

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2987

To amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to establish the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to place youth and veterans in national service positions to conserve, restore, and enhance the great outdoors of the United States, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2017

Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. GRIJALVA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce, 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

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to establish the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to place youth and veterans in national service positions to conserve, restore, and enhance the great outdoors of the United States, and for other purposes.

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 “21st Century Con-  
5 servation Service Corps Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

2 Section 202 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993  
3 (16 U.S.C. 1721) is amended to read as follows:

4 **“SEC. 202. PURPOSES.**

5 “The purposes of this title are—

6 “(1) to engage youth and veterans in the  
7 United States in civilian national service positions to  
8 conserve, rebuild, and enhance the outdoors, natural  
9 resources, infrastructure, and recreation assets of  
10 the United States;

11 “(2) to increase public access to, and use of,  
12 public and tribal land and water, infrastructure, and  
13 natural, cultural, and historical resources and treas-  
14 ures, while spurring economic development and out-  
15 door recreation and addressing backlogged mainte-  
16 nance on public land;

17 “(3) to conserve, restore, and enhance public  
18 and tribal land and water, infrastructure, and nat-  
19 ural, cultural, and historical resources and treasures  
20 by carrying out high-quality, cost-effective 21st Cen-  
21 tury Conservation Service Corps projects;

22 “(4) to ensure that, in any State or territory of  
23 the United States or on any tribal land, the activi-  
24 ties and expertise of Corpsmembers will be accessible  
25 to any public organization, nonprofit organization,

1 or tribal agency responsible for the stewardship of  
2 land and water that is—

3 “(A) public;

4 “(B) tribal; or

5 “(C) private and has a direct or recognized  
6 public benefit, in coordination with the owner of  
7 the land or water;

8 “(5) to place youth and veterans in civilian na-  
9 tional service positions to protect, restore, and en-  
10 hance the great outdoors, natural resources, infra-  
11 structure, and recreation assets of the United States  
12 in a cost-effective manner without undue duplication  
13 or overlap of activities or programs carried out by  
14 Federal agencies;

15 “(6) to provide youth and veterans placed in ci-  
16 vilian national service positions with opportunities to  
17 gain in-demand skills, credentials, and education to  
18 prepare for, and transition to, success in the 21st  
19 century workforce; and

20 “(7) to channel widespread interest among  
21 youth and veterans in serving in civilian national  
22 service positions to help conserve, restore, and en-  
23 hance public and tribal land and water, infrastruc-  
24 ture, and natural, cultural, and historical resources  
25 and treasures—

1           “(A) for the enjoyment and use of future  
2           generations; and

3           “(B) to develop the next generation of out-  
4           door stewards, entrepreneurs, recreationists,  
5           and sportsmen and sportswomen.”.

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 of the Public Lands  
8 Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1722) is amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 **“SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.**

11           “In this title:

12           “(1) 21CSC.—The term ‘21CSC’ means the  
13 21st Century Conservation Service Corps established  
14 by section 204(a).

15           “(2) 21CSC ORGANIZATION.—The term  
16 ‘21CSC organization’ means an organization or as-  
17 sociation that meets the requirements described in  
18 section 204(d).

19           “(3) 21CSC PROJECT.—The term ‘21CSC  
20 project’ means a project that is carried out by a  
21 21CSC organization.

22           “(4) CORPSMEMBER.—The term ‘Corpsmember’  
23 means an individual who is selected by a 21CSC or-  
24 ganization to serve on a 21CSC project.

1           “(5) INDIAN.—The term ‘Indian’ has the mean-  
2           ing given the term in section 101 of the National  
3           and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
4           12511).

5           “(6) INDIAN YOUTH 21ST CENTURY CONSERVA-  
6           TION SERVICE CORPS.—The term ‘Indian Youth  
7           21st Century Conservation Service Corps’ means a  
8           program of a 21CSC organization that—

9                   “(A) enrolls participants, the majority of  
10                  whom are Indians; and

11                  “(B) is established pursuant to an agree-  
12                  ment between a tribal agency and a 21CSC or-  
13                  ganization for the benefit of the members of the  
14                  tribal agency.

15           “(7) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

16                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘institution  
17                  of higher education’ has the meaning given the  
18                  term in section 102 of the Higher Education  
19                  Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

20                  “(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘institution  
21                  of higher education’ does not include—

22                          “(i) an institution described in section  
23                          101(b) of the Higher Education Act of  
24                          1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(b)); or

1 “(ii) an institution outside the United  
2 States, as described in section  
3 102(a)(1)(C) of that Act (20 U.S.C.  
4 1002(a)(1)(C)).

5 “(8) PARTICIPATING ENTITY.—The term ‘par-  
6 ticipating entity’ means a Federal entity described in  
7 section 204(c)(2).

