

## Summer Youth Employment Programs On Federal Lands Survey Report

On April 25, 2011, the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) released a survey asking workforce investment boards (WIBs) about their involvement in offering summer youth employment programs on federal lands. The survey focused on a four year period – the summers of 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011. This allowed the survey to gather information about programs operated before, during, and after the presence of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds (potentially available in 2009 and 2010). Questions about 2008, 2009, and 2010 focused on *actual past events*, while questions about 2011 were for *planned future events*.

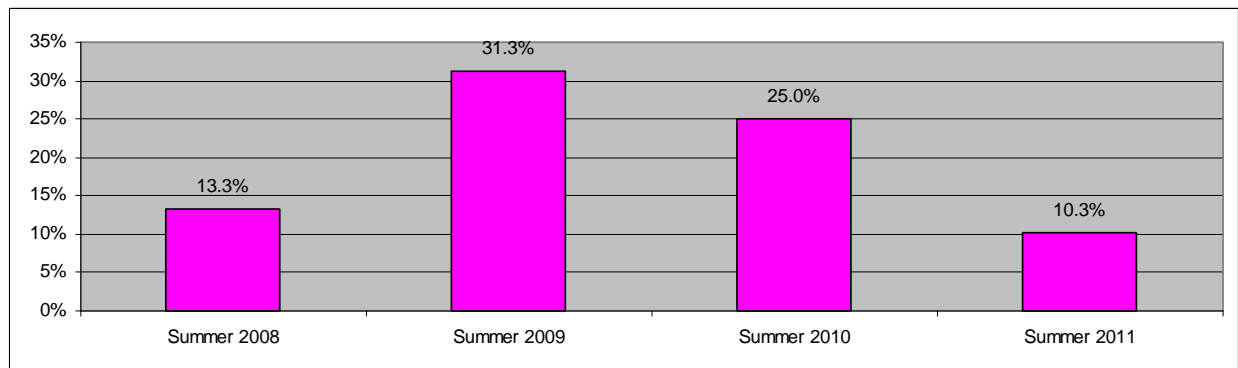
By May 7, NAWB had received 33 responses. The following is an analysis of this limited number of responses.

### Program Management

The percentage of *responding* WIBs operating (or planning to operate) summer youth employment programs on federal lands ranged from a high of 31.3 percent in summer 2009 to a low of 10.3 percent in summer 2011. The percentage of *all* WIBs offering such programs is probably significantly smaller, since those not offering these programs were less likely to respond to the survey.

The peak in the provision of these services in summers 2009 and 2010 probably reflects the availability of ARRA funds, which were distributed for the summer 2009 program and could be used in summer 2010 if any of the funds were still available. (This could explain the drop from 31.3 to 25.0 percent from summer 2009 to summer 2010.)

### Percentage of Responding WIBs with Summer Youth Employment Programs on Federal Lands

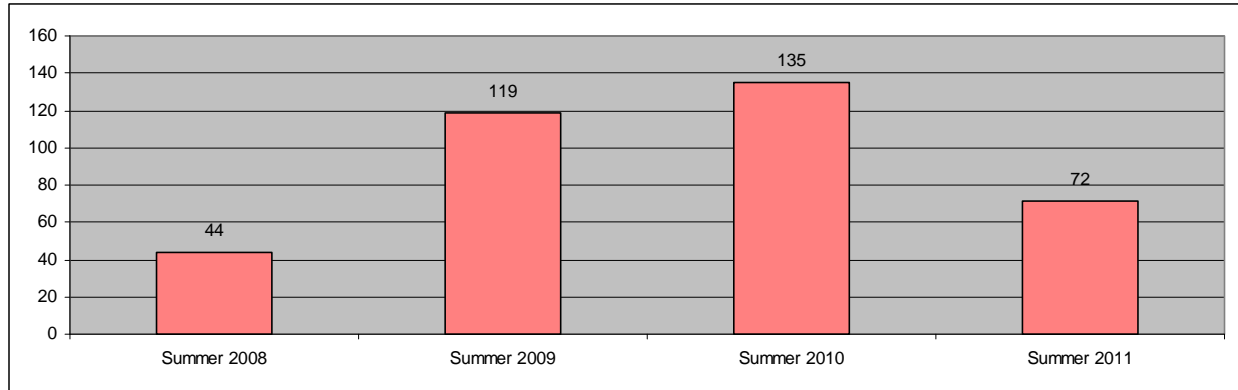


The *average number* of youth served in each WIB summer youth employment program on federal lands ranged from a high of 135 in summer 2010 to a low of 44 in summer 2008, with large peaks occurring in both of the ARRA years.

