



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOUTHERN REGION

VOLUNTEERS AND SERVICE PROGRAM

USET Education Committee
Presentation 2023



Southern Region

Regional Volunteer and Service Team

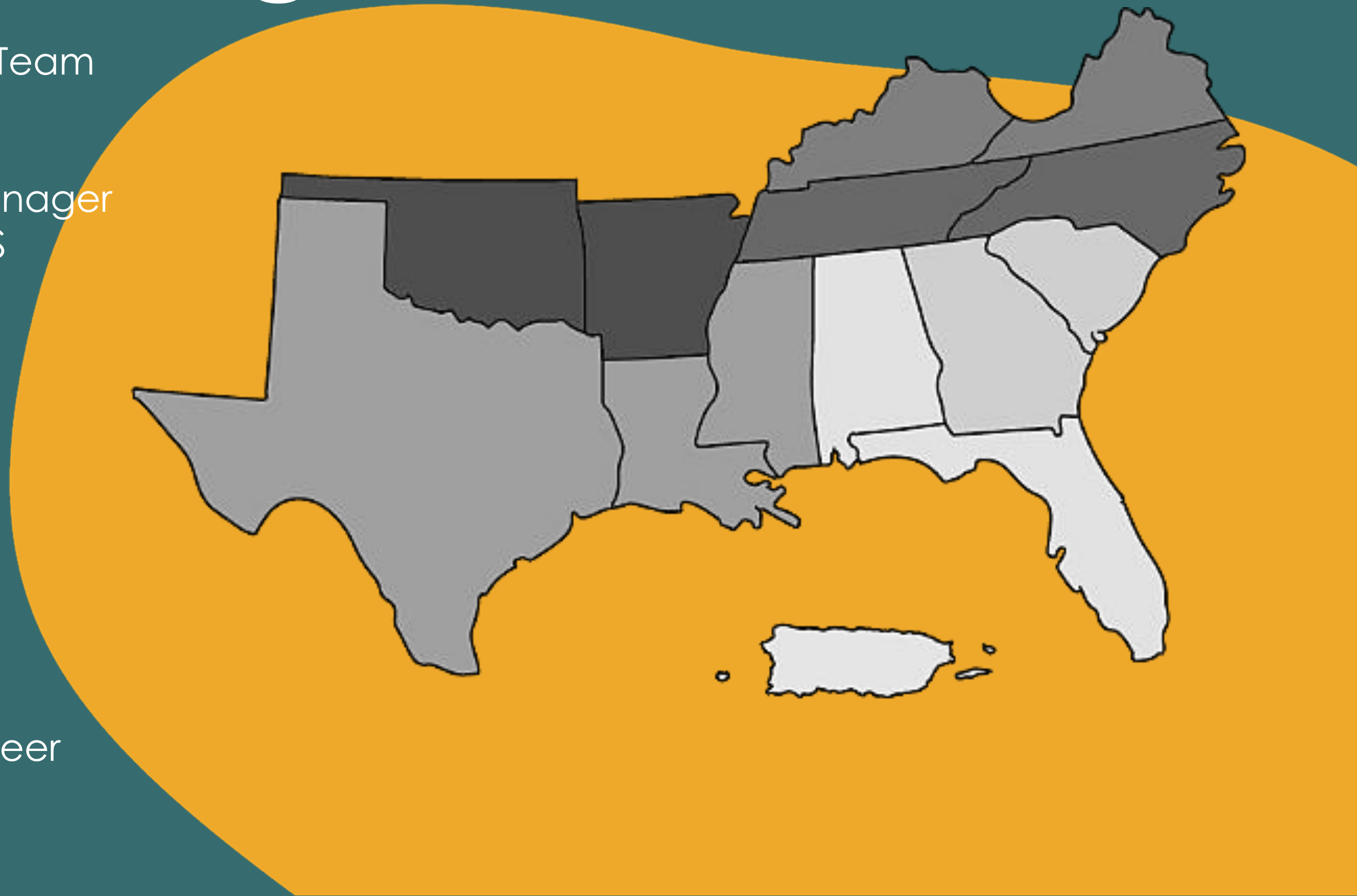
Krista Langley – Acting Regional
Volunteer & Service Program Manager
Sub-Regional Specialist TX/LA/MS

