

OCTOBER 23, 2009

Additional sponsors: Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WALZ, Mr. MASSA, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. HONDA, Mr. EHLERS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. BACA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. HODES, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KISSELL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. DICKS,

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina,
and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois

OCTOBER 23, 2009

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with amendments

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

OCTOBER 23, 2009

Committees on Agriculture and Education and Labor discharged; committed
to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and or-
dered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 19, 2009]

A BILL

To amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service-learning opportunities on public lands, help restore the Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources, train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts, and promote the value of public service.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Public Lands Service*
5 *Corps Act of 2009”.*

6 **SEC. 2. REFERENCE.**

7 *Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in*
8 *this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of*
9 *an amendment to, or a repeal of, a section or other provi-*
10 *sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section*
11 *or other provision of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993*
12 *(16 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.; title II of Public Law 91–378).*

13 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC LANDS CORPS ACT**
14 **OF 1993.**

15 (a) **NAME AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION CHANGES.**—
16 *The Act is amended—*

17 (1) *by striking “Public Lands Corps” each place*
18 *it appears and inserting “Public Lands Service*
19 *Corps”;*

20 (2) *in the title heading, by striking “PUBLIC*
21 **LANDS CORPS”** *and inserting “PUBLIC*
22 **LANDS SERVICE CORPS”;**

23 (3) *in the section 204—*

1 (A) in the section heading, by striking
2 **“PUBLIC LANDS CORPS”** and inserting
3 **“PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS”**; and

4 (B) in the heading of subsection (a), by
5 striking *“PUBLIC LANDS CORPS”* and inserting
6 *“PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS”*;

7 (4) in the heading of paragraph (2) of section
8 210(a), by striking *“PUBLIC LANDS CORPS”* and in-
9 serting *“PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS”*;

10 (5) by striking *“conservation center”* each place
11 it appears and inserting *“residential conservation*
12 *center”*; and

13 (6) by striking *“appropriate conservation*
14 *projects”* each place it appears (except in paragraph
15 (1) of section 204(e) as so redesignated) and inserting
16 *“appropriate natural and cultural resources conserva-*
17 *tion projects”*.

18 (b) *FINDINGS.—Section 202(a) of the Act is amended*
19 *as follows:*

20 (1) *In paragraph (1), by striking “the natural*
21 *and cultural” and inserting “natural and cultural”.*

22 (2) *By redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as*
23 *paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively, and by inserting*
24 *after paragraph (1) the following:*

1 “(2) *Participants in conservation corps receive*
2 *meaningful training and their experience with such*
3 *corps provides preparation for careers in public serv-*
4 *ice.*”

5 “(3) *Young men and women who participate in*
6 *the rehabilitation and restoration of our Nation’s nat-*
7 *ural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational,*
8 *and scenic treasures will gain an increased apprecia-*
9 *tion and understanding of our public lands and herit-*
10 *age, and of the value of public service, and are likely*
11 *to become life-long advocates for those values.”.*

12 (3) *In paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), by in-*
13 *serting “, cultural, historic, archaeological, rec-*
14 *reational, and scenic” after “Many facilities and nat-*
15 *ural”.*

16 (4) *By adding at the end the following:*

17 “(6) *The work of conservation corps can benefit*
18 *communities adjacent to public lands and facilities*
19 *through renewed civic engagement and participation*
20 *by corps participants and those they serve; improved*
21 *student achievement; and restoration and rehabilita-*
22 *tion of public assets.”.*

23 (c) *PURPOSE.—Section 202(b) of the Act is amended*
24 *to read as follows:*

25 “(b) *PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—*

1 “(1) introduce young men and women to public
2 service while furthering their understanding and ap-
3 preciation of the Nation’s natural, cultural, historic,
4 archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources;

5 “(2) facilitate training and recruitment opportu-
6 nities in which service is credited as qualifying expe-
7 rience for careers in public land management;

8 “(3) instill in a new generation of young men
9 and women from across the Nation, including those
10 from diverse backgrounds, the desire to seek careers in
11 natural and cultural resource stewardship and public
12 service by allowing them to work directly with profes-
13 sionals in agencies responsible for the management of
14 the Nation’s natural, cultural, historic, archae-
15 ological, recreational, and scenic resources;