Four WIBs provided data on their 2008 programs, with numbers served ranging from six to 75. Ten WIBs provided data on their 2009 programs, with numbers served ranging from two to 700.

Eight WIBs provided data on their 2010 programs, with numbers served ranging from three to 600. Three WIBs provided data on their 2011 programs, with numbers they are planning to serve ranging from ten to 125.

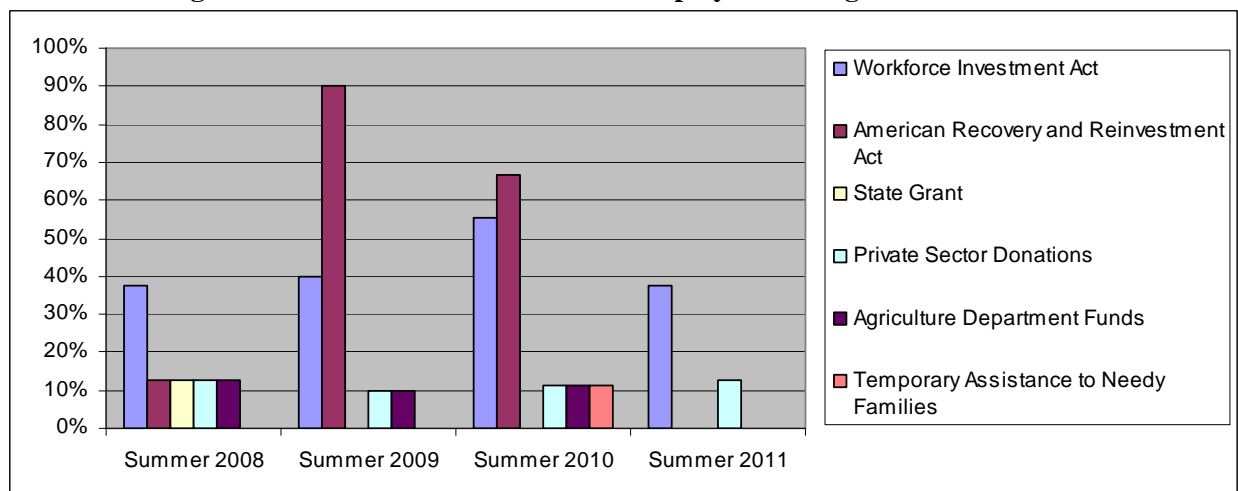
**Average Number of Youth Served in each Summer Youth Employment Program on Federal Land**



The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was the most consistent funding source for those WIBs offering summer youth employment programs on federal lands, ranging from a high of 56 percent of WIBs offering the programs using WIA funds in 2010 to a low of 38 percent of WIBs using WIA funds in 2008 and 2011. ARRA funds were used by 90 percent of WIBs offering summer youth employment programs on federal lands in 2009 and by 67 percent of these WIBs in 2010. (The data also show 13 percent of WIBs using ARRA funds for summer youth employment programs on federal lands in 2008, though this is not possible, as ARRA funds were not yet available.)

Private sector funds were used by 10 to 13 percent of WIBs over the four-year period; Agriculture Department funds were used by 10 to 13 percent of WIBs in 2008, 2009, and 2010; state grants were used by 13 percent of the WIBs in 2008; and TANF funds were used by 11 percent of the WIBs in 2010. No WIBs indicated using city/ county grants or Interior Department funds, even though these were present as options on the survey.

**Funding Sources for WIB Summer Youth Employment Programs on Federal Lands**



It is important to remember that these percentages are based on a very small number of responding WIBs offering summer youth employment programs on federal lands during each of these years. The number of responding WIBs offering these programs was eight in 2008, ten in 2009, nine in 2010, and seven in 2011.

