

PART I - FACE SHEET

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE		1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction														
Modified Standard Form 424 (Rev.02/07 to confirm to the Corporation's eGrants System)																
2a. DATE SUBMITTED TO CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS):	3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE: 20-JAN-11	STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER:														
2b. APPLICATION ID: 11AC124295	4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY:	FEDERAL IDENTIFIER: 09ACHCA0010005														
5. APPLICATION INFORMATION																
LEGAL NAME: San Bernardino National Forest Association DUNS NUMBER: ADDRESS (give street address, city, state, zip code and county): 602 S. Tippecanoe Ave San Bernardino CA 92408 - 2607 County:	NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR OR OTHER PERSON TO BE CONTACTED ON MATTERS INVOLVING THIS APPLICATION (give area codes): NAME: Sandy Bonilla TELEPHONE NUMBER: (909) 963-8172 FAX NUMBER: (909) 866-1781 INTERNET E-MAIL ADDRESS: sandybonilla1@yahoo.com															
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 330556414	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: 7a. Non-Profit 7b. Volunteer Management Organization															
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION (Check appropriate box). <input type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> NEW/PREVIOUS GRANTE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONTINUATION <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT If Amendment, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es): <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> A. AUGMENTATION B. BUDGET REVISION C. NO COST EXTENSION D. OTHER (specify below):	9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service															
10a. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER:94.006 10b. TITLE: AmeriCorps State	11.a. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: Forest Aid Corps															
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (List Cities, Counties, States, etc): Inland Empire of Southern California -- San Bernardino County, Riverside County and Inyo County	11.b. CNCS PROGRAM INITIATIVE (IF ANY):															
13. PROPOSED PROJECT: START DATE: 11/14/11 END DATE: 10/24/12	14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF: a.Applicant <input type="text" value="CA 041"/> b.Program <input type="text" value="CA 041"/>															
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING: Year #: <input type="text" value="3"/>	16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">a. FEDERAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 238,888.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. APPLICANT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 157,856.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. STATE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. LOCAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e. OTHER</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>f. PROGRAM INCOME</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>g. TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 396,744.00</td> </tr> </table>	a. FEDERAL	\$ 238,888.00	b. APPLICANT	\$ 157,856.00	c. STATE	\$ 0.00	d. LOCAL	\$ 0.00	e. OTHER	\$ 0.00	f. PROGRAM INCOME	\$ 0.00	g. TOTAL	\$ 396,744.00	<input type="checkbox"/> YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO. PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372	
a. FEDERAL	\$ 238,888.00															
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f. PROGRAM INCOME	\$ 0.00															
g. TOTAL	\$ 396,744.00															
17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES if "Yes," attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO																
18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.																
a. TYPED NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: Sarah Miggins	b. TITLE: Executive Director	c. TELEPHONE NUMBER: (909) 382-2796														
d. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:		e. DATE SIGNED: 05/02/11														

Narratives

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The mission of the San Bernardino National Forest Association Urban Conservation Corps Forest Aid AmeriCorps program is to reduce and prevent catastrophic wildfires on the San Bernardino National Forest. This is achieved through a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary program approach that trains young people (ages 18-24) to serve on conservation crews that perform wildfire recovery and prevention efforts on the National Forest, as well as in the Wildland Urban Interface communities. In addition, hundreds of volunteers are also recruited to assist in these efforts.

Rationale and Approach

(a) RATIONALE

The San Bernardino National Forest wildfires are fast becoming one of the biggest natural disasters in modern U.S. history, in terms of people evacuated and property affected and lives lost. For over 10 years, deadly firestorms have roared through the National Forest scorching thousands of acres of land, threatening communities and claiming the lives of numerous firefighters such as the five lost in the 2006 Esperanza Fire. Experts warn that drought-related vegetation mortality exacerbated by the bark beetle, accumulated fuels in the urban/wildland interface, dense forest conditions and the loss of forestland to wildfires have turned the San Bernardino National Forest into a tinderbox waiting to ignite.

In response, the local Forest Service and the San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) (the applicant for this project and key non-profit partner to the Forest Service) began meeting to discuss the possibilities of developing a wildfire preparedness and recovery project on the National Forest. SBNFA and the local Forest Service have a long history of working together on wildfire related problems and have developed many public/ private projects for land management and fire prevention.

Narratives

By 2008, both agencies worked together to complete a wildfire risk assessment on the National Forest Mountaintop and Front Country Ranger Districts to identify problems associated with wildfires that need to be addressed. The assessment was performed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for community protection and fuels reduction.

Upon completion of the study, several critical problems were identified on the National Forest that place it at risk for catastrophic wildfires that threaten both communities and lives. These are: 1) significant drought related vegetation mortality that is exacerbated by the bark beetle infestation, 2) accumulated fuels in the urban/wildland interface zones 3) dense forest conditions and 4) the loss of forestland due to wildfires that makes the forest more susceptible to wildfires and other disasters.

1) Significant Drought Related Vegetation Mortality Exacerbated by the Bark Beetle Infestation:

According to the wildfire risk assessment (2008), the San Bernardino National Forest is experiencing significant drought related vegetation mortality that is being exacerbated by the bark beetle infestation which is increasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires on the San Bernardino Mountains. One hundred years of fire suppression has allowed more vegetation to grow and survive than the ecosystem can support. This, combined with the prolonged drought, has resulted in too many plants and trees competing for too little moisture, leaving the trees highly susceptible to attacks by bark beetles and other parasites. Because of the conditions, tens of millions of trees on the National Forest have died in recent years. These dead, diseased and dying trees pose an extreme fire hazard.

2) Accumulated Fuels in the Wildland/ Urban Interface Zones:

Narratives

The amount of housing development within the Wildland/ Urban Interface (WUI) Zones surrounding the San Bernardino National Forest is increasing. According to the Forest Service Land Management Plan (2007) this poses a serious fire threat to the National Forest since many of the homes are being built at the edge of the National Forest with overrun vegetation and litter. Since, 2007 over 5,000 new homes have been built up against the National Forest and in 2008, the San Bernardino County Code Enforcement agency reported citing over 1,000 homes within the WUI for county fire violations such as overgrown weeds, brush, trees, landscape trimming and rubbish. Many of the residents are older and have limited ability to care for their yards. Compounding this problem is this national housing slump and ill-timed economic conditions in this region that have placed homes in foreclosure, leaving them vacant and overrun by weeds. According to San Bernardino County Code Enforcement Officials (2008), these vacant homes in the WUI pose a serious fire threat to the National Forest.

