

	PAGE
Small Agency Profile.....	2
Agency Fiscal Page (Gov Rec).....	5
Change Summary.....	6
Agency Change Items	
↻ Base Budget Reduction	7

↻ Designates that this is a change item

Agency Purpose

The Minnesota Conservation Corps, an entrepreneurial 501(c)(3), engages young people in community service, natural-resource restoration and emergency-response work. Affiliated with AmeriCorps, MCC continues the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s.

Core Functions

- ◆ **Skills development** – MCC provides youth and young adults with the technical and personal skills necessary to not only complete hands-on conservation and community-service projects, but to be successful in their future education, careers and civic involvement.
- ◆ **Positive learning experiences** – MCC provides service-learning experiences that result in personal responsibility, a strong service ethic and changed lives.
- ◆ **Social and environmental impact** — MCC fosters positive improvements to our environment, communities, and young people’s lives through a commitment to natural-resource service.
- ◆ **Youth and young adult service** — MCC maximizes the enthusiasm and energy of young people to create positive outcomes for Minnesota communities.

Operations

- ◆ Summer Youth Residential Program operates for eight weeks from a base camp at St. Croix State Park. Youth crews work and camp throughout the state to restore and improve natural resources on public lands.
- ◆ Young Adult Program operates Feb – Dec. Corps members work throughout the state, performing labor-intensive, highly-technical natural resource work on public land and responding to natural disasters.
- ◆ Youth Outdoors (YO), a new after-school program, was launched in the fall 2008 with a pilot program; the full program starts in February 2009. YO participants complete service learning projects in their neighborhoods.

Key Goals

The Minnesota Conservation Corps mission is to provide hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities for youth and young adults while accomplishing priority cost-effective conservation, natural resource management and emergency-response work. In 2006, MCC initiated a three-year strategic plan with 12 initiatives in three key areas:

- ◆ **Programs:** Grow existing programs while sustaining a quality corps member experience and project results.
- ◆ **Funding:** Execute our development plan to provide sustainable and alternative sources of funding.
- ◆ **Organization:** Strengthen MCC organization, staff, processes and capabilities to further develop effective and efficient operations.

MCC is currently designing strategic initiatives for 2010-13 through data gathering, analysis and working sessions with the executive team, staff, alumni, stakeholders and board of directors.

Glance

Minnesota Conservation Corps programs:

- ◆ **Young Adult AmeriCorps:** ages 18-25; ten months of service; nonresidential; participants receive education award after completing term.
- ◆ **Summer Youth:** ages 15-18; teens live and work outdoors for eight weeks, unplugged from technology and modern conveniences.
- ◆ **Youth Outdoors:** after-school program, ages 15-18; pilot launched in fall 2008; emphasizes STEM curriculum, service and civic engagement.

MCC restores resources and changes lives by:

- ◆ Annually engaging more than 200 young people in service, working outdoors.
- ◆ Serving more than 125 project sponsors, including nonprofits, community organizations, local governments, and state and federal agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- ◆ Completing more than 160,000 hours of work such as restoring native habitats, building and maintaining trails and other natural-resource infrastructure, leading volunteers, collecting data, protecting water resources and more.
- ◆ Providing work-skill and personal-development training during 20% of participants’ service term.
- ◆ Offering emergency-response work to Minnesota communities and other regions plagued by floods, fire and other disasters.
- ◆ Preparing young people for work in natural resource agencies that will lose 50% of staff in next five years as baby boomers retire.

Key Measures

Outcomes are documented by evaluations and project-tracking procedures tied to performance measures.

Key Measures - changing lives, restoring resources

Project sponsor satisfaction:

89% of project sponsors rated their overall satisfaction with MCC crews as “excellent” or “outstanding”

Member workplace behavior and skills development:

20% of corps members’ time was spent in personal-development and technical-skills training (*in classroom*)

Member post-service path:

- ◆ 33% received employment in related field
- ◆ 26% returned to program in a leadership capacity
- ◆ 21% began or returned to post-secondary education
- ◆ 11% enlisted in voluntary community service or other AmeriCorps programs

Key Measures - YOUTH PROGRAM

Engaging diverse youth:

- ◆ 40% of participants are youth of color; 20% are deaf or hard-of-hearing,
- ◆ Program enrolls equal numbers of male and female, and rural and metro participants

Personal and work-skills development outcomes of 3,484 educational hours:

- ◆ 94% of youth demonstrated increased understanding of the natural environment
- ◆ 77% reported increased interest in new career and vocational pursuits
- ◆ 16% returned to program in positions with higher levels of responsibility
- ◆ 91% demonstrated increased skills with hand tools
- ◆ 82% reported increased confidence interacting with peers and adults.