8 “(9) PRIORITY PROJECT.—The term ‘priority  
9 project’ means a 21CSC project conducted to further  
10 1 or more of the purposes described in section 202  
11 or in section 2 of the Healthy Forests Restoration  
12 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6501), including by—

13 “(A) reducing wildfire risk to a commu-  
14 nity, municipal water supply, or at-risk land;

15 “(B) protecting a watershed;

16 “(C) addressing a threat to forest land or  
17 rangeland health, including catastrophic wild-  
18 fire;

19 “(D) addressing the impact of insect or  
20 disease infestation or any other damaging agent  
21 on forest land, water, or rangeland health; or

22 “(E) conserving, restoring, or enhancing a  
23 forest ecosystem or an ecosystem on public, pri-  
24 vate, or tribal land—

25 “(i) to improve biological diversity; or

1 “(ii) to enhance—

2 “(I) the productivity of fish and  
3 wildlife habitat;

4 “(II) the recovery of a species; or

5 “(III) carbon sequestration.

6 “(10) RESOURCE ASSISTANT.—The term ‘re-  
7 source assistant’ means a resource assistant selected  
8 under section 206.

9 “(11) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

10 “(A) each of the several States of the  
11 United States;

12 “(B) the District of Columbia;

13 “(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

14 “(D) the United States Virgin Islands;

15 “(E) Guam;

16 “(F) American Samoa; and

17 “(G) the Commonwealth of the Northern  
18 Mariana Islands.

19 “(12) TRIBAL AGENCY.—The term ‘tribal agen-  
20 cy’ has the meaning given the term ‘Indian tribe’ in  
21 section 101 of the National and Community Service  
22 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511).

23 “(13) TRIBAL LAND OR WATER.—The term  
24 ‘tribal land or water’ means any real property or  
25 water—

1 “(A) owned by a tribal agency;

2 “(B) held in trust by the United States for  
3 an Indian or a tribal agency; or

4 “(C) held by an Indian or a tribal agency  
5 that is subject to a restriction on alienation im-  
6 posed by the United States.

7 “(14) VETERAN.—The term ‘veteran’ has the  
8 meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38,  
9 United States Code.

10 “(15) YOUTH.—The term ‘youth’ means an in-  
11 dividual who is not younger than age 15 and not  
12 older than age 30.”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 623(i)(6)  
14 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking  
15 “any public lands (as defined in section 203 of the Public  
16 Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1722))” and insert-  
17 ing “any land or water (or interest in land or water)  
18 owned or administered by the United States (other than  
19 Indian land)”.

20 **SEC. 4. 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS.**

21 Section 204 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993  
22 (16 U.S.C. 1723) is amended to read as follows:

23 **“SEC. 204. 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS.**

24 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the  
25 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, to be comprised

1 of 21CSC organizations and Corpsmembers, to carry out,  
2 in partnership with participating entities, the purposes of  
3 this title.

4 “(b) DESIGNATION OF COORDINATORS.—The head of  
5 each participating entity, and the head of any bureau or  
6 subdivision of each participating entity, shall designate a  
7 21CSC coordinator to coordinate any activity of the  
8 21CSC or a 21CSC project carried out by the partici-  
9 pating entity or the bureau or subdivision of the partici-  
10 pating entity.

11 “(c) PARTICIPATING ENTITIES.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The 21CSC shall be imple-  
13 mented jointly by the heads of the participating enti-  
14 ties, who may support the 21CSC by carrying out  
15 the activities described in paragraph (3).

16 “(2) LIST OF PARTICIPATING ENTITIES.—The  
17 participating entities shall be—

18 “(A) the Department of the Interior;

19 “(B) the Department of Agriculture;

20 “(C) the Department of Transportation;

21 “(D) the Department of Labor;

22 “(E) the Department of Energy;

23 “(F) the Department of Defense;

24 “(G) the Department of Veterans Affairs;

25 “(H) the Department of Commerce;

1 “(I) the Department of Education;

2 “(J) the Department of Housing and  
3 Urban Development;

4 “(K) the Corporation for National and  
5 Community Service;

6 “(L) the Office of the Assistant Secretary  
7 of the Army for Civil Works;

8 “(M) the Federal Emergency Management  
9 Agency; and

10 “(N) any other Federal agency designated  
11 by the President as necessary to carry out a  
12 21CSC project.

13 “(3) SUPPORT FOR THE 21CSC.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of a partici-  
15 pating entity may provide support to the  
16 21CSC by—

17 “(i) establishing standards for the  
18 21CSC;

19 “(ii) establishing a process for an or-  
20 ganization to apply and be approved to be-  
21 come a 21CSC organization;

22 “(iii) developing and supporting a  
23 public-private partnership referred to in  
24 paragraph (5)(A)(i);

1 “(iv) using or leveraging existing  
2 funds, or acquiring funds and other re-  
3 sources, under section 210 to support  
4 21CSC projects through entering into a co-  
5 operative agreement under paragraph  
6 (5)(A)(i);

7 “(v) leveraging existing resources de-  
8 scribed in section 210(b) to expand the use  
9 of the 21CSC to meet the mission of the  
10 participating entity;

11 “(vi) using technology to support  
12 21CSC projects; and

13 “(vii) collecting performance data on  
14 21CSC projects—

15 “(I) to prepare the reports re-  
16 ferred to in subparagraph (C)(i)(I);  
17 and

18 “(II) to demonstrate the impact  
19 of the 21CSC projects.

