



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mississippi Prison Work Crews Provide Valuable Free Public Service Labor

Jackson - Mississippi residents benefited greatly from the state prison system's public service work program during FY '02. According to a recently completed report on external public service work provided by state inmates, a combined total of 168,371 man-hours of public service work was provided by prisoners off institutional grounds during fiscal year ending on June 30, 2002. The value of this work totaled more than \$867,000 when calculated at minimum wage.

According to the report's findings, a major portion of the free inmate labor was attributed to the prisons' *Mobile Work Crews (MWC)*, which are comprised of minimum-security inmates. In addition, inmates sentenced to the prison system's *Regimented Inmate Discipline (RID)* program accounted for 11,520 man-hours of the total free public service labor during this time period.

A breakdown of the prison labor provided by the state's three public institutions during FY2002 indicated:

Mississippi State Penitentiary	Hours	Value
Mobile Crew	12,400	\$63,860.00
Sunflower Road Gang	53,166	\$273,804.90
Total	65,566	\$337,664.90
South Mississippi Correctional Institution		
Hours	Value	
Green County A-Custody Work Crew	29,170	\$150,225.50
Regimented Inmate Discipline	11,520	\$59,328.00
Green County Construction Work Crew	6,770	\$34,865.50
Total	44,460	\$244,419

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Central Mississippi Correctional Facility	Hours	Value
Mobile Work Crew	55,345	\$285,026.75
Grand Total	168,371	\$867,110.65

“We are extremely proud of our public service work program that state inmates provide to state and local units of government,” said Mississippi Department of Corrections Commissioner Christopher Epps. “This meaningful work ethic plays a very integral role in an offender’s rehabilitation. Equally important, the free labor performed by our prisoners provides invaluable assistance to local communities during these difficult economic times.”

Some of the work projects included: maintenance work on county court houses and police departments; painting public buildings; road work drainage projects; cutting grass around public buildings; and maintenance work on state parks facilities.