

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL REYNOLDS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, WORKFORCE AND INCLUSION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 2167, TO AMEND THE PUBLIC LANDS CORPS ACT OF 1993 TO EXPAND THE AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, AND SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO PROVIDE SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG AMERICANS, TO HELP RESTORE NATURAL, CULTURAL, HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, RECREATIONAL, AND SCENIC RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES, TO TRAIN A NEW GENERATION OF PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS AND ENTHUSIASTS, TO PROMOTE THE VALUE OF PUBLIC SERVICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**JUNE 23, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the views for the Department of the Interior on H.R. 2167, a bill to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authority of the Secretary of the Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of the Interior to provide service opportunities for young Americans, to help restore natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources of the United States, to train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts, to promote the values of public service, and for other purposes.

The Department strongly supports H.R. 2167 which promotes environmental stewardship while providing job skill development to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce. This bill would strengthen and facilitate the use of the Public Land Corps (PLC) program, helping to fulfill the Administration's commitment to build a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps (21 CSC)—a national collaborative effort encouraging young people across America to serve their community and their country. During the last three Congresses, the Department testified in support of similar bills. While we appreciate many of the revisions since the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress' version that are reflected in H.R. 2167, we would like to have the opportunity to work with the committee on the amendments described in this statement and any additional issues that we identify as we continue our review of the bill.

**Engaging America's Youth Through Service**

While there are other federal programs that promote service, expanding the use of the Public Land Corps is particularly important because it also serves other high-priority goals. Specifically, enactment of this legislation will help pave the way to meeting one of the goals of the President's America's Great Outdoors initiative – to develop a 21st Century Conservation Service Corps. In January 2013, leaders of eight federal departments and agencies signed an agreement setting up a national council to guide implementation of the Administration's 21CSC – a national collaborative effort to put America's youth and returning veterans to work protecting, restoring and enhancing America's great outdoors. By signing the Memorandum of Understanding, the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor, as well as the EPA Administrator, Chair of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, CEO of the

Corporation for National and Community Service, and Assistant Secretary for the Army (Civil Works) established the National Council for the 21CSC—fully implementing the first recommendation of the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative introduced by President Obama in 2010. The National Council works across the federal government to support the 21CSC by enhancing partnerships with existing youth corps programs that utilize PLC around the nation; stimulating existing and new public-private partnerships; and aligning the investment of current federal government resources.

Building on the legacy of President Roosevelt’s Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression in the 1930s, the 21CSC will help build and train a workforce that fully represents the diversity of America while creating the next generation of environmental stewards and improving the condition of our public lands. The 21CSC focuses on helping young people – including diverse, low-income, underserved and at-risk youth, as well as returning veterans – gain valuable training and work experience while accomplishing needed conservation and restoration work on public lands, waterways and cultural heritage sites.

H.R. 2167 would help both the Department and our sister agencies, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce, offer expanded opportunities for our youth to engage in the care of America's Great Outdoors, consistent with efforts to fully implement the 21CSC. It would help the Department further implement critical cost-effective conservation projects that have direct positive impacts for the agency and the public. This legislation would also help the Department fully implement the 5-Year Plan for Pathways in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

### **Background on Public Land Corps Program**

The Department regards the Public Land Corps program as an important and successful example of civic engagement and conservation. Authorized by the National and Community Service Trust Act in 1993, the program uses non-profit organizations such as the Student Conservation Association (SCA), the Hispanic Access Foundation, the Greening Youth Foundation and other service and conservation corps organizations affiliated with the Corps Network as the primary partners in administering the Public Land Corps program. These public/private partnership efforts help to leverage Federal dollars in some cases 3 to 1. In addition, other non-profit youth organizations such as the YMCA also participate, as do local high schools and job-training youth organizations. These youth organizations assist the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to attract diverse participants to the parks by recruiting youth 16-25 years of age from all socioeconomic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

The National Park Service (NPS) makes extensive use of the Public Land Corps Act. This authority is used for the majority of all NPS youth work projects that utilize a non-profit youth-serving organization as a partner. In FY 2015, 4,248 employment opportunities were created through the projects undertaken by these partner organizations. Many of these projects were for maintenance and ecological restoration purposes. The NPS receives a 25 percent cost match from the participating partner organizations.

