

the Wilderness Act of 1964 and apply its protective policies on wild lands under public ownership.

These agencies—particularly the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service—have participated with good effect in the training of young people in Job Corps Conservation Centers. We consider this task as having tremendous future potential in terms of influencing—for the better—attitudes of our citizens toward their natural environment. We believe that outdoor work experience in settings such as the Conservation Center camps provide is beneficial to youth, particularly to those who have grown up in urban centers without any meaningful contact with nature. From such training and experience the nation can expect to gain a nucleus of workers comparable to those who were educated in part by the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1933 to 1941. Many of the former CCC trainees are found today in managerial positions in the natural resources field.

Conservationists within both agencies and citizen groups have observed a present need for a new group of such personnel, having practical, on-the-ground training in the wide variety of skills used in the management of our parks, forests, recreation areas, and wildlife refuges. In the interest of sound wilderness management we strongly urge that the woodsman skills utilizing non-motorized equipment and primitive materials be taught these men as well as the handling of bulldozers, roadbuilding machinery and the like. Recruits with such skills will be needed by the agencies which administer units of the Wilderness System, where motorized equipment is generally not permitted.

The Wilderness Society considers that the provisions of H.R. 8311 continuing the Job Corps Conservation Centers program are desirable and reasonable in cost, particularly in view of the long-range public benefits to be gained both from the improved health of body and mind in its participants and from the contribution they can make to the preservation of our natural-area resource.

Therefore The Wilderness Society joins with other national conservation organizations in supporting the continuation of the Job Corps Conservation Centers program in legislation pending before your Committee.

We would appreciate having this letter made a part of the hearing record.

Sincerely,

STEWART M. BRANDBERG,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION,
Washington D.C., July 18, 1967.

HON. CARL D. PERKINS,
Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The National Wildlife Federation welcomes the invitation to comment upon H.R. 8311, "to provide an improved charter for Economic Opportunity Act programs, to authorize funds for their continued operation, to expand summer camp opportunities for disadvantaged children, and for other purposes."

The National Wildlife Federation is a private non-profit organization which seeks to attain conservation objectives through educational means. The Federation has affiliates in 49 States. These affiliates, in turn, are composed of local clubs and individuals who, when combined with associate members and other supporters of the Federation, number an estimated 2,000,000 persons.

Our organization long has appreciated the many values of conservation camp programs. Many of the State forests, State parks, State lakes, and other valuable properties first were established by the old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Like the Job Corps of today, the CCC was the butt of derision and jokes in its day. Yet, the value of these conservation efforts are becoming more and more apparent each year. Other contributions of the Corps were highlighted by the outstanding military and civilian records of its members during and after World War II.

There is ample reason to believe the Job Corps conservation camps will make comparable contributions. Quite naturally, some time was necessary to get the program started. For example, the National Wildlife Federation served in a role to bring conservation educators together for the purpose of developing basic "learn-to-read" materials, something heretofore unknown for young people in the Job Corps age groups.