

**DATE:** MARCH 6TH, 2010

**TO:** NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FOREST SERVICE RETIREE COLLEAGUES

**FROM:** DARREL L. KENOPS, CEO/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FOREST SERVICE RETIREES

**SUBJECT:** FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS AND USDA: TRAINING AMERICA'S YOUTH FOR THE NEW GREEN ECONOMY

MARCH 5TH WAS A BEAUTIFUL, SUNNY DAY IN IDAHO WHICH GREETED ALL WHO ARRIVED AT CENTENNIAL JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTER, NAMPA, IDAHO TO CELEBRATE TRANSFER OF REMAINING U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR CAMPS TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOREST SERVICE. AN IMPORTANT DAY FOR IDAHO, OUR NATION, OUR YOUTH, THEIR FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITIES!

AND BEGINNING OF SEVERAL ENHANCED USDA FOCUSED JOB CORP CAPACITY AND CAPABILITIES. THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE NOW LEADS AND MANAGES 28 CENTERS SERVING MORE THAN 6,000 STUDENTS.

FROM THE PARKING LOT AND FRONT DOOR WELCOME, WE RETIREES AND GUESTS RE-ENTERED A TIME, SPACE AND PLACE WHICH STIRRED MANY MEMORIES AND EXPERIENCES WITH YOUTH CONSERVATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS WE COMMITTED TO IN OUR CAREERS AND VOLUNTEER EFFORTS IN COMMUNITIES. IDAHO'S FIRST DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN WALT MINNICK POWERFULLY COMMUNICATED THESE FEELINGS AND EXPERIENCED, BUT MORE ON HIS INSIGHTS LATER IN THIS NOTE.

SO NAFSR MEMBERS PRESENT, JACK LAVIN, DAVE RITTENHOUSE, DICK SMITH AND I VISITED WITH OTHER GUESTS, THE FEELINGS AND EXPERIENCED BROUGHT SOME LAUGH'S JOY AND RECONNECTING TO THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM AND IS MANY LEADERS.

AS MY GUIDE TOOK ME ACROSS THEIR CAMPUS AREA SERVING 300 STUDENTS, HE SHARED HIS EXPERIENCES AND WILL SOON GRADUATE IN CULINARY ART. HE HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE, WHICH WAS UNDERSCORED BY THE STUDENT AND STAFF PREPARED LUNCH WE WERE SERVED.

FROM A FINE DINNING MENU WE WERE SERVED FOOD EMPHASIZING USDA'S "KNOW YOUR FARMER, KNOW YOUR FOOD" FOCUS WHICH USED LOCALLY PRODUCED IDAHO FOOD PRODUCTS. IT WAS AN EXCELLENT MEAL TOPPED OFF WITH AN IDAHO ICE CREAM POTATO, WHICH LOOKED LIKE A REAL POTATO, ONLY IN IDAHO!

THE PRIDE FLOODED BACK AS USFS ASSOCIATE CHIEF HANK KASHDAN, USFS JOB CORP DIRECTOR LARRY DAWSON AND USDA UNDERSECRETARY HARRIS SHERMAN HANDED EACH CENTER DIRECTOR JOINING OUR TEAM A U.S. FOREST SERVICE FLAG AND LAPEL PIN. THE CIRCLE OF TRADITION AND PUBLIC SERVICE BEING EXPANDED TIED TO CONSERVATION INCLUDING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES, A REASON FOR CREATING THE "OUTFIT" IN THE FIRST PLACE!

AS HANK AND HARRIS RECOUNTED THOSE CONSERVATION FIGURES WE KNOW SO WELL, ONE COULD REFLECT BACK ON WHAT WE DID, OUR SMALL PIECE, THAT BROUGHT US TO OUR CAREERS AND TO THIS EVENT, TODAY, IN IDAHO!

USDA UNDERSECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT HARRIS SHERMAN CONNECTED IMMEDIATELY WITH STUDENTS AND STAFF AS HE CALLED OUT EACH PROGRAM AREA AND RECOGNIZED THEIR EFFORTS AND HOW THEY ARE NOW CONNECTED ACROSS USDA AGENCIES AND THE PRESIDENTS EMPHASIS ON "GREEN JOBS AND ECONOMY".