3) Dense Forest Conditions:

According to the wildfire risk assessment (2008), years of fire suppression (as mentioned earlier) has also caused the National Forest to have larger uniformed dense strands of trees that reduce and diminish open forest meadows, structures and cleared mountain trails. Open forest meadows, structures and cleared mountain trails are necessary to prevent large lethal landscape wildfires (Bonnicksen, T. M. 1995). According to the wildfire risk assessment (2008), hundreds of dense strands of trees need to be removed and hundreds of miles of mountain trails need to be restored to prevent catastrophic wildfires and other disasters on the National Forest.

4) Loss of Forestland due to Wildfires that makes the Forest Susceptible to More Fires and other Disasters:

Narratives

According to research (Forest Foundation Scientific Advisory Research Group, 2007), the result of wildfires is the loss of forestland and benefits the forest provides such as filtering water to absorb greenhouse gases or controlling erosion through root structure. To prevent this loss, thousands of seedlings and trees must be planted shortly after a wildfire to ensure trees will grow. If not, forestland turns to brush and becomes even more susceptible to fires or to other disasters such as landslides during a rainstorm. According to the local Forest Service, (wildfire risk assessment 2008) over a million new seedling and trees need to be planted promptly on over 60,000 acres of land ravished by the wildfires, especially in high need areas such as the 2007 Butler II-Slide wildfire areas to prevent disasters from occurring.

(b) APPROACH

With the completion of the 2008 wildfire risk assessment, the foundation for a wildfire preparedness and recovery project was established. The next step was to involve the community in developing an implementation plan that would identify activities and strategies to address the needs outlined in the assessment. The local Forest Service and the SBNFA turned to their existing community partners already involved in the SBFNA Urban Youth Conservation Corps (UYCC). The SBNFA Urban Youth Conservation Corps trains urban youth (14-17 years old) who live in San Bernardino County to perform conservation services on the National Forest and local parks. To date, over 100 urban youth have successfully graduated from the program. The UYCC is headed by a collaborative group of community partners. They include, the U.S. Forest Service, California State University, San Bernardino, the San Bernardino County Housing Authority, the Bureau of Land Management, schools, residents, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and Treepeople from Los Angeles, California. All of these partners agreed to be part of a planning task force to develop the implementation plan for the wildfire preparedness and recovery project.

Narratives

After several months of meeting, the planning task force developed strategies for a wildfire preparedness and recovery project that would be known as the Forest Aid Corps. This project would recruit young adults (ages 18-24) from the Inland Empire, especially from lower socio-economic neighborhoods to serve on the National Forest. The service activities under the Forest Aid Corps would address the needs of the 2008 wildfire risk assessment.

The planning task force believed that the Forest Aid Corps is urgently needed in this region of California due to the annual wildfire threats. The planning task force also believed they needed to pursue federal assistance to develop the Forest Aid Corps program such as pursuing AmeriCorps funding.

(1) Description of Activities and Member Roles

The Forest Aid Corps, which is the name of the proposed AmeriCorps program, is calculated at an MSY of 15.24, which equates to 40 members at the expanded part time level of 675 per year. The program is designed to recruit, train and graduate 20 AmeriCorps members for the first six months of the program year. After that, recruit, train and graduate another 20 AmeriCorps members for the next six months of the program year. All members will be trained and placed on the National Forest and will work three days a week with an 8 hour day. It is important to note, while many AmeriCorps programs recruit all members at once and then exit them at once, the planning task force believed that recruiting all members at once would not be an effective program model for the population of young people the program intends to recruit. The program intends to recruit AmeriCorps members (ages 18-24) from lower-socio-economic communities that may have many economic and personal challenges in their lives while being in AmeriCorps. Therefore, to maintain retention bringing in 20 at a time is more effective and will enable staff to build positive relationships with all AmeriCorps members and to treat them as

Narratives

family. This is key to the Forest Aid Corps retention strategy. Smaller groups with greater staff attention and more incentives.

During the six month service term, members will work on service activities on the San Bernardino National Forest that will address the needs of the 2008 wildfire risk assessment. AmeriCorps members will be trained on wildfire preparedness and recovery skills such as using chainsaws to cut over 10,000 dead and diseased trees, clearing over 300 acres of fire fuels such as debris and shrubs from canyons and in the wildland/urban interface, improving and clearing over 300 miles of mountain trails to provide open meadows and structures and plant over 80,000 seedlings and trees in over 10,000 acres, especially in high needed areas such as the recently charred hillsides from the 2007 Butler II and Slide wildfires.

AmeriCorps members will also assist in volunteer recruitment activities to outreach to hundreds of volunteers from the local communities to help in the wildfire preparedness and recovery efforts. To ensure that the AmeriCorps project can outreach to diverse communities, all efforts will be made to ensure members are reflective of the ethnic and cultural compositions of the surrounding communities.

In addition, to ensure that members are in compliance with all of the rules and regulations of AmeriCorps, especially on prohibited service activities, a handbook will be developed outlining all prohibited services and given to each AmeriCorps member to read and sign.

The role of staff on the AmeriCorps project will be to lead, inspire and supervise AmeriCorps members, as well as help perform all service activities similar to AmeriCorps members. Staff will also ensure that service activities are being properly achieved. The role of volunteers will also be similar as AmeriCorps members and they will perform similar service activities such as clearing and restoring trails, reducing

Narratives

fire fuels and removing trees.

The overall plan of developing members and training them on wildfire preparedness and recovery skills is to address the needs of the 2008 wildfire risk assessment. In doing so, this will contribute to a healthier National Forest and less susceptible to wildfires. If funded, the program will add great value and resource power to the local Forest Service and the existing SBNFA Urban Youth Conservation Corps, which at times will be working with AmeriCorps members.

(2) Measurable Outputs and Outcomes

The expected outcome of the proposed AmeriCorps project is a healthier National Forest that is less susceptible to wildfires and other disasters. To track the measurable outcomes, the U.S. Forest Service will use professional forestry outcome assessment systems to collect data on all of the AmeriCorps service activities completed satisfactorily under Forest Service project deliverables, quality standards and timelines.

The expected measurable outputs of the proposed AmeriCorps project is removing and cutting over 10,000 dead and diseased trees, clearing over 300 acres of fire fuels on the National Forest and in the urban/wild interface zones, restoring over 300 miles of trails and planting over 80,000 seedlings and small trees on over 10,000 acres of forestland. To track the measurable outputs, the U.S. Forest Service will use professional forestry process assessment systems to collect data on all of the AmeriCorps service activities completed satisfactorily under Forest Service project deliverables, quality standards and timelines.

(3) Plans For Self-Assessment and Improvement

Narratives

The proposed AmeriCorps project will track and evaluate the progress toward meeting and achieving the expected outputs and outcomes through two forms of data collection which are, the Forest Service professional forestry assessment systems; and process evaluation.