During the past year, youth and young adult participants contributed more than 160,000 hours of conservation service.

MCC also participates in the national **Corps Network’s Excellence in Corps Operations evaluation**, ranking high in both internal and external reviews.

Budget

MCC spends more than 85% of its funds directly for youth and young adult programs. MCC generates almost half its operating funds from conservation services. State funds are used for priority projects, leveraging resources from other organizations and providing match for the federal AmeriCorps grants.

FY 2010-11 Projected Revenue Summary:

Fee for service (47%)	1,500,000
Natural Resources Fund (15%)	490,000
State General Fund (15%)	475,000
Federal AmeriCorps grant (11%)	265,000
ServeMinnesota grant (7%)	252,000
Contributions and foundation grants (4%)	150,000
Total	3,132,000

Future Opportunities

- ◆ Working with partners on the Clean Water Legacy Initiative in conjunction with BWSR
- ◆ Receiving additional funds from DEED for deaf and hard of hearing participants
- ◆ Expanding service opportunities for youth.

- ◆ Preparing program participants for green jobs and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) related careers.

Contact

Minnesota Conservation Corps
2715 Upper Afton Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55119
www.conservationcorps.org

Len Price, Executive Director, (651) 209-9900 x12
len.price@conservationcorps.org

Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Governor Recomm.		Biennium 2010-11
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	525	475	475	475	950
Recommended	525	475	451	451	902
Change		0	(24)	(24)	(48)
% Biennial Change from 2008-09					-9.8%
Natural Resources					
Current Appropriation	490	490	490	490	980
Recommended	490	490	490	490	980
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2008-09					0%
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	525	475	451	451	902
Natural Resources	490	490	490	490	980
Total	1,015	965	941	941	1,882
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Local Assistance	1,015	965	941	941	1,882
Total	1,015	965	941	941	1,882
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Minn Conservation Corps	1,015	965	941	941	1,882
Total	1,015	965	941	941	1,882

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>				
	FY2009	Governor's Recomm.		Biennium
		FY2010	FY2011	2010-11
<i>Fund: GENERAL</i>				
FY 2009 Appropriations	475	475	475	950
Subtotal - Forecast Base	475	475	475	950
Change Items				
Base Budget Reduction	0	(24)	(24)	(48)
Total Governor's Recommendations	475	451	451	902
<i>Fund: NATURAL RESOURCES</i>				
FY 2009 Appropriations	490	490	490	980
Subtotal - Forecast Base	490	490	490	980
Total Governor's Recommendations	490	490	490	980

MN CONSERVATION CORPS

Change Item: Base Budget Reduction

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
General Fund				
Expenditures	\$(24)	\$(24)	\$(24)	\$(24)
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Fund				
Expenditures				
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact	\$(24)	\$(24)	\$(24)	\$(24)

Recommendation

The Governor recommends a reduction of \$24,000 in FY 2010 and \$24,000 in FY 2011 to the Conservation Corps general fund appropriation. The Governor intends that the Conservation Corps should focus its operating funds on maintaining its highest priority services. In addition, the Governor intends to provide as much flexibility as possible to the agency for the implementation of these reductions.

Background

This proposal is an approximate 1% reduction of the \$3.1 million in total revenues as projected by the Conservation Corps. The Conservation Corps FY 2009 general fund appropriation is \$475,000. The Governor is proposing to reduce the Conservation Corps's general fund appropriation during the FY 2010-11 biennium.

Relationship to Base Budget

This proposal represents a 5% base level reduction to the general fund appropriation, but only a 1% reduction in the Conservation Corps' overall budget.

Key Goals and Measures

The budget submitted for Conservation Corps seeks to safeguard core activities and reduce administrative overhead. The agency will manage budget reductions through various service level reductions or eliminations, staffing decreases, and/or operating expense reductions. The resulting budget will focus on new ways to operate the department's core functions.