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Conservation Corps Minnesota

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

AT A GLANCE

Young adult programs, ages 18-25: all participants are enrolled in AmeriCorps and receive education awards after completing service

- 242 young adults serve in field crews across the state, completing natural resource work restoring and protecting water quality, maintaining state parks, improving trails and restoring habitat
- 60 young adults serve in single placement positions with natural resource agencies and nonprofits and conservation apprenticeships at Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- 58 young adults serve as youth leaders for summer and afterschool programs

Youth programs, ages 15-18: all participants earn a stipend while restoring resources and gaining job and career-planning skills

- 148 youth—about 10 percent of whom are deaf or hard of hearing—unplug from modern intrusions to live, learn, and work outdoors as part of the rural residential Summer Youth Corps
- 120 youth take part in the afterschool Youth Outdoors program, which engages diverse urban high school students from low-income homes—about 90 percent of whom are people of color—in job training, science education, and outdoor service-learning

PURPOSE

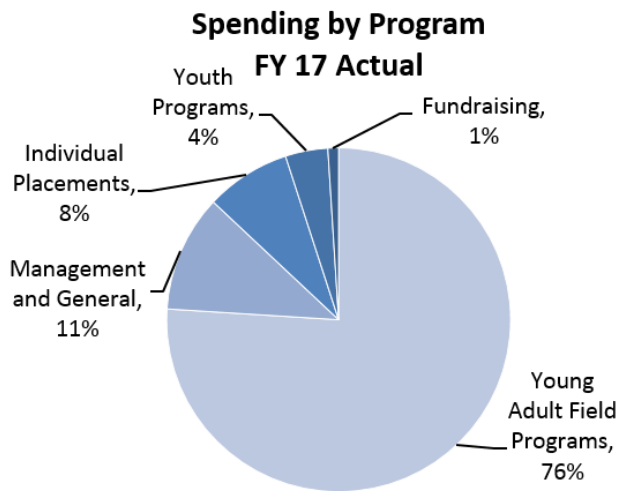
Conservation Corps Minnesota's mission is to provide hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities to youth and young adults while accomplishing conservation, natural-resource management and emergency response work.

Conservation Corps Minnesota's goals are to help young people from diverse backgrounds become more connected to the environment, engaged in conservation, involved in the community, and prepared for further education and future employment. Conservation Corps integrates young people from various socio-economic backgrounds and cultural communities, as well as deaf youth, into its programs and lives up to its motto: Resources Restored. Lives Changed.

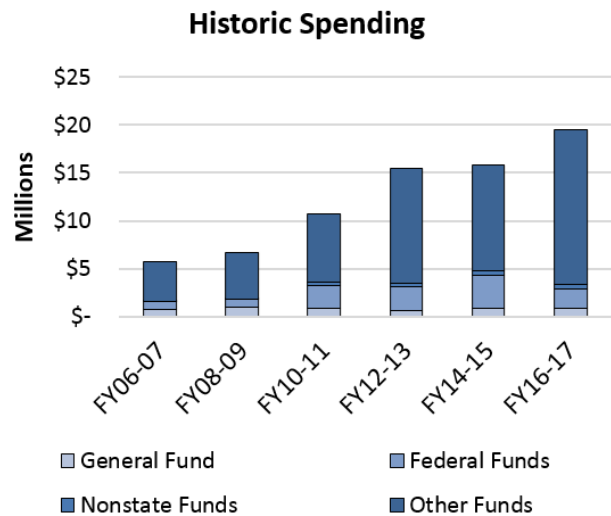
Conservation Corps' mission and goals support these statewide priorities:

- Investing in Kids, Families, and Communities
- Building an Economy that Works for All Minnesotans
- Clean, Affordable Water for All Minnesotans

BUDGET



Source: Conservation Corps' Audited Financial Statements



Source: Conservation Corps' Audited Financial Statements

Conservation Corps Minnesota has a diverse funding base. Fee-for-service contracts fund more than 55 percent of program costs and are the primary revenue source in the young adult programs, along with government grants. Youth programs also derive revenue from fee-for-service contracts but rely more heavily on individual giving, private/corporate foundation grants, and government grants. Fee-for-service partners include federal, state, local and nonprofit partners and related service activities. Clean water, land, and legacy funds support nearly 20 percent of program costs through partnerships with different agencies.