(i) The U.S. Forest Service Professional Forestry Assessment:

The local Forest Service will use professional forestry outcome and process assessment tools to collect and track data to assess the quality of service deliverables; Forest Service standards that are achieved, timelines and improvement needed to meet quality standards.

(ii) Process Evaluation:

The evaluation specialist will work closely with the U.S. Forest Service to collect key process information on service delivery using standardized forms that will be developed at the initiation of the first program year. The information will be compiled into monthly reports that will be reviewed by staff, the Forest Service and other key partnerships on an ongoing basis. The reports will identify program strengths and weaknesses, problems and needed improvements for achieving the outputs and outcomes of the AmeriCorps project, as well as identify any technical assistant and training needs.

(4) Community Involvement

A community planning task force was organized to plan and develop the proposed AmeriCorps project. This community task force was comprised of community stakeholders already involved in the SBNFA Urban Youth Conservation Corps. The role of each community partner during the planning process was

Narratives

to identify program activities, community resources/ assets and strategies that can be used to address the needs of the 2008 wildfire risk assessment. To ensure that the community partners would stay engaged in the AmeriCorps program throughout the three-year period, the planning task force created strategies that could be linked to their own agency's mission. In doing so, community partners would have a greater stake in remaining with the program and its success. The roles and responsibilities of major partners are:

(a) San Bernardino National Forest Association:

The San Bernardino National Forest Association will be the lead agency throughout the three-year period and will have full administrative and fiscal management responsibility. SBNFA will hire and supervise all staff and will be responsible for the efficient management of the grant.

(b) Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino:

The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino will assist in the recruitment of AmeriCorps members and other volunteers to the proposed project throughout the three-year period. In addition, the Housing Authority will help with the AmeriCorps membership development training sessions and will provide a social worker to assist in training.

(c) San Bernardino National Forest, US Forest Service:

The San Bernardino National Forest will train AmeriCorps members throughout the three-year period. The trainings will include, wildland fire behavior, basic wildland firefighting, disaster preparedness, chainsaw certification, restoration work, propagation of native plants and tree nursery maintenance,

Narratives

wilderness first aid, CPR and other training needs.

(d) California State University, San Bernardino:

California State University, San Bernardino, Department of Sociology, Professor Dr. James Fenelon will be the evaluation specialist on the project. Dr. Fenelon will ensure the completion of the evaluation of the project and will provide additional graduate students to assist in the evaluation. Dr. Fenelon will also act as a liaison from the university to the project to enlist the technical support of other academic departments such as the School of Nursing/ Emergency Services or the Environmental Studies Department. Dr. James Fenelon will be engaged throughout the three-year period.

(e) Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC):

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps is the largest conservation corps in the Country and will be a source of support and knowledge for operating the AmeriCorps project, since LACC has extensive knowledge and experience in this type of program. The LACC will be engaged on the proposed project throughout the three- year period.

(f) Tree People, Inc.:

Tree People, Inc. is a non-profit organization located in Los Angeles County that will help engage volunteers throughout Southern California for tree planting on the National Forest. Tree People will assist in teaching proper tree planting to AmeriCorps members and other volunteers. Tree People will also provide tools and a truck for planting. Tree People recently was awarded 1 million dollars by the Boeing Corporation and 1.5 million from Disney Corporation to help plant trees on all four of the

Narratives

National Forests in Southern California and is committed to helping the proposed AmeriCorps project. Tree people will be engaged on the proposed project throughout the three-year period.

(5) Relationship to other National and Community Service Programs

The proposed AmeriCorps project will also seek to collaborate with other state and national AmeriCorps programs that work on conservation related projects. In fact, the proposed program will seek out to build a partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) programs that are supported by AmeriCorps. For instance, the Student Conservation Corps has several AmeriCorps funded initiatives on the east coast and we will invite them throughout the summer months to participate as volunteers for tree planting on the National Forest. The local Forest Service has several camps on the San Bernardino National Forest that the SCA AmeriCorps members can use.

(6) Potential for Replication

There are many local, regional, state and federal land management agencies that are seeking out model programs that recruit volunteers to assist in public lands management. For example, in 2008, SBNFA held a national training symposium to show case volunteer-driven public land management practices and program designs. The national interest among public land managers was high and over 30 organizations attended the SBNFA symposium from non-profit groups to governmental agencies throughout the country from Alaska to North Carolina.

The proposed AmeriCorps project could be a model program that could be replicated on other National Forests and/or National Parks. To assist other organizations in replicating the proposed project, a handbook will be designed to describe promising practices and strategies, as well as evaluation findings,

Narratives

implementation standards and recommendations for replication. For instance, all member service training procedures and member development trainings will be evaluated to determine best practices after time. The proposed handbook will also list implementation standards for various training practices such as quality and quantity standards. For example, who should be training members and what qualifications should they have or how many training sessions does it take to teach proper use of power tools in the field? These are very important questions when an organization is attempting to replicate a program. The handbook will be an essential tool for replication.

Organizational Capability

1) Sound Organizational Structure

(a) Ability to Provide Sound Programmatic Oversight

The San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) was incorporated in 1992. It was created to assist the local Forest Service in protecting the National Forest through a variety of programs that encourage volunteerism such as the Off High Way Vehicle Volunteers Program, the Children's Forest Volunteers and the Forest Care Program that encourages communities to protect their homes through the removal of hazardous fuels. In fact, most all of SBNFA programs involve the recruitment and management of volunteers to serve on a number of significant environmental projects and activities.

In addition, SBNFA has a long history of reaching out to young people throughout the area to train them on conservation workforce training. SBNFA was a key partner with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps Forest Recovery Team (2005) that involved young adults from Los Angeles and around the Country to work on the National Forest on fuels reduction projects. The SBNFA 's Executive Director (Sarah Miggins) was responsible for the development of the LACC Forest Recovery Team.

Narratives

In 2006, SBNFA reached out and targeted the inner cities throughout San Bernardino County to recruit urban youth as volunteers on the National Forest. Many cities that were targeted included the City of San Bernardino, Colton and Rialto. By 2007, SBNFA with the support of the local Forest Service was successful in creating an Urban Youth Conservation Corps (UYCC) that trained corpsmembers (ages 14-17) in conservation related work and to assist in disaster preparedness, if needed. The UYCC was designed to have a six month service term on the National Forest with youth crews up to 20 members at a time, serving mostly on weekends. By the end of 2008, the UYCC had many accomplishments they could be proud of including, restoring over 20 miles of trail, restoration of Lone Pine (a burned area on the San Bernardino mountain), installing 25 miles of fencing and creating miles of fire lines on the Front Country Ranger District.

