

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Release: COVID-19 Corps Relief Fund

Walker Basin Conservancy Receives Funding to Support Safe, Continued Engagement of Young Adults in Service and Learning During Coronavirus Pandemic

Walker Basin Conservancy is one of 30 Service and Conservation Corps across the country to receive a grant from the COVID-19 Corps Relief Fund, made possible by The JPB Foundation and The Corps Network.

Reno, NV – Walker Basin Conservancy is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant in the amount of \$7500 from the [COVID-19 Corps Relief Fund](#), an emergency fund established by [The Corps Network](#), with generous support from [The JPB Foundation](#), to assist Service and Conservation Corps in safely continuing programming during the coronavirus pandemic.

The COVID-19 Corps Relief Funds are intended to be used for immediate, unforeseen needs, such as additional transportation expenses incurred by encouraging social distancing, additional expenses for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) equipment needed for remote learning, and other expenses related to safely supporting Corps participants, staff, and communities at this time.

COVID-19 has created significant health and safety concerns for the Walker Basin Conservancy, our field staff and crew members, and members of the public that visit the areas we serve. In response, the Conservancy has made significant changes to our housing, vehicle use, and operational policies and is closely monitoring associated state and federal guidelines

to ensure the safety of our employees and the public. These changes include the downsizing of field operations and cancellation of many seasonal AmeriCorps member opportunities.

The Walker Basin Conservancy will use the funds provided through the COVID-19 Relief Fund to acquire additional PPE and sanitation supplies necessary to follow current health and sanitation guidelines. The funds will also support the rental of additional 15 passenger vans for the safe transportation of local crew members to projects sites for the summer season, allowing an additional ten members from local communities and UNR to serve AmeriCorps terms this summer.

“We extend our gratitude to The JPB Foundation for making the COVID-19 Corps Relief Fund available to support Service and Conservation Corps during these uncertain times,” said Mary Ellen Sprenkel, President and CEO of The Corps Network, the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps. “In recent weeks, I have been inspired by the way Corps across the country adapted and made difficult decisions about how to best serve our young people and communities throughout this pandemic. We are pleased to help bring these relief funds to Walker Basin Conservancy and look forward to their continued efforts to engage young adults in meaningful service and learning experiences.”

“We hold national service to be among the highest ideals that benefit a community and affirm our support by committing to ensure the safety of those who serve. The generous funding from COVID-19 Corps Relief Fund will aid the Conservancy in keeping our AmeriCorps members safe and healthy through their terms of service.” Jeff Bryant, Executive Director, Walker Basin Conservancy.

About Walker Basin Conservancy

The Walker Basin Conservancy is leading the effort to restore and maintain Walker Lake while protecting agricultural, environmental and recreational interests in the Walker River Basin. The Conservancy manages thousands of acres of land in the Basin and oversees revegetation activities, habitat enhancement and ongoing research. The Conservancy protects and monitors acquired water resources to ensure that they are used as intended for riparian and watershed stewardship and to increase stream flows to Walker Lake.

About Walker Lake

Walker Lake is a natural lake located in the geographic low point of the Walker River Basin and is the terminus of the Walker River. Decades of water diversions have resulted in declining water levels and dramatic increases in Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) to a level where Walker Lake can no longer support native fish or waterfowl. The Walker Basin Conservancy is working



to acquire and protect enough water to reintroduce a stable population of Lahontan cutthroat trout, and other keystone species, in Walker Lake

About The Corps Network

The Corps Network, the national association of Service and Conservation Corps, provides leadership and support to over 130 Corps across the United States. Through advocacy, and providing Corps access to funding opportunities and expert guidance, The Corps Network annually enables more than 22,000 Corps members to strengthen communities, improve the environment and transform their lives through service. Learn more about The Corps Network at www.corpsnetwork.org.

About The JPB Foundation

The JPB Foundation is a private foundation based in New York City. The JPB Foundation's mission is to advance opportunity in the United States through transformational initiatives that empower those living in poverty, enrich and sustain our environment, and enable pioneering medical research. In addition to the COVID-19 Corps Relief Fund, The JPB Foundation supports technical assistance and new Corps development efforts at The Corps Network. Learn more about The JPB Foundation at www.jpbfoundation.org.

