

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 24-10
	DATE February 14, 2011

TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
 ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
 ALL ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER LEADS
 ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS

FROM: JANE OATES /s/
 Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Joint Letter in Support of Youth Work Experiences on Public Lands

1. Purpose. To encourage the public workforce investment system to partner with public land management agencies within the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture in an effort to increase work experience opportunities for youth and young adults on public lands.

2. Background. The attached joint letter reflects the efforts of the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of the Interior (hereinafter, the Departments) to identify and explore areas of collaboration that will expand meaningful work and learning opportunities for low-income youth and young adults on Federally-managed public lands.

The Departments implemented a pilot project during the summer of 2010 that aimed to increase work experience opportunities for youth served by the publicly-funded workforce investment system by placing them in conservation corps, internships, and other summer employment opportunities at national parks and forests, grasslands, conservation areas, historic sites, and tribal lands. Building on the initial efforts of this pilot, the Departments would like to encourage the public workforce investment system and public land management agencies to work together to explore partnership opportunities and ways to leverage resources to increase employment opportunities for low-income youth and young adults during the summer of 2011 and beyond.

The need for these partnerships comes at a critical time. The overall teen employment rate has remained devastatingly low, reaching levels not seen in 60 years. The current recession has eliminated many employment opportunities for youth. Work experience opportunities help young people develop valuable skills, and serve as critical stepping stones on the path to a career. With approximately \$1.2 billion in additional Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) Youth Program funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), the public workforce investment system was able to provide meaningful work experiences for youth during summer and post-summer months in 2009 and 2010. With Recovery Act funds nearly expended, the Employment and Training Administration aims to support the workforce investment system in identifying partnerships that can expand its capacity to provide as many work opportunities as possible. Through these partnerships, local workforce investment and land

management agencies are encouraged to be creative and innovative as they leverage capacity and resources for the purpose of providing our nation's youth and young adults with meaningful work experience on public lands.

3. Inquiries. Questions concerning this Training and Employment Notice should be directed to the appropriate regional office.

4. Attachments. See attached joint Dear Colleague letter and Attachments A, B, and C.

Attachment A: Contact information for ETA – six regional offices, all state workforce investment agencies, and local workforce investment boards.

Attachment B: Contact information for DOI – Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service.

Attachment C: Contact information for USDA Forest Service.