STRATEGIES

Restoring resources

Throughout Conservation Corps' programs, young people are involved in hands-on, service-learning activities that protect and enhance natural resources.

1. **Restoring and Protecting Water Quality:** Corps members restore and protect waterways and shorelines that are vital to the region's water supply by stabilizing shorelines, installing buffers and rain gardens, and removing debris and other pollutants.
2. **Habitat Restoration:** Corps members restore habitat on public lands throughout Minnesota by removing non-native invasive species, conducting prescribed burns, and planting native trees and plants.
3. **Improving Access to Outdoor Recreation:** Corps members build and maintain motorized and non-motorized trails, boardwalks, campsites, park facilities, and other recreational structures.

Changing Lives

Conservation Corps Minnesota prepares nearly 594 young people for further education and future employment each year with personal development, technical and work-skills training, and education.

1. **Educational curriculum for youth (ages 15-18):** focuses on science and technology and job-search skills. More than 20 percent of program time is devoted to education and skills training. Eighty-five percent of youth participants report in post-program surveys that their work skills have improved.
 - **Summer Youth Corps** – Youth begin at St. Croix State Park base camp, then spike camp throughout the region, working in crews of eight youth and two AmeriCorps leaders each as they restore natural resources and lead volunteers during two four-week summer sessions.
 - **Youth Outdoors** – Diverse urban teens from low-income neighborhoods engage in out-of-school environmental science education, civic leadership, and outdoor service-learning as they complete

neighborhood improvement projects and lead volunteers during 11-week fall and spring school semesters and an eight-week summer session.

2. **Skills training for young adults (ages 18-25):** includes hands-on training in habitat restoration, trail building, prescribed burning, energy conservation, leadership, communication, and other skills. Field crew members receive professional certifications in wildfire suppression, chain-saw safety, and first aid.
 - **Non-residential Field Crews** – Young adults, working in five-member crews, conduct natural resource, conservation, and emergency response work from February to December.
 - **Seasonal crews** – Young adults from diverse ethnic communities, working in six-member crews, receive intensive job training in natural resource management and work in the Superior National Forest “Faces of Tomorrow” initiative from May through August.
 - **Single placements** – Individual corps members are based at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Neighborhood Energy Connection in Saint Paul, government agencies, and nonprofits. During the summer, apprentices serve in soil and water conservation districts throughout Minnesota.

RESULTS

Type	Performance Measures	2016	2017
Output (quantity)	Number of youth and young adults engaged in job skills training, education and natural resource and conservation work	586	647
Output (quantity)	Hours of education/training provided to young people	63,771	63,264
Output (quantity)	Acres of habitat restored	48,700	38,880
Output (quantity)	Miles of trail restored	1,714	1,360
Outcome (result)	Percent of young people who gained workforce readiness skills including self-confidence, teamwork, and problem solving	92%	90%
Outcome (result)	Percent of young people who gained an appreciation for nature and protecting the environment	96%	96%

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

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

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY16	Actual FY17	Actual FY18	Estimate FY19	Forecast Base FY20 FY21		Governor's Recommendation FY20 FY21	
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Expenditures by Fund

1000 - General	455	455	455	455	455	455	455	455
2100 - Water Recreation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
2101 - Snowmobile	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
2102 - All-Terrain Vehicle	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
2103 - Off-Highway Motorcycle	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2104 - Off-Road Vehicle	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
2106 - State Park	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
2107 - State Pks & Trls Lott In Lieu	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
2112 - Invasive Species	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
2113 - Forest Management Investment	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
2116 - Cross Country Ski	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
2117 - Natural Resource Misc Statutry	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Total	945	945	945	945	945	945	945	945
Biennial Change				0		0		0
Biennial % Change				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