In 2012, the NPS and the Greening Youth Foundation launched the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Intern Program. This program provides over 60 employment opportunities in facilities management, science, interpretation and education, and cultural resource stewardship, in all seven NPS regions. The Greening Youth Foundation, in close collaboration with the NPS, has developed a detailed, multi-layer pre-placement training for its PLC participants and park hosts. There is also an end-of-program training workshop, which includes a career development component.

In 2015, the NPS launched the Latino Heritage Intern Program utilizing two PLC partner organizations, Environment for the Americas and the Hispanic Access Foundation. Also, this year the NPS is providing 45 employment opportunities in 6 NPS regions with a focus on cultural resource stewardship.

The Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has engaged the services of non-profit youth service corps for many years under financial assistance agreements at the state and local level. In FY 2015, the BLM supported more than 4,400 youth employees through non-profit service corps organizations. They participated in a variety of conservation service activities such as recreation and river management, historic building restoration and maintenance, inventory and monitoring of cultural resources, wilderness, rangeland, and renewable energy compliance; native seed collection and invasive species control, and visitor services, including education and interpretation.

In Kanab, Utah, the Southern Utah University sponsored an Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC), which expanded youth conservation crews, individual internships, and camps for Native American youth. The IIC developed a step-by-step approach to engage, enlighten, enlist, and employ these youth from kindergarten through graduate school. Some of the youth were hired for plant restoration projects. Others worked on developing leadership skills by encouraging qualified youth to become crew leaders or mentors to other program participants.

In Salem, Oregon, the Wilderness International Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) sponsored interns from the Clackamas County Juvenile Department to work on BLM recreation sites and invasive control projects. Student interns participated in 10-week terms covering conservation topics and career readiness.

In Montrose, Colorado, a Forest Service YCC member supported front desk operations at the Montrose Public Lands Center for two months during the summer of 2015. The front desk is an interagency service center that supports public lands in and around Montrose, including BLM managed lands. The position was cost-shared by the San Juan Mountain Association and the U.S. Forest Service Ouray Ranger District.

In Phoenix, Arizona, a partnership of the Student Conservation Association, the BLM, Arizona Call-a-Teen Youth Resources, and Phoenix College conducted the Phoenix Field School, a 16-week education and training program for young adults. Crews worked on important conservation projects in Arizona, including trail construction and repair, riparian habitat restoration, biological monitoring, and invasive plant management. In addition to the field work and trainings, the

youth also earned 12 college credits through Phoenix College by taking classes in areas related to conservation and career development.

The Department's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) manages 564 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System that cover over 150 million acres of land and waters, as well as over 70 National Fish Hatcheries, which would directly benefit from programs authorized under H.R. 2167. National Wildlife Refuges and National Fish Hatcheries enjoy strong relationships with the local communities, and are involved in many community-based projects that help maintain sustainable landscapes. The FWS's work is also supported by over 200 non-profit Friends organizations that assist in offering quality education programs, mentoring, and work experience for youth.

In 2015, the FWS employed 1246 youth employees through 94 partners that include local, State, and non-profit youth service corps. The FWS also provided funding for a YCC program that hired 545 youth. The FWS has working relationships with numerous colleges and universities for students interested in pursuing careers in fish and wildlife management.