20 “(B) COORDINATION.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The heads of each  
22 of the participating entities shall, to the  
23 maximum extent practicable, coordinate  
24 with each other or the head of any other  
25 Federal agency that is affected by, or car-

1           rying out, an activity that is similar to a  
2           21CSC project—

3                   “(I) to minimize, to the max-  
4                   imum extent practicable, the duplica-  
5                   tion of any specific project performed  
6                   by any other participating entity or  
7                   Federal agency; and

8                   “(II) to maximize 21CSC project  
9                   completion in a cost-effective manner  
10                  by collaborating to leverage existing  
11                  resources described in section 210(b).

12                  “(ii) APPROVAL AND DATA COLLEC-  
13                  TION.—The head of each participating en-  
14                  tity shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
15                  ticable, coordinate with each other head of  
16                  a participating entity—

17                   “(I) to approve organizations as  
18                   21CSC organizations; and

19                   “(II) to collect the data referred  
20                   to in items (aa) through (dd) of sub-  
21                   paragraph (C)(i)(I).

22                  “(iii) GUIDANCE.—The head of each  
23                  participating entity shall, to the maximum  
24                  extent practicable, seek guidance from—

1 “(I) the Corporation for National  
2 and Community Service;

3 “(II) the Departments of Vet-  
4 erans Affairs and Labor on methods  
5 to increase the participation of vet-  
6 erans in 21CSC projects; and

7 “(III) the Secretary of the Inte-  
8 rior, acting through the Assistant Sec-  
9 retary for Indian Affairs, on methods  
10 to increase the participation of Indi-  
11 ans in 21CSC projects.

12 “(C) REPORTING.—

13 “(i) 21CSC REPORTS.—

14 “(I) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—As  
15 soon as practicable after the date of  
16 enactment of the 21st Century Con-  
17 servation Service Corps Act of 2017,  
18 the Chief Executive Officer of the  
19 Corporation for National and Commu-  
20 nity Service, in coordination with the  
21 head of each participating entity, shall  
22 submit to Congress a report that in-  
23 cludes data, for the year covered by  
24 the report, including—

1           “(aa) the number of Corps-  
2 members that carried out 21CSC  
3 projects and the length of the  
4 term of service for each Corps-  
5 member;

6           “(bb) the total amount of  
7 funding provided by participating  
8 entities for the service of Corps-  
9 members;

10           “(cc) the type of service per-  
11 formed by Corpsmembers and the  
12 impact and accomplishments of  
13 the service; and

14           “(dd) any other similar data  
15 determined by the Chief Execu-  
16 tive Officer of the Corporation  
17 for National and Community  
18 Service or the head of a partici-  
19 pating entity to be appropriate,  
20 including data sufficient to deter-  
21 mine the effectiveness of 21CSC  
22 organizations in carrying out ac-  
23 tivities to achieve the purposes of  
24 this title in a manner that—

1 “(AA) is cost-effective;  
2 and  
3 “(BB) does not unduly  
4 duplicate or overlap with  
5 any other activity or pro-  
6 gram carried out by any  
7 other Federal agency.

8 “(II) DATA FROM PARTICIPATING  
9 ENTITIES.—Not later than 1 year  
10 after the date of enactment of the  
11 21st Century Conservation Service  
12 Corps Act of 2017, and annually  
13 thereafter, the head of each partici-  
14 pating entity shall submit to the Chief  
15 Executive Officer of the Corporation  
16 for National and Community Service  
17 the data described in items (aa)  
18 through (dd) of subclause (I).

19 “(III) DATA COLLECTION.—The  
20 Chief Executive Officer of the Cor-  
21 poration for National and Community  
22 Service may coordinate with individual  
23 21CSC organizations to improve the  
24 collection of the required data de-

1 scribed in items (aa) through (dd) of  
2 subclause (I).

3 “(ii) COMPTROLLER GENERAL RE-  
4 PORTS.—

5 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Comp-  
6 troller General of the United States  
7 shall prepare and submit to Con-  
8 gress—

9 “(aa) not later than 3 years  
10 after the date of submission of  
11 the first report under clause  
12 (i)(I), an interim report; and

13 “(bb) not later than 5 years  
14 after the date of submission of  
15 the first report under that clause,  
16 a final report.

