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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Rogue River
National
Forest

Prospect Ranger District
47201 Highway 62
Prospect OR 97536

FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

[Handwritten signature]
Env.
Oregon

DATE: 8/25

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

TIME: 1310

TO: Joel Berg

FAX NO.: 202/728-4614

TOTAL NO. PAGE(S): 2
(Including Transmittal Sheet)



FROM: MINDY MARTIN

Prospect Ranger Station

MESSAGE(S):

Here is the cover sheet
I plan to mail with the applications.

Mindy Martin
Program Manager

If you do not receive all the pages, please call back as soon as possible.

(503) 560-3400

FAX # (503) 560-3444

Thank you,



The Rogue River AmeriCorps Program

The Rogue River National Forest was recently named as an AmeriCorps/USDA grant recipient.

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a new program which will allow Americans to earn education benefits in exchange for grass-roots community service. It has been viewed by some as a new kind of domestic Peace Corps and has captured the imagination of the American people. The program is a top priority of President Clinton. The AmeriCorps program will engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service. This service will address the nation's education, human, public safety, and environmental needs to achieve positive and demonstrable results.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Department of Agriculture Involvement

Mike Espy, Secretary of Agriculture, has directed the Department to develop three broad teams - Empowerment and Anti-Hunger, Public Land and Environment, and Rural Development to implement AmeriCorps. The Rogue River National Forest (RRNF) program fell under the Public Land and Environment Team. Participants will be working in various restoration projects such as rehabilitating fisheries and wildlife habitat, improving watersheds and protecting wetlands, restoring recreation areas such as trails and campgrounds, building fences, removing brush and increasing handicap accessibility. The program has a heavy emphasis on environmental education as well as on-the-job training. In addition to the RRNF, projects may be performed for other government agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

How the program will work on the Rogue River National Forest

Select members

Spent

The program will hire 35 participants for a 10+ month residential program beginning the first of November. The participants and staff will live at the Star Gulch facility on the Applegate Ranger District, near Medford, Oregon. The Forest Service will administer the program while the Northwest Youth Corps will manage the day to day activities. Applicants will work 40 hours a week with 9 paid holidays and 1 week of excused leave. Health insurance will be provided for participants. A GED work program will be available if needed. Meals will be provided at the site. Participants will receive a stipend, or living allowance, (around \$8000) during their 10+ months of service. For one session of full-time service they will receive a \$4725 education award to pay for higher education or vocational training, or to pay-off an outstanding college loan. A full-time participant may remain in the program for up to two years and receive a \$9,450 educational award.

How to Apply

college

Complete the enclosed application and return to: AmeriCorps, 47201 Hwy 62, Prospect, Oregon, 97536. Top candidates will be contacted and an interview will be scheduled. Applicants must be at least 17 years old with a high school diploma or GED or agree to work toward a GED before completion of the program. All applications should be postmarked no later than SEPTEMBER 16, 1994.



PARTNERS
FOR
NATIONAL SERVICE





Voices in the Forest



Spring 1995

Rogue River AmeriCorps

The Dam Experts *By Theresia Erickson*

The Hull mountain wildfire was started by human cause on August 23, 1994 and finally controlled by August 31, 1994. 12,000 acres of private and public lands were burned extensively. Eight homes, 36 out buildings, and 15 vehicles were destroyed. One life was lost.

With most of the vegetation and trees gone, there is nothing to protect the small gullies from eroding and becoming large ravines. Sediment traps provide adequate protection by blocking sediments and giving vegetation a chance to stabilize.

On January 3, 1995 our crew (Tom's #1 crew) met with Ivend Holen, the Hull Mountain Wildfire Coordinator. We traveled down Ramsey Road to a location where sediment traps had been previously built. All the traps we looked at were full.

After driving to our new job site, we were entertained and accompanied by the land owner's dog, nicknamed Wonder Mutt. Wonder Mutt would fetch any stick from any ravine or creek you threw the stick into.

Ivend gave us background information on our project, and then we proceeded to build our own check dams. We used five foot steel posts, 10 gauge wire, hog wire (3 feet high), fence pounders, and woven fabric.

To build a sediment trap a trench is first dug across the ravine. Next, between four to six posts are pounded along the trench line, followed by attaching hog wire to the posts. Fabric is stretched across the hog wire and secured. A spillway is then cut into the



Tom's #1 Crew at Hull Mountain Wildfire Site after a hard, dirty day of work. From left to right: Top row; Eric Tucker, Risa Huetter, Theresia Erickson, John Maguire Bottom Row; Seth Lawson (Holding Wonder Mutt), Cisco Villastrego, Nicole Belle

top of the dam to release pressure off the structure. Lastly, rocks are laid under the spillway to prevent erosion from water coming over the dam.

