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## *Young Native Americans to benefit from BPA grant*

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### **Bonneville Power Administration**

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**PORTLAND, Ore.** – A \$40,000 grant from the Bonneville Power Administration will allow a Native American educational program to better connect Native Americans with natural resource careers.

BPA announced today that the agency has awarded the grant to the Earth Conservation Corps Northwest/Salmon Corps (ECCNW). The BPA grant is being used by ECCNW to fund its Director of Education and Training position for one year. The director plans and oversees ECCNW education and training activities and assists Corps members in pursuing their natural resource education.

"For many of our Native American Corps members, the idea of post secondary education is a big challenge," said Chris Shelley, who has been the director of education and training since October. "It is my job to make sure all our resources are marshaled behind our members so they have the best chance of success in their pursuit of an education."

The grant is the first step in building collaboration between BPA and ECCNW. ECCNW will keep BPA up to date on the merits and accomplishments of the directorship through regular briefings and an annual report.

ECCNW offers young adults from urban and rural Native American communities the opportunity to make something of themselves in the face of uncertain futures. Many of these young people traditionally are faced with limited opportunities. Based on the Civilian

Conservation Corps of the 1930s, the ECCNW is working with local community leaders and environmental groups to build a natural partnership between youth and the environment.

BPA is a federal power marketing agency that sells electricity generated from 29 Northwest federal dams and one nonfederal nuclear plant to utilities in the West. It also pays for one of the largest fish and wildlife and environmental restoration programs in the world. BPA is not taxpayer funded. Instead of relying on federal appropriations, BPA covers its costs through revenue from its electricity sales.

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