### **The Public Lands Service Corps Act of 2015**

H.R. 2167 would make several administrative and programmatic changes to the Public Land Corps Act. These changes would encourage broader agency use of the program, make more varied opportunities available for young men and women, and provide more support for participants during and after their service. Appropriately, H.R. 2167 would change the program's name to Public Lands *Service* Corps (PLSC), reflecting the emphasis on "service" that is the hallmark of the program. President Obama is committed to providing young people with greater opportunities and incentives to serve their community and country. Through an enhanced Public Lands Service Corps, we would be taking a critical first step in that direction.

Key changes that the legislation would make to existing law include:

- Adding the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which administers national marine sanctuaries and conservation programs geared toward engaging youth in science, service and stewardship, as an agency authorized to use the program;
- Establishing an Indian Youth Corps so Native American Youth can benefit from Corps programs based on Indian lands, carrying out projects that their Tribes and communities determine to be priorities;
- Authorizing a departmental-level office at the Department of the Interior to coordinate Corps activities within all the participating bureaus;
- Requiring each of the three relevant departments to undertake or contract for a recruiting program for the Corps;
- Requiring a training program for Corps members and identifying specific components the training must include;
- Identifying more specific types of projects that could be conducted under this authority;
- Allowing participants in other volunteer programs to participate in PLSC projects;
- Allowing agencies to make arrangements with other federal, State, or local agencies, or private organizations, to provide temporary housing for Corps members;

- Providing explicit authority for the establishment of residential conservation centers;
- Authorizing agencies to recruit experienced volunteers from other programs to serve as mentors to Corps members;
- Adding "consulting intern" as a new category of service employment under the PLSC program;
- Allowing agencies to provide living allowances, as established by the applicable Secretary, and to reimburse travel expenses;
- Allowing eligibility for military veterans to be capped at 35 years old;
- Allowing the Secretary to establish a preference of enrollment to individuals who live in a certain state or region;
- Allowing agencies to provide non-competitive Federal hiring status for Corps members for two years after completing service, rather than only 120 days, if certain terms are met; and
- Allowing agencies to provide job and education counseling, referrals, and other appropriate services to Corps members who have completed their service.

We believe that the Department's program would benefit from enactment of this legislation. As noted above, most PLSC projects are designed to address maintenance and ecological restoration needs, and those types of projects would continue to be done under H.R. 2167. However, this legislation specifies a broader range of potential projects, which would prepare Corps members for careers in more varied occupations and industries. Under H.R. 2167, Corps members could become involved in such varied activities as historical and cultural research, museum curatorial work, oral history projects and programs, documentary photography, public information and orientation services that promote visitor safety, and activities that support the creation of public works of art. Corps members might assist employees in the delivery of interpretive or educational programs and create interpretive products such as website content, Junior Ranger program books, printed handouts, and audiovisual programs.

PLSC participants would also be able to work for a partner organization where the work might involve sales, office work, accounting, science, communication, education, and management, so long as the work experience is directly related to the protection and management of public lands. The NPS has a large number of partner organizations that would be potential sponsors of young people interested in the type of work they might offer.

Another important change is the addition of "consulting intern" as a new category of service employment under the PLSC program, expanding on the use of mostly college-student "resource assistants," provided for under existing law. The consulting interns would be graduate students who would help agencies carry out management analysis activities. The NPS has successfully used business and public management graduate student interns to write business plans for parks for several years, and this addition would bring these interns under the PLC umbrella.

The Public Lands Service Corps would also offer agencies the ability to hire successful Corps members non-competitively at the end of their appointment, which would provide the agency with an influx of knowledgeable and diverse employees as well as career opportunities for those interested in the agencies' mission. Such hiring authority is an especially valuable tool for the Department to realize its goals spelled out in the "STEM Education and Employment Pathways

Strategic Plan.” Refuges and hatcheries, for example, are uniquely qualified to connect with local communities, since the Service has so many refuges across the country that are located near smaller communities and can directly engage urban, inner city, and rural youth. For example, partnering academic institutions are beginning to offer academic certificate programs to enhance the students' work experience and marketability for securing full-time employment in both the federal and non-profit sectors, thereby providing orientation and exposure to a broad range of career options.

