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AMERICORPS/USDA



First Quarter Report

(September 12, 1994 - November 31, 1994)



Acting Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger meets with USDA AmeriCorps Members in California.

"All of you have taken government and made it your own. You've turned a concept into some solid, practical action ... It's people pulling together to solve community problems. This is what government should be about."

- Acting Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger, January 28, 1995

Executive Summary

The United States Department of Agriculture is sponsoring approximately 1,200 AmeriCorps Members serving in 38 states in urban and rural projects fighting hunger, protecting the environment, and re-building rural America. During only their first two and a half months of service --- from September 12 - November 31, 1994 --- the Members provided over 360,000 hours of service to their communities.

Members of the Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team cooked and prepared meals at soup kitchens, conducted nutrition and food safety workshops for the elderly, sorted goods at food banks, developed nutrition education programs for schools, provided outreach for the Women's, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, worked to increase the number of children receiving immunizations, began efforts to improve participation in the summer feeding program, located sites for revitalizing community gardens in low-income neighborhoods, assisted earthquake victims with emergency food information, and informed pantries about how their clients who are working but are still poor can boost their incomes by utilizing the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Members of the Public Lands and Environment Team working on Forest Service lands performed rehabilitation and watershed protection work, constructed stream structures for fish habitat, reforested fire-damaged lands, constructed and maintained trails for hiking and horseback riding, planted cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations, maintained and rehabilitated campgrounds and made campgrounds accessible for the disabled, completed timber stand improvements, restored historic sites, conducted threatened and endangered species habitat surveys, removed and installed fences, improved wildlife habitats, and hung erosion control netting on roads.

Members of the Public Lands and Environment Team working on private and local municipal lands repaired and restored flood-damaged areas, re-created fish habitats, conducted water quality monitoring, built community greenhouses, constructed urban, suburban, and rural nature trails, built playgrounds, restored windbreaks originally created by the Civilian Conservation Corps, revegetated coastal marshes, restored collections at the National Arboretum, created a safe-haven lot at a public housing development, landscaped at a public high school, cleaned up an urban wetland, revitalized historical sites, improved camping sites, protected stream banks, created community gardens, and cleaned out a public fountain.

Members of the Rural Development Team provided service on a wide range of projects related to running water and indoor plumbing, sustainable agriculture, emergency response and prevention, fisheries restoration, alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, community improvement and personal responsibility development, tourism to boost local economies, water quality protection, recycling promotion, American Indian tribal empowerment, water quality protection, rural housing improvement, and cultural resource preservation.

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" on Forest Service Lands

The following is a brief summary of first quarter accomplishments in the nine Public Lands and Environment Team projects managed by the USDA Forest Service in seven states. These accomplishments include activities from six of the eight camps operating on National Forest Land through the USDA direct grant and one camp operating through the Northwest Service Academy, which receives significant technical support from the Forest Service. Most of the camps through the USDA direct grant weren't fully operational until early October 1994 and the report covers only until November 30, 1994. The White Mountain and the Green Mountain National Forest camps started operations in January 1995. USDA AmeriCorps Members:

- * Performed rehabilitation/watershed protection work on 12,000 acres of fire-damaged land.
- * Constructed 25 stream structures for anadromous fisheries on .75 miles of stream and completed 10 acres of reforestation.
- * Maintained 61.3 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails and constructed 6 miles of new hiking trails, of which 1.2 miles were designed for the physically challenged.
- * Gathered and planted 45,000 willow and cottonwood cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations.
- * Maintained eight campgrounds, rehabilitated 10 campground sites, and provided handicapped access on six sites.
- * Completed 197 acres of timber stand improvement.
- * Restored two historic sites.
- * Completed threatened and endangered species habitat surveys on 900 acres, completed 355 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, installed two range waterlots, removed three miles of fence, and constructed 1.25 miles of new fence.
- * Protected 82 acres of huckleberry fields sacred to the Warm Springs Takima Tribal Nations by burning 12 acres of fields and by hand grinding and pruning conifer trees on another 70 acres.
- * Hung erosion control netting on 300 feet of steep Forest Service road cutbacks and helped clear 15 miles of road that provide critical access to water monitoring sites after an early winter snowstorm.

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" Fighting Against Hunger

The following is a summary of the first quarter accomplishments of the five USDA Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team projects managed by the USDA Food and Consumer Service through local partnerships with anti-hunger groups and youth service corps. Most of the projects started service in October 1994. This report does not include accomplishments from Vermont, since that project did not fully start until January of 1995. USDA/AmeriCorps Members:

- * Cooked and prepared meals for over 6,000 people at local soup kitchens.
- * Conducted a nutrition and food safety workshop for the elderly attended by 39 senior citizens.
- * Conducted nutrition outreach to senior citizens and aided 200 senior citizens in filling out food stamp applications.
- * Surveyed 60 low-income households about hunger insecurity and 29 of those homes have been referred to receive food assistance.
- * Sorted over 93,000 pounds of food at local food banks.
- * Developed educational skits teaching how "Healthy eating is fun" for ten elementary schools.
- * Four days a week, reached an average of 200 people with educational efforts regarding public services such as WIC.
- * Produced and distributed 20 informational posters, distributed 300 informational flyers, and made 150 reminder phone calls to relevant families to increase the number of children receiving immunizations.
- * Contacted 250 schools in five cities about the participating in the summer feeding program; distributed 500 flyers in targeted areas about the School Breakfast Program.
- * Located three sites for revitalizing community gardens in low-income neighborhoods.
- * Assisted 200 earthquake victims with emergency food information through an informational referral service.
- * Informed 130 local pantries about how their clients who are working but are still poor can obtain help through the Earned Income Tax Credit Program.

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" Helping the Environment

The following are highlights from the first quarter accomplishments of the 14 Environmental Team projects sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service on private lands in urban and rural areas and the one project sponsored by the USDA Agricultural Research Service at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Many projects did not start until October of 1994. USDA AmeriCorps Members:

- * Repaired and restored five reservoir flood-damaged recreation areas in Kansas by fixing 22 miles of fence, cleaning five miles of shoreline, removing 160 damaged trees, clearing three miles of trails, replanting 40 trees, re-creating fish habitats, repairing 50 picnic tables, restoring five restrooms, repairing one bridge, trimming 3 miles of trees on dikes, cleaning out one outdoor learning classroom, debris from 2 miles of roads, and posting signs on 19 miles of roads.
- * In and around Atlanta, Georgia, conducted water quality monitoring at thirty locations throughout the Big Creek Watershed. In one urban neighborhood, Members benefitted 400 residents by cleaning eight acres, mulching 1,000 feet of walking trails, placing three waterbars into trails, seeded a half acre, and carried away six dump trucks of trash. Built a greenhouse and began constructing a nature trail at the North Metro Technical Institute in Acworth.
- * Completed stream walks on four streams in New Jersey to categorize potential non-point pollution in the South Branch Raritan River Watershed. Desnagged and re-established reflectors in two streams to improve fish habitat and removed debris and reseeded 375 feet of streambank to improve water quality. Designed and flagged 500 feet of trail and built a playground set at Lake Hopatcong State Park.
- * In Western Oklahoma, restored 15 windbreaks originally created by the Civilian Conservation Corps on 7.5 miles of land in five counties.
- * In and around Baytown, Texas, cleaned and mowed five 10-meter by 75-meter ponds, vegetated two acres of marsh demonstration projects, harvested and threshed by hand 4 acres of smooth cordgrass seed, harvested by hand and then planted 800 mangrove seeds, harvested, threshed, and planted 3,000 Scirpus seeds. Members also assisted the Red Cross in flood relief efforts in the Houston area by loading and unloading trucks and delivering supplies to local flood victims.
- * At the National Arboretum, in Washington, D.C, Members completed the first two stages of restoring the Azalea Overlook, cut and removed sections of the Boxwood collection, and cleared weeds and vines to restore 150 yards of Juniper hedge.
- * In South Dakota, Members demonstrated to cattlemen the benefits of managing vegetation areas along waterways, including during periods of flooding.

* In Chicago, Members maintained and beautified streambanks and created a safe-haven lot at Lathrop Homes, cleaned up a lagoon in Washington Park, landscaped a public high school, remodeled and prepared a play lot at Kennicott Park, helped organize a "Neighbors Against Gang Violence - Day of Dead Memorial," remodeled the Donnelly Youth Center, and planted bulbs at the Fellowship Youth Center.

* In Nebraska, Members designed three recreation trails, cleaned up an urban wetland "Heron Haven" owned by the local Audubon Club, revitalized the Lincoln Normal historical project, improved 20 miles of recreation trails, assisted in flood debris removal from 14 sites at the National Arbor Day Foundation headquarters, helped prepare an inspection and maintenance report of flood control facilities, maintained and improved historical sites, and performed recreation and conservation maintenance in Lower Elkhorn River area and Norfolk public parks.

* In areas damaged by the floods of 1993 in Central Illinois, Members developed 1.3 miles of hiking trails, improved five acres of camp sites, and pruned 5 acres of evergreen trees at a Pittsfield City park. Members also removed about 15 tons of debris (tires, appliances, automobiles, etc.) from half of mile of a stream that outlets into a city owned recreation lake for the City of Rushville. In Kampsville, Members replaced 75 feet of sidewalks damaged during the flood. Members in Quincy also renovated a brick road in an historic alley.

* In Portland, Oregon, Members at the Whitaker Pond Restoration improved 150 feet of pond bank by removing pest species including blackberries, night shade, and everlasting pea then revegetating the area. Members also revegetated three acres on the northern portion of Fairview Creek. The Members worked-side-by-side with 80 different community volunteers who served 450 volunteer hours.

* In East. St Louis, Illinois, Members established nurseries at East. St. Louis Senior High School, Lovejoy High School, and Jones Park, removed debris and broken materials from the high school greenhouse, cleaned out a fountain in Jones Park, and assisted Operation NewSpirit in planting bulbs throughout the city. The Forest service also provided technical assistance to this project.

* Members in Goldendale, Washington, rebuilt a half-mile stretch of fence that protects a key riparian area along the Little Klickitat River. Members also protected water quality on one mile of stream by treating 300 acres with log check dams across steep slopes and installed eight sediment retention dams. They also protected Pine Creek by installing eight log check dams, built a new playground at a Head Start Center on the Yakima Indian Reservation, removed dozens of pick-up dead wood on public lands and provided them as firewood for low-income families.

* Members worked with the Izaak Walton League in Charles County, Maryland to complete four erosion control structures on a site that will be open to the public.

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" Rebuilding Rural America

USDA has fully embraced the vision --- held by both the President and the Corporation for National and Community Service --- that AmeriCorps be community-based, community-designed, and community-run. The USDA Rural Development Team has different community service objectives for each and every individual site, based on the needs of each local community. Consequently, the Rural Development Team Members are providing such a wide variety of services that they are nearly impossible to aggregate.

The best illustration of how the Rural Development Team is "getting things done," is a list of success stories in each of the following areas: running water and indoor plumbing, sustainable agriculture, emergency response and prevention, fisheries restoration, alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, community improvement and personal responsibility development, tourism to boost local economies, water quality protection, recycling promotion, American Indian tribal empowerment, rural housing improvement, and cultural resource preservation.

Running Water and Indoor Plumbing

- * Member in Marion, Arkansas helped provide a rural water line that furnished seven households -- with 22 residents -- with running water for the first time.
- * Members in Louisiana and Mississippi assisted individuals in joining and developing rural water associations.
- * In Texas, Member in Brownsville helped 25 families without bathroom and kitchen plumbing obtain sanitary and safe plumbing facilities. Members in Hidalgo County have been responsible for the construction of nine bathrooms at homes previously without indoor plumbing; by the end of the quarter, three more installations were finalized but not yet built. Member in San Benito started work to provide indoor plumbing to 153 families without such plumbing. Member in Raymondville started work to provide indoor plumbing to 30 families without such plumbing.

Rural Economic Development

- * Member in Holmes County, Mississippi devised a plan to reduce employee turnover at the Durant Electric Corporation, the largest employer in the county --- with 600 employees and a payroll of \$8 million. The plan not only convinced the company to reverse its plans to move to Mexico, but allowed the company to plan to hire 400 new employees. Thus, the one USDA AmeriCorps Member directly saved or created 1,100 jobs.

* In Boone, North Carolina, Member is working with the local Enterprise Community (EC) applicant to implement their strategic plan for economic development. Working in cooperation with the Boone Housing Authority, the Member is organizing and making functional a Community Development Corporation (CDC) to assist the low-income residents of Boone. To date, over \$1.8 million has been awarded for water and sewer infrastructure and housing assistance as a result of her help.

* Members in West Virginia assisted with implementation of a business retention and expansion program including the production and distribution of a monthly newsletter that is intended to improve dialogue, link communities together, and provide funding opportunities; they also developed a computer program for the West Virginia Division of Forestry that allows small business owners to calculate costs of producing various materials for long term investment strategies.