Juliana Defriese –
Sub-Regional Specialist SC/GA

Meredith Casper –
Sub-Regional Specialist TN/NC

Jay Martin– Acting Sub-Regional
Specialist VA/KY

Lindsey Nelson – Regional Volunteer
Coordinator



Krista “KK” Langley – Sub-Regional VSP Specialist for TX LA & MS



- ❖ Served in position since February 2020
- ❖ Remote from home 100%
- ❖ 14 years of service for the USFS
- ❖ Member of Rivercane Initiative Team and Bridging the Gap Planning Team
- ❖ Enjoys data entry, utilizing AGOL products in VSP, and creating opportunities for youth and young adult groups to engage in natural resource management

“We must protect the forests for our children, grandchildren and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can’t speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and trees.”

– Qwatsinas (Hereditary Chief Edward Moody), Nuxalk Nation



Service programs are work-based learning experience conducted with partnership organizations to engage individuals who want to contribute to the rehabilitation, restoration, and repair of public lands resources and infrastructures. Participants in service programs get paid for their work through a Partnership Agreement.

What is a Service Program?

Common Service Programs

Resource Assistant – intern working through a specific, WO-approved partner. Must meet program criteria. Earns merit hiring authority.

Public Land Corp (PLC) Member – individual or team member aged 16-30 working through a wide variety of partners who meet PLC definition. Earns merit hiring authority.

YCC Enrollee – aged 15-18 employed directly or through a partner. Must be paid minimum wage.

ACES Enrollee – 55+ aged individuals working through a nonprofit. Receives wages commensurate with skill; wages do not affect retirement annuity.



Main Goal for Programs

Next Generation of Forest Stewards

- ❖ Past AmeriCorps students were able to successfully compete for permanent positions
- ❖ Interested in engaging youth as YCC then on PLC engagements to form a ladder of development
- ❖ Interest in recruiting more tribal members into the agency and specifically into the Southern Region



Public Land Corps (PLC)

Upon completion of their 640-hour program (typically 16 weeks), interns will earn the Public Land Corps (PLC) Hiring Authority giving them eligibility to apply to merit vacancy announcements for two years. Their PLC certificate is administered and signed by the Forest Supervisor for the forest the work was completed on.



AmeriCorps PLC Service Partners

- ❖ National Civilian Conservation Corps(NCCCC)
- ❖ Student Conservation Association (SCA)
- ❖ American Youth Works (AYW)
- ❖ American Conservation Experience (ACE)
- ❖ Conservation Legacy



Service Crews



- ❖ Crew Modules – 2 – 8 person crews that complete high priority resource management needs on the forests
- ❖ Developmental program to engage young adults with their peers to build up their leadership abilities, field knowledge, and specialized skills
- ❖ All personnel needs handled by partner organization, supervision and mentorship from USFS