16 “(4) perform, in a cost-effective manner, appro-
17 priate natural and cultural resources conservation
18 projects where such projects are not being performed
19 by existing employees;

20 “(5) assist governments and Indian tribes in
21 performing research and public education tasks asso-
22 ciated with natural and cultural resources;

23 “(6) expand educational opportunities by re-
24 warding individuals who participate in national

1 *service with an increased ability to pursue higher*
2 *education or job training; and*

3 “(7) *promote public understanding and appre-*
4 *ciation of the individual missions and natural and*
5 *cultural resources conservation work of the Federal*
6 *agencies through training opportunities, community*
7 *service and outreach, and other appropriate means.”.*

8 *(d) DEFINITIONS.—Section 203 of the Act is amended*
9 *as follows:*

10 *(1) By amending paragraphs (1) and (2) to read*
11 *as follows:*

12 “(1) *APPROPRIATE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RE-*
13 *SOURCES CONSERVATION PROJECT.—The term ‘appro-*
14 *priate natural and cultural resources conservation*
15 *project’ means any project for the conservation, res-*
16 *toration, construction, or rehabilitation of natural,*
17 *cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, or sce-*
18 *nic resources.*

19 “(2) *CORPS AND PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE*
20 *CORPS.—The terms ‘Corps’ and ‘Public Lands Service*
21 *Corps’ mean the Public Lands Service Corps estab-*
22 *lished under section 204 of this title.”.*

23 *(2) By striking paragraphs (3) and (8).*

1 (3) *By redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6),*
2 *(7), (9), (10), (11), (12), and (13) as paragraphs (3)*
3 *through (11), respectively.*

4 (4) *By amending paragraph (7) (as so redesign-*
5 *ated) to read as follows:*

6 “(7) *PUBLIC LANDS.—The term ‘public lands’*
7 *means any lands or waters (or interest therein)*
8 *owned or administered by the United States, includ-*
9 *ing those areas of coastal and ocean waters, the Great*
10 *Lakes and their connecting waters, and submerged*
11 *lands over which the United States exercises jurisdic-*
12 *tion, except that such term does not include any In-*
13 *dian lands.”.*

14 (5) *In paragraph (8) (as so redesignated)—*

15 (A) *in subparagraph (B), by striking “and”*
16 *at the end;*

17 (B) *in subparagraph (C), by striking the*
18 *period and inserting “; and”; and*

19 (C) *by adding at the end the following:*

20 “(D) *makes available for audit for each fis-*
21 *cal year for which the qualified youth or con-*
22 *servation corps receives Federal funds under this*
23 *Act, information pertaining to the expenditure of*
24 *the funds, any matching funds, and participant*
25 *demographics.”.*

1 (6) *In paragraph (10) (as so redesignated)—*

2 (A) *in subparagraph (A), by striking “and”*
3 *at the end;*

4 (B) *in subparagraph (B), by striking the*
5 *period and inserting “; and”; and*

6 (C) *by adding at the end the following:*

7 “(C) *with respect to the National Marine*
8 *Sanctuary System, coral reefs, and other coastal,*
9 *estuarine, and marine habitats, and other lands*
10 *and facilities administered by the National Oce-*
11 *anic and Atmospheric Administration, the Sec-*
12 *retary of Commerce.”.*

13 (7) *By adding at the end the following:*

14 “(12) *RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION CENTERS.—*
15 *The term ‘residential conservation centers’ means the*
16 *facilities authorized under section 205.*

17 “(13) *CONSULTING INTERN.—The term ‘con-*
18 *sulting intern’ means a consulting intern selected*
19 *under section 206.*

20 “(14) *PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS PARTICI-*
21 *PANT.—The term ‘Public Lands Service Corps partic-*
22 *ipant’, ‘Corps participant’ or ‘participant of the*
23 *Corps’ means an individual who is enrolled in the*
24 *Public Lands Service Corps pursuant to section*
25 *204(b).”.*

1 (e) *PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM*.—*Sec-*
2 *tion 204 of the Act is amended as follows:*