An expanded Public Lands Service Corps program would provide more opportunities for thousands of young Americans to participate in public service while assisting the Department to address the critical maintenance, restoration, repair and rehabilitation needs on our public lands and gain a better understanding of the impacts of climate change on these treasured landscapes.

### **Recommended Changes to H.R. 2167**

As noted at the start of this statement, we appreciate the changes that have been made since the legislation was first introduced in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, and are reflected in H.R. 2167. However, the Administration recommends the following amendments to this bill:

#### **1) Cost sharing for nonprofit organizations contributing to expenses of resource assistants and consulting interns**

Under current law in the case of resource assistants, and under H.R. 2167 in the case of consulting interns, sponsoring organizations are required to cost-share 25 percent of the expenses of providing and supporting these individuals from "private sources of funding." The Administration recommends giving agencies the ability to reduce the non-federal contribution to no less than 10 percent, only if the Secretary determines it is necessary to enable a greater range of organizations, such as smaller, community-based organizations that draw from low-income and rural populations, to participate in the PLSC program. This would make the cost-share provisions for resource assistants and consulting interns parallel to the provisions under the bill for other PLSC participants.

#### **2) Definition of Eligible Service Lands**

The Administration recommends technical amendments to clarify the definition of "eligible service lands" to include non-federal lands. An expanded definition of eligible service lands to include federal, state, local and privately-owned lands would provide additional flexibility in carrying out conservation projects on non-federal lands with willing landowners.

#### **3) Agreements with Partners on Training and Employing Corps Members**

The Administration recommends striking the provision in H.R. 2167 that would allow PLSC members to receive federally funded stipends and other PLSC benefits while working directly for non-federal third parties. The need for this language is unclear, since agencies already have flexibility in how they coordinate work with cooperating associations, educational institutes, friends groups, or similar nonprofit partnership organizations. Yet, the language could raise

unanticipated concerns over accountability, liability, and conflicts of interest. For example, this language could allow an individual to receive a federally funded stipend under a PLSC agreement, and then perform work for a different non-federal group (such as a cooperating association) that is subject to agency oversight under different agreements. This language could blur the lines of responsibility that have been established in response to IG concerns over the management of cooperating associations and friends groups.

#### 4) Participants/ Length of Service

The Administration recommends striking the provision in H.R. 2167 that would limit the terms of service of Corps participants. This would retain the authority provided for in current law which provides for administrative flexibility in determining the appropriate length of service for Corps participants.

#### 5) Authorization of Appropriations

The Administration recommends amending H.R. 2167 to eliminate the \$12 million authorization ceiling for the program under existing law. This would allow for an increased funding for the program in the future, as the three Departments increase their use of the Public Lands Service Corps.

#### 6) Eligibility Requirements

The Administration recommends amending H.R. 2167 to raise the maximum participant age for enrollment of both the Corps and the Indian Youth Service Corps from 25 to no older than 35.

The Department and its bureaus, along with its sister agencies are presently working together to: establish a 21CSC; improve federal capacity for recruiting, training and managing volunteers and volunteer programs to create a new generation of citizen stewards; and improve career pathways and to review barriers to jobs in natural resource conservation and historic and cultural preservation. The proposed amendments to the Public Lands Service Corps Act will support these efforts to fully implement the President's America's Great Outdoors initiative.

Finally, the Department of Labor also is reviewing H.R. 2167 to ensure that labor standards, including child labor protections, apply for participating youth, and will address any concerns it has directly with the Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL REYNOLDS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR  
WORKFORCE AND INCLUSION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 2333, A BILL TO  
AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ACQUIRE CERTAIN  
PROPERTY RELATED TO THE FORT SCOTT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN  
FORT SCOTT, KANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**June 23, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 2333, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain property related to the Fort Scott National Historic Site in the State of Kansas, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 2333 with amendments described later in this statement.