Expenditures by Program

Conservation Corps Mn	945	945	945	945	945	945	945	945
Total	945	945	945	945	945	945	945	945

Expenditures by Category

Grants, Aids and Subsidies	945	945	945	945	945	945	945	945
Total	945	945	945	945	945	945	945	945

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY16	Actual FY17	Actual FY18	Estimate FY19	Forecast Base FY20 FY21		Governor's Recommendation FY20 FY21	
1000 - General								
Direct Appropriation	455	455	455	455	455	455	455	455
Expenditures	455	455	455	455	455	455	455	455
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

2100 - Water Recreation

Direct Appropriation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Expenditures	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

2101 - Snowmobile

Direct Appropriation	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Expenditures	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

2102 - All-Terrain Vehicle

Direct Appropriation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Expenditures	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

2103 - Off-Highway Motorcycle

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY16	Actual FY17	Actual FY18	Estimate FY19	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
					FY20	FY21	FY20	FY21
Direct Appropriation	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Expenditures	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

2104 - Off-Road Vehicle

Direct Appropriation	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Expenditures	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

2106 - State Park

Direct Appropriation	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
Expenditures	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

2107 - State Pks & Trls Lott In Lieu

Direct Appropriation	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Expenditures	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

2112 - Invasive Species

Direct Appropriation	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
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(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY16	Actual FY17	Actual FY18	Estimate FY19	Forecast Base FY20 FY21		Governor's Recommendation FY20 FY21	
Expenditures	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

2113 - Forest Management Investment

Direct Appropriation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Expenditures	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

2116 - Cross Country Ski

Direct Appropriation	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Expenditures	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

2117 - Natural Resource Misc Statutry

Direct Appropriation	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Expenditures	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				0		0		0
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	Biennium 2020-21
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2019 Appropriations	455	455	455	910
Forecast Base	455	455	455	910
Total Governor's Recommendations	455	455	455	910
Fund: 2100 - Water Recreation				
FY2019 Appropriations	50	50	50	100
Forecast Base	50	50	50	100
Total Governor's Recommendations	50	50	50	100
Fund: 2101 - Snowmobile				
FY2019 Appropriations	75	75	75	150
Forecast Base	75	75	75	150
Total Governor's Recommendations	75	75	75	150
Fund: 2102 - All-Terrain Vehicle				
FY2019 Appropriations	50	50	50	100
Forecast Base	50	50	50	100
Total Governor's Recommendations	50	50	50	100
Fund: 2103 - Off-Highway Motorcycle				
FY2019 Appropriations	10	10	10	20
Forecast Base	10	10	10	20
Total Governor's Recommendations	10	10	10	20
Fund: 2104 - Off-Road Vehicle				
FY2019 Appropriations	30	30	30	60
Forecast Base	30	30	30	60
Total Governor's Recommendations	30	30	30	60
Fund: 2106 - State Park				
FY2019 Appropriations	150	150	150	300
Forecast Base	150	150	150	300
Total Governor's Recommendations	150	150	150	300
Fund: 2107 - State Pks & Trls Lott In Lieu				
FY2019 Appropriations	25	25	25	50
Forecast Base	25	25	25	50
Total Governor's Recommendations	25	25	25	50

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	Biennium 2020-21
Fund: 2112 - Invasive Species				
FY2019 Appropriations	25	25	25	50
Forecast Base	25	25	25	50
Total Governor's Recommendations	25	25	25	50
Fund: 2113 - Forest Management Investment				
FY2019 Appropriations	50	50	50	100
Forecast Base	50	50	50	100
Total Governor's Recommendations	50	50	50	100
Fund: 2116 - Cross Country Ski				
FY2019 Appropriations	15	15	15	30
Forecast Base	15	15	15	30
Total Governor's Recommendations	15	15	15	30
Fund: 2117 - Natural Resource Misc Statutry				
FY2019 Appropriations	10	10	10	20
Forecast Base	10	10	10	20
Total Governor's Recommendations	10	10	10	20