* In Bell County, Tennessee, Member helped the local Industrial Foundation obtain a \$201,000 grant.

* In Cleveland, Mississippi, Member recruited new and emerging leaders in Bolivar County for a community and economic development leadership seminar and conducted a survey of an 18 county area as an integral part of the regional strategic plan. In another county of Mississippi, a Member produced a comprehensive report of available buildings, the labor supply, financial options, cost of utilities, etc. in an 18-county region in order to expand existing local businesses or attract new businesses.

* In Pittsfield, Illinois, Members completed a Small Businesses Research and Revitalization Project and are helping update the town's overall economic development plan. Their efforts have been praised by the Mayor.

* In Texas, one Member has begun grant applications to start a revolving loan fund to provide seed money to create new small businesses locally.

* In Allendale/Blackville, South Carolina, Member established a downtown redevelopment effort concentrating on an historical abandoned hotel. In Penn Center, South Carolina, Member is completing a survey of community land ownership to stabilize development and establish a plan for a cooperative effort for agriculture processing and development.

Sustainable Agriculture

* In Machias, Maine, Member received funding from the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission to set-up a state-wide series of best management practices for Blueberry Growers and began implementation of workshops.

Another Member in Maine assisted in the establishment of a pilot Integrated Pest Management Program for cranberry growers to help the growers economically reduce the amount of pesticides that end up in the groundwater, assisted with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's upland cranberry bed demonstration project, and has visited lands of thirteen cranberry growers to provide personal assistance.

* In California, Member in Petaluma has begun water quality sampling on three adjacent dairies and has completed one conservation plan. In Santa Rosa, Member has trained one dairy operator to use a water quality test kit, is developing plans to provide such assistance to members of four different local organizations, and has completed inventory work for a watershed group.

* In Minnesota, Members based in Hiawatha began work to improve forage/grassland conditions to the good or excellent category on 5,000 acres, affecting 50 farmers in 11 counties. Members based in Thief River Falls began work to improve water quality and reduce producer fertilizer input costs by developing and implementing animal waste nutrient utilization and management plans on 120 livestock operations.

* In South Carolina, Members conducted waste water sampling of waste management facilities (lagoons) and prepared detailed summary reports for 16 individual farm systems; this testing procedure was the first in South Carolina and will serve as a model for other conservation activities. They also tested 600 different soil samples to determine croplands with high levels of phosphorus and acidity and prepared a report on their findings to local farmers. Members expanded inventory on data on farm grasslands to reflect 40,000 acres in order to reduce erosion and improve water quality of nearby streams and lakes.

* In Redlands, California, Members have surveyed three dairies totaling 130 acres, eventually leading to recycling or eliminating 6,867 tons of waste once practices have been implemented. Each farmer saved an average of about \$9,000 by having the service performed by AmeriCorps members instead of private contractors. The Members also completed a survey of a five-acre ranch which will eventually lead to the recycling of 26.5 tons of waste a year.

* Member in Pine Bluff, Arkansas developed farm and home plans for small and disadvantaged farmers to help them obtain loans to stay on their land.

* In Western New York, Members have helped digitalize soil surveys and make that information accessible and practical to surrounding communities, including the Seneca Nation of Indians.

Emergency Response and Prevention

* Members on the Vermont Fire Protection project contacted 48 Fire Departments in Vermont, installed one dry fire hydrant, performed 30 dry fire hydrant site surveys, and initiated and participated in meetings with Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Fire Safety Association, Vermont Fire Chiefs Association, and Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

* In Missouri, one Member began preparing guide sheets and a handbook to aid reclamation of two smaller tributaries of the Missouri River, another Member obtained existing floodplain management data to begin developing a Decision Support System computer model for floodplain management, another Member produced an informational fact sheet on flood recovery that was distributed by the Extension and also began collecting hydrologic and agronomic data in order to propose land-use alternatives for the area, another Member provided emergency program assistance to 32 landusers, another Member investigated local floodwater retarding dams to determine workload, another Member worked to assist sponsors to complete five dam safety reports and perform maintenance on 15 floodwater retarding dams, another Member completed maps of five farms of the sands deposits created by the floods of 1993, and another Member assisted five sponsors and 15 landowners to provide flood protection recovery through the Emergency Watershed Program.

* In Middlebourne, West Virginia, Member organized a dry fire hydrant in the area by working with fire departments and local communities to get access to water for rural fire protection.

* In South Carolina, Members helped local officials improve emergency response procedures by conducting a county road survey to inventory and update names and locations, as the first base procedure to reduce delays in 911 emergency responses. Over 600 miles of roads were recorded on base maps and entered into local computer software in order to maintain accurate files. The entire effort saved the county approximately \$20,000, and each AmeriCorps Member was presented a certificate of achievement from County Officials.

* Members in Monticello, Mississippi also sponsored a regional meeting, attended by 11 of the 13 counties in the area, to improve rural fire protection services. Members in Tupelo and Grenada have generated maps and use them in meetings with local fire coordinators to plan dry fire hydrants that will increase local fire protection. Members in Holy Grove, Mississippi began work to help community residents move out of a flood zone.

* Members in Louisiana made significant progress towards installing 35 dry fire hydrants per parish in order to aid rural fire protection.

* In Auburn, California, Members have made significant progress creating and implementing fuel reduction plans to reduce forest and other fires in the area. In Lancaster and Somis, California, Members have focused on areas previously impacted by fires and by flooding and have completed a mitigation plan for the Kinneola area and have completed field work for the Laguna mitigation plan.

Fisheries Restoration

* In Maine, Member sorted 78 samples of ichthoplankton, identifying eggs and larvae in the samples, in order to aid in the restoration of striped bass through locating and protecting spawning areas in the Kennebec and Eastern Rivers. Transferred 20,000 individual shads from grow-out ponds into a re-stocking truck.

* Another Member in Maine located and identified streams suitable for streamside installation of boxes for salmonoid spawning, rearing, and staging,

* In Middlebourne, West Virginia the Member worked to develop a pond system for the production of striped bass on a commercial basis. He also began forming an organization of warm water fish producers in the area.

Alternative Uses of Natural Resources

* In Minnesota, Members developed a public access TV show that explains a project being conducted by the RC&Ds to promote the development of a bio-fuels program in cooperation with the US Dept. of Energy.

* In Louisiana, a Member worked on a bridge information summary for Mississippi Delta counties to prepare a bridge infrastructure report for possible timber bridge construction projects, and a Member in Mississippi completed one timber bridge application.

* Members in Batesville, Arkansas made significant progress towards helping create a local woodland owners association.

* Another Member in North Little Rock has identified 10 sites for Pellet Stove Demonstration Projects to stimulate demand for a new product that will boost industry in the region.

* Members in Utah have begun a service conducting a comprehensive analysis of the potential for local resource-based, value-added industries in the region and assisting limited resource farmers in developing small-scale agriculture enterprises.

Environmental Education Facilities

- * In South Carolina, Members built a new front entrance gate and nature trails at the Adair Outdoor Learning Center, which is visited by 3,000 students each year.
- * Based in Waverly, Tennessee, Members have significantly improved and expanded the Humphreys County Spoil Conservation District environmental center, also known as the Blue Creek Nature Center. Members developed one new trail, improved existing trails, and conducted six nature tours involving 199 students and 63 adults.
- * Member in Pearl, Mississippi nearly completed two outdoor classrooms and a nature trail at Madison Elementary School.

Community Improvement and Personal responsibility Development

* In West Virginia, Member served on the organization and implementation committee for Tug River Health Clinic and sent surveys to all employers, child care providers, and parents to collect data to apply for a grant to establish a clinic. Another Member in West Virginia organized a Community Service Day for the all Northern West Virginia AmeriCorps Members in which they worked at the Union Mission of Fairmont to help decorate for the youth holiday party, tape plastic to windows in the homeless shelter, and prepare information packets for a fundraising event. In Wilcoe, West Virginia, another Member sent surveys to prominent businesses in McDowell County that employ 25 people or more, in-home day care providers, private day care owners, and parents of Head Start children to collect data to include in grant applications to obtain funding for local day care programs.

* Member in Natchez, Mississippi is working to reduce teenage pregnancy; she spoke personally about her efforts with Senate Majority Whip Trent Lott who "promised to support (her) efforts in Natchez and declared he would be in Natchez in any events that take place if his schedule permits." The Member has also formed a task force to work on reestablishing a YMCA center in Natchez.

Another Member in Natchez helped two different families obtain funds to repair their home. In her "free time" this member is volunteering for the Illiteracy Program at a local United Methodist Church. Another Member in Mississippi held two town meetings, attended by 80 local senior citizens, to inform them of common consumer fraud scams targeted at the elderly.

- * Member in Arkansas helped improve the quality of standard living for 950 low income families by the end of this quarter in obtaining Home Energy Assistance (HEAP) and to provide assistance through the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP).
- * Members in Holly Grove, Mississippi have also worked on helping start a "Dads Program," to focus attention on young boys without fathers in the home.
- * In Santee-Lynches, South Carolina, Member has been working to statistically document and then reduce the number of teenage pregnancies.

Tourism Development to Boost Local Economies

- * In Virginia, Member developed a video program showing natural resources on the National Forest, State and private lands to promote recreation resources, and tourism in the region. Other Members in Virginia prepared a plan for a local greenway trail.
- * Members based in Twin Valley worked on the Agassie Recreational Trail Project and designed a tourism brochure along with a logo created through a local contest, worked with the Ada City Council to integrate the trail project with community development, completed a grant proposal for the Heritage & Information Center, and judged at the Norman County East Science Fair for students.
- * In Tennessee, Members who are working on the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative interviewed 43 federal, state, and local tourism professionals, six independent consultants, and 64 local citizens to initially assess project feasibility, community attitudes, tourism development processes, and sources of funding or technical assistance. These Members the first-ever tourism advisor board in the region. They also began a community-based initiative in Hancock and Grainger Counties to provide technical assistance and "hands-on" service in the establishment and renovation of county museums.
- * In Kentucky, Member produced brochure to help increase tourism to the nearby Kentucky Craft Village. Member is also planning instruction workshops for 15 local craft producers.
- * Members in Hattiesburg, Mississippi began an inventory of tourism resources in an 18 county area of Southeast Mississippi.
- * Members in Iowa conducted outreach to increase the number of farmers in the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program. Members in Iowa have prepared maps and written materials to assist County Conservation Boards in Fremont Mills, Pottawattamie, Harrison, Monona, and Woodbury counties in locating areas for potential in recreation, tourism, economic development, and wildlife areas. They

also revised a brochure for Western Iowa and worked to develop bicycle loops for area cycling clubs. Additionally, Members updated tourism guides, wrote scripts for tours, restored a farmer's market, and took an inventory of resources in the African-American community to create an agricultural heritage area in Northeast Iowa.

Recycling Promotion

* In Tennessee, a Member developed a marketing program for recyclable materials; a program called "Garbage Busters" was developed for second graders. Members wrote grants for various proposals and one was approved for a "Learn and Service America" program that focuses on recycling management for elementary students in a five-county area; prepared articles for local newspapers entitled "Trashy Talk"; and completed a presentation for a public education program on oil recycling in Tennessee.

* In another part of Tennessee, Members have created a database to track the status of solid waste/recycling progress in each of 14 counties. Members also began a 14 county poster contest in local schools with the theme "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." Members successfully convinced 16 schools to start on-site recycling programs. Members have also presented eight environmental education programs to 400 students.

* In Texas, a Member has made significant progress towards creating a 5,000 acre Regional Environmental Enterprise Zone to build and implement a comprehensive facility to meet the solid waste needs of the region for the next 75 to 100 years.

American Indian Tribal Empowerment

* In North Carolina, a Member developed a Parks and Recreation Department proposal for the Cherokee Indian Reservation in NC.

* In Waynesville, North Carolina, a Member is working towards establishing a good, trusting relationship with the Cherokee Indian reservation and to make the residents aware of various USDA home ownership and repair programs.

* Members in Holbrook, Arizona began an assessment of small-scale agriculture needs on the Hopi and Navajo Reservations.

* In San Juan, New Mexico, Members have begun to inventory private woodlands and started to conduct a resource and rangeland inventory on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

* In Ukiah, California, a Member has formed client partnerships to aid two severely eroded streams, has helped the Round Valley Tribal Community treat two miles of stream, and signed up four local growers for a cost share program to convert to the water-saving drip irrigation program.

Water Quality Protection

* In Houlton, Maine, a Member completed a sanitary survey on Shin Pound to help community residents make future decisions about how to best protect the health of their lake.

* Members on the Winooski River Project in Vermont conducted a 21 mile reconnaissance survey from Jonesville to Essex Junction, Vermont to evaluate the state of erosion control and bioengineering measures installed in the late 1930's in order to improve current conservation measures.