However, one of the most successful accomplishments of the UYCC was their service during the 2007 San Bernardino Wildfires. During the 2007 wildfires on the San Bernardino National Forest over 2500 families from the burning mountains were evacuated to the City of San Bernardino Orange Show Fair Grounds (OS). This became the largest evacuation center in Southern California during the 2007 wildfires. Of the families that were evacuated, over half were mono-lingual Spanish speakers. As part of Forest Service protocol during a fire, the Forest Service provides hourly fire updates to all fire victims in the evacuation center. Unfortunately, the Forest Service had only one fire information officer who was capable of speaking Spanish, but he was stationed at the fire. This left the OS Evacuation Center with no Forest Service staff capable of communicating critical fire information to Spanish speaking fire victims or the Spanish speaking media. As a result, the Forest Service put in a request to fly in Spanish speaking Forest Service staff from New Mexico and Utah to serve at the evacuation center during the fire.

In response to this problem, immediately all of the Spanish speaking UYCC staff and members volunteered and went into action and stood by the Forest Service for four days with 12 hour days

Narratives

providing key bilingual Spanish/ English translation services to families and the Spanish speaking media, until the bilingual Forest Service staff could arrive. For four days, the UYCC became a critical link to over a thousand Spanish speaking fire victims at the SO Evacuation Center and the millions of viewers on Spanish speaking media outlets. The UYCC became volunteer press officers on Univision and Telemundo and other local media stations that needed to broadcast fire information to the Spanish speaking public, which is large in Southern California. In addition, the UYCC brought in thousands of particle masks and gave them out to all families at the SO Evacuation Center to prevent them from inhaling the toxic smoke from the burning mountains. The UYCC also made regular presentations in both English and Spanish on the importance of wearing particle masks during a wildfire disaster, especially for children, the sick and the elderly. Another key service the UYCC performed at the SO Evacuation Center was assisting the Spanish speaking fire victims with insurance companies. Many of the insurance companies set up booths at the SO Evacuation Center about the second day of the fire, but didn't have any available Spanish speaking staff to help Spanish speaking fire victims fill out paperwork to get a reimbursement to stay at a hotel. Again, the UYCC assisted with this vital service.

In all, the UYCC became an essential part of the Forest Service fire team during the 2007 wildfires. During the last weeks of the fire, the Governor of the State of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Congressman Joe Baca thanked the UYCC for their service to their community and to the State of California.

The AmeriCorps project that is being proposed is similar to the UYCC, except it would recruit older youth ages 18 through 24 and would have them perform greater technical services on the National Forest in wildfire preparedness and recovery such as using chain saws to cut down dead trees or burning piles of fire fuels. Currently, the UYCC does not use power tools or gets involved in burning piles because they are minors and are not trained or certified to do so.

Narratives

(b) Ability to Provide Sound Fiscal Oversight

SBNFA has a 16 year history of managing and administering large federal contracts and grants such as the Forest Care Program that is a \$14 million dollar Forest Service cost share grant contract with substantial regulations and requirements. The Forest Service also contracts with SBNFA on other services such as reforestation contracts that must be in compliance with federal regulations. Thus, SBNFA is very familiar with fiscal federal reporting and grant management requirements, and consistently proves to operate effective programs.

SBNFA accounting services are professional and demonstrate excellence. SBNFA contracts with an accounting service, Whittaker CPA, that provides fiscal oversight and drafts the policies for the agency to ensure that all programs are in compliance with federal, state and local regulations. Whittaker CPA utilizes an accrual fund accounting system and software (Quickbooks). SBNFA activities are accounted for using separate funds to record each division's direct expenses and a share of the indirect costs. Grant and contract receipts are recorded as revenue in the period in which the services performed under the grant or contracts are rendered and the expenses incurred. Restricted donations are recorded as revenue in the period in which the monies are earned, and are recorded as deferred income prior to this time. Unrestricted donations and other income are recorded as revenue in the period in which they are received and accrued. Expenditure receipts, cancelled checks, paid invoices, payroll records and other documents supporting expenditures are maintained at SBNFA's principle office and are available for audit.

The accounting staff includes a Chief Finance Officer (the Head of Whittaker CPA), an accounts payable specialist and contract payroll administrators. SBNFA staff meets with the Chief Finance Officer at

Narratives

monthly finance meetings to evaluate their budgets and opportunities for increased funding and leverage across all programs. The Executive Director and Chief Finance Officer work daily to ensure proper allocation of resources and availability.

The proposed AmeriCorps project will only be located in one site, the San Bernardino National Forest and SBNFA staff will oversee this one service site.

(c) Board of Directors, Administrators, and Staff

The SBNFA Board of Directors is comprised of a 14-member board that meets once a month to elect officers and transact business. The Board of Directors is comprised of nonprofit, private, corporate business executives and attorneys. The members of the Board are also accompanied by executive level Forest Service employees that are non-voting members of the Board, but essential to the development of long-range forest goals. The Board of Directors and staff just completed a three to five year strategic plan that is now being implemented and progress is being evaluated at these monthly meetings. The establishment of the proposed AmeriCorps project (Forest Aid Corps) is listed as a three to five year goal within the strategic plan. When special meetings need to occur, the Executive Board of SBNFA, which consists of a Chairman, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary meet on a conference call.

There are several Board members that assist SBNFA staff in program development, especially if it's there area of expertise such as Dan Knapp, a Board member with expertise in conservation corps' development. Dan Knapp, the Deputy Director of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps has been a Board member for over three years and has been very instrumental in assisting SBNFA with the development of the Urban Youth Conservation Corps. He offers insight and support from his years of experience with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. Mr. Knapp will be a source of support and knowledge for the

Narratives

development of the proposed AmeriCorps project.

The SBNFA Executive Director, Sarah Miggins has over 17 years experience developing and managing environmental conservation programs that target a diverse audience. Ms. Miggins was very instrumental in developing the LACC Forest Recovery Team Project on the San Bernardino National Forest (2005) and was a senior level program manager for the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for several years prior to becoming the executive director of the San Bernardino National Forest Association. Currently, Ms. Miggins is a national consultant on developing initiatives for public/private partnerships for public land management.

Ms. Miggins will provide administrative grants oversight of the proposed AmeriCorps project and will ensure that all progress reports are completed on a timely manner and ensure that the project is in compliance with AmeriCorps policies and regulations at all times. Ms. Miggins will also supervise the proposed AmeriCorps project manager, Sandy Bonilla.

Sandy Bonilla, is the proposed AmeriCorps project manager and will be 50% on the grant. Ms. Bonilla has over 18 years experience managing government funded grant projects for high-risk populations and social services. Ms. Bonilla is currently the program manager for the Urban Youth Conservation Corps for over three years. During this time, she has established program design, policies, regulations and evaluation and has built healthy relationships with the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the City of San Bernardino Parks Division and other community partners to expand the UYCC services and activities. In addition, Ms. Bonilla has extensive experience in federal grants management and was a grants manager for the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) (1991-93). She was also a grants manager and director for the San Francisco Community Partnership Project, a federally funded project by CSAP and administered by the Mayor Office of the City and County of San Francisco (1987-91,

Narratives

1996-98).

