

Contact:

Jaclyn McDougal
678-436-5072
mcdougalj@nwf.org



National Wildlife Federation's Na'Taki Osborne Jelks Appointed to Conservation Committee

*Na'Taki Osborne Jelks of NWF's Southeastern Regional Office Appointed to 21st Century
Conservation Service Advisory Committee*

Atlanta, GA (December 21, 2011) - Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced last week appointees for the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) in a press release. Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, Manager, Education & Advocacy Programs of the NWF's Southeastern regional office was appointed to the Committee. The Committee is composed of twenty two representatives from conservation, work force development, service and federal groups nationwide.

The Committee will provide recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior on how to engage young Americans in public lands and water restoration and provide recommendations on how to build on the important ongoing work of local, state, federal and non-profit youth conservation corps that engage young Americans in hands-on service and job training experiences on public lands and open spaces.

The focus of the committee is on helping young people, including low-income, underserved, and diverse youth, gain valuable training and work experience while accomplishing needed conservation work on public lands. Osborne Jelks stated "I am very excited about the opportunity to serve on the Committee, which is a vital step in finding and training the next great conservationists of America."

"I am very proud of the work that I have done with other initiatives to successfully engage youth from diverse communities in connecting with the outdoors, restoring public lands and becoming passionate about conservation and the environment. I consider the contributions that I'll make to the 21st Century Conservation Corps Advisory Committee an extension of that work. It's important that our country makes an investment in the cultivation of the next generation of environmental and conservation leaders and the opportunity to be engaged in the important work of restoring our public lands and waterways must be accessible to everyone." Osborne Jelks has been recognized by and received numerous awards from a diverse number of organizations and agencies for her work in environmental justice issues, engaging diverse communities in conservation, and improving environmental quality and quality of life for low-income and communities of color in Atlanta.

John Hammond, Southeast regional executive director for National Wildlife Federation stated “Na’Taki is a great representative for the National Wildlife Federation and the communities we serve. Her passion for the environment, young people and exemplary leadership will enable her to bring significant insight and value to the committee.”

The first meeting of the 21CSC Advisory Committee will be on February 9 & 10, 2012, in Washington, D.C.

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