* In Kingwood, West Virginia, a Member performed soil nutrient content analysis and animal manure nutrient analysis in order to improve local water quality. In Morefield, West Virginia, the Member performed nutrient and pesticide management activities to improve the local water quality. The two members have provided assistance on a combined total of 1,000 acres.

* Members based in the Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council in Tennessee have dewatered 2.5 million gallons of waste from the storage facilities of five local landowners, and collected soil samples at those sites to ensure safe discharge.

* In Louisiana, Members performed over 100 pre-assessment surveys that benefited over 100 rural families by identifying threats water quality on their home and farmsteads. They made presentations on the water quality program to 240 high school students.

* In Ohio, Members completed a filed map of Pickaway County to help protect the Darby Creek watershed, completed survey and design work to implement Best Management Practices in rural areas, identified local landowners who want trees to be planted on riparian areas, and began identifying places on the Big and Little Darby Creeks where point and non-point pollution enters the stream system.

* In Michigan, Members conducted quality assessments and provided water quality protection plans to 29 farm families.

* Members based in Cloquet, Minnesota developed a public participation plan for the Nemadji River Basin Project and completed a watershed roadside erosion inventory.

Rural Housing Improvement

* In Williamson, West Virginia, a Member assisted in helping 30 families apply for rental housing assistance.

* In Hendersonville, North Carolina, Member is helping finance home improvements for very low income families in Ashe County. To do so, he established relationships with the Housing Assistance Corporation and the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission so that they will now package applications for FmHA housing loans. He also met with several individuals to educate them about the USDA programs, and processed two loans to make repairs to low income individuals.

* In Mississippi, a Member helped five families with poor credit histories turn their credit around so they could obtain housing loans.

* In Webb, Mississippi, a Member helped six low-income citizens obtain single self-help housing units. Member has also provided counseling to the families that have homes under construction to acquaint them with the responsibilities that go along with home ownership. In Indianola, Mississippi, a Member began providing a "Home Buyer's Education Program" for 932 individuals.

* In Texas, a Member in Brownsville helped 16 families remodel their homes to remove health hazards such as broken windows, old roofs, insulation, etc and helped two families obtain new homes that are now under construction. A Member in Laredo made significant progress towards rehabilitating 42 housing units. A Member in El Paso helped two elderly women obtain funds to repair their homes, and for a third women ineligible for government loans, recruited a volunteer plumber to repair her bathroom and volunteers through the Salvation army to winterize her home.

* Members in El Centro, California have been conducting outreach to expand usage of the 504 program to prove grants and loans for low income families to repair their homes; by the end of the first quarter, two applications for repairs had been approved and the work was completed, two more had just been approved, and four more were in the process of being approved.

* A Member in Gallup, New Mexico conducted on training on loan packaging for 19 community residents including representatives from local non-profit groups, church leaders, and Native American Community leaders.

* In Pendleton, Oregon, a Member helped two low-income individuals receive a loan and one individual to receive a grant to repair their homes. In Elgin, Oregon, Member assisted HELP, inc. in Housing Preservation Grant that allowed 11 low income and very low income families to repair and rehabilitate their homes. The Member verified eligibility, determined preservation needs, identified environmental effects, and awarded bids to housing contractors.

Cultural and Historic Resource Preservation

* In Kentucky, Members developed an infrastructure database; served as project manager for the historic Stearns building renovation project and administered the Folk Life Study on historical buildings, people, and local folklore in KY.

* Based in Morgantown, West Virginia, a Member performed an archaeologist inventory on five major sites in economically depressed sites around the state in order to provide cultural resource protection through inventory, investigation, and documentation of sites. At one site, he discovered three historic and one pre-historic sites that he will be documenting. He also worked with another AmeriCorps member to develop Fort Randolph -- a Civil War fort in Point Pleasant -- for public use.

* In Baker City, New Mexico, a Member has recruited three property owners who have agreed to use their properties as pilot locations for historic renovations.

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" Educating Americans

Many USDA AmeriCorps environmental and rural development projects have educational components. Educational achievements related to hunger are detailed in the hunger section above. In the first quarter, USDA AmeriCorps Members:

- * In Redlands, California, a Member helped coordinate and teach an Nature Discovery Program that benefited 690 local elementary students.
- * In Maine, Members worked with 12 teachers to begin implementing an "Adopt-a-Stream" curriculum in their classrooms. Members in another part of the state collected, revised, adapted, copied, and distributed a 20 page packet of educational materials including lesson plans on water quality, the water cycle, water conservation, and preventing surface and groundwater pollution to 16 Soil and Water Conservation District. In still another part of Maine, a Member facilitated three cooperative agreements between University of Maine at Machias, University of Maine Orono Cooperative Extension, and Maine Department of Environmental Resources in order to integrate hands-on water quality testing and shoreline sampling experience into the Environmental Chemistry and Special Topics in Environmental Sciences courses.
- * Member in Yazoo City, Mississippi, coordinated a program in which the Mississippi State Health Educator talked to 900 high school students about teenage pregnancy and abstinence.
- * Member in Louisiana assisted with the development of a tutoring program for individuals to obtain their GED and improve ACT test scores and an education program for adults
- * In South Carolina, Members conducted a "Junior Palmetto Leadership Training Course" for 30 high school students; another Member established an after-school tutorial project.
- * Members provided environmental education to 600 students visiting Forest Service lands.
- * In South Dakota, Members helped conduct 10 sessions in elementary classrooms on American Indian Heritage Month.
- * In Arkansas, Members motivated volunteers to assist with the "Educate the Children Project" which distributes educational material to school districts and some non-profit organizations.

* Member in Madison County, Mississippi recruited 46 local high school students and two teachers to participate in a series of money management workshops. Another Member in Madison and Jefferson Counties, Mississippi conducted financial management classes in six senior high school classes reaching 135 students.

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" Fighting Crime

Some USDA AmeriCorps also have public safety components. In the first quarter, USDA AmeriCorps Members:

- * In Logan County, West Virginia, Member assisted the organization of nine local rural communities so they can bring resources together to effectively reduce certain criminal activities.
- * Member is working in Jackson, Mississippi to create a "peer Helpers' group to reduce crimes committed by teenagers.
- * On the Texas/Mexico border, one Member is helping create a community crime watch program.
- * In Greater Orangeburg, South Carolina, Member is seeking to reduce the number of vacant buildings used for illegal activities by helping identify those premises and working with the city to demolish or improve those buildings.

What Citizens Are Saying About AmeriCorps/ USDA

(Unique Successes and Great Stories)

Getting Things Done

"Its going to be a wonderful boon to us in the area of the environment, especially keeping Lake Champlain the gem that it is."

- Senator James Jeffords (R-VT), October 17, 1994

Describing USDA AmeriCorps Rural Development Project on the Winooski River

"Rural Development is really a national concern we have - environmental concerns are extraordinary and one of the priorities of AmeriCorps really is environmental development - the natural environment, the neighborhood environment. We learn these lessons so we can do what is most important about national service --- which is getting things done."

- Eli J. Segal, CEO, Corporation for National and Community Service

October 17, 1994, also commenting on USDA AmeriCorps Rural Development Project on the Winooski River

"The AmeriCorps program has been essential in our area. Through the use of our effluent discharge program, landowners have been able to reduce the impact on non-point source pollution problems. They have also become more aware of their responsibilities for water quality through our educational efforts."

Chris Hays, Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council
Jackson, Tennessee

"As a result of his diligent efforts... we have decided to remain in full operation in Durant, Mississippi (and) we are presently hiring and training additional employees."

Mark Lauritzen, President, Durant Electric Corporation

Explaining how a USDA AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Member helped prevent his company with 600 employees and a \$8 million payroll from relocating to Mexico

"It's hard to know whether (critics of AmeriCorps) are opposed to national service programs in general, or because AmeriCorps is one of the few unambiguous successes President Clinton can point to in his first two years ... There are 38 young men and women at a work camp in the Applegate Ranger District this winter, working in the woods as well as renovating structures in Butte Falls and Prospect. So far, AmeriCorps is a success in America's forests and urban areas."

- Editorial, Medford, Oregon *Mail-Tribune*
October 18, 1995

"I never thought that being an AmeriCorps Member would have such an impact on someone's else's life, meaning that knowing that I had the power to help an elderly lady receive a grant to repair her home. One of the County Supervisors and I went to inspect the house and the lady was in a bad situation. When everything was processed and she was qualified, I felt as if I had helped someone to a brighter future. By being in this position, I was able to help someone, and that is what it is all about."

- AmeriCorps member Wydette Williams
Lake Providence, LA

"The first two weeks of the projects were the roughest. There was a surplus of remaining plants from a previous project. It was hot and muddy. Many of the Members had never worked that hard in their lives but, they all stayed with it and transplanted the plants that would not have survived much longer in their six-inch pots."

- Geoff Sanders, Natural Resources and Conservation Service
Texas Shoreline Protection Project Manger

While Building Community ...

"In addition to completing worthwhile projects, (Northwest Service) Academy participants will learn civic responsibility while serving their communities."

- Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-OR)
June 23, 1994

"The communities that we have visited have invited us to come back and get more involved with their community. AmeriCorps was the glue the brought the agencies and the communities to start communicating and working together."

- AmeriCorps Member Anabelle Alvarez
El Centro, California

"I have had the opportunity to meet many different people since I started working with AmeriCorps. I must admit that I have changed my attitude a great deal on how to look at things. I say that because I have worked with many people who have a substandard living standard. They pay their bills and have no money left to enjoy.... It is comforting to know that I have had an opportunity to help these individuals to secure grants to get the help they needed."

-AmeriCorps Member Lee Woodridge
Working in Winnsboro, LA on rural housing outreach

"I've found that just being in the community and talking to people about the project has made a difference. The public wants to be involved in what happens to their economy and their environment, as my position will affect both these factors, I've found people willing to talk, listen, and argue with me about the fishway project and my role in it ... The professionals -- school teachers, archive directors, librarians, town managers, etc. --- seemed especially appreciative of what I'm trying to do, and have extended offers to help and provide information. I also foresee myself being able to help the towns accomplish goals which have fallen by the wayside; for instance, many of the towns have tried to get funding for public access sites a number of times in the past few years, but have never been successful. They believe I can help them realize this goal, and I plan to live up to their expectations."

- AmeriCorps Member Pierson Smith-Hatch
Presque Isle, Maine

"One of the great stories about AmeriCorps people is that when we have our cluster meetings, there has been the bond of a close-knit family."

- AmeriCorps Member Henry Rosenthal
Alexandra, LA

"The five (AmeriCorps members) we have been communicating directly on a nearly daily basis with the full support of the agency and have gotten together not only professionally but also socially on a frequent basis. You see among them a real pride and excitement about what they are doing. It is an excitement and pride that is unique to the program."

- Patrick Bowen, Natural Resources and Conservation Service
AmeriCorps Project Director for West Virginia

"We would not have as credible a monitoring program without the assistance of the Clean Water Program and AmeriCorps Members who provide training, organizational, and technical assistance to our community."

- Bill Mook, Chairman
Darmariscotta River Tidewater Watch, Maine

Boosting Opportunity

"The impact of AmeriCorps is far greater than work being accomplished or public service in the communities. AmeriCorps is about growing up and becoming a productive citizen in our community. One of our Members, a 20 year old male, is supporting a wife and four children. He has been on the welfare program for 10 years and saw AmeriCorps as an opportunity to get out of the welfare vicious circle. He does not want his family to experience the same hardships he has had to experience. He has now completed his GED.... Another Member, a Native American female, is being portrayed as a role model in her tribe. Her native tribe fully supports the AmeriCorps program, and wants her to return to her tribal community after the completion of the program to teach the importance of education."

- **Mindy Martin**

Rogue River National Forest

"Members of the Port Townsend Community have opened their homes to Members who were staying at the Fort Warden Camp over the Thanksgiving Holiday. All Members were invited to have dinner and spend the day with local families."

- David Johnson, Forest Service Project Manager

Olympic National Forest

"Not only has AmeriCorps opened the doors of higher education to Sonoma County residents, it has given new life to meaningful new programs in our communities that have been neglected too long."

- Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)

September 27, 1994

And Promoting Personal Responsibility

"The further the Members have to hike to get to their work site, the worse the weather, and the more difficult the type of service, the more the Members enjoy the service and the harder they work."

- Crew Leader

Rogue River National Forest AmeriCorps Site

"I hope you feel good about being pioneers --- you should."

- Congressman Doug Bereuter (R-NE)

Speaking to AmeriCorps Members in Nebraska

"Mr. Lott (Republican Senator and Majority Whip) called me personally and promised to support my efforts (to combat teen pregnancy) in Natchez and declared he would be in Natchez in any events that take place if his schedule permits."

- AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Member Susan Foutz-Lowe

"I believe I speak for the Hormon Lake Ranger District and the Cocino National Forest in extending to you our thanks for the many projects the AmeriCorps crews were able to accomplish. Each week I witnessed a closer and more cohesive group. They listened well, worked hard, and received the benefit of knowing they did needed work to a high quality standards."

- David E, Michael, Work Supervisor

Cocino National Forest

"I personally want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and deep appreciation for the work your crew accomplished at the Palatki Cliff-dwelling complex in Sedona. The crew that worked at Palatki not only repaired the existing trails, they upgraded them in bad areas and in sensitive areas as well as obliterating old trails and disguising them in a sensitive and effective manner. Their job they did looks terrific and I am very impressed by their work ethic and the professionalism and commitment they showed on this project."

- Mareitta Davenport, Zone Archaeologist

USDA Forest Service

"Members are making personal accomplishments as well.. For many, this is the first time they have opened their own checking accounts. They have learned how to get along with a wide variety of people and work cooperatively."

- Geoff Sander, Natural Resources and Conservation Service

Texas Shoreline Protection Project Manager

AmeriCorps/USDA is Reinventing Government

The USDA/AmeriCorps program is helping USDA reinvent government by delivering USDA services in ways that work better but cost less. The program based on eight principles highlighted by Vice-President Gore and the National performance Review, and outlined by author David Osborne in his book *Reinventing Government*:

1) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Catalytic Government by Steering Rather Than Rowing.

Instead of managing programs from Washington, USDA has successfully created unique public/private partnerships at the local level to design and run the programs. For instance, to create anti-hunger projects, USDA brought together existing anti-hunger groups and existing youth service corps, provided them with the national vision of USDA and AmeriCorps, and then gave them great freedom to design and implement projects that best meet the unique needs of their local areas.

USDA provides seed money -- sometimes the bulk of the funds in this first year of AmeriCorps operation -- but also, as rightfully mandated by the National and Community Service Act of 1993, requires matching money from all sub-grantees.

In effect, the USDA is acting as a venture capitalist by funding the best local proposals and providing a general structural framework and philosophical guidelines which local groups can follow while meeting their own local needs.

2) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Community-Owned Government by Empowering Rather Than Serving.

All proposals for service at local USDA AmeriCorps sites around the country were created at the local level, not by Washington-based bureaucrats. All programs are conceptualized, designed, implemented, and monitored at the local level but are provided additional funds and technical assistance by USDA. The USDA program is partnered with a wide variety of non-Federal institutions; community colleges, Soil Conservation Districts, non-profit organizations, youth corps, school districts, etc.

Rather than trying to directly provide service ourselves out of Washington, USDA has empowered local communities by providing them with the resources to solve their own problems. While this creates many logistical difficulties for USDA --- such as the challenge that the program design for each of our projects is entirely different at each of our hundreds of sites spread throughout in 38 states -- the benefits have far outweighed the difficulties.

3) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Competitive Government by Injecting Competition Into Service Delivery.

The USDA AmeriCorps program has cultivated free and open competition at every step of the way.

First, each USDA agency involved in the program held tough internal competitions to select the best proposals to determine which USDA sites would be funded. For every USDA site funded, at least two others were rejected.

Then, USDA participated in a highly unusual process in which Federal agencies had to actually submit a detailed and comprehensive application to the Corporation for National and Community Service in order to be considered for a grant. In other words, USDA and other Cabinet agencies were required to go through a process similar to those we require of others. (In fact, our application to the Corporation for National and Community Service required a strategic plan similar to the types of strategic plans that USDA and HUD required in Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community applications).

Unlike the way government usually operates, no one agency was guaranteed funding by a set formula. As a consequence of this open competition, Federal agencies ---- including USDA --- were forced to work harder and more creatively to develop quality programs in their applications.

Lastly, USDA AmeriCorps Members were selected through a tough, nationwide, competition. Given that approximately four people applied for every open slot, USDA was able to select incredibly qualified Members from a wide variety of educational, racial, economic, and gender backgrounds.

4) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Mission-Driven Government by Transforming Rules-Driven Organizations.

USDA has erased the artificial boundaries between itself and other Federal Departments working in similar areas by partnering on AmeriCorps projects at the local level with Department of Interior in California, the Environmental Protection Agency in Maine, the Department of Education in Oregon, and the Department of Energy in Minnesota.

Focusing on many of the Department Of Agriculture's multiple missions, the USDA/AmeriCorps program fulfills the goals of key initiatives pushed by the Clinton Administration such, as:

- * Integrating nutrition education information into the delivery of aid through U S D A feeding programs;

- * Bridging the false choice between environmental protection and economic growth by promoting ecosystem management and multiple uses on National Forest lands;
- * Providing long-term strategic planning assistance to rural communities;
- * Promoting sustainable agriculture that protects water and soil quality while allowing farm families to make good incomes;
- * and, Implementing Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community designations in rural areas to bring together a wide variety of government services to work in tandem to promote community development.

5) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Results-Oriented Government by Funding Outcomes, Not Inputs.

The USDA/AmeriCorps program is requiring specific performance measures for each and every site that are agreed upon before the project starts and are measured and evaluated at quarterly intervals throughout the year. While it is sometimes difficult and painful to measure concrete and specific accomplishments every few months, such measurements are a cornerstone of the Department's program.

In cases where sites have accomplished far more than one fourth of their yearly community service objectives in the first quarter, we know those projects are highly successful. For instance, in West Virginia, a project sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service, the Members completed most of their community service objectives for the year in just the first month and a half of the program and then began completing more ambitious projects. In some cases, where less progress was made towards the objectives in the first quarter, we can immediately assess the project to see how changes and improvements can be made before it is too late.

6) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Customer-Drive Government by Meeting the Needs of the Customer, Not The Bureaucracy.

All our programs are focused on results for the community, even if this means changing the culture of the USDA bureaucracy. One USDA project managers reported that Federal employees in his agency are still adjusting to reality that AmeriCorps Members "are working in different areas that we do not normally address which are more appropriate to a national service program." However, he reported that, "With time the rank and file employees will be more comfortable with the AmeriCorps project and the Members and that their challenge and charge is different."

Other cultural changes in the Federal culture are occurring as well. In Utah, two of our sometimes competing agencies formed a close partnership to jointly administer all aspects of the project. The Department has created a new way to transfer funds, a new way to payroll AmeriCorps Members, a new operations handbook, new ways of calculating budgets on spreadsheets--- all with the aim of reducing bureaucracy to best support the AmeriCorps Members and "get things done in communities." Some specific examples of administrative changes enacted for the USDA AmeriCorps program:

- * Worked with the USDA National Finance Center to devise a unique payroll system for AmeriCorps Members that has served as a model for the Federal government.
- * Created and implemented unique new systems to transfer funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA and from USDA to non-profit groups. The Executive Director of the Milwaukee Community Service Corps -- who sits on the Board of his state commission on national and community service -- reports that USDA transferred money to his organization more quickly than did his own state government.
- * Created different, complex, and constantly changing budgets for all our AmeriCorps projects. Created unique Lotus spreadsheets to manipulate budgets.
- * Chaired a task force of agency personnel that created and implemented all personnel, financial, budgetary, and administrative procedures used by USDA AmeriCorps projects.
- * Scrapped existing personnel regulations in favor of new ones we are creating for AmeriCorps participants.

6) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating an Enterprising Government by Earning Rather Than Spending.

Many USDA projects are, in effect, performing fee for service by obtaining funding from sponsors for whom they are performing work.

7) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Anticipatory Government by Focusing on Prevention Rather Than Cures.

By focusing on nutrition programs that keep senior citizens healthy, promoting WIC programs which prevent diseases for young children and for mothers, fire protection programs for rural areas, and sustainable agriculture projects that protect water quality, the USDA AmeriCorps program is stopping problems before they occur and thus saving taxpayer dollars.

8) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Decentralized Government by Moving From Hierarchy to Participation and Teamwork.

The USDA AmeriCorps program has empowered front line workers by allowing career civil servants in Washington to play key leadership roles in implementing this program.

The project managers at the state and local level have been given a great deal of flexibility in project planning and implementation, with the Washington office providing mostly "steering" to ensure that projects meet the requirements of both the law and the AmeriCorps vision.

In response to input from local managers, USDA and the Corporation for National Service have changed many requirements in only the first few months of operations, such as rules for recruitment and rules for replacing Members who leave the program.

The USDA program has seriously reviewed all the challenges described by local managers in the first quarter reports, and has taken extensive steps to meet those challenges. Breaking down the many levels of bureaucracy that stand between Washington and the field, the USDA Director of National Service communicates frequently and directly with project managers at the local level through site visits, telephone calls, and conference calls.

Site by Site Accomplishments in Anti-Hunger Projects

Key to USDA Agencies

FS = Forest Service, NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service, ARS = Agricultural Research Service, RECD = Rural Economic and Community Development, FCS = Food and Consumer Service

FCS Vermont

The program recruited, hired, and trained all staff in anticipation of the project starting in January of 1995. A massive recruitment drive for Members occurred across the state. As a result, 1,000 individuals were sent application packets, 500 organizations in Vermont received application packets for distribution among their constituencies, 24 radio stations received a public announcement on the program, a press release was sent to all daily Vermont papers, three radio and one television interviews were conducted, seven regional community meetings were held, and team leaders and staff visited more than 100 community groups, organizations, and schools to provide program information. Formed state-wide advisory board consisting of 23 experts from government and non-profit agencies.

FCS District of Columbia

FCS Members assisted 200 senior citizens in filling out Food Stamps applications. During a recent immunization campaign, the Members teamed up with local WIC clinics to promote immunization. Members produced and distributed 20 informational posters, distributed 300 informational flyers, and made 150 reminder phone calls to relevant families. Members worked at regional food banks where they sorted over 70,000 pounds of food, assisted in mailing 7,000 fundraising mailers, served 1,000 people in directly serving food at local soup kitchens.

FCS Milwaukee

Members queried 128 pantries and meal programs in need of repair or renovation. Members conducted infrastructure renovation of the Hunger Task Force's warehouse distribution area by painting, dry-walling, and completing concrete work. Members worked in nine area food pantries sorting, packaging, and distribution of food. Members contacted 130 regional pantries and meal programs to inform them about the Earned Income Tax Credit.

FCS Mississippi

Members surveyed 60 households of which 29 have been referred to obtain food stamp assistance. Members conducted a Nutrition and Food Safety Workshop for the elderly in which 36 seniors participated. Members provided widespread information regarding nutrition, food safety, food service agencies, and fire safety by distributing 400 leaflets to low-income people in the area.

FCS Los Angeles

The objective is to create one community garden at one school. One school garden site has been picked and three existing gardens at other schools have been improved.

The objective is to develop a nutritional education presentation to be held at 10 schools. Members have developed "Healthy Eating is Fun," a nutrition education presentation/skit, and will soon be giving it to ten local schools.

The objective is to conduct campaigns designed to increase participation in the school breakfast program. Members have developed presentations for 200 area schools.

The objective is to perform community outreach for nutrition promotion. Two outreach teams, one at local WIC offices and another at San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, serve an average of 200 people four days a week.

The objective is to provide assistance to victims of the Northridge earthquake. Approximately 200 people have been impacted by this team and its efforts.

The objective is to start three new community gardens. Work is being done at Burlington Garden, Tieffa De La Culebra, and Watt's Jordan Downs Housing Project.

Site by Site Accomplishments in Environmental Projects

Projects are managed by the Forest Service (FS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

NRCS Kansas, statewide

Members worked at reservoirs severely damaged by the floods of 1993.

At Webster, Members fixed 2 miles of fence, cleaned 5 miles of shoreline, removed 160 damaged trees, and dug footing for Boy Scout cabin.

At Kannapolis, Members cleared 3 miles of trails, dug and replanted 40 trees, wired and weighted 40 tires to create fish habitat, tied together, weighted, and dumped into lake 60 trees to create fish habitat, captured prairie dogs and relocated them in flood damaged area, built two nesting structures, and cleared park area from debris from ice storm.

At Perry, Members repaired 50 picnic tables, restored four restrooms, repaired one bridge, maintained several miles of road, cleaned up ice storm damage in nearby Valley Falls, created five brushpiles for habitat, trimmed 3 miles of trees on dikes, and built and sunk three fish habitats.

At Milford, Members cleaned outdoor learning classroom for Wakefield School, District, cleaned debris from 2 miles of wildlife and park roads, posted signs on 15 miles of roads, salvaged seven tons of fish, stocked trout at Tuttle Creek, cleaned storm damage at Pottawatomie State Park, and completed deer surveys.

At Glen Elder, Members placed 40 cedar trees in the lake for fish habitat, fixed 15 gates, fixed 290 miles of fence, built three back drops for hunter target shooting, conducted two wildlife surveys, posted 300 signs on 75 miles of park roads, repaired five vehicles, rebuilt a toilet, and filled 25 bags with grass seed.