This legislation would amend Public Law 95-484, the establishing legislation for Fort Scott, to allow the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by donation the Lunette Blair Blockhouse, a 0.17-acre property located near the park boundary. The blockhouse is the last remaining Civil War-era military structure, built to defend the town of Fort Scott and its robust military supply depot from Confederate attack. For more than 50 years, the blockhouse has been maintained and preserved through a public-private partnership between the City of Fort Scott, and local individuals and an organization. The president of the organization approached the park to donate the property because the members were no longer physically or financially able to continue their preservation efforts. No other organization has shown interest in preserving the blockhouse. Without regular maintenance, the structure will continue to deteriorate and the opportunity for visitors to experience the epic stories of those who fought for freedom and the Union from 1861 to 1865 will be lost.

In addition to the Lunette Blair Blockhouse, there are three other properties that the National Park Service (NPS) has identified as important potential additions to Fort Scott. These properties are known as the Cummings property, the Chamber of Commerce property, and the Westar property. Together with the blockhouse, these properties would increase the footprint of the national historic site by 3.81 acres, still only modestly increasing the park's footprint while improving the NPS's ability to protect resources and welcome visitors to the site.

The Cummings property is 0.73 acres adjacent to the park's eastern boundary and separates the historic site from U.S. Highway 69. This parcel would provide visitors with more direct access to the park. The owners have expressed interest in selling their property. The site includes a 13,159 square-foot building on the property suitable for administrative purposes.



The Chamber of Commerce property consists of 0.24 acres adjacent to the park's eastern boundary. The site currently houses the chamber offices. The building is bordered by the park on three sides, and including this property would allow for a continuous boundary. The Chamber of Commerce would continue the use of this building for the foreseeable future.

The Westar property is 2.87 acres located adjacent to the western boundary of the park where the first civilian merchants in the area sold supplies to soldiers, Indians, tradespeople, travelers, and farmers. The Westar property also includes part of the historical landscape associated with the Civil War, including entrenchments and fortification structures that surrounded the fort. It is also the site associated with two of the earliest African-American neighborhoods in Fort Scott, both during and after the Civil War. These African-American families and refugees escaped from Indian Territory and followed the Union Army to Fort Scott. They rented or owned houses on the present-day Westar property, one of which was occupied by an African-American Civil War veteran with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kansas Colored Infantry who lived on his property until the 1920s.

The Westar property includes an 18,940 square-foot brick structure of various elevations and storage spaces. The building has administrative and visitor services potential and could be utilized as an educational, orientation center or as exhibit/museum space that is accessible since this would be the only on-grade building in the boundary. Additionally, this brick building could improve public safety since it would be the only appropriate space in the park for providing visitor and employee safety in the event of a natural disaster such as a tornado or a severe thunderstorm.

The estimated cost of acquisition for the Cummings property is approximately \$147,500 and the estimated cost for acquisition of the Westar Property is \$350,000. The Lunette Blair Blockhouse would be acquired through donation. The additional facilities and properties will increase park operational and maintenance costs, but the amount will depend on the number of facilities acquired and their condition. Additional funds for maintenance, repairs and capital improvements would be awarded through the NPS competitive process, subject to service-wide priorities and the availability of appropriations.

Support for a boundary modification that includes the Lunette Blair Blockhouse and the other three properties described above has been expressed by various community organizations and community members, including the City of Fort Scott, the Bourbon County Economic Development Association, the Bourbon County Commissioners, the Bourbon County Riverfront Authority, the Bourbon County Chamber of Commerce, and the Friends of Fort Scott NHS, Inc.

We recommend amending H.R. 2333 to adjust the national historic site's property to include all four properties, and to provide authority to acquire land by purchase, as well as donation. These authorities are contained in S. 2087, sponsored by Senator Jerry Moran, which the Department supported in a hearing on June 15, 2016. We would be happy to provide the committee with language to amend the House bill accordingly.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL REYNOLDS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, WORKFORCE AND INCLUSION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 4387, TO ESTABLISH THE TULE LAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**JUNE 23, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 4387, to establish the Tule Lake National Historic Site in the State of California, and for other purposes.

