SESSION TITLE : Working with Corps Crew Programs

CONVENER(S): Suzanne Wilson, conveners; Tim Malzhan, note taker

PARTICIPANTS: N/A

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS and/or RECOMMENDATIONS:
Differences in Corps Programs; Relationships between Corps Program participants and Volunteers; Discussion of Job Core program; What folks are doing nationally w/Corps Crew programs. NOT COVERED: Mechanical Trail Construction and working with private contractors; Working w/Corps programs vs. investing that time & money toward internal capacity development; Options for Federal and State Transportation Funding; Competition between Corps and Union Labor??

Discussion of AmeriCorps, SCA and other Corps program examples
www.corpsnetwork.org is the website to se for most corps program options/offerings

- AmeriCorps offers a variety of programs/work options nationally: NCCC, VISTA, PASS and more
- PCTA example: worked with Northwest Academy to lead trainings pre-project specific to PCTA needs
- Corps costs (direct) range between $4-9k/week
- Benefit nationally is that future trail/resource professionals are cultivated
- Project logistics are handled/paid for by sponsor organization; is important for quality control
- Crew Motivation; be patient and take a long view
- Insure leadership and safety for Corps Crews
- SCA generally involves less handholding; costs drop with longer terms of service. SCA Conservation Interns can provide significant value for the money

Job Care: is funded in part by the Department of Labor; host provides crew leaders, transportation, and pays each participant minimum wage salary (hourly); typical age range is 16 – 22; works front and back country settings; 40 hour work week; “hard” job skill areas are required – carpentry, culinary, masonry, electrical, etc. Is a contractual, work-based agreement. Pacific NW Trail Association does not mix volunteers with Job Core participants.

- Have to plan housing and services for Core Crews during off-days, and, provide base camp facility
- 2011 Corps Annual Forum will overlap with Hike the Hill week
- What to do regarding Corps Crew participant’s sexuality, fraternization, etc.
- Establish expectations and reiterate expectations; deal with incidents forthrightly+ follow strictest rules of Corps Program your working with
- ATC is being very conscious of volunteers and Corps groups/volunteer groups arriving with chaperone(s); advance coordination between host/agency/group and Corps is key
- Value can be realized mixing seasoned and unseasoned participants (Corps + Volunteer)
- Pair volunteers with SCA provides a SCA participants a leadership opportunity