In Western Kansas, Members began repairing, rehabilitating, and re-planting windbreaks created by the original Civilian Conservation Corps.

NRCS Western Oklahoma

Restored 15 windbreaks on 7.5 miles of land in five counties. Four of the windbreaks have already been responsible for decreasing soil erosion. Held educational seminars on windbreaks to six different groups. One quarter of the counties in Western Oklahoma have now received requests for windbreak restoration.

NRCS Texas Coast (Baytown)

Members cleaned and mowed five, 10-meter by 75-meter ponds, vegetated two acres of marsh demonstration projects, harvested and threshed by hand 4 acres of smooth cordgrass seed, harvested by hand and then planted 800 mangrove seeds, harvested and planted 2,000 *Scirpus robustus* seeds, harvested, threshed, and planted 1,000 *Scirpus californicus* seeds. Members also repaired 1,000 feet of fence at the Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Members also assisted the Red Cross in flood relief efforts in the Houston area by loading and unloading trucks and delivering supplies to local flood victims.

NRCS Metropolitan Atlanta, GA

Members conducted water quality monitoring at thirty locations throughout the Big Creek Watershed. Stenciled ten percent of the drains the City of Alpharetta with no dumping signs. In one neighborhood, Members benefitted 400 residents by cleaning eight acres, mulching 1,000 feet of walking trails, placing three waterbars into trails, seeded 1/2 acre, and carried away six dump trucks of trash. They cleaned two city parks, removing two dump trucks full of trash; performed streambank stabilization work on a 100 feet by 50 feet section of the Chattahoochee River; built a greenhouse for use as a plant materials center and began constructing a nature trail at the North Metro Technical Institute in Acworth.

Boston, MA

Members were recruited and selected for a program that began on December 5, 1994. In December, members performed maintenance work on three acres on city parks, and planted trees on two, 1-acre sites.

New Jersey, state-wide

Completed stream walks on four streams to categorize and map potential non-point pollution in the South Branch Raritan River watershed. Desnagged and reestablished stone reflectors in two streams to improve fish habitat and removed debris and reseeded 375 feet of streambank to reduce erosion and improve water quality. Designed and flagged 500 feet of trail in the Muscecong watershed. Erected a playground set at Lake Hopatcong state park.

District of Columbia/Beltsville

Members worked with the Izaak Walton League in Charles County, Maryland to complete four erosion control structures on a site that will be open to the public. They pulled plants and completed field work in greenhouse and conducted landscaping activities at the Beltsville National Plant materials Center. Members cleaned-up Lake Atemesia and completed site assessment.

District of Columbia - National Arboretum

The members completed the first two stages of restoring the Azalea overlook, cut to the ground and removed the above-ground sections of the Boxwood collection, cleared weeds and vines to restore 150 yards of Juniper hedge, weeded around Crabapple trees, removed weed trees and vines from existing trees on the mall.

Chicago

Member spent 10 days at Lathrop Homes maintaining and beautifying streambanks, preparing and seeding berm seedbed, and serving meals to the homeless on Thanksgiving. Member served the remainder of the quarter at eight different locations creating a safe-haven lot, cleaning-up a lagoon in Washington Park, landscaping at a public high school, remodeling and preparing a play lot at Kennicott Park, helping organize a "Neighbors Against Gang Violence - Day of Dead Memorial," remodeling the Donnelly Youth Center, and planting bulbs at the Fellowship Youth Center.

Pittsfield, Illinois

In areas generally damaged by the floods of 1993, Members developed 1.3 miles of hiking trails, improved 5 acres of camp sites, and pruned 5 acres of evergreen trees at a Pittsfield City park. Members also removed about 15 tons of debris (tires, appliances, automobiles, etc.) from half a mile of a stream that outlets into a city owned recreation lake for the city of Rushville. In Kampsville, Members replaced 75 feet of sidewalks damaged during the flood. Members also renovated a building used by Calhoun County for storage and removed brush and weeds from public property. In Quincy, Members removed vines, brush, and weeds from city owned property and assisted in renovating a building as part of revitalizing uptown Quincy. Members in Quincy also removed bricks from an historic alley, reshaped the alley, and replaced the bricks.

NRCS East St. Louis, IL

Members have established nurseries at East St. Louis Senior High School, Lovejoy High School, and Gains Park, removed debris and broken materials from the greenhouse at East St. Louis Senior High, cleaned out a fountain in Jones Park, assisted Operation NewSpirit in planting bulbs throughout East St. Louis. To prepare for vacant lot renovations next quarter, they have solicited over 30 applications for lot renovation, conducted on-site analysis of the lots, and prepared detailed stenciled drawings for all the sites selected.

NRCS, Portland, OR

Members at the Whitaker Pond Restoration improved 150 feet of bank along the east pond by removing pest species including blackberries, night shade, and everlasting pea; the area was revegetated with a variety of native species, and compost was spread over the entire planting site to improve growing conditions. Trash such as tires and lumber was removed from the pond. Members also canvassed neighborhoods adjacent to the ponds to distribute flyers about the first workshop to solicit public input and involvement in the planning process.

Members also revegetated 3 acres on the northern portion of Fairview Creek, and mentored 20 high school students who removed blackberries and canary grass and revegetated the banks along another 200 feet of the Creek. They also relocated geese from a Metro park to a Humane Society Pond site. They also worked on a project in St. Johns with the non-profit organization Friends of Trees, removing 50 diseased trees and replacing them with 80 trees more appropriate for the area. The Members worked side-by-side with 80 different community volunteers who served 450 hours.

NRCS, Goldendale, Washington

Member rebuilt a half-mile stretch of fence that protects a key riparian area along the Little Kickitat River. Protected water quality on one mile of stream by treating 300 acres with log check dams across steep slopes and installed eight sediment retention dams. Protected Pine Creek by installing eight log check dams. Built a new playground at a Head Start School sponsored by the Yakima Indian Reservation. Removed dozens of pick-up loads of dead and dying trees and public lands and provided as firewood for low-income families.

San Bernardino NF, Southern CA

Members rehabilitated 12,000 acres of the area burned by fire on the Arrowhead and Big Bear Ranger Districts on the forest. This fire stripped the hills of essential vegetation. Preventing erosion was the primary goal of the rehabilitation work.

Six Rivers NF, Northern CA

Members rehabilitated 3.5 miles of trails to be used by hikers and horse riders. Members rehabilitated and expanded their dormitory and their dining hall for their own use and that of all future AmeriCorps programs. Members reforested 10 acres of an old gold mine waste area in order to restore riparian vegetation, increase wildlife habitat, and control erosion on Red Cap Creek. They collected and processed 15,000 willow cuttings for propagation in future riparian revegetation projects. One crew participated in service-learning project in which they received credit from local college for an anadromous fisheries class and then rehabilitated a half a mile of stream by building 16 in-stream structures composed of large woody debris and boulders.

One Member working in a Rural Development Team-type "Internship" completed a lobby display for a Forest office, created a display for the Eureka Chamber of Commerce's Pride of Humboldt room, and reformatd three different Recreational Opportunity Guides for public use. Members also performed selected service projects in Humboldt County such as tutoring children, helping senior citizens, and contributing to a blood drive. One Member has been selected through state-wide competition to serve on the California Commission on Improving Life Through Service "AmeriCorps Member Ad-Hoc Committee." Congressman Dan Hamburg sent a representative to the project's launch.

FS, Rouge River, OR

Member planted 2,390 trees in several campgrounds to restore overused areas. Another Member completely restored kitchen shelter at the McKee Bridge picnic area that was originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. In order to both enhance fish habitat and clear out manzanita bushes to help timber stands better grow, Members pruned 4000 manzanita bushes and anchored them in the Applegate Reservoir to improve native fish habitat. They pruned second growth trees to improve forest health on 55 acres of land; and built a nature trail -- complete with an outdoor classroom and bench areas along the route -- for a local school. Members rehabilitated and expanded their dormitory and their dining hall for their own use and that of all future AmeriCorps programs.

FS, Olympic, WA

Members have maintained 4 miles of trails, rehabilitated campground sites, completed handicapped access in six developed recreation sites, completed restoration on two historic sites, survey Threatened and Endangered Species habitat on 700 acres, installed 1,500 feet of fence, and hand-pruned 120 acres of timber stands. Members replaced the roofs on two county-owned recreational centers originally built by Civilian Conservation Corps Members.

Arizona National Forests

Members maintained 15 miles of trails, rehabilitated 10 campground sites, performed maintenance at three campgrounds, protected and improved wildlife habitat on 300 acres, built half a mile of range fence, removed 2.5 miles of fence, rehabilitated two range waterlots, and obliterated two miles of road and returned to natural state.

Bienville NF, MS

Member brushed 1.8 miles of footpaths on the Bienville Scenic Pine Trail. The Members completed 19 miles of heavy brushing and adding clay-gravel to the Shockaloe Trail low areas. The Members are constantly performing regular road maintenance. The Members have made numerous repair to water leaks and filled dirt around outdoor Sweet-Smelling toilets. The Members developed food plots by seeding and planting desirable grasses on approximately five acres of wildlife habitat.

Green Mountain NF, VT

The AmeriCorps team starts in January, 1995. Staff is actively recruiting Corps Members during this preperational first quarter. Currently, there are 14 Corps Member offers - 12 accepted, one declined, and one is trying to work out an apartment lease situation. The Corps Members range in age from 18-to-53 years old, and education levels range from high school to master's degree.

White Mountain NF, NH

The White Mountain AmeriCorps program begins on January 14, 1995. The project is gearing up, hiring crew leaders and AmeriCorps Members.

NRCS South Dakota

Members based in Huron helped conduct 10 sessions in elementary classrooms during American Indian Heritage Month in the City of Clark. Members also utilized new Geographical Information System technology to electronically map soil surveys, section numbers, town names, creek names, farmstead locations, range and township values in order to improve local land use decisions and speed the application of conservation methods.

Members are developing exhibit to demonstrate to cattlemen the benefits of managing

riparian and upland vegetation areas along waterways, including during period of flooding. Prepared a twelve-page report, a two-page fact sheet, and color overhead transparencies to help with presentations to explain to farmers how they can economically use sustainable agriculture techniques.

Members in Brookings, Mitchell, and Huron completed Natural Resource Inventory maps for 12 counties and are engaged in a wide variety of mapping, communications, and database collection tasks to accelerate information outreach and technical help to farmers in three of South Dakota's flood-impacted counties.

Members in Brookings and Mitchell completed an inventory of 198 riparian sites.

Members are also volunteering with the local Salvation Army and coaching a team of the city's volunteer-based hockey program.

NRCS Nebraska

Based in Omaha, Members provided markers for 400 acres and provided timber marking for 160 acres owned by the Winnebago Tribe. Designed three recreation trails, mulched and maintained a heavily used urban nature trail, cleaned up an urban wetland "Heron Haven" owned by the local Audubon Club, and started a "Cans for Corps" recycling project.

Based in Lincoln, Members revitalized the Lincoln Normal historical project, improved 20 miles of recreation trails, and publicly promoted the Shop Smart (Saving Money and Reducing Trash) recycling program.

Based in Tecumseh, Members assisted in the assessment and debris removal from 14 suites at the National Arbor Day Foundation headquarters damaged by the 1993 floods. Helped prepare an inspection and maintenance report of flood control and public recreation areas impacted by the 1993 flood. Members maintained and improved historical sites at the Captain Bailey Museum in Brownville and the Merriweather Lewis Dredge recreation area.

Based in Norfolk, Members performed recreation and conservation work in Lower Elkhorn River area, maintenance and improvements at the Willow Creek Recreation area and the Norfolk public parks, and promotional assistance to the "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" public project.

Site by Site Accomplishments in Rural Development Projects

Projects are managed by the Forest Service (FS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and the combined agencies of Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD).

NEW ENGLAND

Maine

Members based in Portland visited and conducted seminars on water quality in five local schools, edited and finalized a Casco Bay Watershed Land Use Inventory report.

Based in Edgecomb, Member sorted 78 samples of ichthoplankton, identifying eggs and larvae in the samples, in order to aid in the transportation of striped bass through located and protecting spawning areas in the Kennebec and Eastern Rivers. Transferred 20,000 individual shads from grow-out ponds into a re-stocking truck.

In Houlton, Member completed sanitary survey on Shin Pound to help community residents make future decisions about how to best protect the health of their lake.

In Machias, Member received funding from the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission to set-up a statewide series of best management practices for blueberry growers; began implementation of workshops. Member also working to assist local towns to fund septic system replacements/installations. Member completed shoreline survey of Beals Island/Great Wass Island.

In Presque Isle, Member located and identified stream suitable for streamside installation of boxes for salmonoid spawning, rearing, and staging,

In Presque Isle, Members worked with 12 teachers to begin implementing an "Adopt-a-Stream curriculum in their classrooms.