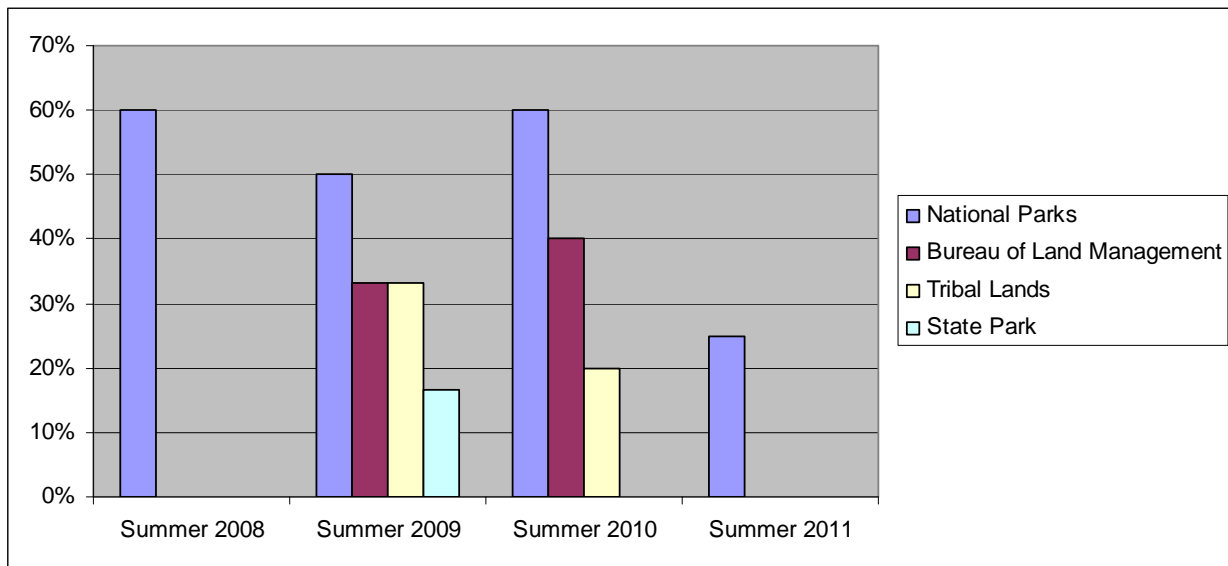
### Program Content

The vast majority of responding WIBs with summer youth employment programs on federal lands placed participants in national parks, from a high of 60 percent of WIBs using national parks as placement sites in 2008 to a planned low of 25 percent of WIBs using the parks in 2011. In fact, national parks were the only noted placement sites in 2008 and 2011, and were the most frequently used placement sites in all four years.

The WIBs made placements on Bureau of Land Management sites in 2009 (33 percent) and 2010 (40 percent), on tribal lands in 2009 (33 percent) and 2010 (20 percent), and in a state park in 2009 (17 percent).

Again, it is important to remember that these percentages are based on a very small number of responding WIBs offering summer youth employment programs on federal lands during each of these years. The number of responding WIBs for this question was five in 2008, six in 2009, five in 2010, and four in 2011.

**Placement Locations for Summer Youth Employment Program on Federal Lands**



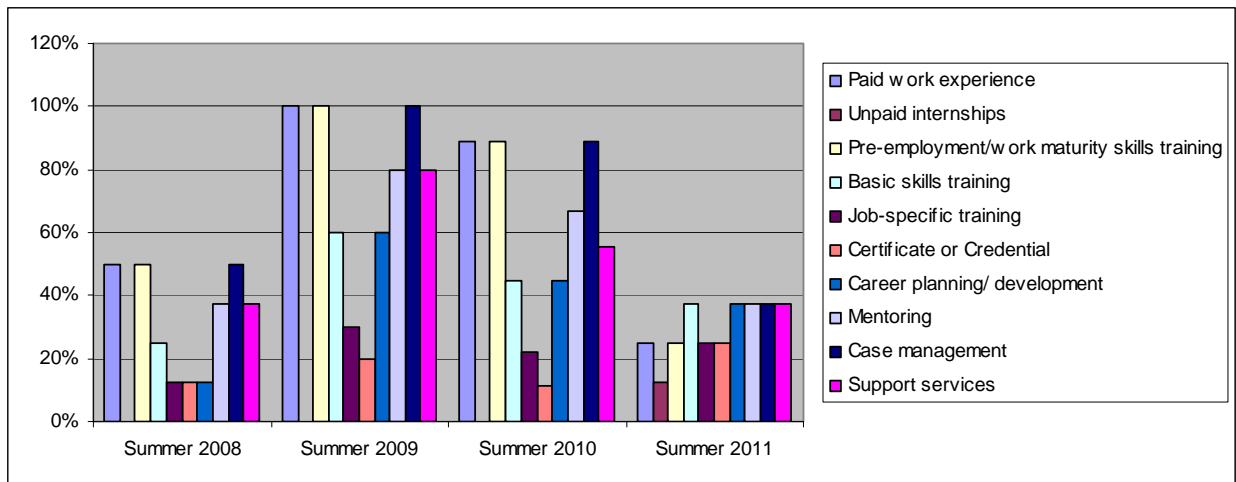
In 2008, 2009, and 2010, paid work experience, pre-employment/ work maturity skills training, and case management were consistently the most frequently offered components of responding WIBs' summer youth employment programs on federal lands. During these same years, certificates or credentials, job-specific training, and career planning/ development were the least frequently offered components.