This whole process became quite a chore as water was rushing down the gullies from the rains. It is also difficult when fellow crew members think it might be funny to release the water from the dam above you.

After telling us how a regular check dam is built, Ivend told us to use our imagination and resources to do our best.

A few of the crew members took to building natural looking dams instead of the metal dams. Logs were placed the length of the ditch and supported

with stakes, fabric, and wire.

Between January 3 and January 10, we built a total of 36 check dams. On our last day there, most of the dams were already full and holding up.

One last thing I would like to mention is, Mrs. Robinson has a really cool dog.

"This is to express congratulations and sincere appreciation for the good and productive work that your staff and crews recently accomplished... The crew of AmeriCorps youths...were very polite and informative to visitors to the work area. We believe that crews like this one exemplify the characteristics [AmeriCorps] is trying to build in its young workers- an enthusiastic, hard working team accomplishing worthwhile projects quickly and efficiently." - Ivend Holen, Hull Mt. Fire Coordinator



Personal Profile

By Eddie K. Mather



"Life seems to be working itself out...I am glad AmeriCorps was an option in my life"

- Edward K. Mather

7 I am a product of both generational addiction and welfare. My fiancé Debbie and I are currently raising four children. I am 21 years old.

All through grade school my teachers told my mother to impress upon me that poverty should never be a barrier in my pursuit of a higher education. When I got to junior high my step-dad had left. My mother was headed for welfare and addiction. I was looking for something to kill the pain too. I thought I had found it in drugs and alcohol. My grades slipped from straight A's to B's and C's. I found myself less interested in school and more interested in partying. I ended up dropping out of in the middle of my sophomore year.

At sixteen I met Debbie. She is a

few years older than me and has two children from a previous marriage. She was an addict and together we did a lot of drugs. I fathered my first child at 17. I never knew my father, and I vowed I would never let my daughter know how that felt. Over the next couple of years I tried to get my act together and hold a job. I worked in restaurants, in mills, did construction and cut wood. The whole time drugs controlled my life. I was unable to hold a job while Debbie and the children were still on welfare. I tried everything in my power to control my drug use, but it kept getting worse.

At nineteen, with my second daughter on the way, Debbie and I were homeless. Our lives had hit an all time low. Our only option was drug treatment.

I went through twelve months of drug therapy. It was not an easy process. I discovered along the way that most of the addicts who went through the program were not able to get clean and stay clean. Fortunately, Debbie and I were able to find a new and much better way of life. I soon found myself wondering what to do with my life. I felt a tremendous amount of responsibility to take care of my children by getting off welfare and rising above the poverty level. I know that without drugs in my life I have potential.

I went on to pass my G.E.D. tests with almost perfect scores. I knew that if I was to have any chances of supporting my family I was going to need further education. I spoke to my welfare worker about higher education, but she refused to support me in my decision. She then sent me to the J.O.B.S. program.

After about three weeks of testing, my worker in the J.O.B.S. program told me to make every effort to go to college. She told me I could also go through a year of vocational training.

I first had to find an area that I was interested in. Then I was to go to interviews with people in the Rogue Valley who were working in that field. I thought I would enjoy working in the parks service or the Forest Service. Landscape management was the only course they offered that might be applicable in either of these fields.

I was given an interview with Tom Dew, the outdoor recreation planner for the Rogue River National Forest, and he told me about AmeriCorps.

I am enjoying the AmeriCorps program because it is giving me an honest outlook on what it would be like to work for the Forest Service. I am also meeting many people who work for the Forest Service. I am hoping this will give me an opportunity to go to college. I feel I am doing my part to preserve our environment. I really enjoy working with a group of people my age who are trying an environmentally conscious lifestyle and are full of fresh new ideas. Debbie and I now have almost a year and a half clean and sober. Life seems to be working itself out. It is not easy, and it doesn't look to be getting any easier, but I am glad AmeriCorps was an option in my life.

