

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON

## A CHANCE TO WORK IN THE FORESTS

[Questions and answers for the information of men offered the opportunity to apply for national emergency conservation work]

### EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WORK

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Three hundred and fifty thousand men in the United States are to have the opportunity of working for 6 months in National or State parks and forests, with the privilege of reenrolling for an additional 6 months. Each man will receive a minimum cash allowance of \$30 a month, most of which he will allot to his dependents at home. The number of places to be filled is small compared with the number of men who will want these places. The opportunity has come to you to decide whether or not you want to apply for a place in this service. The following questions and answers are given for your information and that of your family and to help you in arriving at a decision:

**What is emergency conservation work?**

Q. How did this national emergency conservation work start?

A. Congress passed a law, which was approved on March 31, 1933, providing for this work as a means of relieving a part of the distress and unemployment now existing throughout the United States.

Q. What is the purpose of this work?

A. Partly to give 350,000 men, many of whom have never had the chance to hold down a job, an opportunity to work for a 6 months' period at wholesome, healthful, outdoor work. Partly to accomplish constructive, worth-while work on national forests, national parks, State forests, State parks, and on other lands where such work will contribute to the welfare of the country as a whole. In a word, the purpose is to build men by means of work which will advance a national plan for American forestry.

**Who are eligible for emergency conservation work?**

Q. What men are eligible for this work?

A. The work is to be given primarily to young men between the ages of 18 and 25, who are citizens of the United States, unmarried and unemployed, who wish to volunteer for this work, and who wish



of the forest by thinning and removing undesirable species. The men will also be subject to emergency calls on any day at any hour of the day or night, to fight forest fires.

Q. Does a man need to have experience in camp life or work in the forests to fit into this work?

A. Not necessarily. It is expected that many of the men will be "green." But there must be physical health *and the willingness to learn and work with others*. Experienced leaders and foremen will help, guide, and instruct. New men enrolling for the 1934 winter period will normally be assigned to a work company which has been at work for 1 year.

Q. What will be the hours of work?

A. Except in emergencies, 40 hours per week, made up of 8 hours per day from Monday to Friday, inclusive, except that lost time during the week will be made up on Saturday. Actual time on the job each day, exclusive of travel and lunch time, not less than 6 hours.

The 40-hour week will not apply to men engaged on company overhead such as cooks, mess attendants, and similar positions essential to the livelihood of the company.

Q. Who will be in charge of the men?

A. While going to and from camp to the jobs, and while on those jobs, they will be under the supervision of experienced and qualified representatives of the United States Forest Service, the National Park Service, or the various State forest or park services. While they are in camp or off the job they will be under the supervision of the Army officers, who will be in charge of the camp itself.

Q. Will the men be under military discipline?

A. No. The men will be civilians and will be treated as civilians. There will be neither military training nor military discipline. The clothing which they receive from the Army will be work clothes, not military uniforms. The men will, of course, be required to comply with such rules as are laid down for work and camp life. A penalty system is authorized for minor offenses. This system is comparable to the penalties customarily imposed by management of industrial enterprises in order to maintain efficiency of production and equality of opportunity and privileges for those employed. Continued violation of rules or instructions will be cause for dismissal from the emergency conservation work.

Q. When does the cash allowance begin?

A. As soon as the man has taken the oath of enrollment.

Q. When will a man be paid his cash allowance?

A. Once a month. The allotment which he has made to his dependents will be mailed direct to them by the Army. The man will be paid the remainder in cash.

Q. Will a man be able to buy anything at camp?

A. Yes; there will usually be a "company exchange" which will have for sale the articles that men will be most likely to want to buy.



Q. What will a man do when he is off the job?

A. There will be much of interest to do on Saturdays and Sundays and after working hours. Keeping the camp in good order, cleaning up, and carrying on the regular daily duties incident to camp life will require some time. In many cases there will be opportunities for hiking, mountain climbing, fishing, and swimming. There will be religious services on Sundays. Permission to leave camp for a limited time outside of working hours will be granted, and visitors will be permitted to visit the camp, under the general rules which will be established.

Q. What chance will a man have for self-improvement?

A. In addition he has the advantage of recreational, library, and educational facilities and equipment. Each camp provides equipment for games and sports, library books and magazines, and study materials. Educational advisers in the camps, under the direction of the camp commander, supervise a program of study for all enrollees who want to continue their education.

Q. What if a man gets sick or has an accident while he is in camp or on the job?

A. He will receive free medical care, and hospital care if needed. So far as accidents are concerned, he will come under the United States compensation law governing Federal employees.

Q. What will happen at the end of the 6 months?

A. He will turn in the clothing and camp equipment received from the Army, excepting enough clothing for his personal protection. After a final physical examination he will be issued a discharge and be sent back at Government expense to the place of selection by the Department of Labor, or to his home if that is a shorter distance from the place of discharge than to the place of selection. For men serving close to their homes discharge will normally be direct from work camps. Others may be returned to the conditioning camp of enrollment for discharge.

Q. To sum it all up, what does a man get out of this offer?

A. Six months of hard but healthy outdoor work in an enterprise that is for the benefit of the people of this country. Six months of camp life, food, clothing, shelter, medical service, education, and recreation, plus \$30 a month minimum cash allowance for himself and his dependents.

This is a concise statement of the facts about emergency conservation work. There isn't any "catch" or any "joker" about it. The representative of the local organization who has invited you to apply will be glad to answer any other questions you may have. No one is forcing you to go into this work. The decision is up to you. Think it over. Make your own decision as to whether you want to fill out the application blank and apply for a place in the ranks of these 350,000 American men who are going out into the forests for emergency conservation work.