In 2011, however, responding WIBs listed basic skills training, career planning/ development, mentoring, case management, and support services as the components they are most likely to offer. And, in 2011, one WIB is planning to offer unpaid internships, a component not offered by any WIB in 2008, 2009, or 2010.

Other components listed by responding WIBs were drug and alcohol testing, and high school credit.

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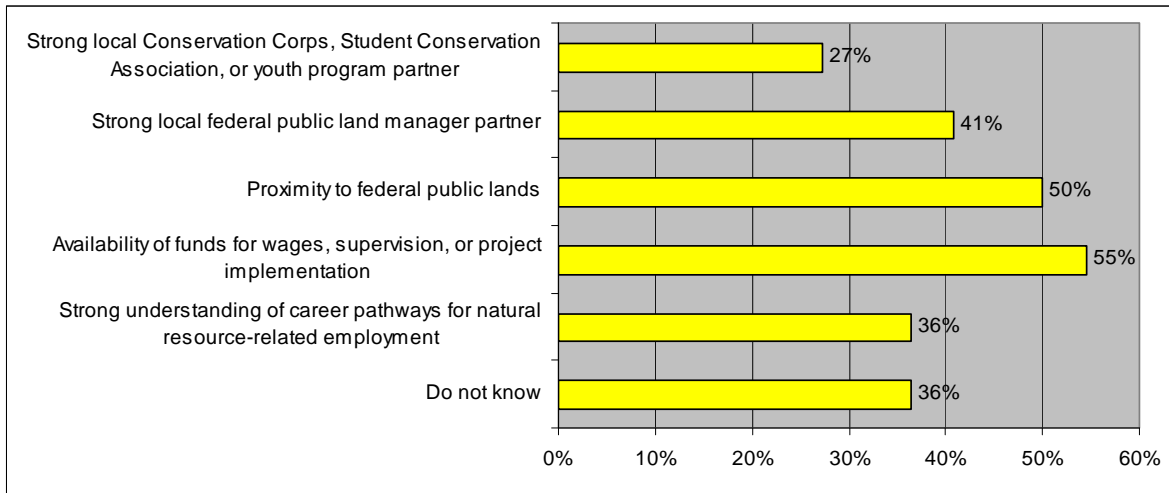
**Key Components of WIB Summer Youth Employment Programs on Federal Lands**



### Program Analysis

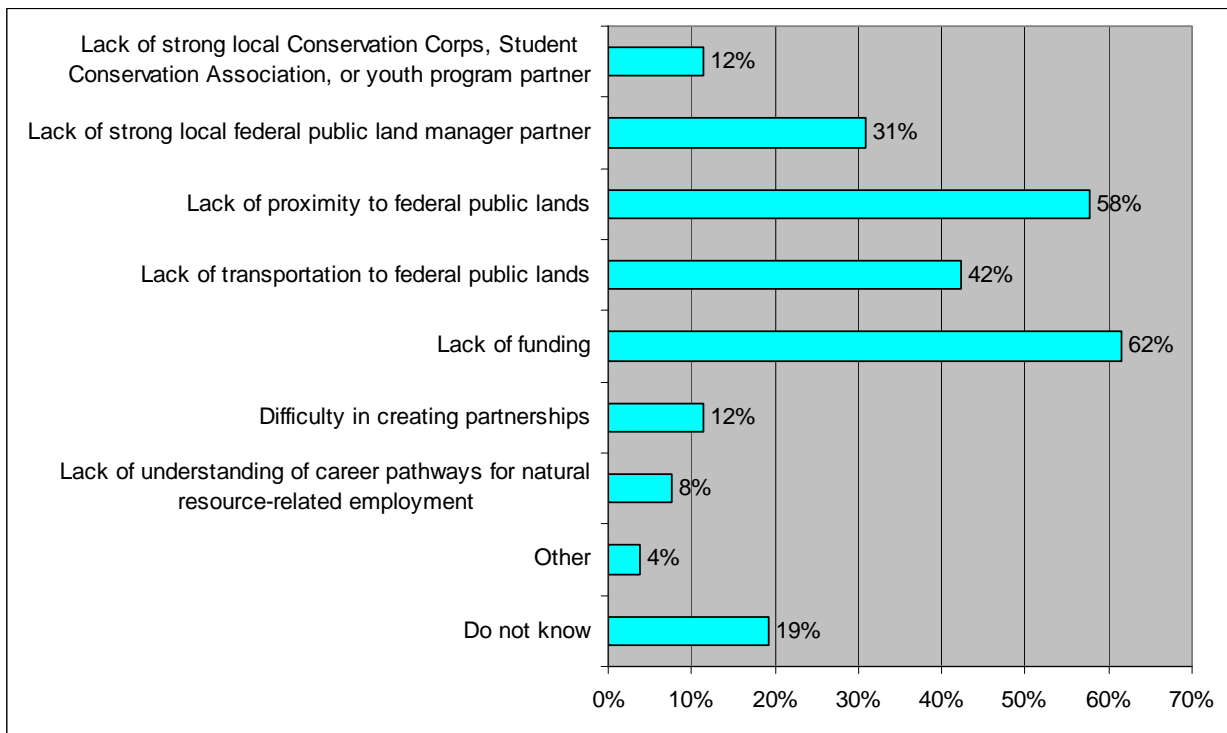
Twenty (20) WIBs responded to a question about the keys to a successful summer youth employment program on federal lands. Funding was noted as a key to success by 55 percent of respondents; proximity to federal public lands was noted by 50 percent of respondents; and a strong local federal public land manager partner was noted by 41 percent. Two components not included on the survey but cited by respondents as keys to success were local partnership and support of private foundations and conservation groups.