As the proposed AmeriCorps project manager, Ms. Bonilla will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the AmeriCorps project and will provide organizational management and ensure that services under the AmeriCorps contract are being accomplished. Further, Ms. Bonilla will be responsible for working with key partners to ensure they are fulfilling their roles and responsibilities on the project. Ms. Bonilla will also be responsible for organizing program orientations, training sessions, as well as ensuring volunteer recruitment activities are being accomplishment. Ms. Bonilla will also work closely with the U.S. Forest Service to ensure that appropriate training sessions are being carried out timely and appropriately. She will also work closely with the evaluation specialist from California State University, San Bernardino to ensure the evaluation is being conducted on a timely manner. Ms. Bonilla will also work closely with the Forest Service evaluator to ensure that the forestry evaluation is conducted on a timely manner. Ms. Bonilla will supervise the proposed AmeriCorps program Supervisor, Bobby Vega.

Bobby Vega will be 50% on the grant and will be the proposed AmeriCorps program supervisor. Mr. Vega has over 20 years experience in developing and managing programs for culturally diverse at risk youth and young adults. He is currently the program supervisor for the Urban Youth Conservation Corps for over three years. During this time, he has recruited most of the corpdmembers from the urban communities surrounding the National Forest. He also oversees and supervises all of the current service activities that are performed by the UYCC.

Under the proposed AmeriCorps project, Mr. Vega will be responsible for the recruitment and retention of AmeriCorps members and will assist in organizing all of the activities and events for members, as well as for volunteers. He will also be responsible for supervising AmeriCorps members during training

Narratives

sessions and on the San Bernardino National Forest. In addition, he will work closely with the U.S. Forest Service staff assigned to the proposed AmeriCorps program and ensure all training sessions and activities are completed. Mr. Vega will also conduct meetings with AmeriCorps members on a regular basis, especially the after work debriefing oversight meetings to ensure all AmeriCorps member are in compliance with all rules and regulations.

Ms. Rhonda Whittaker (Whittaker CPA) Chief Financial Officer for SBNFA will be responsible for budget management and fiscal oversight and ensure that the proposed AmeriCorps project is in compliance with federal regulations and guidelines.

The proposed AmeriCorps project will also make plans to recruit and train additional staff (if needed) to help supervise members, organize events and/or assist in volunteer recruitment. Recruitment for additional staff will come from various sources such as California State University, San Bernardino, University of California, Riverside, community colleges or the California Conservation Corps.

(d) Plan for Self-Assessment or Improvement

To ensure that SBNFA has an ongoing internal assessment and improvement mechanism for non-program specific matters, the Board of Directors establishes short and long term organizational strategic planning sessions with an organizational consultant. For instance, SBNFA recently completed an all day strategic planning session comprised of SBNFA Board of Directors, SBNFA program managers, SBNFA program staff, Forest Service managers and the SBNFA Executive Director. The main objective of the organizational strategic planning sessions is to self-assess the organization by using assessment tools to assess accomplishments and needed improvements in the agency on the following areas: 1) operational, 2) information gathering, 3) identification of critical issues facing SBNFA, 4) assessing the mission

Narratives

statement 5) development goals and strategies 6) development of operational plans and 7) development of a management plan. Currently, the management plan is now being implemented and progress is being evaluated at monthly Board of Directors meetings.

(e) Plan for Effective Technical Assistance

The evaluation specialist will schedule regular evaluations throughout the program period to measure service activities and member development. This data will be collect and compiled into monthly reports that will be reviewed by SBNFA Executive Director, AmeriCorps staff and the partnership on an ongoing basis. The monthly report will identify program strengths and weaknesses, problems and needed improvements for achieving the outcomes of the program. The monthly reports will also identify any technical assistance and training needs, as well as any financial needs. In addition, since the proposed AmeriCorps project is only located at one site (the San Bernardino National Forest) regular meetings between the Forest Service staff and the AmeriCorps staff will be organized to review the monthly reports to ensure that the service site staff understands all programmatic and fiscal conditions and requirements of AmeriCorps, as well as to discuss any training or technical assistant needs at the site.

2) Sound Record of Accomplishments as an Organization

(a) Volunteer Generation and Support

SBNFA has a membership of over 700 volunteers from throughout Southern California that serve on a variety of programs and events on the San Bernardino National Forest. To generate and support such a large number of volunteers, SBNFA has a Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator that spends 20 hours a week recruiting volunteers throughout Southern California to assist on both episodic and ongoing

Narratives

projects on the National Forest such as tree planting, interpretative trails and helping with environmental education programs. In addition, volunteers are also generated through SBNFA program managers that need volunteers to support their programs. SBNFA program managers spend at least 20% of their time outreaching, recruiting and later training diverse groups or people to assist on their programs. For instance, the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Volunteer Program needs volunteers with off highway vehicles to help patrol the National Forest trails. On the other hand, the Urban Youth Conservation Corps (UYCC) needs volunteers to help clear debris from canyons or help clean watersheds. In fact, the UYCC has a Myspace.com site for volunteer recruitment opportunities. In addition, volunteers are also generated from the SBNFA website and at the Big Bear Discovery Center, which is a visitor center that SBNFA manages that encourages volunteerism on the National Forest.

(b) Organizational and Community Leadership

SBNFA is the leading education, conservation and recreation nonprofit partner to the US Forest Service and currently serves on both the San Bernardino and Angeles National Forests. SBNFA is also the largest environmental organization throughout the Inland Empire and has been given the Non-Profit of the Year Award from the Forest Service at the national level. In addition, the SBNFA Urban Youth Conservation Corps received regional recognition during the 2007 Wildfires in San Bernardino from Congressman Joe Baca and the Governor for their service contributions during the wildfire disaster.

In addition, the SBNFA Children's Forest program has received much national attention for its public land management practices through volunteerism and community partnerships. In fact, many of SBNFA staff are also active in the community both on the National Forest and surrounding urban communities. For instance, the Urban Youth Conservation Corps program supervisor is a well-respected community leader and commissioner for the San Bernardino Parks and Recreation

Narratives

Commission.

3) Success in Securing Community Support

(a) Collaboration

SBNFA has successfully secured a myriad of community supporters that will increase the quality and service delivery of the proposed AmeriCorps project. For instance, the Housing Authority of San Bernardino County is a major partner in the proposed project and will be assisting in the recruitment and interview process of AmeriCorps members. The Housing Authority has a great deal of experience and knowledge in recruitment and interviewing skills since they do this on a weekly basis. In addition the Housing Authority is also assigning a graduate level social work staff (MSW) to assist in membership development training sessions for social, life and job skills.