In Carribou, Member helped supervised a Youth Community Action Crew in creating an All Terrain Vehicle Trail by building a bridge, clearing trees blown down over the route, re-decking two existing bridges, and cleaning culverts that beavers had dammed. Member also worked to improve a snowmobile trail by building a bridge and by adding railings to an existing bridge.

In Cumberland County, Member promoted an Envirothon natural resources competition by

visiting 18 schools that did not participate in the previous year's competition. Member developed Adopt-a-Stream programs with YMCA school groups, engaging 80 students grades K-5 in activities ranging from building their own model watershed to visiting the actual stream to monitor for water quality and pollution. Member has provided water quality presentations to 37 students and six teachers. In Waldoboro, the Mid-Coast Fisheries Team completed a shoreline survey for Merry Cove and Beals Island and documented several sources of pollution, instituted a contingency sampling program in Waldoboro and Islesboro for their area shellfish management plan by doing storm-drain event monitoring, began sampling the West Branch of the Medomak River. Member also provided environmental training and technical assistance to the Portland Youth Conservation Corps, York High School, Boothbay Regional High School, Lincoln Academy, Camden-Rockport High School, Wiscasset High School, and Medomak Valley High School and conducted classroom presentations on wetlands and water quality to 160 students for the Maine Children's Water Festival.

In Cherryfield, Member assisted in the establishment of a pilot Integrated Pest Management Program for cranberry growers to help the growers economically reduce the amount of pesticides that end up in the groundwater, assisted with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's upland cranberry bed demonstration project, and has visited lands of 13 cranberry growers to provide personal assistance.

In Framington, Member collected, revised, adapted, copied, and distributed a 20-page packet of educational materials including lessons plans on water quality, the water cycle, water conservation, and preventing surface and groundwater pollution to 16 Soil and Water Conservation District.

At Beals Island Hatchery and Education Center, the Member facilitated three cooperative agreements between University of Maine at Machias, University of Maine Orono Cooperative Extension, and Maine Department of Environmental Resources in order to integrate hands-on water quality testing and shoreline sampling experience into the Environmental Chemistry and Special Topics in Environmental Sciences courses. Helped facilitate workshop for loggers on how they can improve water quality.

Vermont

Members on the Vermont Fire Protection project contacted 48 fire Departments in Vermont, installed one dry fire hydrant, performed 30 dry fire-hydrant site surveys, and initiated and participated in meetings with Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Fire Safety Association, Vermont Fire Chiefs Association, and Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

Members on the Winooski River Project conducted a 21-mile reconnaissance survey from Jonesville to Essex Junction Vermont to evaluate the state of erosion control and bioengineering measures installed in the late 1930's in order to improve current conservation measures.

APPALACHIA

WEST VIRGINIA

Members developed a survey for the technical assistance, technology, and training needs for the West Virginia University Appalachia Hardwood Center; assisted with implementation of a business retention and expansion program including the production and distribution of a monthly newsletter that is intended to improve dialogue, link communities together, and provide funding opportunities; developed a computer program for West Virginia Division of Forestry that allows small business owners to calculate costs of producing various materials for long-term investment strategies.

The Barbour County Economic Development Authority is using their Members time to implement a business retention and expansion program. Nine presentations have been made to industry/business/community groups describing program objectives. The Member is taking the lead on the production and distribution of a monthly letter that is distributed to business, government, and community leaders throughout the county that is intended to improve dialogue, link communities together, and provide funding opportunities, etc. Two issues have been published to date.

RECD West Virginia

One Member contacted 32 local businesses to participate in a business retention and expansion survey. In Logan County, Member assisted the organization of nine local rural communities so they can bring resources together to effectively reduce certain criminal activities. Another Member served on the organization and implementation committee for Tug River Health Clinic and sent surveys to all employers, child care providers, parents to collect data to apply for a grant to establish a clinic. Another Member handled coordination of the county-wide clean up campaign, and make regular progress notes on the action pursued by the county in their EZ/EC implementation plans. In Fairmont, Member organized a Community Service Day for the all Northern West Virginia AmeriCorps members in which they worked at the Union Mission of Fairmont to help decorate for the youth holiday party, tape plastic to windows in the homeless shelter, and prepare information packets for a fundraising event. In Wilcoe, Member also sent surveys to prominent businesses in McDowell County that employ 25 people or more, in-home day care providers, private day care owners, and parents of Head Start children to collect data to include in grant applications to obtain funding for local day care programs. In Williamson, member assisted in helping 30 families apply for rental housing assistance.

NRCS West Virginia

In Middlebourne, the Member worked to develop a pond system for the production of striped bass on a commercial basis. He also began forming an organization of warm water fish producers in the area. He also organized a dry fire hydrant in the area by working with fire departments and local communities to get access to water for rural fire protection.

Based in Morgantown, the Member performed an archaeologist inventory on five major sites in economically depressed sites around the state in order to provide cultural resource protection through inventory, investigation, and documentation of sites. At one site, he discovered three historic and one pre-historic sites that he will be documenting. He also worked with another AmeriCorps member to develop Fort Randolph -- a Civil War fort in Point Pleasant -- for public use.

In Huntington, the member is delineating wetlands and helping design conservation plans for those wetlands.

In Kingwood, the Member performed soil nutrient content analysis and animal manure nutrient analysis in order to improve local water quality. In Morefield, the Member performed nutrient and pesticide management activities to improve the local water quality. The two members have provided assistance on a combined total of 1,000 acres.

RECD Virginia

Member in Virginia has been conducting outreach on home ownership and home repair programs.

FS Virginia

Member developed a video program showing natural resources on the National Forest, State and private lands to promote recreation resources, and tourism in the region and worked with fire departments on dry hydrant (drafting hydrants at ponds) program in VA.

NRCS Virginia

Members in Keysville conducted inventory of local dry fire hydrants, started developing a forestry product marketing plan, prepared site plan for a local greenway trail, began inventory of the site for the Staunton River Battlefield Park, and searched for artifacts to use in a visitors center.

Members in New River-Highlands have begun implementing an outdoor education center.

RECD North Carolina

In Jefferson, Member is helping finance home improvements for very low-income families in Ashe County. To do so, she established working relationships with the Ashe County Council on Aging and Allegheny County Senior Center to determine how FmHA programs could better serve the elderly residents in the counties.

In Hendersonville, Member is helping finance home improvements for very low-income families in Ashe County. To do so, he established relationships with the Housing Assistance Corporation and the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission so that they will now package applications for FmHA housing loans. He also met with several individuals to educate them about the USDA programs, and processed two loans to make repairs to low-income individuals.

In Waynesville, the Member is working towards establishing a good, trusting relationship with the Cherokee Indian Reservation and to make the residents aware of various USDA home ownership and repair programs.

In Boone, the member is working with the Enterprise Community (EC) applicant of Boone to implement their strategic plan. Working in cooperation with the Boone Housing Authority, she is organizing and making functional a Community Development Corporation (CDC) to assist the low-income residents of Boone. To date, over \$1.8 million has been awarded for water and sewer infrastructure and housing assistance as a result of her help.

In Marshall, Member works with the Enterprise Community applicant of Madison County, through the Madison Department of Social Services. In this capacity, she helps with in-home serves to assist individuals and families with home management tasks to enable them to maintain self-sufficiency and avoid out of home placement. Regina has increased the number of families served by the county by even. In addition, she serves 13 other families by assessing the client's functional abilities in the areas of physical health, mental health, social support, activities of daily living, environmental conditions, and finances. She also assessed 15 families and placed the families on waiting lists for services and/or referred them to other agencies.

FS North Carolina

Members completed a needs analysis of parks and recreation centers; worked with city of Asheville on Adaptive Programs; completed an inventory of parks and recreation facilities and developed a Parks and Recreation Department proposal on the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

RECD Tennessee

Member in Jonesborough has begun a survey of local housing needs.

Members in Oneida, Tazewell, and Campbell County have begun researching and writing grants for critical services for their counties.

Member in Hancock County has begun implementing the Empowerment Zone strategic plan throughout the region.

Member in Greene County has been assisting low-income citizens to apply for grants and loans to repair their homes for health and safety standards.

Member in Johnson County is helping the county install and regulate an 911 emergency response system.

NRCS Tennessee

In Rutledge, Members working on the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative interviewed 43 federal, state, and local tourism professionals, six independent consultants, and 64 local citizens to initially assess project feasibility, community attitudes, tourism development processes, and sources of funding or technical assistance. Established the first-ever tourism advisory board in the region. Began a community-based initiative in Hancock and Grainger Counties to provide technical assistance and "hands-on" service in the establishment and renovation of county museums.

In Cookeville, Members have created a database to track the status of solid waste/recycling progress in each of 14 counties. Members also began a 14-county poster contest in local schools with the theme "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." Successfully convinced 16 schools to start on-site recycling programs. Members have also presented eight environmental education programs to 400 students.

Based in Waverly, Members have significantly improved and expanded the Humphreys County Soil Conservation District environmental center, also known as the Blue Creek Nature Center. Members developed one new trail and improved existing trails. Members conducted six nature tours involving 199 students and 63 adults.

Members based in the Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council in Jackson have dewatered 2.5 million gallons of waste from the storage facilities of five local landowners, and collected soil samples at those sites to ensure safe discharge. Members also created a curriculum on environmental education, including 20 lesson plans and 10 separate activity sheets, and delivered the program, to 20 students.

In Whitley County, Member worked with the Whitley County Communities for Children to provide five cows and two bulls to low-income farm families; the first calf will be given back after mating in order to be delivered to another farm family. Member also delivered 10 Thanksgiving baskets to low-income families.

In Morristown, the Member has conducted conservation outreach to local landowners, installed conservation measures, and has significantly increased the number of local landowners expressing interest in conservation practices. She also began biological studies of local streams to assess their impact upon the watershed.

FS Tennessee

Member developed an infrastructure database; served as project manager for the historic Stearns building renovation project; and administered the Folk Life Study on historical buildings, people, and local folklore in Kentucky.

Member developed a marketing program for recyclable materials; a program called "Garbage Busters" was developed for second graders; grants were written for various proposals and one was approved for a "Learn and Service America" program that focuses on recycling management for elementary students in a five-county area; prepared articles for local newspapers entitled "Trashy Talk"; and completed a presentation for a public education program on oil recycling in Tennessee.

RECD Kentucky

In Magoffin County, the Member is developing, organizing, and implementing a community-based recreational program for teenagers.

In Owsley County, Member created and help obtain grant for East Kentucky Goat Producers Association to focus on agricultural diversification. Member also had photograph taken with the Governor in recognition of his service helping obtain a school-to-work grant for the area.

In Frankfort, the Member completed a survey to determine how local service agencies can better help at-risk families.

In Bell County, Member helped the local Industrial Foundation obtain a \$201,000 grant.

Another Member produced a brochure to help increase tourism to the nearby Kentucky Craft Village. Member is also planning instruction workshops for 15 local craft producers.

In Cumberland Valley. Member assisted in the creation of a Family Preservation Program in eight counties.

Member in Prestonburg helped six low-income families obtain loans.

Member in Barbourville helped four low-income families obtain loans/grants to repair their homes.

Member in Somerset/London helped five low-income families obtain loans.

FS Kentucky

Member developed an infrastructure database; served as project manager for the historic Stearns building renovation project; and administered the Folk Life Study on historical buildings, people, and local folklore in Kentucky.

FS Georgia

Member developed a recreation opportunity guide for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest; conducted wilderness rehabilitation activities; and completed environmental education in the Blood Mountain Wilderness and local communities.

SOUTH CAROLINA

RECD South Carolina

Member in Denmark established an after-school tutorial project.

In Allendale/Blackville, Member established a downtown redevelopment effort concentrating on a historical abandoned hotel.

In Marion County, Member began outreach to improve local housing conditions for low-income residents.

In Williamsburg, Member began attempting to locate land for a future state park.

In Santee-Luynches, Member has been working to statistically document and then reduce the number of teenage pregnancies.

In Eastern Orangeburg, Member began outreach to improve local housing conditions for low-income residents.

In Greater Orangeburg, Member is seek to reduce the number of vacant buildings used for illegal activities by helping identify those premises and working with the city to demolish or improve those buildings.

In Penn Center, Member is completing a survey of community land ownership to stabilize development and establish a plan for a cooperative effort for agriculture processing and development.

FS

Members conducted one Junior Palmetto Leadership training course for 30 high school students; conducted Arbor Day tree planting demonstrations; worked with Head Start program; worked on the Greelyville Nature trail reconstruction project; worked on the Black River Bridge Beautification Project and a 12-mile highway beautification project; worked with NRCS on a flood prevention project; initiated a wetland delineation project for NRCS; and researched background information for the Pocotaligo Swamp restoration project.