17 “(II) CONTENTS.—The interim  
18 and final reports referred to in sub-  
19 clause (I) shall include—

20 “(aa) an assessment, based  
21 on the data described in items  
22 (aa) through (dd) of clause (i)(I),  
23 of the effectiveness of 21CSC or-  
24 ganizations in achieving the pur-

1 poses of this title in a manner  
2 that—

3 “(AA) is cost-effective;  
4 and

5 “(BB) does not unduly  
6 duplicate or overlap with  
7 any other activity or pro-  
8 gram carried out by any  
9 other Federal agency; and

10 “(bb) recommendations on  
11 how to more effectively manage  
12 and carry out 21CSC projects to  
13 achieve the purposes of this title  
14 in the manner described in item  
15 (aa).

16 “(III) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—  
17 The Comptroller General of the  
18 United States may submit to Con-  
19 gress any additional report that in-  
20 cludes the content described in sub-  
21 clause (II), as the Comptroller Gen-  
22 eral determines to be necessary.

23 “(4) GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—The head of a  
24 participating entity may accept, use, or dispose of a  
25 contribution that is a gift or donation of money,

1 services, or property to support the development, im-  
2 plementation, and expansion of a 21CSC project, in  
3 accordance with applicable law (including regula-  
4 tions).

5 “(5) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH 21CSC  
6 ORGANIZATIONS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of each par-  
8 ticipating entity may—

9 “(i) develop a public-private partner-  
10 ship with a 21CSC organization by enter-  
11 ing into a cooperative agreement with the  
12 21CSC organization to support and carry  
13 out 21CSC projects; and

14 “(ii) leverage existing resources de-  
15 scribed in section 210(b) to support a co-  
16 operative agreement.

17 “(B) TYPE OF COOPERATIVE AGREE-  
18 MENT.—A cooperative agreement under this  
19 paragraph may—

20 “(i) be limited to an agreement for a  
21 specific 21CSC project;

22 “(ii) be a broad agreement covering  
23 multiple planned or future 21CSC projects;  
24 or

1 “(iii) be an agreement for a 21CSC  
 2 project to be part of a broader 21CSC ini-  
 3 tiative carried out in partnership with—

4 “(I) the Federal Government;

5 “(II) a State government; or

6 “(III) a tribal agency.

7 “(C) SET SHARE.—A cooperative agree-  
 8 ment under this paragraph shall include a pro-  
 9 vision specifying the cost share that the 21CSC  
 10 organization will provide under section 210(c).

11 “(d) 21CSC ORGANIZATIONS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be considered and ap-  
 13 proved as a 21CSC organization, an organization  
 14 shall, to the maximum extent practicable, dem-  
 15 onstrate the ability to meet, and provide assurances  
 16 that the organization will meet, each requirement  
 17 described in paragraphs (2) through (6).

18 “(2) 21CSC CORPSMEMBERS ENGAGED BY  
 19 21CSC ORGANIZATIONS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to meeting  
 21 the requirement of subparagraph (B), any indi-  
 22 vidual selected by a 21CSC organization to  
 23 carry out a 21CSC project shall, to the max-  
 24 imum extent practicable, be—

1 “(i) notwithstanding paragraphs (3)  
2 and (4) of section 137(a) of the National  
3 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42  
4 U.S.C. 12591(a)), a youth, in the case of  
5 any Corpsmember participating in a  
6 21CSC project supported and carried out  
7 by the Corporation for National and Com-  
8 munity Service; or

9 “(ii) a veteran not older than age 35.

10 “(B) CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT.—Any  
11 individual selected as a Corpsmember shall be—

12 “(i) a citizen or national of the United  
13 States; or

14 “(ii) a lawful permanent resident of  
15 the United States.

16 “(C) EMPHASIS ON DIVERSITY AND INCLU-  
17 SION.—In selecting a Corpsmember, a 21CSC  
18 organization shall make deliberate outreach ef-  
19 forts to engage an individual who—

20 “(i) lives in the State or region of the  
21 21CSC organization; and

22 “(ii) represents a traditionally under-  
23 served population, including veterans, Indi-  
24 ans, and disadvantaged youth (as defined  
25 in section 101 of the National and Com-

1 community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
2 12511)).

3 “(3) COMPENSATION FOR PARTICIPANTS.—A  
4 21CSC organization shall provide compensation to  
5 each Corpsmember that includes 1 or more of the  
6 following:

7 “(A) A wage.

8 “(B) A stipend.

9 “(C) A living allowance.

10 “(D) An educational credit that may be  
11 applied towards a program of postsecondary  
12 education at an institution of higher education  
13 that agrees to award the credit for participation  
14 in a 21CSC project.

15 “(4) ORGANIZATION OF SERVICE FOR PARTICI-  
16 PANTS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out a  
18 21CSC project, a 21CSC organization shall, to  
19 the maximum extent practicable, organize each  
20 Corpsmember as—

21 “(i) a crew-based participant who—

22 “(I) serves together with other  
23 crew-based participants; and

1 “(II) is directly supervised by a  
2 trained and experienced crew-based  
3 leader or conservation professional; or  
4 “(ii) an individual or small team-  
5 based participant who serves—

6 “(I) individually or in a coordi-  
7 nated small team, as applicable;

8 “(II) under the direction of a  
9 conservation professional; and

10 “(III) on an initiative that re-  
11 quires specific skills and dedicated at-  
12 tention.