The Department would support H.R. 4387, if amended in accordance with this statement.

H.R. 4387 would establish the Tule Lake National Historic Site as a stand-alone unit of the National Park System, separating it from the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. It would include portions of the Tule Lake Segregation Center National Historic Landmark and Camp Tulelake.

The World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, including the Tule Lake Unit, was created by a presidential proclamation on December 5, 2008. The monument consists of nine sites in Alaska, California, and Hawaii. Eight of the nine sites in the monument are World War II battle sites that memorialize battles on American soil and actual engagement with foreign enemies. This is in stark contrast to the purpose of the Tule Lake site, which is to preserve, study, and interpret the history and setting of the incarceration and later segregation of *nikkei*, first-generation Japanese Americans, at Tule Lake during World War II.

Since designation, many former detainees have expressed concerns about whether the name of the monument, "World War II Valor in the Pacific," is appropriate for a site aimed at remembering the grave injustice done to more than 120,000 Japanese Americans nationwide during the war. Additionally, public input from over 30 public scoping meetings held in western states in 2013 for the park's general management plan revealed strong public opinion to detach the Tule Lake Unit from World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. The rationale expressed that the name is inappropriate, and even offensive, for an internment site to be associated with wartime valor.

The Tule Lake Segregation Center, which was opened in May 1942, was the largest of the 10 War Relocation Authority camps. More than 29,000 Japanese Americans from western Washington, Oregon, and northern California were interned there. Its population made up a quarter of the 120,000 people affected by World War II Japanese American internment. Tule Lake also imprisoned the largest number of individuals categorized as disloyal, and was subsequently converted to a maximum-security segregation center. Due to turmoil and strife, Tule Lake was the last camp to close, on March 28, 1946.

Presently the park includes Camp Tulelake, where there are several historic structures once used to imprison Japanese Americans and detain German and Italian prisoners of war; the Peninsula, an iconic landscape to those who lived there and where detainees tended livestock that supported the self-contained camp; and the Segregation Center, which encompasses the original segregation center's stockade, the War Relocation Authority motor pool, the post engineer's yard and motor pool, and a small part of the military police compound.

The Tule Lake Unit is currently administered jointly by the National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge) and is managed in accordance with both NPS and USFWS laws and regulations. This bill would not affect existing land rights or alter the site's current management scheme or operational costs.

Establishing the Tule Lake National Historic Site will enable us to increase focus on understanding the high price paid by Japanese Americans on the home front during World War II. It would elevate the recognition of this site to be consistent with our other Japanese relocation centers -- Manzanar National Historic Site and Minidoka National Historic Site -- as stand-alone parks in the National Park System. And, it is in keeping with the public's and former detainees' expressed opinions on the matter.

While the Department supports establishing the Tule Lake National Historic Site as a free-standing unit, we oppose three provisions in H.R. 4387: section 3(d)(4)(C), which contains a special requirement for the park's general management plan; section 5, which limits the use of the President's authority under the Antiquities Act; and section 6, which addresses activities outside of park boundaries. We would support H.R. 4387 only if it were amended to delete section 3(d)(4)(C), and sections 5 and 6.

Section 3(d)(4)(C) requires the National Park Service, in preparing the park's general management plan, to consult with the City of Tulelake, Modoc County, and the Tulelake Municipal Airport to ensure that the management of the Tule Lake National Historic Site does not negatively impact the operation of the airport. The purpose of the general management planning process is to ensure that the park has a clearly defined direction for resource preservation and visitor use. While issues of concern to neighboring communities are normally addressed through this process, it is not within the scope or purpose of a general management plan to ensure that a commercial activity outside of a park is not negatively impacted by the management of a park. Furthermore, it seems far more likely that the management of an airport in the vicinity of a park could negatively impact the operation of the park, than the other way around. This is especially true of a historic site that serves as a somber memorial to a tragic and shameful chapter of our nation's history.

