**Issue:** Public Lands Corps (PLC) and Resource Assistants Program (RAP) directive revisions incorporate new requirements, streamline administration, programming, reporting, and improve customer service.

**Background:** A series of legislative changes were enacted since the 2013 publication of Forest Service Manual (FSM)1820. Revisions made to the U.S. Forest Service Public Lands Corps (PLC) and Resource Assistants Program (RAP) directive clarifies standards and expectations while providing new guidance. FSM 1820 provides guidance for U.S. Forest Service PLC and RAP partnerships to support natural resources and research work. Youth and young adults paid for work on public lands projects may acquire hiring eligibility for federal employment upon successful completion.

**Stakeholder Input:** Agency employees provided comment through a series of meetings with Regional liaisons coordinating Public Lands Corps and Resource Assistant Program projects in the field. Tribal consultation webinar occurred October 4, 2020 (no written comments from Tribes). Draft directives were published for 30 days in June 2021- 6 comments were received.

**Rollout and Implementation**
Before and immediately following issuance of the final directive, internal and external stakeholders will be informed. The full rollout schedule is available in the attached Directives Publication Strategy.

**Updates to Directives Post Comment Period**
Additional directive changes after the public comment period concluded:

- 1580 instruments shall distinguish the status of PLC Participants and Resource Assistants.
- Per diem as an allowable travel and training expense.
- Personal protective equipment as an allowable expense by Forest Service and/or cooperator.
- Reportable data includes: 1) Number of PLC Participants and Resource Assistants engaged on a respective PLC or RAP project; and 2) Individual participant data.
- Definition of VSPortal: A system that provides access for cooperators to directly enter data about participants on Forest Service projects, including PLC and RAP, that tracks hours, demographics, and type of work.

**Connection between USDA Key Priority Elements and FSM 1820**
The directive updates support USDA priorities focused on employee morale; diversity, equity, and inclusion; climate and regenerative agriculture; rural economic development; and Forest Service management.