The U.S. Forest Service which is another major partner in the proposed AmeriCorps project will be assigning two professional Foresters to the project to train members in wild land fire behavior, basic wildland firefighting, disaster preparedness, chainsaw certification, restoration work, and wilderness first aid, CPR and other training needs.

The California State University, San Bernardino partnership, which involves Dr. James Fenelon, Sociology Professor will be the lead evaluator on the proposed AmeriCorps project. Dr. Fenelon's participation will indeed increase the quality of the evaluation and also provide professional expertise on working with urban communities. Dr. Fenelon is an author of several books on Urban Sociology and impoverished communities. He has been on several national panels with the Ford Foundation and travels the world speaking on cultural socio-economic issues of the poor. Dr. Fenelon is Native

Narratives

American (Lakota) and graduate from Harvard University.

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) partnership, which involves Dan Knapp, the Deputy Director of LACC will be a source of support and knowledge to the project. Mr. Knapp has extensive knowledge and experience in conservation corps programming and will meet regularly with the SBNFA AmeriCorps staff and provide technical assistance as needed.

The Tree People partnership, which involves Jim Summers will be a source of knowledge for organizing large-scale volunteer tree planting events. Mr. Summers has over 20 years experience organizing and recruiting volunteers for large-scale tree planting activities. In addition, he will assist in tree planting training sessions to ensure proper tree planting techniques are being used and help with volunteer recruitment strategies.

In addition to the major partners, there are also numerous other community supporters that help increase the quality and service delivery of the proposed projects through cash donations or in-kind support. Other community supporters include the Kiwana's of San Bernardino that have pledged to help raise additional funds for services. Also, some of the faith-based organizations have also agreed to support the program with volunteers such as the Trinity Church in Redlands, Guadalupe Church in San Bernardino and Adventist Academy.

(b) Local Financial and In-Kind Contributions

Since the inception of the SBNFA Urban Youth Conservation Corps (UYCC), local financial and in-kind contributions to the UYCC have increased and have become more diversified over time. For instance, during the early days, the only financial contributions the UYCC had was a small contract from the

Narratives

Housing Authority of San Bernardino County for \$10,000 and the only in-kind contributions came from the U.S. Forest Service for training. Within six months, the Housing Authority contract grew from \$10,000 to \$24,000 and the in-kind contributions from Housing Authority also expanded. The Housing Authority began providing UYCC staff with office space and classrooms for corpsmember meetings inside a Housing Authority owned Community Center at no costs to the program.

Within another six months the Housing Authority contract grew to \$42,000 and the UYCC starting receiving funds from the City of San Bernardino Economic Development (CDBG) \$12,500 and the City of San Bernardino Employment and Training (\$8,000). In addition, the in-kind contribution from the Forest Service increased and the UYCC was given a space at the Del Rosa Ranger Station. Before long, the local in-kind contribution became more diversified when the California State University, San Bernardino partnership formed and a program evaluator, Dr. James Fenelon was provided. The Cal State San Bernardino partnership also linked the UYCC to an array of community professionals throughout the area that started donating computers, uniforms, T-shirts, tools and other supplies the UYCC needed.

Soon after, the UYCC began receiving additional funds from the Housing Authority (\$70,000) and was donated two vans from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. With the expansion of local funds, the UYCC became more competitive with state funds and was awarded an Urban Forestry Grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire (\$8,000). With these funds, the UYCC entered into a partnership with the City of San Bernardino Parks and Recreation to implement an Urban Forestry Tree Care program to care for local trees in the City of San Bernardino. In fact, the City of San Bernardino Arborist is the lead trainer on this project as donates all his time and supplies.

Currently, the UYCC is awaiting funds from the California Department of Corrections for an Urban

Narratives

Gardens Project for San Bernardino County, as well as waiting a City Contract from the City of San Bernardino for a Downtown Clean and Green Project. This contract was recently approved by the local city council in the City of San Bernardino.

(c) Wide Range of Community Stakeholders

The number of community stakeholders that provide non-financial support to the UYCC has also increased by two-fold and has diversified over time. For instance, during the early days of the UYCC, the program stakeholders were only the Forest Service and the San Bernardino Housing Authority. As the program expanded, so did the number of community stakeholders. For instance, from the involvement with the San Bernardino Housing Authority and Forest Service, many other community stakeholders began supporting the UYCC such as the San Bernardino Boys and Girls Club, the San Bernardino Police Department, the San Bernardino Unified School District, the Kiwanas, and the local Rotery Club. Through these organizations, the UYCC received a great deal of non-financial support such as computers, supplies, uniforms and equipment. In addition, through the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management in Barstow, California began contacting the UYCC to begin identifying ways of extending the UYCC to Barstow and to offer corpsmember training sessions for high desert conservation.

Before long, the City of San Bernardino also became a major community stakeholder in the program and helped build an Urban Forestry project in the City of San Bernardino. The City of San Bernardino Parks arborist teaches classes in tree pruning and maintenance and provides the UYCC with professional tools for tree care. In fact, recently two UYCC corpsmembers were hired by the City to prune urban trees.

Another community stakeholder that expanded over time is California State University, San Bernardino.

Narratives

Currently, the university provides the UYCC with college interns to assist in program develop and implementation and a program evaluator, Dr. James Fenelon. Dr. Fenelon is also key in introducing the UYCC to the campus community and student organizations.

(d) Special Circumstances

There are some special circumstances that need to be addressed regarding the proposed AmeriCorps project. The proposed project will be operating in a region, the Inland Empire that has a scarcity of philanthropic and corporate resources. Many of the large philanthropic and corporate support in California is given to Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco or Sacramento, but many exclude areas within the Inland Empire such as San Bernardino, Barstow, Riverside or Inyo. During the past several years, thousands of families from Los Angeles have migrated into the Inland Empire seeking a lower cost of living. As a result, many socio-economic problems such as high unemployment rates, crime and poverty has risen in this area due to the increase in population (San Bernardino County Economic Development 2008)

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

(a) Corporation Costs per Member Service Year (MSY)

The Forest Aid Corps budget is calculated at an MSY of 15.24, which equates to 40 members at the expanded part time level of 675. In relation to the proposed AmeriCorps project design, this is a costs-effective program for what the project will impact and achieve in Southern California.

The proposed AmeriCorps project is designed to impact two major problems in Southern California, which are 1) the urgent disaster response and preparedness needs in Southern California; and 2) the demand for diverse, multi-lingual fire disaster service professionals that are urgently needed in this area

Narratives

(the lack of Spanish-bilingual Fire Service Information Officers during the 2007 San Bernardino National Forest Wildfires proved this need).