We note that the addition of any special new requirement to the general management plan for Tule Lake National Historic Site would create a problem due to timing. Normally, a general management plan for a new unit of the National Park System is undertaken after the unit is established. In this case, the site has had a general management planning process underway since 2013 under its existing designation, the Tule Lake Unit of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. The process included public scoping in the local area and along the West Coast in 2013, where over 550 people attended public meetings. Dozens more provided

written comments. That plan is in the Department's final review process and is expected to be released for public comment this year. Adding a new requirement at this stage could mean reopening the planning process.

Section 5 provides that the president may not designate lands outside the historic site's boundaries for inclusion in the historic site without receiving written concurrence from the City of Tulelake and Modoc County at least one year before the designation. This provision would thus limit the president's authority under the Antiquities Act to protect resources in the vicinity of the historic site. The Department opposes this provision for the same reasons that we have opposed other proposals to limit the president's authority under this act. The Antiquities Act has been used by presidents of both parties for more than 100 years as an instrument to preserve and protect critical natural, historical, and scientific resources on Federal lands for future generations. The authority has contributed significantly to the strength of the National Park System and the protection of special qualities of other Federal lands—resources that constitute some of the most important elements of our nation's heritage.

Section 6 contains language that says that an activity outside the boundary shall not be precluded because it can be heard or seen inside the park boundary. The Department believes that this language is misleading, as it suggests that the NPS may have authority to preclude activities outside the boundaries, which it does not. Of even greater concern, however, is that the language could discourage park managers from addressing threats to park resources from external sources. Even though the NPS does not control what happens outside of its boundaries, park managers have a responsibility under the NPS Organic Act and other laws to work with owners of properties outside of park boundaries to resolve problems that could negatively impact the resources the NPS is responsible for protecting.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL REYNOLDS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, WORKFORCE AND INCLUSION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS, CONCERNING, CONCERNING H.R. 5114, THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS ACT OF 2016.**

June 23, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 5114, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps Act of 2016.

The Department supports enactment of H.R. 5114, which would codify, strengthen, and broaden the Administration's 21CSC program, helping to better fulfill the Administration's commitment to increase employment and training opportunities for our nation's young people. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Subcommittee on amendments and clarifying language described later in this statement.

In 2010, President Obama created the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to encourage Americans, particularly young people, to enjoy our country's rivers and waterways, farms and forests, and local and national parks. As part of this initiative, the President called for the creation of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) to establish quality jobs, career pathways and service opportunities for youth and veterans. Building on this vision, Secretary Jewell launched a youth initiative to inspire millions of young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors.

As a part of this effort, the Department and its land management bureaus, along with the U.S. Forest Service, have established public-private partnership programs that we identify as 21CSC partnerships. The Department carries out these activities under authorities provided in the Public Lands Corps Act, which is limited to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

The Administration's 21CSC builds on existing partnerships with youth conservation corps across the country, placing young people, including those from underserved communities, and veterans in the United States, in national service positions to work protecting, restoring and enhancing America's public lands, waterways and cultural heritage sites. The 21CSC also helps federal land management agencies meet their missions by leveraging existing resources to carry out cost-effective natural and cultural resource protection and conservation projects while providing valuable community service opportunities, job skill development and pathways to careers in resource stewardship.

In 2014, the Department, in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Interior bureaus including the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey, collaborated on 51 21CSC projects that benefited youth and veterans. These 51 projects leveraged \$1,992,067 into more than \$7 million, employed approximately 700

youth and veterans, engaged more than 1,850 volunteers within the local communities, and conducted activities on over 200 miles of public lands. Activities undertaken by 21CSC participants included, among others, trail maintenance, watershed restoration, and forest regeneration, invasive species removal, and historic preservation.

