

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF APPROPRIATION AVAILABILITY

Minnesota Conservation Apprentice Academy

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Appropriation Language

\$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources in cooperation with Conservation Corps Minnesota to train and mentor future conservation professionals by providing apprenticeship service opportunities to soil and water conservation districts. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and the final products delivered.

Project Overview

Many of the most experienced conservation practitioners at local soil and water conservation districts throughout the state are nearing retirement, and with their departure will go much of their practical, on-the-ground knowledge, experience, and skills. Meanwhile, college students seeking to be the next generation of conservation practitioners have knowledge of emerging technologies and other innovations that can improve and contribute to current conservation efforts. Through this appropriation the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources will work with the Minnesota Conservation Corps to continue an effort that places students in apprenticeship positions with county soil and water conservation district offices throughout the state. This unique program provides an opportunity for interns to gain valuable in-the-field experience from current practitioners while sharing their knowledge with those practitioners about the newest ideas and solutions for meeting today's natural resource challenges.

Current Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Amendment Request to Extend Availability to 06/30/2015

This project involves apprenticeship internships that run through the summer field season into the early fall. This appropriation is intended to fund internships during the summer of 2013 and 2014. Presently the availability of the funds is scheduled to expire on 06/30/14 – during the middle of the 2014 internship period. The request is to extend the availability of the appropriations to 06/30/15 to accommodate the schedule of internship periods and planned expenditures. Project should be complete sooner, but a one year extension is requested since legislative extensions must be done in full year increments.