These are two large benefits to Southern California that the project will provide. It is far more effective and efficient to use taxpayer funds to prevent catastrophic wildfires than to wait until another wildfire roars through the National Forest and places a heavy costs to the taxpayer in the tens of millions. It is also more effective and efficient to have local multi-lingual fire disaster professionals that live in the San Bernardino area, then to fly them in from places such as New Mexico or Utah and then have to put them in hotels and feed them at the costs of the taxpayer for weeks on end. This is what occurred during the 2007 wildfires on the San Bernardino National Forest due to the lack of Spanish bilingual fire disaster service professionals.

(b) Diverse Non-Federal Support

The proposed AmeriCorps project has obtained and will obtain diverse non-federal support resources for the implementation and sustainability of the proposed program. For instance, the Housing Authority of San Bernardino County receives local and state funds to support resident services (not all funds are from the U.S Housing and Urban Development) and will provide non-federal support to this proposed project. In addition, non-federal funds from the City of San Bernardino Economic Development and Employment Training divisions will also be used for proposed AmeriCorps program implementation and sustainability. Another non-federal fund resource that will be used to support this project is through Tree People. Recently, Tree People received over a million from the Boeing Company for Forest Restoration, including restoration work on the San Bernardino National Forest. Tree People has agreed to commit \$50,000 of their own funds toward the proposed AmeriCorps project.

Narratives

In addition, a three-year grant was recently submitted by California State University, San Bernardino and the SBNFA Urban Youth Conservation Corps for California Proposition 84 funds to support water restoration activities on the National Forest. If awarded, funds from that grant will be used to help support the implementation and sustainability of the proposed project. Also, the City of San Bernardino's Mayor's Office and the Urban Youth Conservation Corps recently submitted a grant request for \$50,000 from the California State Department of Corrections. If funded, money from this award will be used to support the AmeriCorps project.

The proposed project also has a long list of in-kind donations that are non-corporate such as 1) the use of staff offices and meeting rooms at the Housing Authority Community Centers, 2) storage rooms, office space and a parking lot at the Del Rosa Ranger Station, 3) evaluation materials and computers from California State University, San Bernardino, and 4) the use of tools and trucks from Tree People.

In addition, there are other potential non-corporation resources that may be obtained within the next few months such as funds through the Weingart Foundation (\$10,000), the Hearst Foundation (\$10,000) and the Environmental Protection Agency (\$20,000).

(c) Budget Adequacy

The proposed budget will meet core program needs, including staffing, member training and evaluation through a combination of matching funds and contracts from a variety of funding sources, which includes funds from the Housing Authority of San Bernardino County, the City of San Bernardino's Economic Development Agency, CAL FIRE and contracts from the U.S. Forest Service. In addition, SBNFA also has a contract with the San Bernardino Employment Training Agency to offset the costs of staff working on the proposed project. Also, SBNFA has a partnership with California State University,

Narratives

San Bernardino, who has federal funds from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development to support non-profit agencies that serve a high number of urban youth in many different capacities such as evaluation, research, community trainings, etc. This will off set the cost of evaluation and other training needs in the proposed program. Further, SBNFA has a working agreement with the local Forest Service to provide conservation service training for urban youth in return for service hours on the National Forest. Staff salaries and supplies will also be offset by other funding sources throughout the program period.

Evaluation Summary or Plan

Forest Aid Corps - Internal Evaluation Plan

SBNFA AmeriCorps program Forest Aid Corps will perform an internal evaluation of the program as required. Dr. James Fenelon, Sociologist at California State University, San Bernardino, will perform the evaluation with the assistance from graduate students. The costs of the evaluation will be funded through the California State University, San Bernardino -- University/ Community Partnership Program. Below describes a summary of the internal evaluation process. The Forest Aid Corps consist of three major program components, which includes 1) providing services- which provides recovery/restoration services on the San Bernardino National Forest (the beneficiary) 2) member development- which provides training services to AmeriCorps members to increase their skills to achieve the services; and 3) strengthening communities through volunteers recruitment to assist with services. The internal evaluation plan for each of these components includes the following:

Professional Forest Service Foresters using Forest Service Assessment tools will evaluate the recovery restoration services that are provided by AmeriCorps members working on the San Bernardino National Forest. In addition, Forest Service staff will supervise the work of the Forest Aid Corps and will complete Progress Reports (instruments) that apply to the Forest Service quality standards to project activities and deliverables. A satisfactory rating indicates that the project activities and deliverable have met the

Narratives

Forest Service quality standards and restored forest health at the locations.

An evaluation Specialist, Dr. James Fenelon, California State University will perform the following to evaluate the member development, the strengthening communities component and program design. Regular evaluations will be scheduled to measure service activities and member development.

- Pre-Post Test Surveys: During each program interval/session, there will be a pre-post test survey that will be administered to all AmeriCorps members involved in service and trainings. The pre-post test instrument will be developed by Dr. James Fenelon, from California State University, San Bernardino who will serve as the evaluation specialist on this project. In addition, an evaluation committee will be organized to assist in the development of the pre-post test instruments including assisting in the development of questions, its reliability and effectiveness as it pertains to cultural appropriateness, age, correct phraseology and length. Evaluation pre-test surveys will be given to members at the start of the program period and will measure member's initial level of understanding of a particular topic, skill level, attitudes and perceptions regarding themselves, others and a particular topic item. The evaluation post test which will be given to members six months later will ask the same questions to determine any measurable changes in their responses due to their training and service activities.

- Process Evaluation: Dr. James Fenelon will be responsible for collecting all key process information using standardized forms that will be developed at the initiation of the first program year. The information will be compiled into monthly reports that will be reviewed by staff and the partnership on an ongoing basis to identify program strengths and weaknesses, problems and needed improvements for achieving the outcomes of the proposed program or technical assistant and training needs. Three types of information will be collected.

Narratives

(1) Activity Tracking Forms: At the beginning of the year, the evaluation specialist will develop forms to document a description of the service activities to be carried out by AmeriCorps members and volunteers, the expected outcome and targets, the progress each member and volunteers are achieving and the outcomes/ targets accomplished. In order to keep track of data, the process data will be entered into an Excel database charting the progress of each participant.

(2) Training Log: A training log will be kept to keep track of the number of trainings that will be conducted throughout the program period, as well as the number of AmeriCorps members attending the trainings. Also, the training log will include the number of training hours each member has completed.

(3) Training Evaluation: Following each of the training workshops, the evaluation specialist will ask participants to fill out the accompanying evaluation form that will rate the content and utility of the workshop. SBNFA staff will compile the information and integrate the feedback into next round of workshops.

- Outcome Measures: The evaluation specialist will conduct outcome evaluation to measure the impact the program has on AmeriCorps members' professional and developmental skills, as well as measure the community's perception of the impact AmeriCorps has on the health of the National Forest as well as the community's awareness of greater volunteer opportunities for service. During the final quarter of each year, the evaluation specialist will conduct surveys with 200 community members/residents including the forest service and surrounding communities.

