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**America's WETLAND Conservation Corps Awarded AmeriCorps Grant**  
*Volunteer-Aided Coastal Restoration Projects will Continue Through 2010*

NEW ORLEANS- The AmeriCorps program has awarded the America's WETLAND Conservation Corps \$157,000 to support AWCC members who will meet vital coastal restoration needs across the state.

This additional funding is the second grant from AmeriCorps and is a tribute to the overwhelming success of the program. During the period of February 2007-June 2009, AWCC members enthusiastically completed over 164 restoration projects, committed 54,000 service hours, recruited over 5,000 AWCC volunteers and hosted numerous interactive educational programs.

"The accomplishments of the America's WETLAND Conservation Corps have both immediate impact – through their wetlands plantings projects – as well as long term, through their educational programs. The AWCC volunteers teach thousands about the importance of maintaining the wetlands, both for habitat, seafood and hurricane protection," said R. King Milling of New Orleans, chair of the America's WETLAND Foundation.

The America's WETLAND Conservation Corps is a partnership of the America's WETLAND Foundation and the LSU AgCenter, which is supported by AmeriCorps through the Louisiana Serve Commission, and the Office of Lt. Governor Mitchell J. Landrieu.

"The America's WETLAND Conservation Corps is part of a growing army of volunteers committed to citizen service," said Mitch Landrieu, Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana. "The Louisiana Serve Commission is a proud support the work of America's WETLAND Conservation Corps for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year. Their work is an excellent example of what can be accomplished through citizen service and public-private partnerships. They have exceeded our expectations and I look forward to working with them again during the 2009-2010 grant cycle."



The AWCC workers have a statewide impact on wetlands conservation education in Louisiana schools by developing and preparing teaching kits for Youth Wetlands Week. In 2008, more than 55,000 students in Louisiana schools learned about the importance of the wetlands to their lives.

Through the AWCC, AmeriCorps members and volunteers engage in hands-on coastal restoration and recovery projects across Louisiana. By hosting vegetative plantings, restorative interventions, community-wide clean-ups and other activities throughout the year, the AWCC is working to rebuild our damaged and degraded wetlands, which serve as a critical line of for thousands of Louisianians and hundreds of billions in energy and environmental assets.

"AWCC Projects stretch all along the coast of Louisiana, from Lafitte to New Orleans to Port Fourchon to Holly Beach. By rebuilding damaged and degraded wetlands along the coast, we are helping to rebuild the state's primary and natural line of defense against hurricanes and storm surges. We are proud to partner again with the America's WETLAND Foundation- the last three years have been a tremendous success, and we look forward to even more success in year four of the project," said Dwight Landreneau, Associate Vice Chancellor, LSU AgCenter.

Other sponsors of the America's WETLAND Conservation Corps include Allstate, Dow, Entergy the Credit Bureau of Baton Rouge and CH2MHILL. Learn more about the America's WETLAND Conservation Corps by visiting, [www.americaswetland.com](http://www.americaswetland.com).

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