Individual Placements




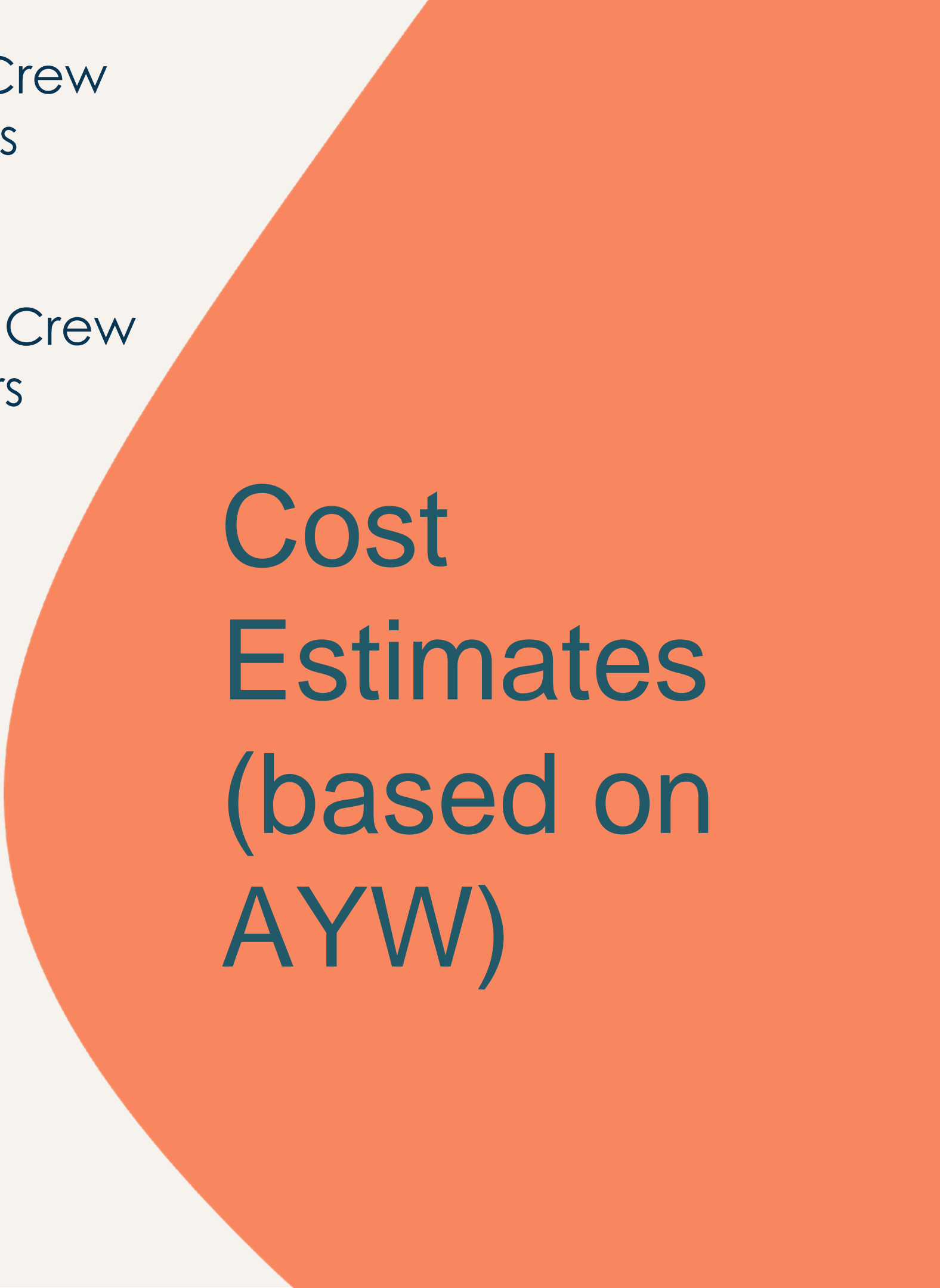
- ❖ Integrated Fire and Recreation Intern
- ❖ Essentially interns that are funded by various levels of funding for dedicated or specialized work
- ❖ Key program for engaging young adults in local forest priority work
- ❖ Resource Assistant Program



- Direct Hires, Individual Placements, Traditional Crews, Residential Crews
- Most programs are designed to offer cross- discipline insights to the students
- Tribal YCC Crew Models have received recognition and awards for efforts and meeting DEI goals, legislative initiatives, and specific youth engagement desires of tribal partners

Youth Conservation Corps

- 
- \$6500/week = 4-person PLC Crew
 - * 1 crew leader, 3 members
 - \$9,000/week = 7 person YCC Crew
 - * 2 crew leaders, 5 members
 - \$1,100/ week = Individual Placement
 - Costs go up based on specialized positions or participant qualifications



Cost
Estimates
(based on
AYW)



- Increase the awareness among youth and young adults about natural resource agency management practices
- Cultural awareness amongst agency workforces
- Illustrating the career diversity within the USFS
- Education grants awarded to students after completion of AmeriCorps
- Creating more impactful relationships between our partners

Education Goals Across Programs



Students learning
about Silviculture
and Timber



Understanding
impacts of people
mistreating natural
resources



Gaining
experience in
heritage resource
management



Gaining
experience in
wildlife
management –
specifically
red-cockaded
woodpeckers

- 
- Rivercane Initiative and Bridging the Gap Conferences – Learning Exchanges
 - State and National Private Efforts
 - NRCS Special Projects
 - University Engagements – Career Fairs
 - Park Service Internship



Working with Partners



Additional areas to explore together?