



## San Francisco Conservation Corps and California Conservation Corps

**Program Idea-** In June 2018, the City of San Francisco closed its Log Cabin Ranch juvenile justice facility. As former Log Cabin Ranch community partners and leaders in youth rehabilitation and workforce development, the San Francisco Conservation Corps (SFCC) and California Conservation Corps (CCC) would welcome the opportunity to help usher in a new future for the Log Cabin Ranch property. In keeping with the property's history of serving at-risk youth, we propose that the Log Cabin Ranch be repurposed as a youth wildfire training center to be managed in partnership by SFCC and CCC.

The need for this type of training facility is immense. Due to climate change, California wildfires are on the rise. In 2020, wildland fires destroyed approximately 4.3 million acres across the state. Meanwhile, young people, especially those in the juvenile justice system, need job training and solid career pathways into high quality jobs. With its residential/educational facilities and La Honda location, Log Cabin Ranch is an ideal spot for a wildfire/forestry training center for conservation corps youth.

**Program Goals-** There would be two primary goals: 1) Preparing a cadre of trained young people (corpsmembers) to aid in the fight against California's growing wildfires and flood emergencies, including providing fire fuel reduction; fire base camp operations support; and post-fire cleanup, reforestation, and restoration/recovery work, including hazmat cleanup. The field training, education, and experience needed to transition into high-quality jobs in firefighting, arborist and tree services, and other related trades jobs. 2) Completing critical Healthy Forest and Hazardous Fuels Reduction projects to reduce the threat of climate change-induced wildfires in the San Francisco Bay Area and California.

**Program Structure-** With its dorm-style living quarters, kitchen/dining facilities, and classroom and training space, SFCC and CCC envision the Log Cabin Ranch as an overnight wildfire training center serving hundreds of at-risk youth annually. Corpsmembers from SFCC, CCC, and other local conservation corps would come for intensive week- and month-long paid trainings in fire fuel load reduction and wildlands firefighting. During these training camps, corpsmembers would live and work out of the La Honda site. The Log Cabin Ranch program would follow the successful SFCC and CCC youth training model. Corpsmembers would train and work Monday- Friday on paid forestry/wildfire crews led by experienced conservation and youth supervisors. Working hand-in-hand with CAL FIRE, the U.S. Forest Service, CA State Parks, CA Fish and Wildlife, and City and County agencies such as San Francisco Recreation & Parks, San Francisco Fire, and San Francisco Probation, Log Cabin Ranch crews would play an important role in reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

Projects would focus on removing hazardous fuels from forests and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities within a 50-mile radius of the Log Cabin Ranch site. Through these service projects and the center's trainings and certifications, youth will develop transferrable, high- demand work skills; hand tools and power equipment proficiency; a greater understanding of the environment and the impacts of climate change; and teamwork and crew efficiency. At Log Cabin Ranch, corpsmembers would also have the opportunity to take classes to obtain their high school diplomas and/or additional vocational skills; and to receive valuable individual support services (counseling, substance abuse support, job coaching, etc.) needed for them to secure high quality jobs.

**Program Outcomes:** The new program would provide a model for San Francisco and other counties seeking to repurpose juvenile facilities, while creating new job opportunities for marginalized youth.