3 (1) *In subsection (a)—*

4 (A) *in the heading, by adding at the end*
5 *“PROGRAM”;*

6 (B) *by striking “and the Department of Ag-*
7 *riculture a” and inserting “, the Department of*
8 *Agriculture, and the Department of Commerce a*
9 *service and training program titled the”;* and

10 (C) *by adding at the end the following:*
11 *“The Secretary of the Interior shall establish a*
12 *department-level office to coordinate Public*
13 *Lands Service Corps activities within the De-*
14 *partment of the Interior. The Secretary of Agri-*
15 *culture shall establish within the U.S. Forest*
16 *Service an office to coordinate Public Lands*
17 *Service Corps activities within that agency. The*
18 *Secretary of Commerce shall establish within the*
19 *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-*
20 *tion an office to coordinate Public Lands Service*
21 *Corps activities within that agency. The Sec-*
22 *retary of each department shall designate a Pub-*
23 *lic Lands Service Corps coordinator for each*
24 *agency within that department that administers*
25 *Public Lands Service Corps activities.”.*

1 (2) *By amending subsection (b) to read as fol-*
2 *lows:*

3 “(b) *PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary may enroll in the*
4 *Public Lands Service Corps individuals between the ages*
5 *of 16 and 25, inclusive, who are either hired by an agency*
6 *under the Secretary’s jurisdiction to perform work author-*
7 *ized under this Act or who are members of a qualified youth*
8 *or conservation corps with which the Secretary has entered*
9 *into a cooperative agreement to perform work authorized*
10 *under this Act. The Secretary may also enroll resource as-*
11 *sistants and consulting interns. All enrollees shall be consid-*
12 *ered Public Lands Service Corps participants, and may be*
13 *enrolled for a term of up to 24 months of service, which*
14 *may be served over more than two calendar years. The indi-*
15 *viduals may be enrolled without regard to the civil service*
16 *and classification laws, rules, or regulations of the United*
17 *States. The Secretary may establish a preference for the en-*
18 *rollment in the Corps of individuals who are economically,*
19 *physically, or educationally disadvantaged.”.*

20 (3) *In subsection (c)—*

21 (A) *in paragraph (1)—*

22 (i) *by striking “contracts and”;*

23 (ii) *by inserting “natural and cultural*
24 *resources” after “appropriate”; and*

1 (iii) by striking “subsection (d)” and
2 inserting “subsection (e)”;

3 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
4 paragraph (3);

5 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(2) *RECRUITMENT.*—The Secretary shall under-
8 take, or enter into cooperative agreements to provide,
9 a program to attract eligible youth to the Corps by
10 publicizing Corps opportunities through high schools,
11 colleges, employment centers, electronic media, and
12 other appropriate institutions or means.”; and

13 (D) by amending paragraph (3) (as so re-
14 designated) to read as follows:

15 “(3) *PREFERENCE.*—For purposes of entering
16 into cooperative agreements under paragraph (1), the
17 Secretary may give preference to qualified youth or
18 conservation corps located in a specific area that have
19 a substantial portion of members who are economi-
20 cally, physically, or educationally disadvantaged to
21 carry out projects within the area.”.

22 (4) By redesignating subsections (d) through (f)
23 as subsections (e) through (g), respectively.

24 (5) By inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(d) *TRAINING.*—*The Secretary shall establish a train-*
2 *ing program based at appropriate residential conservation*
3 *centers or at other suitable regional Federal or other appro-*
4 *priate facilities or sites to provide training for Corps par-*
5 *ticipants. The Secretary shall—*

6 “(1) *ensure that the duration and comprehen-*
7 *siveness of the training program shall be commensu-*
8 *rate with the projects Corps participants are expected*
9 *to undertake;*

10 “(2) *develop department-wide standards for the*
11 *program that include training in—*

12 “(A) *resource stewardship;*

13 “(B) *ethics for those in public service;*

14 “(C) *principles of national service;*

15 “(D) *health and safety;*

16 “(E) *teamwork and leadership; and*

17 “(F) *interpersonal communications;*

18 “(3) *direct each participating agency to develop*
19 *agency-specific training guidelines to ensure that*
20 *Corps participants enrolled to undertake projects for*
21 *that agency are appropriately informed about matters*
22 *specific to that agency, including—*

23 “(A) *the history and organization of the*
24 *agency;*

25 “(B) *the agency’s core values; and*

1 “(C) any agency-specific standards for the
2 management of natural, cultural, historic, ar-
3 chaeological, recreational, and scenic resources;
4 and

5 “(4) take into account training already received
6 by Corps participants enrolled from qualified youth
7 or conservation corps, including in the matters out-
8 lined in paragraph (2).”.