- Forest Service Outcome Measures (Forestry Assessment): The San Bernardino National Forest Service will lead the evaluation of service accomplishments, outcomes and targets reached, including assessments of the quality and satisfaction of the recovery/restoration projects performed by

Narratives

AmeriCorps members and volunteers.

Amendment Justification

Not Applicable

Clarification Summary

CLARIFICATION RESPONSE FY10

Budget Clarification Items:

Section 1:E: Supplies- Please explain what McClouds and Loppers are and why they are needed for the program?

Clarification: McClouds are forestry tools that are needed to perform the restoration projects under the contract. McClouds are used to trench, grub and slash fire fuels (brush) and are used to cut through deep underbrush that places the forest at risk for wildfires. Members are taught the proper use of utilizing the mcloud. It is a tool with one side that looks like a flat sharp shovel and the other side a flat rake. The lopper is also a forestry tools that are needed to perform the restoration projects under contract. Loppers are used to trim tree limbs, bushes and other fire fuels on the San Bernardino National Forest, as well as the wildland urban interface as contracted. Loppers are not power tools and are used to cut down small trees where chainsaws are prohibited due to the risk of sparks that can ignite wildfires. Members are taught the proper use of utilizing the lopper.

SECTION 1-I: Other Program Operating Costs - criminal history checks are budgeted for members but staff is not included. Please confirm staff completes criminal history checks.

Clarification: All staff associated with the AmeriCorps program have completed a criminal history check.

Narratives

CLARIFICATION RESPONSE FY 11

PROGRAMMATIC CLARIFICATION ITEMS

Needs & Services -- Disaster Preparedness Measure

1) The intermediate and end outcome need clarification. For the intermediate outcome, the sentence beginning with "Forest (which is comprised of 300 acres in extreme hazard conditions) will receive" is not complete.

ANSWER:

Below is the completed sentence

(60%)(180 of 300) acres in direct high need targeted area on the S.B. National Forest (comprised of 300 acres in extreme hazard conditions) will receive services to reduce fire hazards in this area by 50% as confirmed by the Forest Service.

2) For the end outcome please describe how this differs from the intermediate outcome. We suggest the program may want to delete the end outcome.

ANSWER:

The program deleted the end outcome from egrants.

BUDGET CLARIFICATION

Program added funds for FBI criminal background checks.

Continuation Changes

Narratives

No Changes to Narrative Section

Enrollment

The Forest Aid Corps enrollment rate was 107%. This is because forty three member slots were filled due to three refill slots. However, 40 members were enrolled as planned. The Forest Aid AmeriCorps program is design to fill half the slots for the first six months and the other half for the remaining six months.

Retention

Our retention rate is 88.4%. This is due to one member leaving for compelling reasons and the other 4 for cause. To improve our retention rate, prior to anyone becoming an AmeriCorps member, he or she will be asked to volunteer first with the existing Forest Aid AmeriCorps. In doing so, we can make a greater assessment of skills, physical stamina, behavior and commitment of the individual prior to enrolling him or her into the program.

Compliance with 30 Day Enrollment/Exit

All 40 members were enrolled and exited within the 30 day enrollment/exit period.

Performance Measures

SAA Characteristics

- AmeriCorps Member Population - None
- Geographic Focus - Urban
- Geographic Focus - Rural
- Encore Program

Priority Areas

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Futures |
| <i>Selected for National Measure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Selected for National Measure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Stewardship | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans and Military Families |
| <i>Selected for National Measure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Selected for National Measure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Opportunity | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <i>Selected for National Measure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Selected for National Measure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |

Grand Total of all MSYs entered for all Priority Areas 15.24

Service Categories

Disaster Preparation Primary Secondary

Needs and Service Primary

Service Category: Disaster Preparation

Measure Category: Not Applicable

Strategy to Achieve Results

Briefly describe how you will achieve this result (Max 4,000 chars.)

40 AmeriCorps members annually will perform wildfire recovery and restoration treatment services on the San Bernardino National Forest and surrounding wildland urban interface communities. AmeriCorps members will serve three days a week performing these services. Treatment services under the Forest Aid AmeriCorps program are defined as a specific service activity that will address a specific need on the San Bernardino National Forest or on the wildland urban interface communities that reduce the threat of wildfires and increases wildfire protection. These services have timelines, goals and objectives and will be overseen by the Forest Service. Treatment services can be as short as one day or as long as 2 months, depending on the amount of service needed. Service projects will be assigned to the Forest Aid AmeriCorps crews on a regular basis by the Forest Service and training will be conducted regularly to ensure members can complete their service activities. Treatment services include 1) reducing fires fuels and noxious weeds which they will be using hand and power tools, as

Briefly describe how you will achieve this result (Max 4,000 chars.)

well as their own hands, 2) cutting trees and chaparral, which they will be using chainsaws, handsaws and other professional tools; 3) maintaining and restoring mountain trails with professional loppers, rakes and tools, 4) planting thousands of seedlings/trees using dibbler bars, shovels and other hand tools; 4) collecting seeds to plant trees in Forest Service nurseries to grow new seedlings to plant the following year, including nursery maintenance, and 5) reducing fire fuels, shrubs and vegetation in wildland urban interface communities using professional power and hand tools.

Results

Result: Intermediate Outcome

Reduced fire hazards in the direct high need targeted area on the San Bernardino National Forest.

Indicator: The percent of acres in the direct high need targeted area on the San Bernardino

Target: (60%)(180 of 300) acres in direct high need targeted area on the S.B. National Forest

(comprised of 300 acres in extreme hazard conditions) will receive services to reduce fire

hazards in this area by 50% as confirmed by the Forest Service.

Instruments: Pre-Post wildfire risk/hazard assessment survey to collect data on the changes in the fire/hazard conditions in the direct high need area

PM Statement: The percent of acres in the direct high need targeted area on the San Bernardino National Forest with reduced fire hazards

Prev. Yrs. Data

Result: Intermediate Outcome

National Forest with reduced fire hazards

Result: Output

Increase service in the direct high need targeted area on the San Bernardino National Forest and surrounding wildland urban interface.

Indicator: The number of acres served in the direct high need targeted area on the San

Target: 180 acres will be served in the direct high need targeted area on the San Bernardino National Forest.

Target Value: 180

Instruments: Treatment service tracking form to collect data on acres served.

PM Statement: 180 acres in the direct high need targeted area will have reduce wildfire hazards.

Prev. Yrs. Data

Result: Output

Bernardino National Forest.

Required Documents

Document Name

Status

Evaluation

Already on File at CNCS

Labor Union Concurrence

Already on File at CNCS