13 “(B) VETERAN AND CIVILIAN COOPERA-  
14 TION.—A 21CSC organization shall, to the  
15 maximum extent practicable, encourage co-  
16 operation among veteran and civilian Corps-  
17 members.

18 “(5) 21CSC PROJECTS.—A 21CSC organization  
19 shall carry out a 21CSC project that includes na-  
20 tional service, and may be a priority project, involv-  
21 ing—

22 “(A) the conservation, restoration, and en-  
23 hancement of—

24 “(i) a unit of the National Park Sys-  
25 tem or National Forest System;

1 “(ii) public or tribal land or water; or

2 “(iii) natural, cultural, or historical  
3 resources or treasures;

4 “(B) the conservation, restoration, man-  
5 agement, and development of the natural re-  
6 sources and infrastructure of the United States,  
7 including—

8 “(i) removal of invasive species;

9 “(ii) wildfire prevention and response;

10 “(iii) disaster resiliency, mitigation,  
11 response, and recovery;

12 “(iv) trail development and mainte-  
13 nance;

14 “(v) coastal restoration and resiliency;

15 “(vi) historic preservation;

16 “(vii) public safety;

17 “(viii) energy efficiency and alter-  
18 native energy;

19 “(ix) water infrastructure;

20 “(x) construction, repair, rehabilita-  
21 tion, or maintenance of—

22 “(I) a road;

23 “(II) a campground; or

24 “(III) any other recreation or vis-  
25 itor facility or housing structure; and

1 “(xi) any other related project that  
2 furthers the purposes of this title;

3 “(C) the support, development, and en-  
4 hancement of outdoor recreation or urban green  
5 space for the purpose of public access;

6 “(D) service that is primarily indoors, such  
7 as service in a science, policy, or program in-  
8 ternship, with a clear benefit for natural, cul-  
9 tural, or historic resources or treasures, which  
10 may include the provision of interpretation and  
11 education services to—

12 “(i) the public; or

13 “(ii) a cooperating association, edu-  
14 cational institution, friends group, or simi-  
15 lar nonprofit partner organization; and

16 “(E) notwithstanding section 132A of the  
17 National and Community Service Act of 1990  
18 (42 U.S.C. 12584a), a project described in this  
19 paragraph on private land or water in partner-  
20 ship with a private entity if—

21 “(i) the project has a direct or recog-  
22 nized public or environmental benefit; or

23 “(ii) the funding for the project origi-  
24 nated from a governmental entity, regard-  
25 less of the end payor.

1 “(6) 21CSC CORPSMEMBERS.—In carrying out  
2 a 21CSC project, a 21CSC organization shall pro-  
3 vide each Corpsmember with—

4 “(A) in-demand skills development, certifi-  
5 cation and credentials, and education to prepare  
6 the Corpsmember for success in transitioning to  
7 the 21st century workforce;

8 “(B) community skill development to help  
9 the Corpsmember—

10 “(i) acquire an ethic of service to oth-  
11 ers and the United States; and

12 “(ii) become a more effective natural  
13 resource and community steward; and

14 “(C) a greater understanding of the nat-  
15 ural, cultural, or historic resources or treasures  
16 of the United States.

17 “(e) CORPSMEMBER COMPENSATION AND EMPLOY-  
18 MENT STANDARDS.—

19 “(1) CORPSMEMBER COMPENSATION STAND-  
20 ARD.—

21 “(A) SPECIFIC WAGE RATES.—A form of  
22 compensation provided under subparagraph (A),  
23 (B), or (C) of subsection (d)(3) shall be consid-  
24 ered to be established at a specific wage rate,  
25 in the same manner as the compensation pro-

1 vided for a living allowance under section 140  
2 of the National and Community Service Act of  
3 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12594).

4 “(B) COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN CORPS-  
5 MEMBERS.—The compensation provided under  
6 subsection (d)(3) to a Corpsmember who is not  
7 a participant in a 21CSC project supported by  
8 the Corporation for National and Community  
9 Service shall not be subject to any provision of  
10 (including a regulation under) the National and  
11 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
12 12501 et seq.) relating to a wage rate, but shall  
13 be considered to be established at a specific  
14 wage rate, in the manner described in subpara-  
15 graph (A).

16 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing  
17 in subparagraph (A) applies a specific wage  
18 rate for a living allowance that is established  
19 under section 140 of the National and Commu-  
20 nity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12594) to  
21 the compensation of a Corpsmember under sub-  
22 section (d)(3).

23 “(2) CORPSMEMBER EMPLOYMENT STAND-  
24 ARD.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
2           subparagraphs (B) and (C), in parity with sec-  
3           tion 101(30) of the National and Community  
4           Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511(30)), a  
5           Corpsmember shall be considered to be a partic-  
6           ipant (as defined in section 101 of the National  
7           and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
8           12511)), not an employee, of the 21CSC orga-  
9           nization for which the Corpsmember serves.