AS HE HELD UP THE FIRST COPY OF JOB CORPS NEW GREEN CURRICULUM, HE ANNOUNCED A NEW INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WHERE OTHERS USDA AGENCIES-FARM SERVICE AGENCY, MARKETING & REGULATORY PROGRAMS, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES & MARKETS, PEOPLE'S GARDEN INITIATIVE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT-CAN WORK "ARM IN ARM" TO "GIVE UNDERSERVED YOUTH EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES AND PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY (THRU) TARGETED TRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT".

DELIVERING SERVICES TO USDA CLIENTS ACROSS A BROAD PORTFOLIO OF PROGRAMS THRU THE JOB CORPS PROGRAMS IS A FOCUS WHICH HELPS ADDRESS TWIN PROBLEMS OF UNDERSERVED YOUTH AND RURAL PROSPERITY.

FOR CONCLUDING REMARKS, THE INSPIRING, THOUGHTFUL AND POWERFUL INSIGHTS AND EXPERIENCES DRAWN FROM A DEEP RESERVIOR OF CONGRESSMAN WALT MINNICK'S OWN LIFE EXPERIENCE, YOU COULD

FEEL THE STRONG, QUIET, REFLECTIVE LISTENING HAPPENING AMONG STUDENTS, STAFF AND LEADERS ASSEMBLED.

ONE FEATURED EXAMPLE, AS THERE ARE MANY MORE WE ALL COULD LIST AND KNOW OF, SHARED WAS THAT OF CURRENT CHIEF JUDGE SERIGO A. GUTIERREZ,, IDAHO COURT OF APPEALS WHO IS A GRADUATE OF WOLF CREEK JOB CORP CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTER. IN 1994 JUDGE GUTIERREZ WAS INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL JOB CORPS HALL OF FAME.

WALT SHIFTED IT UP A GEAR OR TWO IN EMOTION, INSIGHTS AND EMPAHSIS AS HE TALKED ABOUT THE TANGLED WEB OF CURCUMSTANCES THAT WE AND MANY KNOW OF AND MAY HAVE EXPERIENCED IN OUR LIVES. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY HOW TODAY THEY ARE OF GREATER COMPLEXITY, SIGNIFCANCE AND CONSEQUENCE! RIVETING COMMENTS AND INSIGHTS!

HE AND HIS IDAHO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION COLLEAGUES ARE SEEKING A SILVER VALLEY, NORTH IDAHO JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTER SO WE HAVE COMPLETE COVERAGE IN IDAHO AND WITH ADJACENT NEIGHBORNG STATES OF MONTANA AND WASHINGTON STATE TO SERVE THE TREMENDOUS NEED OF YOUTH UNDEREMPLOYEMENT AND CLEARER PATHWAYS TO A LIVEABLE FUTURE.

THIS EVENT IS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE ON A JOURNEY AND WHICH HAS GROWN AND BENEFITED FROM AN ONGOING CONVERSATION, BUILT ON OUR MEMBERS AND USFS INTERESTS, IN A MEETING HELD WITH USFS CHIEF TOM TIDWELL AND LARRY DAWSON,USFS JOB CORP DIRECTOR AT OUR 2009 USFS REUNION IN MISSOULA, MONTANA.

SO OUR NAFSR BOARD AND LEADERSHIP THANKS ALL NAFSR MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED IN THEIR CAREERS AND SOME NOW IN RETIREMENT AS VOLUNTEERS TO HELPING THE JOB CORPS PROGRAMS AND CENTERS MAKE PROGRESS AND GET RESULTS IN OUR NATION'S YOUTH LIVES.

AND YOU JUST MAY WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER JOB CORPS CENTER VOLUNTEER, OR WANT TO HAVE YOUR NEARBY CENTER COME TO YOUR COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATION SO ALL COMMUNITY LEADERS AND MEMBERS CAN CATCH UP WITH WHERE THIS IMPORTANT 21ST CENTURY JOB CORP VISION AND MISSION IS BLAZING A PATHWAY TO A STRONGER NATION AND PEOPLE.

BOTTOMLINE: FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS AND USDA: TRAINING AMERICA'S YOUTH FOR THE NEW GREEN ECONOMY

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW! BEST REGARDS! DARREL