9 (6) In subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) by striking “The Secretary may
12 utilize the Corps or any qualified youth or
13 conservation corps to carry out appro-
14 priate” and inserting “The Secretary may
15 use Corps participants to carry out, under
16 appropriate supervision and training, ap-
17 propriate natural and cultural resource”;
18 and

19 (ii) by striking “law on public lands.”
20 and inserting the following: “law. Such
21 projects may include, but are not limited
22 to—

23 “(A) protection, restoration, or enhancement
24 of ecosystem components to promote species re-
25 covery, improve biological diversity, enhance

1 *productivity and carbon sequestration, and en-*
2 *hance adaptability and resilience of public lands*
3 *and resources in the face of climate change and*
4 *other natural and human disturbances;*

5 “(B) *promoting the health of forests and*
6 *public lands, refuges, and coastal and marine*
7 *areas, including—*

8 “(i) *protection and restoration of wa-*
9 *tersheds and forest, riparian, estuarine,*
10 *grassland, coral reef, intertidal, or other*
11 *habitat;*

12 “(ii) *reduction of wildfire risk and*
13 *mitigation of damage from insects, disease,*
14 *and disasters;*

15 “(iii) *erosion control;*

16 “(iv) *control or removal of invasive,*
17 *noxious, or non-native species; and*

18 “(v) *restoration of native species;*

19 “(C) *collection of biological, archaeological,*
20 *and other scientific data, including monitoring*
21 *of climatological information, species popu-*
22 *lations and movement, habitat status, and other*
23 *factors;*

24 “(D) *assisting in historical and cultural re-*
25 *search, archival and curatorial work, oral his-*

1 *tory projects, documentary photography, and ac-*
2 *tivities that support the creation of public works*
3 *of art related to public lands; and*

4 *“(E) construction, repair, rehabilitation,*
5 *green building retrofitting, and maintenance of*
6 *roads, trails, campgrounds, and other facilities,*
7 *employee housing, cultural and historic sites and*
8 *structures, and facilities that further the pur-*
9 *poses of the Public Lands Service Corps.”.*

10 *(B) By redesignating paragraphs (2) and*
11 *(3) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively.*

12 *(C) By inserting after paragraph (1) the*
13 *following:*

14 *“(2) VISITOR SERVICES.—The Secretary may—*

15 *“(A) enter into or amend an existing coop-*
16 *erative agreement with a cooperating associa-*
17 *tion, educational institute, friends group, or*
18 *similar nonprofit partner organization for the*
19 *purpose of providing training and work experi-*
20 *ence to Corps participants in areas including,*
21 *but not limited to, sales, office work, accounting,*
22 *and management provided that the work experi-*
23 *ence directly relates to the protection and man-*
24 *agement of the public lands; and*

1 “(B) allow Corps participants to help pro-
2 mote visitor safety and enjoyment of public
3 lands, and assist in the gathering of visitor use
4 data.

5 “(3) INTERPRETATION.—The Secretary may as-
6 sign Corps participants to provide interpretation or
7 education services for the public under the appro-
8 priate direction and supervision of agency personnel,
9 including—

10 “(A) providing orientation and information
11 services to visitors, including services for non-
12 English speaking visitors and visitors who use
13 American Sign Language;

14 “(B) assisting agency personnel in the de-
15 livery of interpretive or educational programs,
16 including outdoor learning and classroom learn-
17 ing;

18 “(C) presenting programs on Federal lands
19 or at schools, after-school programs, and youth-
20 serving community programs that relate the per-
21 sonal experience of the Corps participant for the
22 purpose of promoting public awareness of the
23 Corps, its role in public land management agen-
24 cies, and its availability to potential partici-
25 pants; and