10           “(B) FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT PROVI-  
11           SIONS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A),  
12           Federal employment provisions shall apply to a  
13           Corpsmember to the extent that those provi-  
14           sions apply to a participant or crew leader  
15           under section 199M(b) of the National and  
16           Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
17           12655n(b)).

18           “(C) CHILD LABOR PROVISIONS.—Not-  
19           withstanding subparagraph (A)—

20                   “(i) the child labor provisions under  
21                   section 12 of the Fair Labor Standards  
22                   Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 212) (including  
23                   any order or regulation issued under the  
24                   authority of such section or section 3(l) of  
25                   such Act (29 U.S.C. 203(l))) shall apply to

1 a Corpsmember and the 21CSC organiza-  
 2 tion for which the Corpsmember serves in  
 3 the same manner as such provisions apply  
 4 to an employee and an employer under  
 5 such Act; and

6 “(ii) a violation of a section specified  
 7 in clause (i) by a 21CSC organization shall  
 8 be enforced by the Secretary of Labor in  
 9 the same manner, and subject to the same  
 10 penalties under the Fair Labor Standards  
 11 Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), as a  
 12 violation by an employer of section 12 of  
 13 such Act (29 U.S.C. 212).

14 “(3) CIVIL SERVICE.—An individual may be en-  
 15 rolled as a Corpsmember without regard to the civil  
 16 service and classification laws, rules, or regula-  
 17 tions.”.

18 **SEC. 5. 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS**  
 19 **CONSERVATION CENTERS AND PROGRAM**  
 20 **SUPPORT.**

21 Section 205 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993  
 22 (16 U.S.C. 1724) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by striking “Secretary” each place it  
 2 appears and inserting “head of a participating  
 3 entity”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
 6 “Public Lands Corps” and inserting  
 7 “21CSC”; and

8 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
 9 “conservation projects” and inserting  
 10 “21CSC projects”;

11 (2) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) in the heading, by inserting “, TEM-  
 13 PORARY HOUSING, AND TRANSPORTATION”  
 14 after “LOGISTICAL SUPPORT”;

15 (B) in the first sentence—

16 (i) by striking “The Secretary” and  
 17 inserting the following:

18 “(1) LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of a partici-  
 20 pating entity”; and

21 (ii) by striking “the Corps” and in-  
 22 serting “the 21CSC”;

23 (C) in the second sentence, by striking  
 24 “Logistical support” and inserting the fol-  
 25 lowing:

1 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—Logistical support pro-  
2 vided under subparagraph (A)”;

3 (D) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(2) TEMPORARY HOUSING.—The head of a  
5 participating entity may make arrangements with  
6 another Federal agency or a State, local govern-  
7 ment, or private organization to provide temporary  
8 housing for Corpsmembers as needed and available.

9 “(3) TRANSPORTATION.—The head of a partici-  
10 pating entity may provide transportation to and  
11 from 21CSC project sites for Corpsmembers that re-  
12 side in their own homes.”;

13 (3) in subsection (c)—

14 (A) by striking “The Secretary” and in-  
15 serting “The head of a participating entity”;  
16 and

17 (B) by striking “the Corps for training or  
18 housing Corps participants” and inserting “the  
19 21CSC for training or housing Corpsmembers”;  
20 and

21 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “The Sec-  
22 retary” and inserting “The head of a participating  
23 entity”.

1 **SEC. 6. RESOURCE ASSISTANTS.**

2 Section 206 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993  
3 (16 U.S.C. 1725) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in the fourth sentence, by striking  
6 “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

7 “(D) PREFERENCE.—The head of a par-  
8 ticipating entity”;

9 (B) in the third sentence, by striking “The  
10 Secretary” and inserting the following:

11 “(C) SELECTION.—The head of a partici-  
12 pating entity”;

13 (C) in the second sentence, by striking “To  
14 be eligible” and inserting the following:

15 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible”; and

16 (D) by striking the first sentence and in-  
17 serting the following:

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of a partici-  
19 pating entity may provide individual placements  
20 of resource assistants to carry out research or  
21 resource protection activities on behalf of the  
22 participating entity.”; and

23 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the  
24 following:

25 “(b) USE OF 21CSC ORGANIZATIONS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—If the head of a partici-  
2           pating entity determines that a 21CSC organization  
3           can provide appropriate recruitment and placement  
4           services to fulfill the requirements of this section,  
5           the head of the participating entity may implement  
6           this section through a 21CSC organization.

7           “(2) CONTRIBUTION TO EXPENSES.—A 21CSC  
8           organization providing recruitment and placement  
9           services under paragraph (1) shall contribute to the  
10          expenses of providing and supporting resource as-  
11          sistants, through 1 or more private sources of fund-  
12          ing, at a level equal to 25 percent of the total costs  
13          of each participant in the resource assistant pro-  
14          gram that has been recruited and placed through the  
15          21CSC organization.