### Keys to a Successful Summer Youth Employment Program on Federal Lands



Twenty-six (26) WIBs responded to a question about the barriers to a successful summer youth employment program on federal lands. Lack of funding was noted as a barrier by 62 percent of respondents; lack of proximity to federal public lands was noted by 58 percent of respondents; and lack of transportation to federal public lands was noted by 41 percent. One respondent considered the lack of information about the location of federally-managed public lands to be a barrier.

### Barriers to a Successful Summer Youth Employment Program on Federal Lands



## **Addendum**

WIBs were asked to provide any additional details about their summer employment program(s) for low-income youth and young adults on federally-managed public lands that were not captured by the survey. Two WIBs provided additional information, which is listed below.

1. One main focus during The Young Mainers' Project in Washington County, Maine during the summer of 2009 with ARRA funds was The Passamaquoddy Pride Project. This project worked with 15 Native American youth in re-discovering their culture and learning new skills. They learned about brown ash and white ash and what ash is used to make canoe paddles and what ash is used for making Indian baskets. They went to the woods, cut the ash, carved paddles, and made Indian baskets. They also learned a skill which provided a work credential such as Nurses Aide Training and Energy Auditor Training. It was a tremendous self esteem building activity for the youth and the elders of the tribe were pleasantly surprised and happy to hear "the pounding of the ash" which is done for basket making on the reservation again.
2. While the majority of the work is done on state wildlife areas and state forest/ parks... the Crex Camp also does work on the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Mission Statement: The Crex Meadows Youth Conservation Camp will provide a positive learning experience where youth develop valuable work-related skills and a connection with the environment. Learn. Earn. Play. Continuing to excel, the Crex Meadows Youth Conservation Camp, located outside Grantsburg, WI, has been making a difference in the lives of teenagers from northwest Wisconsin for over a decade. The Camp is administered by Northwest Wisconsin Concentrated Employment Program (CEP, Inc.), a private non-profit organization established in 1968 to provide effective and efficient workforce development services to the employers and citizens of northwest Wisconsin. The unique experience at the camp gives young people the following opportunities: A chance to excel and learn about skills they never knew they had Receive a well-deserved paycheck for working hard with the DNR Earn science or elective credit at their local high school Make life-long friendships Start planning for a brighter future Develop work ethic & life-long employability skills The Camp offers two-week sessions for high school students between the ages of 14-19. While attending, campers work daily with the Crex Meadows and Governor Knowles State Forest Department of Natural Resources staff on a wide range of outdoor, hands-on projects, including Canada goose banding, building boardwalks and bridges, hiking trail maintenance, and removal of exotic, invasive species. Evenings are spent with recreation time and with science, nature, and work-based curriculum programs. Programs include: Extracting DNA from different foods Owl calling Radio telemetry and triangulation Animal tracking Designing pop can airplanes Who Dun It? Solving crimes Wolf howling Many, many more