1 “(D) *creating nonpersonal interpretive*
2 *products, such as Web site content, Junior Rang-*
3 *er program books, printed handouts, and audio-*
4 *visual programs.”.*

5 (D) *In paragraph (4) (as so redesignated),*
6 *by striking “Appropriate conservation projects”*
7 *and inserting “Appropriate natural and cultural*
8 *resources conservation projects”.*

9 (7) *In subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by*
10 *striking “appropriate conservation project” inserting*
11 *“appropriate natural and cultural resources conserva-*
12 *tion project”.*

13 (8) *By amending the text of subsection (f)(2) (as*
14 *so redesignated) to read as follows: “will instill in*
15 *Corps participants a work ethic and a sense of public*
16 *service;”.*

17 (9) *In subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by*
18 *striking “on eligible service lands”.*

19 (10) *By adding at the end the following:*

20 “(h) *OTHER PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary may*
21 *allow volunteers from other programs administered or des-*
22 *ignated by the Secretary to participate as volunteers in*
23 *projects carried out under this section on such terms as the*
24 *Secretary considers appropriate.”.*

1 (f) *RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION CENTERS AND PRO-*
2 *GRAM SUPPORT.*—Section 205 of the Act is amended as fol-
3 *lows:*

4 (1) *In the section heading, by striking “CON-*
5 *SERVATION” and inserting “RESIDENTIAL CON-*
6 *SERVATION”.*

7 (2) *In subsection (a)—*

8 (A) *by amending paragraph (1) to read as*
9 *follows:*

10 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary may establish*
11 *residential conservation centers for—*

12 (A) *such housing, food service, medical*
13 *care, transportation, and other services as the*
14 *Secretary deems necessary for the Public Lands*
15 *Service Corps; and*

16 (B) *the conduct of appropriate residential*
17 *conservation projects under this Act.”;*

18 (B) *by striking paragraph (2) and redesign-*
19 *ating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs*
20 *(2) and (3), respectively;*

21 (C) *in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated)—*

22 (i) *in the text, by inserting “residen-*
23 *tial” before “conservation centers”; and*

1 (ii) in the heading, by inserting “RESI-
2 DENTIAL” before “CONSERVATION CENTERS”;

3 and

4 (D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated),
5 by striking “with a State or” and inserting “a
6 cooperative agreement with another Federal,
7 State, or”.

8 (3) In subsection (b)—

9 (A) by striking “The Secretary” and insert-
10 ing the following:

11 “(1) The Secretary”; and

12 (B) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(2) The Secretary may make arrangements
14 with other Federal agencies, States, local governments,
15 or private organizations to provide temporary hous-
16 ing as needed and available.

17 “(3) In project areas where Corps participants
18 can reasonably be expected to reside at their own
19 homes, the Secretary may fund or provide transpor-
20 tation to and from project sites.”.

21 (4) By redesignating subsection (d) as subsection
22 (g).

23 (5) By inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(d) *FACILITIES.*—*The Secretary may, as an appro-*
2 *priate natural and cultural resources conservation project,*
3 *direct Corps participants to aid in the rehabilitation or*
4 *construction of residential conservation center facilities, in-*
5 *cluding housing.*

6 “(e) *GREEN BUILDINGS.*—*The Secretary may seek the*
7 *assistance of the Secretary of Energy in identifying and*
8 *using solar and other green building technologies and mod-*
9 *ular housing designs that may be adapted for residential*
10 *conservation center facilities, including—*

11 “(1) *designs from the Department of Energy’s*
12 *Solar Decathlon competition; and*

13 “(2) *logistical support, assistance, and training*
14 *from Solar Decathlon participants.*

15 “(f) *MENTORS.*—*The Secretary may recruit from pro-*
16 *grams, such as agency volunteer programs, and from agency*
17 *retirees, veterans groups, military retirees, active duty per-*
18 *sonnel, and from appropriate youth-serving organizations,*
19 *such adults as may be suitable and qualified to provide*
20 *training, mentoring, and crew-leading services to Corps*
21 *participants.”.*