NRCS South Carolina

Members conducted waste water sampling of waste management facilities (lagoons) and prepared detailed summary reports for 16 individual farm systems; this testing procedure was the first in South Carolina and will serve as a model for other conservation activities. Tested 600 different soil samples to determine croplands with high levels of phosphorus and acidity and prepared on report on their findings to local farmers. Members expanded inventory on data on farm grasslands to reflect 40,000 acres in order to reduce erosion and improve water quality of nearby streams and lakes. Members built a new front entrance gate and a mile's worth of nature trails at the Adair Outdoor Learning Center in Laurens, which is visited by 3,000 students each year.

Members helped local officials improve emergency response procedures by conducting a county-wide road survey in Edgefield County to inventory and update names and locations, as the first base procedure to reduce delays in 911 emergency responses. Over 600 miles of roads were recorded on base maps and entered into local computer software in order to maintain accurate files. The entire effort saved the county approximately \$20,000, and each AmeriCorps Member was presented a certificate of achievement from county officials.

MISSISSIPPI DELTA

NRCS Mississippi

Members in Hattiesburg began an inventory of tourism resources in an 18-county area of Southeast Missouri.

Members in Brookhaven conducted a large scale communications campaign to solicit volunteers for the "Adopt-A-Stream" program.

Members in Monticello were responsible for pumping out one lagoon, and placing seven on waiting list. Members in Monticello also sponsored a regional meeting, attended by 11 of the 13 counties in the area, to improve rural fire protection services.

Members in Tupelo and Grenada have generated maps and used them in meetings with local fire coordinators to plan dry fire hydrants that will increase local fire protection.

Member in Mississippi has started work on improving local waste management systems.

Member in Pearl nearly completed two outdoor classrooms and a nature trail at Madison Elementary School.

RECD Mississippi

In Cleveland, Member recruited new and emerging leaders in Bolivar County for a community and economic development leadership seminar. Conducted survey of 18-county area as an integral part of the regional strategic plan.

Member in Natchez is working to reduce teenage pregnancy; she spoke personally about her efforts with Senate Majority Whip Trent Lott and "promised to support (her) efforts in Natchez and declared he would be in Natchez in any events that take place if his schedule permits." The Member has also formed a task force to work on reestablishing a YMCA center in Natchez. Another member in Natchez helped two different families obtain funds to repair their home. In her "free time" this member is volunteering for the Illiteracy Program at a local United Methodist Church.

In RECD District IV (Bolivar, Sharkey, Issaquene, Sunflower, and Washington Counties, Member helped five families with poor credit history turn their credit around so they could obtain housing loans.

Member in Madison County recruited 46 local high school students and two teachers to participate in a series of money management workshops.

Member in Madison and Jefferson Counties conducted financial management classes in six senior high school classes reaching 135 students.

Member is working in Jackson to create a "Peer Helpers' group to reduce crimes committed by teenagers. Another Member is working in Jackson to help low-income families obtain loans to purchase their first homes.

In Washington County, member has produced a comprehensive report of available buildings, the labor supply, financial options, cost of utilities, etc. in an 18-county region in order to expand local businesses or attract new businesses.

In Webb, Member helped six low-income citizens obtain single self-help housing units. Member has also provided counseling to the families that have homes under construction to acquaint them with the responsibilities that go along with home ownership.

In Indianola, Member began providing a "Home Buyer's Education Program" for 932 individuals.

Member in Holmes County devised a plan to reduce employee turnover at the Durant Electric Corporation, the largest employer in the county with 600 employees and a payroll of \$8 million. The plan not only convinced the company to reverse its plans to move to Mexico, but allowed the company to hire 400 new employees. Thus, the one USDA AmeriCorps member directly saved or created 1,100 jobs.

The member also held two town meetings, attended by 80 local senior citizens, to inform them of common consumer fraud scams targeted at the elderly.

Member in Yazoo City created a brochure for a new program to create small businesses in the area. This member also coordinated a program in which the MS State Health Educator talked to 900 high school students about teenage pregnancy and abstinence.

FS Mississippi

Member completed one timber bridge application; assisted 21 people in joining and developing a Rural Water Association; distributed recycling literature to individuals and schools; and assisted two small communities with two leadership programs in Mississippi.

RECD Arkansas

One Member works with the Mid-Delta Community Services to help implement the Mid-Delta EC proposal and the East Arkansas EZ proposal. A contact list was developed and will be updated. A list was developed showing MDEC activities that might be undertaken using other funding sources.

One Member works with Crowley & Ridge D.C.A. to train low-income families in child care and has aided two families in receiving help in paying utility bills and receiving food from area churches.

In Forrest City, one Member successfully organized one community meeting to explain to the community and housing programs available through the USDA and completed 10 borrower interviews for housing assistance loans and grants. Another Member helped improve the standard living for 950 low-income families, helping to obtain Home Energy Assistance (HEAP) and to provide assistance through the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP).

In Jonesboro, Member began conducting outreach on USDA housing repair and ownership programs.

In Blytheville, Member is working to implement the Mississippi County Enterprise Community Strategic Plan.

In Mariana, Member began implementing the strategic plan of the Arkansas Mississippi Tri-County EZ, Crittenden County EC, Forrest City Marianna EC, Mid Delta EC, and the Tri State Delta EZ.

In Brinkley, Member began implementing the Eastern Arkansas Empowerment Zone strategic plan by Empowerment Zone Enterprise Community Initiative to implement the strategic plan.

FS Arkansas

Member motivated volunteers to assist with the "Educate the Children Project" which distributes educational material to school districts and some non-profit organizations; completed an inventory of families willing to move out of a flood plain; compiled a list of organizations that could provide assistance to communities in Arkansas.

NRCS Arkansas

Members in Batesville made significant progress towards helping create a local woodland owners association.

Members in Holy Grove began work to help community residents move out of a flood zone. Members have also worked on helping start a "Dads Program," to focus attention on young boys without fathers in the home.

Member in Marion assembled information for area tourism guide.

Another Member in Marion helped provide a rural waterline that will provide seven households -- with 22 residents -- with running water for the first time.

Member in North Little Rock prepared report on state's threatened and endangered species and presented information to representative of city and county governments, Conservation District officials, members of other governmental agencies, leaders of local financial institutions, and local landowners.

Another Member in North Little Rock has identified 10 sites for Pellet Stove Demonstration Projects to stimulate demand for a new product that will boost industry in the region.

A Member in Brinkley provided information on alternative crops to limited resource farmers.

One of the Members in Pine Bluff developed farm and home plans for small and disadvantaged farmers to help them obtain loans to stay on their land.

Member in Helen conducted comprehensive needs survey on Monroe, Phillips, and Lee Counties.

NRCS Louisiana

Made significant progress towards installing 35 dry fire hydrants per parish in order to aid rural fire protection. Performed over 100 pre-assessment surveys that benefited over 100 rural families by identifying threats water quality on their home and farmsteads. Made presentations on the water quality program to 240 high school students.

RECD Louisiana

In Jonesville, Member provided outreach to senior citizens to help them apply for the 504 grant housing program.

In Tallulah, one Member posted loan payments and performed loan servicing and another member helped the Madison Parish Police Jury begin implementing their strategic plan.

In Winsboro, one Member helped citizen fill out 25 applications for the 504 grant housing program and another Member assisted the Macon Ridge Economic Development Region in implementing their strategic plan and participated in the local Head Start Center's "Literacy Week."

In Alexandria, Member provided outreach on USDA and Small Business Administration loans for new businesses, helped organize a Mayor's Adult and Youth Council, helped organize a community clean-up day, and attended public meetings on behalf of the mayor.

In Rayville, Member providing outreach to citizens to obtain rural housing loans.

In Ferriday, Member performed outreach for rural housing, rehabilitations, and guaranteed loan programs.

In Lake Providence, one Member attended local events to promote outreach of local housing and farmer loan programs and another member worked to obtain home repair loans for senior citizens.

In Bastrop, member began proving outreach activities to promote rural housing programs.

FS Louisiana

Member worked with parishes to develop an Area Festival Brochure for Northeast Louisiana; worked on a tourism project with Rymans Library; assisted with a Grant Writing Workshop; contributed to the RC&D's "Rural Community Giving" project; worked on an Elder Care project for senior citizens; worked on a beautification project for roads and highways in one parish; developed a draft tourism

brochure for another parish; assumed responsibility on the Area Demonstration Project on Shitake Mushrooms; assisted with the development of a children's playground; worked with the Outreach Project in Lake Providence; assisted with the development of a tutoring program for individuals to obtain their GED and improve ACT test scores and an education program for adults; and worked on a bridge information summary for Mississippi Delta counties to prepare a bridge infrastructure report for possible timber bridge construction projects in Louisiana.

GREAT LAKES

NRCS Ohio

Member completed a field map of Pickaway County to help protect the Darby Creek watershed. Completed survey and design work to implement Best Management Practices in rural areas, identified local landowners who want trees to be planted on riparian areas; began identifying places on the Big and Little Darby Creeks where point and non-point pollution enters the stream system.

NRCS Michigan

Members conducted quality assessments and provided water quality protection plans to 29 farm families.

NRCS New York

Members have helped digitalize soil surveys and make that information accessible and practice to surrounding communities, including the Seneca Nation of Indians. Members have also assisted with the planning, survey, and design of three wetland restoration projects, two runoff management projects, and three manure management projects.

MINNESOTA

NRCS

Members based in Twin Valley working on the Agassie Recreational Trail Project and designed a tourism brochure along with a logo created through a local contest, worked with the Ada City Council to integrate the trail project with community development, completed a grant proposal for the Heritage & Information Center, and judged at the Norman County East Science Fair for students grades K through 6.

Members based in Twin Valley working on the conservation outreach project recruited local volunteers to jointly clean-up downtown Crookston.

Members based in Cloquet developed a public participation plan for the Nemadji River Basin Project and completed a watershed roadside erosion inventory.

Members based in Lewiston created and implemented a public participation plan for the Whitewater Joint Powers Board and conducted outreach on the Water Quality Incentive Program. Members also helped develop an "enchanted trail" to be a safe haven for children trick-or-treating on Halloween and picked-up trash and brush around the historical Elba Fire Tower.

Members based in Hiawatha began work to improve forage/grassland conditions to the good or excellent category on 5,000 acres, affecting 50 farmers in 11 counties.

Members based in Thief River Falls began work to improve water quality and reduce producer fertilizer input costs by developing and implementing animal waste nutrient utilization and management plans on 120 livestock operations.

FS

Member developed a public access TV show that explains a project being conducted by the RC&Ds to promote the development of a bio-fuels program in cooperation with the US Dept. of Energy; and worked with the Central Minnesota Initiative Fund and two regional economic development groups to assess what must be done by foundations, state/local/federal governments and educational institutions, industry, and financial institutions to encourage the sustainable development of Minnesota's forest products industry.

COLONIAS

RECD Texas

One Member with the Middle Rio Grande Development Council has begun grant applications to attempt to start a revolving loan fund to fund new small businesses locally.

Another Member is helping create a community crime watch program.

Member in Devian, Texas made significant progress towards creating a 5,000 acre Regional Environmental Enterprise Zone to build an innovative and comprehensive facility to meet the solid waste needs of the region for the next 75 to 100 years. The member is also helping establish a magnet high school with emphasis on environmental concerns. Member began implementing project to build 20 Equal Community Housing Opportunity (ECHO) homes for elderly and/or handicapped citizens.

Member in Brownsville helped 25 families without bathroom and kitchen plumbing renovate unsanitary and unsafe bathroom and kitchen plumbing facilities. Member helped 16 families remodel their homes to remove health hazards such as broken windows, old roofs, insulation, etc. Member helped two families obtain new homes that are now under construction.

Member in Laredo make significant progress towards rehabilitating 42 housing units.

Member is working to obtain funds to complete a water feasibility study and is working with three school districts to increase the percentage of high school drop-outs obtaining GEDS.

Member in El Paso helped two elderly women obtain funds to repair their homes, and for a third women ineligible for government loans, recruited a volunteer plumber to repair bathroom and volunteers through the Salvation Army to winterize home.

Member conducted needs surveys in all the sub-zones of the Empowerment Zone.

Members in Hidalgo County have been responsible for construction of nine bathrooms at homes previously without indoor plumbing; three more were finalized, but not yet built, at the end of the quarter.

Member in San Benito is working to provide indoor plumbing to 153 families without such plumbing.

Member in Raymondville worked to provide indoor plumbing to 30 families without such plumbing.

RECD New Mexico

Members in Columbus Colonias began working on a community water project to improve running water in the area.

In Las Cruces, Members held a workshop for 40 residents of local colonias to inform them of available housing programs and how to apply for aid.

In Sunland Park, member made presentations at a local elementary school on Disability Awareness week.

RECD Arizona

Four members are working in EZ/EC applicant communities on a broad range of economic development activities including the creation of a revolving loan fund for small and emerging businesses, recruitment of businesses, surveys of local needs and challenges.