16          “(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—A 21CSC organization  
17          providing recruitment and placement services under  
18          paragraph (1) shall submit to the head of the appli-  
19          cable participating entity an annual report that eval-  
20          uates the scope, size, and quality of the resource as-  
21          sistant program carried out by the 21CSC organiza-  
22          tion, including a description of the value of the work  
23          contributed by resource assistants to the mission of  
24          the participating entity.”.

1 **SEC. 7. ELIGIBILITY FOR NONCOMPETITIVE HIRING STA-**  
2 **TUS.**

3 Section 207 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993  
4 (16 U.S.C. 1726) is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 207. ELIGIBILITY FOR NONCOMPETITIVE HIRING STA-**  
6 **TUS.**

7 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

8 “(1) the terms ‘land management agency’ and  
9 ‘time-limited appointment’ have the meanings given  
10 those terms in section 9601 of title 5, United States  
11 Code; and

12 “(2) the term ‘qualified Corpsmember’ means a  
13 Corpsmember who is certified by a corresponding  
14 participating entity as having successfully completed  
15 640 hours of service with a 21CSC organization.

16 “(b) HIRING.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2)  
18 and subsection (c), a qualified Corpsmember shall be  
19 eligible for appointment in the competitive service in  
20 the same manner as a Peace Corps volunteer as pre-  
21 scribed in Executive Order 11103 (22 U.S.C. 2504  
22 note; relating to Providing for the Appointment of  
23 Former Peace Corps Volunteers to the Civilian Ca-  
24 reer Services), as amended by Executive Order  
25 12107 (44 Fed. Reg. 1055; relating to the Civil

1 Service Commission and Labor-Management in the  
2 Federal Service).

3 “(2) PERIOD.—A qualified Corpsmember shall  
4 be eligible for an appointment under paragraph (1)  
5 during the 2-year period beginning on the date on  
6 which the Corpsmember completes the 640 hours of  
7 service required under subsection (a)(2).

8 “(3) TIME-LIMITED APPOINTMENT.—For pur-  
9 poses of section 9602 of title 5, United States Code,  
10 a qualified Corpsmember hired by a participating  
11 entity that is a land management agency for a time-  
12 limited appointment shall be considered to be ap-  
13 pointed initially under open, competitive examina-  
14 tion.

15 “(c) SERVICE HOURS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The 640 hours of service  
17 required under subsection (a)(2) may include service  
18 on 1 or more projects carried out by a Corpsmember  
19 with 1 or more participating entities during 1 or  
20 more terms of service in a 21CSC organization.

21 “(2) COMPETITIVE SERVICE.—To be eligible for  
22 noncompetitive hiring status under subsection (b), a  
23 Corpsmember shall perform the 640 hours of service  
24 required under subsection (a)(2)—

1           “(A) carrying out a project on public or  
2           tribal land or water; or

3           “(B) in service with, or on a project sup-  
4           ported in whole or in part by, a participating  
5           entity.

6           “(3) PRIORITIES.—The head of each partici-  
7           pating entity is encouraged, to the maximum extent  
8           practicable, to identify a sufficient number of 21CSC  
9           projects on public or tribal land or water that are  
10          aligned with the priorities of the participating entity  
11          so as to facilitate the attainment of the 640 hours  
12          of service by Corpsmembers required under sub-  
13          section (a)(2).

14          “(4) TRACKING HOURS.—Participating entities  
15          shall coordinate with 21CSC organizations to iden-  
16          tify the most effective and efficient method for  
17          tracking and certifying the 640 hours of service re-  
18          quired under subsection (a)(2).

19          “(d) GUIDANCE.—The head of each participating en-  
20          tity, and any subdivision of a participating entity, shall  
21          coordinate with the head of each other participating enti-  
22          ty, and subdivision of each other participating entity, to  
23          implement and issue guidance on eligibility for non-  
24          competitive hiring status under subsection (b) in a uni-  
25          form manner to—

1           “(1) improve the efficiency and use of non-  
2       competitive hiring authority; and  
3           “(2) minimize inconsistency.”.

4   **SEC. 8. NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.**

5       Section 208 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993  
6 (16 U.S.C. 1727) is amended—

7           (1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence—

8               (A) by striking “participant in the Public  
9       Lands Corps” and inserting “Corpsmember”;  
10       and

11              (B) by striking “the participant” and in-  
12       serting “the Corpsmember”; and

13           (2) in subsection (b)—

14               (A) by striking “either participants in the  
15       Corps” and inserting “Corpsmembers”; and

16               (B) by striking “such a participant” and  
17       inserting “a Corpsmember”.

18   **SEC. 9. NONDISPLACEMENT.**

19       Section 209 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993  
20 (16 U.S.C. 1728) is amended—

21           (1) by striking “Public Lands Corps” and in-  
22       serting “21CSC”; and

23           (2) by striking “qualified youth or conservation  
24       corps” and inserting “Corpsmember or a 21CSC or-  
25       ganization”.