22 (6) *In subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by*
23 *striking “are appropriate to carry out this title” and*
24 *inserting “the Secretary determines to be necessary*
25 *for the residential conservation center”.*

1 (g) *RESOURCE ASSISTANTS AND CONSULTING IN-*
2 *TERNS.*—Section 206 of the Act is amended as follows:

3 (1) *In the section heading, by inserting “**AND***
4 ***CONSULTING INTERNS**” before the period.*

5 (2) *In subsection (a), by striking “The Secretary*
6 *is authorized to provide individual placements of re-*
7 *source” and inserting the following: “The Secretary is*
8 *authorized, to provide individual placements of the*
9 *following:*

10 *“(1) Resource”.*

11 (3) *By inserting after subsection (a)(1) (as so*
12 *designated), the following:*

13 *“(2) Consulting interns with any Federal land,*
14 *coastal, or ocean management agency under the juris-*
15 *isdiction of the Secretary to carry out management*
16 *analysis activities on behalf of the agency. To be eligi-*
17 *ble for selection as a consulting intern, an individual*
18 *must be a current enrollee and have completed at*
19 *least one full year at a graduate or professional school*
20 *that has been accredited by an accrediting body that*
21 *has been recognized by the Secretary of Education.*
22 *The Secretary may select consulting interns without*
23 *regard to the civil service and classification laws,*
24 *rules, or regulations of the United States.”.*

25 (4) *In subsection (b)—*

1 (A) by inserting “or consulting interns” be-
2 fore “through private sources”;

3 (B) in the second sentence, before the period,
4 by inserting “; up to 15 percent may be in-
5 kind”; and

6 (C) by striking “Resource Assistants” and
7 inserting “resource assistants or consulting in-
8 terns”.

9 (5) By adding at the end the following:

10 “(c) *COST SHARING REQUIREMENTS.*—At the Sec-
11 retary’s discretion, the requirements for cost sharing appli-
12 cable to participating nonprofit organizations for the ex-
13 penses of resource assistants and consulting interns under
14 subsection (b) may be reduced to not less than 10 percent.”.

15 (h) *TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.*—The Act is amended by
16 redesignating sections 207, 208, 209, 210, and 211 as sec-
17 tions 208, 209, 210, 211, and 212, respectively.

18 (i) *GUIDANCE.*—The Act is amended by inserting after
19 section 206 the following:

20 **“SEC. 207. GUIDANCE.**

21 *“Not later than 18 months after funds are made avail-
22 able for this purpose, the Secretaries shall issue guidelines
23 for the management of the Public Lands Service Corps pro-
24 grams for use by regional and State directors, and the su-*

1 *pervisors of individual parks, forests, districts, sanctuaries,*
2 *reserves, hatcheries, and refuges.”.*

3 (j) *LIVING ALLOWANCES AND TERMS OF SERVICE.*—

4 *Section 208 of the Act (as so redesignated) is amended—*

5 (1) *by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-*
6 *lows:*

7 “(a) *LIVING ALLOWANCES.*—*The Secretary shall pro-*
8 *vide each Corps participant with a living allowance in an*
9 *amount established by the Secretary. The Secretary may—*

10 (1) *apply a cost-of-living differential to such al-*
11 *lowances; and*

12 (2) *reimburse Corps participants for travel*
13 *costs at the beginning and end of their term of service*
14 *if the Secretary deems appropriate.”;*

15 (2) *by amending the text of subsection (b) to*
16 *read as follows: “Each Corp participant shall agree*
17 *to participate in the Corps for such term of service*
18 *as may be established by the Secretary enrolling or se-*
19 *lecting the individual.”;*

20 (3) *in the heading of subsection (c), by adding*
21 *at the end “PREFERENCE AND FUTURE EMPLOY-*
22 *MENT”;* and

23 (4) *in subsection (c)—*

24 (A) *by amending paragraphs (1) and (2) to*
25 *read as follows:*

1 “(1) grant to a participant of the Public Lands
2 Service Corps credit for service time in the Corps to
3 be used as qualifying experience toward future Fed-
4 eral hiring;