A few specific examples of public-private partnerships help illustrate the success of the 21CSC.

In Oregon and California, as part of this initiative, the Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) built on a long-standing partnership with the BLM and FWS to expand its internship program and improve outreach to underserved communities, including Native American and Hispanic youth. The combination of KBO's established long-term monitoring program and an intensive bird banding training curriculum foster the integration of youth engagement and professional training. The internships have provided opportunities for training and practical experience in bird monitoring techniques; learning through a well-rounded curriculum in field biology; and attaining bird bander certification through the North American Banding Council.

In Arizona, the Conservation Legacy worked with Bureau of Indian Affairs to lead an eight-person Native American youth crew in completion of natural resource conservation projects on the Navajo Nation. The crew consisted of local area high school students and two adult crew leaders. During the four-week program the crew restored and stabilized Hubble Wash, maintained trails, and repaired and constructed wildlife fencing.

In New Mexico, the Talking Talons Youth Leadership, in partnership with the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), the Bureau of Reclamation, the New Mexico State Land Office, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program, Amigos Bravos, Friends of the Valle de Oro, and Friends of the Sandia Mountains provided approximately 560 hours of paid employment for urban and minority youth in conservation work that benefited the public lands and mission of the Valle de Oro NWR, Reclamation, and State of New Mexico. In addition to receiving in-depth education and training in diverse aspects of environmental restoration, monitoring, and stewardship, crew members conducted surface and groundwater quality monitoring and remove invasive vegetation on 80 acres on the Refuge and adjacent federal and state lands.

And, in Maine, Friends of Acadia hired young people to work on projects with the National Park Service in Acadia National Park, including creating the "Acadia Technology Trail," working to engage the public in raptor viewing opportunities, and working on a trail crew mediating trail issues. Many of the youth work experiences occur in accessible, highly visited areas, such as Sieur de Monts Springs.

If enacted, H.R. 5114 would establish into law the 21CSC and increase the number of federal departments and agencies authorized to partner with 21CSC organizations and participants to support and carry out 21CSC projects. These entities would include the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Labor, Energy, Defense, Veterans Affairs and Commerce and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Corporation for National and Community Service, Army Corps of Engineers and any other agencies as designated by the President. The authority provided by this bill would give

participating agencies flexibility to support 21CSC projects in a manner consistent with each agency's mission and resources.

The bill would require coordination among federal agencies to ensure project efficiencies and facilitate approval of corps organizations to participate in the 21CSC. Under the bill, participating agencies would be required to report to Congress to ensure 21CSC activities are carried out in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

The legislation would also allow agencies to provide non-competitive hiring status for participants for two years after completing service if certain terms are met. We believe that this is an essential expansion of the non-competitive hire period of 120 days provided under the Public Lands Corps, which provides an authority the Department uses currently to hire former conservation corps participants. We strongly support this provision which we believe will increase diversity in recruitment and note that it is consistent with Public Lands Corps Act amendments the Administration included in the National Park Service Centennial Act which has been introduced in this Congress by Senator Cantwell as S. 2257.

H.R. 5114 would also provide a 10 percent cost-share requirement for 21CSC organizations. Under the Public Lands Corps Act, this required cost-share is 25 percent. The Department supports this provision which would enable a greater range of organizations such as smaller, community-based organization that draw from low-income and rural populations to participate in the 21CSC.

We recommend amending the definition of "youth" in H.R. 5114 to expand eligibility of young people to age 35, to broaden the range of eligible participants. Under the bill as introduced, eligibility ends at age 28. We would also welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsors and the Subcommittee to clarify provisions related to service hour requirements for eligibility for noncompetitive hire status, in addition to other technical changes. Finally, we note that the Department of Labor has identified concerns with section 6(c) regarding certain labor laws. Interior is committed to working with the Department of Labor and the Subcommittee to address those concerns.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have regarding this bill.