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CONTACT: Brandon  
Long

[brandonr186@hotmail.com](mailto:brandonr186@hotmail.com)

### AmeriCorps Team Supports Children's Forest:

#### Trail Building the way to Environmental Knowledge

Canyonville, Oreg. – An AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team recently arrived in Canyonville, Oregon to serve with the local Alder Creek Children's Forest (ACCF). For three weeks, the NCCC members will be camping and working on the 78-acre site of the nonprofit organization, which offers environmental education partnerships and programs for young citizens interested in nature.

This is the first NCCC team to serve the Douglas County organization. They will be constructing trails to add to ACCF's existing 2.5 mile trail network. The team will also be maintaining existing trails as well as other various tasks necessary for supporting the organization's purpose during their stay in Canyonville.

AmeriCorps NCCC corps member, Sam Hicks (Ill.), immediately loved her new surroundings. "Oregon shows me there still is beauty in this wild world," said Hicks. "As we rolled up to our new home, I was so happy I couldn't contain myself. Just being outdoors makes me a happier person-- plain & simple. I have a feeling I'm going to really enjoy this project."

Hicks is one of 10 excited NCCC members, for many of whom it is their first visit to Oregon. Andretta Swift (Conn.) expects that her stay will be phenomenally educational. "I'm excited to learn a lot of new things," said Swift, "and to be working with an extremely knowledgeable sponsor. We'll really get to understand why we're here and the help we're providing."

"We first heard of NCCC through United Community Action Network", said Jim Proctor, founder of the ACCF. "UCAN coordinates AmeriCorps VISTA workers in Douglas County, and they notified ACCF of the opportunity and we jumped on it as a great potential benefit to both NCCC participants and ACCF. We were fortunate to be selected by NCCC as a site for summer 2010."

Overall, Proctor expects NCCC's service to be very beneficial to Alder Creek Children's Forest.

"We expect that, by the end of the summer, our trail network will be essentially complete, providing us a real resource to site guests, said Proctor. "We also expect the condition of the forest to improve via their management activities. Overall, they'll contribute a huge amount to the site's ability to serve youth and the community, as well as the ecological condition of the forest."

AmeriCorps NCCC is part of AmeriCorps, a network of national service programs created to improve the environment, enhance education, increase public safety, and assist with disaster relief and other unmet human needs. The Western Region campus, located in Sacramento, Calif, serves Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and the territories of Guam and Samoa as well as the Gulf Coast. The Western Region campus is one of three campuses in the United States; the others are located in Denver, Colo., Perry Point, Md. and Vinton Iowa.

NCCC members must be 18-24 years old and must complete at least 1,700 hours of community service during the 10-month program. In exchange for their service, they receive 4,725 to help pay for college or to pay school loans. Other benefits include leadership development, team building skills, increased self-confidence, and the satisfaction of knowing that they have made a real difference in communities across the country. AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation of National and Community Service. For information about applying to an AmeriCorps program, call 1-800-942-2677 (1-800-94-ACORP) or visit the website at [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).