

SENATE FILE NO. SF0085

Wyoming conservation corps.

Sponsored by: Joint Minerals, Business and Economic
Development Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the University of Wyoming; establishing
2 the Wyoming conservation corps at the University of
3 Wyoming; establishing a matching grant program; providing
4 bridge funding pending the program becoming self-
5 sufficient; requiring reports; providing for an
6 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

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8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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10 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-17-118 is created to read:

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12 **21-17-118. Wyoming conservation corps; creation**
13 **authorized; reports.**

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15 (a) The University of Wyoming shall establish a
16 Wyoming conservation corps (WCC) program patterned after

1 similar conservation corps programs in Utah, Montana and
2 Colorado under which students in those states have
3 performed service on conservation projects in Wyoming. The
4 WCC program shall begin in the summer of 2007. The WCC
5 program shall enter into agreements with state and federal
6 agencies and private industry under which Wyoming students
7 shall perform conservation projects in Wyoming prior to the
8 students performing any work under those agreements. The
9 students who participate in the WCC program may be high
10 school, community college or university students. The
11 students shall receive stipends and education financial
12 awards for their service, as well as the educational and
13 practical benefits of working on valuable conservation
14 projects. The WCC program shall be fully self-sustaining
15 by the end of summer 2009.

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17 (b) The University of Wyoming shall report to the
18 joint minerals, business and economic development interim
19 committee and the joint travel, recreation, wildlife and
20 cultural resources interim committee on October 1, 2007,
21 and October 1, 2008, regarding expenditures made under this
22 act, progress made by the WCC program toward financial
23 self-sufficiency and the educational and conservation
24 related benefits of the program.

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Section 2.

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(a) There is appropriated from the general fund to the University of Wyoming three hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$312,000.00) to be used exclusively for the Wyoming conservation corps as follows:

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(i) Two hundred forty thousand dollars (\$240,000.00) shall be used to match contract funds provided for WCC projects in Wyoming by state and federal agencies and private industry. Each dollar under this paragraph shall be matched by two dollars (\$2.00) in funds from contractors;

(ii) Seventy-two thousand dollars (\$72,000.00) shall be used for the administrative costs of the WCC program, but not more than thirty-six thousand dollars (\$36,000.00) shall be expended for such costs in any fiscal year. This appropriation shall be available for expenditure only to the extent equal matching funds are secured for the WCC program from other sources.

1 (b) The appropriation under subsection (a) of this
2 section shall be separate from the university's block
3 grant.

5 (c) Any unexpended and unobligated funds from the
6 appropriation under subsection (a) of this section shall
7 revert to the general fund on June 30, 2010.

9 **Section 3.** This act is immediately effective upon
10 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
11 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
12 Constitution.

(END)