Three members began outreach on 502 and 504 housing programs to targeted areas.

RECD California

Two Members in El Centro have been conducting outreach to expand usage of the 504 programs to provide grants and loans for low income families to repair their homes; by the end of the first quarter, two applications for repairs had been approved and the work was completed, two more had just been approved, and four more were in the process of being approved. The other Member is working for the County Community Economic Development Office and helped Spanish-speaking citizens fill-out their forms in English, obtain 50 donated Christmas trees for low-income residents and helped plan crime prevention, alcohol and drug awareness, and economic development assistance.

FOUR CORNERS

NRCS Arizona/

Members in Holbrook, Arizona began an assessment of small-scale agriculture needs on the Hopi and Navajo Reservations.

Members have also begun socioeconomic and infrastructure survey in selected communities.

NRCS New Mexico

Members based in Albuquerque began their service after the end of the first quarter.

In San Juan, Members have begun to inventory private woodlands and started to conduct a resource and rangeland inventory on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

NRCS/FS Utah

Members have begun service conducting an analysis of the potential for local resource-based, value-added industries in the region and assist limited resource farmers in developing small-scale agriculture enterprises.

FS Arizona/New Mexico, Colorado

Members primarily training, obtaining facilities, and establishing relationships in communities and with other participating agencies. One Community Action Plan completed in Colorado.

RECD New Mexico

In Grants, Member has recruited 2-3 individuals in each of eight communities to form community councils to make housing programs more available to low-income individuals.

In San Juan County, Member made presentation to senior citizens group on how to apply for funds to repair their homes.

Member in Gallup conducted a training on loan packaging for 19 community residents including representatives from local non-profit groups, church leaders, and Native American Community leaders.

In Baker City, Member has recruited three property owners who have agreed to use their properties as pilot locations for historic renovations.

In Oakridge, Member drafted a new land use ordinance of the City that was presented to a planning commission in December 1994. The member also drafted an update of a local Strategic Economic Development Plan.

In Coquille, Member promoted the Housing Repair Loan and Grant Program by creating a brochure she is distributing throughout town, writing an article for the local newspaper, and assisted community members in the application process.

In Cave Junction, Member is acting as Community Development Coordinator for the Illinois Valley 2010 Community Response Team.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

RECD Oregon

In Pendleton, Member helped two low-income individuals receive a loan and one individual to receive a grant to repair their homes.

In Elgin, Member assisted HELP, Inc. in a Housing Preservation Grant that allowed 11 low-income and very low-income families to repair and rehabilitate their homes. The Member verified eligibility, determined preservation needs, identified environmental effects, and awarded bids to housing contractors.

In Roseburg, Member has been assisting the Umpqua Action Network to promote their home repair program and find housing for the homeless.

In Ontario, Member helped family whose home had been damaged by a fire obtain a loan to pay for

repairs of the house.

FS Oregon

Member researched and disseminated information and examples of strategic planning for a Strategic Planning Task Force; developed a data base for funding sources; completed preliminary planning stages for a riparian regulation workshop, water quality projects, and preliminary research on a nitrate project; established a grant writing team; updated a comprehensive plan; and promoted a recycling effort for the holidays.

NRCS Oregon (Grant's Pass)

Members are working to explain riparian projects to local landowners and are encouraging their participation in stream enhancement program.

RECD Washington

In Grant County, Member began developing and implementing a comprehensive community needs survey.

Based in Yakima County, Members are working to implement EZ/EC economic plan and to develop a statewide, regional, and local inventory of housing resources.

Based in Wenatchee County, Members have begun a comprehensive inventory of community resources.

MIDWEST FLOOD STATES

Missouri

In Columbia, Member began preparing guide sheets and a handbook to aid reclamation of two smaller tributaries of the Missouri River.

In Charles County, Member obtained existing floodplain management data to begin developing a Decision Support System computer model for floodplain management.

In Howard County, Member produced an informational memo on flood recovery that was distributed by the Extension Service and also began collecting hydrologic and agronomic data in order to propose land-use alternatives for the area.

In Columbia, Member completed seven basin reports to aid watershed protection.

In St. Charles County, Member provided emergency program assistance to 32 landusers.

In Jefferson City, Member completed data collection for pasture and hayland management booklet and developed soil and water conservation lesson plan for eventual presentation at 23 local schools.

In Troy, Member investigated local floodwater retarding dams to determine workload.

In Higginsville Member, who started work December 12, 1994, is working to assist sponsors to complete five dam safety reports and perform maintenance on 15 floodwater retarding dams.

In Warrensburg, Member provided assistance to landowners concerning EWP and ECP flood recovery work.

In Butler, Member prepared watershed soils planning map for the Miami Creek Water Quality project and provided assistance to 450 landusers.

In Marshal, Member completed maps on five farms of the sands deposits created by the floods of 1993.

In Fayette, Member assisted five sponsors and 15 landowners to provide flood protection recovery through the Emergency Watershed Program.

Iowa

Member conducted outreach to increase the number of farmers in the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program. Have prepared maps and written materials to assist County Conservation Boards in Fremont, Mills, Pottawattamie, Harrison, Monona, and Woodbury counties in locating areas for potential in recreation, tourism, economic development, and wildlife areas. Member revised brochure for Western Iowa and worked to develop bicycle loops for area cycling clubs; scheduled pasture walks and seminars with local farmers to promote and develop rotational grazing systems; updating tourism guides, writing scripts for tours, restoring a farmer's market, and taking an inventory of resources in the African-American community to create an agricultural heritage area in Northeast Iowa.

Illinois

In Pittsfield, Members completed a Small Businesses Research and Revitalization Project and are helping update the town's Overall economic development plan. Members have also begun to identify and promote alternative uses of land in the Conservation Reserve Program by surveying farmers currently enrolled in the program.

North Dakota

Member completed scope and effect determinations on 57 wetland tracts in areas most at risk of future flooding; began measuring and sealing abandoned wells; helping clean up trailer park damaged by flooding in 1993.

Kansas

Based in Topeka, Members completed 15% of riparian work in Douglas County and completed 2% of transects.

Based in Hays, Members completed off-site review in eight townships, identified all wetlands in two townships, completing 40% of riparian mapping in 30 townships, and finished six riparian transects.

Based in Dodge City, Members completed remote sensing work --- using satellite technology to identify status of land ---- in six townships.

Based in Hutchinson, Members completed 308% of remote sensing for wetlands inventory in 15 townships.

Based in Lyon County, Member completed riparian mapping of six townships, completed remote sensing on six townships, completed one field visit to township to verify wetland signature.

Basin in Manhattan, Members mapped 20% of Riley County for riparian work, completed 12 transects, and made site checks for potential wetlands on 60,000 acres.

Based in Salina, Member stenciled 200 United States Geological Survey maps.

Based in Abilene, Members worked with five agricultural producers to discuss systems and designs for agricultural waste management. Worked with 5th graders in explaining soil conservation and non-point source pollution.

Wisconsin

Members began digitalizing soil surveys in preparation for providing outreach to the communities on these topics.

CALIFORNIA

In Apple valley, Members have been working with local agencies to streamline the permit process for soil scientists to be able to analyze the soil for mapping. Members also prepared a curriculum on soil for a local high school.

In Auburn, Members have made significant progress creating and implementing fuel reduction plans to reduce forest and other fires in the area.

In Lancaster and Somis, Members have focused on areas previously impacted by fires and by flooding and have completed a mitigation plan for the Kinneola area and have completed field work for the Laguna mitigation plan. In Petaluma, the Member has begun water quality sampling on three adjacent dairies and has completed one conservation plan.

In Santa Rosa, the Member has trained one dairy operator to use a water quality test kit, is developing plans to provide such assistance to members of four different local organizations, and has completed inventory work for a watershed group. In Ukiah, the Member has formed client partnerships to aid two severely eroded streams, has helped the Round Valley Tribal Community treated 2 miles of stream, and signed up four local growers for a cost share program to convert to the water-saving drip irrigation program.

In Redlands, Members have surveyed three dairies totaling 130 acres, eventually leading to recycling or eliminating 6,867 tons of waste once practices have been implemented. Each farmers saved an average of about \$9,000 by having the service performed by AmeriCorps members instead of private contractors. The members also completed a survey of a 5-acre ranch which will eventually lead to the recycling of 26.5 tons of waste a year. One of the members helps coordinate and teach and Nature Discovery Program that benefited 690 local elementary students. Members also staked and surveyed almost a mile's length of the Big Rathbone Creek in order to begin reducing the risk of flooding to area residents.

Accomplishments of the Northwest Service Academy:

While the Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps was not specifically part of USDA's direct grant from the Corporation for National Service, the USDA Forest Service played a leading role in creating and managing the program. Forest Service employees have provided significant and continuing planning and technical assistance, and much of the service has been performed on Forest Service Lands. In addition, it is likely that the Northwest Service Academy will be tied to this year's USDA's direct application to the Corporation for National and Community Service. Therefore, this reports includes the Academy's first quarter accomplishments on Forest Service lands:

Cascade Streamwatch: The objective was to maintain 2 miles of interpretive trail and harden six riverside sites while providing on-site education to 300 students. The Members maintained 3 miles of trail, constructed another quarter mile of trail, hardened 8 sites and provided on-site education to over 300 students.

Road Restoration: The objective was to seed, fertilize and mulch 9 miles of abandoned roads and skid trails. All objectives were met.

Wildlife Cutting: The objective was to collect 30,000 willow and cottonwood cuttings for wildlife plantings this coming spring. All objectives were met.

Huckleberry Field Restoration: The objective was to restore 82 acres of sacred tribal huckleberry fields on National Forest Lands for the Warm Springs and Yakima Tribal nations. 12 acres of huckleberry fields were burned and another 70 acres of conifer trees were hand girdled and pruned.

Snag Surveys: The objective was to survey 1,200 acres of snag habitat to determine critical habitat needs for a variety endangered species including the Northern Spotted Owl. Two hundred acres were completed before the winter snows forced the teams out.

Roadbank Restoration: The objective was to install erosion control netting on 300 feet of steep Forest Service road cutbanks. All the objectives were met by Members.

Elk Forage Enhancement: The objective was to restore 40 acres of critical elk habitat. Members helped burn 40 acres for forage enhancement.

Fisheries Projects: 1) The objective was to build salmon smolt rearing channels along 1/4 mile of the Clackamas River and install nine fish protective structures in the channel. Members met all objectives.

Bull Run Watershed Monitoring: The objective was to open all roads to critical water monitoring sites after an early winter snowstorm. Members helped clear 15 miles of road that were critical in maintaining consistent records stretching back over half a century.

White Pine Blister Rust Control: The objective was to prune 20 acres of plantation. Members completed 22 acres of pruning.

Plantation Enhancement: The objective was to prune 80 acres of Douglas Fir plantations to enhance the final quality of timber produced. Members completed 80 acres.

Glacier Springs: The objective was to construct 2,800 feet of fence around Glacier Springs,

Trout Lake's municipal watershed. Members completed 1,000 feet before the winter snows.

Wells Island: The objective was to clear five acres of brush and noxious weeds to improve wildlife habitat for Canadian geese, herons and bald eagles. Members met all objectives.

Rho Ridge, Buck Creek and Whistle Punk Trails: The objective was to complete 5.6 miles of trails, 1.2 miles of which was designed for the physically challenged trail. Members met all objectives.

Primary challenges

In order to meet President Clinton's vision for bringing this exciting new program to the American people rapidly, USDA faced great difficulties in starting such a large and complex program with only a few months between approval of our application and the launch. While we have had our share of relatively minor start-up problems, we are dealing them with a process of continuous improvement based on constant consultation and site visits with local project managers.

National identity activities this quarter

USDA has woven the national AmeriCorps identity and philosophy into every steps of our program. Most sites participated in either launch activities on September 12, 1994 or subsequently. All USDA members are required to wear at least one article of uniform identifying them as AmeriCorps Members. All our press releases and informational materials are now required to have at least two standard paragraphs on AmeriCorps. Since the start of the program, USDA/AmeriCorps members have met with President Clinton in California, Vice-President Gore in Kentucky, Senators Leahy and Jeffords in Vermont, Secretary Espy in Mississippi, Acting Secretary Rominger in California, Missouri, and Maine, and CNCS Eli Segal in Vermont, Texas, and Iowa. The Chief of the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Paul Johnson, a former Peace Corps volunteer, also visited sites around the country and explained his especially-relevant view of national service.

USDA Director of National Service Joel Berg has visited sites, worked alongside Members, and explained the AmeriCorps vision in Washington, Oregon, California, Nebraska, Georgia, Vermont, and the District of Columbia. USDA agency AmeriCorps coordinators David Gibson, Paula Cole Jones, and Lou Woltering have also made numerous site visits throughout the country in order to spread the AmeriCorps message.