1 **SEC. 10. FUNDING.**

2 Section 210 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993  
3 (16 U.S.C. 1729) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (c)  
5 as subsections (d) through (f), respectively;

6 (2) by inserting before subsection (d) the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 “(a) INVESTMENTS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to using the  
10 funds described in subsections (b) and (c) to fund  
11 21CSC projects, each 21CSC organization shall le-  
12 verage those funds by soliciting cash or in-kind con-  
13 tributions from public or private sources.

14 “(2) METHODS.—A 21CSC organization may  
15 leverage funds by soliciting contributions using inno-  
16 vative strategies, such as crowd-funding.

17 “(b) EXISTING RESOURCES.—To fund a 21CSC  
18 project, the head of each participating entity shall be lim-  
19 ited to using existing funds appropriated or allocated to  
20 the participating entity, as of the period of implementation  
21 of the 21CSC project, under any law or authority other  
22 than this title.

23 “(c) SET COST SHARE.—A 21CSC organization car-  
24 rying out a 21CSC project shall provide a cost share of  
25 not less than 10 percent of the total cost of the 21CSC

1 project, which may include cash or in-kind contributions  
 2 from a State, local, or private source.”;

3 (3) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-  
 6 ing “QUALIFIED YOUTH OR CONSERVATION  
 7 CORPS” and inserting “CORPSMEMBERS OR  
 8 21CSC ORGANIZATIONS”; and

9 (ii) by striking the first and second  
 10 sentences; and

11 (B) in paragraph (2)—

12 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-  
 13 ing “PUBLIC LANDS CORPS” and inserting  
 14 “21CSC”;

15 (ii) in the first sentence—

16 (I) by striking “The Secretary is  
 17 authorized to” and inserting “The  
 18 head of a participating entity may”;

19 (II) by striking “Public Lands  
 20 Corps” and inserting “21CSC”; and

21 (III) by striking “the Corps” and  
 22 inserting “the 21CSC”; and

23 (iii) in the second sentence, by strik-  
 24 ing “the Corps” and “the 21CSC”;

1 (4) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by  
 2 striking “In order” and all that follows through “the  
 3 Secretary” and inserting “To carry out the 21CSC  
 4 or to support resource assistants and Corpsmembers  
 5 or 21CSC organizations under this title, the head of  
 6 a participating entity”; and

7 (5) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated)—

8 (A) by striking “section 211” and insert-  
 9 ing “section 213”; and

10 (B) by striking “Public Lands Corps” and  
 11 inserting “21CSC”.

12 **SEC. 11. INDIAN YOUTH 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION**  
 13 **SERVICE CORPS; RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

14 The Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C.  
 15 1721 et seq.) is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating section 211 as section 213;  
 17 and

18 (2) by inserting after section 210 the following:

19 **“SEC. 211. INDIAN YOUTH 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION**  
 20 **SERVICE CORPS.**

21 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREE-  
 22 MENTS.—The head of a participating entity may offer to  
 23 enter into a cooperative agreement with a tribal agency  
 24 or a 21CSC organization to establish and administer the  
 25 Indian Youth 21st Century Conservation Service Corps,

1 which shall carry out 1 or more 21CSC projects on tribal  
2 land or water.

3 “(b) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 18 months after  
4 the date of enactment of the 21st Century Conservation  
5 Service Corps Act of 2017, the Secretary of the Interior,  
6 in consultation with Indian tribes, shall issue guidelines  
7 for the management of the Indian Youth 21st Century  
8 Conservation Service Corps, in accordance with this Act  
9 and any other applicable Federal laws.

10 **“SEC. 212. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

11 “Except as provided in section 204(d)(2)(A)(i), the  
12 requirements and authorities provided under this title with  
13 respect to Corpsmembers, 21CSC organizations, and par-  
14 ticipating entities with respect to a 21CSC project shall  
15 be in addition to any requirement or authority provided  
16 under other Federal law with respect to Corpsmembers,  
17 21CSC organizations, and participating entities with re-  
18 spect to the 21CSC project.”.

19 **SEC. 12. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.**

20 Section 121(a) of the Department of the Interior, En-  
21 vironment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act,  
22 2012 (16 U.S.C. 1725a(a)), is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1)—

24 (A) by striking “Secretary of the Interior”

25 and inserting “head of a participating entity (as

1 defined in section 203 of the Public Lands  
2 Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1722)) (referred  
3 to in this subsection as a ‘participating enti-  
4 ty’); and

5 (B) by striking “in paragraph (1) directly  
6 to a position with a land managing agency of  
7 the Department of the Interior” and inserting  
8 “in paragraph (2) directly to a position with a  
9 participating entity”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “land man-  
11 aging agency, such as the National Park Service  
12 Business Plan Internship” and inserting “partici-  
13 pating entity”.

○