*Grape Hyacinth Sunsets
perform in the stillness of the mountain
life outstretched familiar arms, they
know me well. I hug my favorite tree.
Jumping through the colorful land. I
do not care to know what time it is. I
only care to breath in the perfumed
forest - dense but breathtaking wonder
bestows my thoughts. Wonder of what
inhabits the land that so profusely
grows and spews forth life and love
from the span of the owl's wings, and
the dew on the tasty grasses. Resorting
back to the pavement covered streets is
oh... so difficult; but hearty for my soul
to think about.*

Laurel Alexanian

Six Rivers NP

H) Media Coverage:

Our project received media coverage during the nationwide AmeriCorps Launch day Activities. We had a number of representatives from State, Local and governmental groups. Congressman Dan Hamburg sent a representative to speak. Two local television stations covered our launch, as well as a number of local newspapers. We have also published articles in the local newspapers outlining our recruiting efforts and publicizing our AmeriCorps objectives (Copies of newspaper articles, photos and video tapes will be sent). Our project is fortunate to have as a Member an individual who has worked for CBS Broadcasting, we are taking advantage of this Member's skills and abilities in capturing many of the AmeriCorps Members experiences and program accomplishments. Her accounts which are being documented in the form of photos, video and written documentation will be used in the creation of an AmeriCorps historical account.

We have also been fortunate to have been visited by a number of key program supporters and leadership. The project has been visited by the State Director of the California Conservation Corps, Redwood National Park Superintendent, and Six Rivers National Forest Forest Supervisor. In addition, The Forest Service AmeriCorps Director, Lou Woltering visited the project in November. The USDA Director for National Service, Joel Berg spent a day working side by side AmeriCorps Members on a trail maintenance project.

I) Other Creative Documentation:

One of the greatest strengths of our AmeriCorps Project is the educational component of the program. The program offers college level courses leading to a Natural Resource Conservation Technician Certificate. This certificate will qualify an individual to enter the natural resources and forestry fields at the entry level. The curriculum is unique in that both class room and experiential learning and experience is involved. This unique learning activity allows for the Members to receive actual hands-on experiences and the application of many of the academic principles gained in the classroom.

We have developed a number of different systems to keep track of program/project accomplishments.

1. Each AmeriCorps crew Member is responsible for keeping a journal of daily activities.
2. A project development form has been designed to assist and establish project goals, standards and accountability for projects performed on the forest.
3. Use of the CCC project documentation process (project evaluation, completion reports, monthly worksheet, tailgate safety, etc.)
4. Each project completed will have a final report documenting the project accomplishments, value associated, and other pertinent information associated with the project. This report will be prepared in conjunction with respective forest program managers.
5. Project completion - public notification.

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From: Lou Woltering:WO
 Date: ## 04/19/95 11:16 ##
 fyi.
 v/r
 Lou

INVENTORY
 PRESERVATION

Previous comments:

From: Mary McManus:R05F10A
 Date: ## 04/19/95 08:04 ##
 LOU, SIX RIVERS AMERICORPS MEMBERS WILL CELEBRATE NATIONAL SERVICE DAY BY WORKING IN SEQUOIA PARK, A CITY PARK, UNDER THE PARKS AND RECREATION, EUREKA. OUR GROUP WILL CROWN TRAILS AND DO TRAIL REHAB, CLEAN A DUCK POND, AND DO EROSION CONTROL TO A DRAINAGE AREA. THE CITY PARK OFFICIALS ARE ELATED THAT WE ARE COMING - DUE TO LIMITED RESOURCES THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO WORK ON THIS PROJECT. WE HAVE SENT A MEDIA ADVISORY FOR REVIEW TO OUR PAO AND SOMETIME THIS WEEK HE WILL SEND SAME TO THE LOCAL TV STATIONS AND NEWSPAPER. WE ANTICIPATE THAT WE WILL RECEIVE VISIBILITY AND WILL PUBLIZE THE BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY.

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From: Lou Woltering:WO
 Date: ## 04/19/95 08:00 ##
 Good morning all. I attended the USDA/AmeriCorps working group mtg. yesterday and the AmeriCorps/PAO conference call. My thanks to Joel and his staff and the other USDA agency reps. for honoring me with a very nice going away party. 1) Joel has rewritten another media policy (different than the last one I sent out) and I'll be getting it out as soon as he provides a disk. Basically he's removed the requirement for USDA approval on press releases. 2) Please send me notes on any more proposed earth day or National Service Day events in which your Members will participate. 3) New AmeriCorps brochures to the printer today. OPM has approved new application form for printing. Will be available soon. You can start FY 96 recruitment process. USDA will provide canned press release soon. NO commitments