5 “(2) provide to a former participant of the Pub-
6 lic Lands Service Corps noncompetitive hiring status
7 for a period of not more than two years after the date
8 on which the participant’s service with the Public
9 Lands Service Corps is complete (not counting any
10 time spent enrolled in an academic institution or
11 trade school), if the candidate—

12 “(A) has served a minimum of 960 hours on
13 an appropriate natural or cultural resource con-
14 servation project that included at least 120 hours
15 through the Public Lands Service Corps; and

16 “(B) meets Office of Personnel Management
17 qualification standards for the position to which
18 the candidate is applying;”; and

19 (B) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(3) develop a system to provide consideration
21 for participants who cannot meet the requirements of
22 paragraph (2);

23 “(4) provide to an individual who has success-
24 fully fulfilled the resource assistant program non-
25 competitive hiring status for a period of not more

1 *than two years after the date on which the individual*
2 *has completed an undergraduate degree from an ac-*
3 *credited institution;*

4 *“(5) provide to an individual who has success-*
5 *fully fulfilled the consulting internship program non-*
6 *competitive hiring status for a period of not more*
7 *than two years after the date on which the individual*
8 *has completed a graduate degree from an accredited*
9 *institution; and*

10 *“(6) provide, or enter into cooperative agree-*
11 *ments with qualified employment agencies to provide,*
12 *alumni services such as job and education counseling,*
13 *referrals, verification of service, communications, and*
14 *other appropriate services to participants who have*
15 *completed their Corps service.”.*

16 *(k) NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—Sec-*
17 *tion 209 of the Act (as so redesignated) is amended—*

18 *(1) in subsection (a), by striking “If a” and all*
19 *that follows through “shall be eligible” and inserting*
20 *“If a Corps participant also serves in an approved*
21 *national service position designated under subtitle C*
22 *of title I of the National and Community Service Act*
23 *of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12571 et seq.), the Corps partici-*
24 *part shall be eligible”;* and

25 *(2) in subsection (b), by striking—*

1 (A) “either participants in the Corps or re-
2 source assistants” and inserting “participants in
3 the Corps” ; and

4 (B) “or a resource assistant”.

5 (l) *NONDISPLACEMENT*.—Section 210 of the Act (as so
6 redesignated) is amended to read as follows:

7 **“SEC. 210. NONDISPLACEMENT.**

8 *“The nondisplacement requirements of the National
9 and Community Service Act of 1990 shall be applicable to
10 all activities carried out by the Public Lands Service Corps
11 participants.”.*

12 (m) *FUNDING*.—Section 211 of the Act (as so redesign-
13 ated) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

15 (A) by striking “appropriate conservation
16 project” each place it appears and inserting “ap-
17 propriate natural and cultural resources con-
18 servation project”; and

19 (B) by adding at the end the following:

20 *“The Secretary may reduce to no less than 10
21 percent the non-Federal costs of a project when
22 the Secretary determines that it is necessary to
23 enable participation in the Public Lands Service
24 Corps from a greater range of organizations.”;*
25 and

1 (2) *in subsection (b)*—

2 (A) *by inserting “program” after “Corps”;*

3 *and*

4 (B) *by inserting “, consulting interns” be-*
5 *fore “and qualified youth”.*

6 (n) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section*
7 *212 of the Act (as so redesignated) is amended—*

8 (1) *in subsection (a), by inserting “to the Sec-*
9 *retary” after “authorized to be appropriated”;*

10 (2) *in subsection (a), by striking “to carry out”*
11 *the first place it appears and all that follows through*
12 *the period and inserting “such sums as may be nec-*
13 *essary to carry out this title.”;*

14 (3) *by striking subsection (b); and*

15 (4) *by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection*
16 *(b).*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service opportunities for young Americans; help restore the nation’s natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational and scenic resources; train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts; and promote the value of public service.”.

Union Calendar No. 177

111TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 1612

[Report No. 111-312, Part I]

A BILL

To amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service-learning opportunities on public lands, help restore the Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources, train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts, and promote the value of public service.

OCTOBER 23, 2009

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with amendments

OCTOBER 23, 2009

Committees on Agriculture and Education and Labor discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed