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Existing USDA [Department of Agriculture] Programs

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Department of Agriculture

Dan Glickman, Secretary

Mission Statement

The mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is to ensure the well-being of Americans -- with special emphasis on people engaged in commercial agriculture and sensible management of natural resources; families needing nutritional services; consumers dependent on a safe, affordable food supply; and residents of depressed rural areas.

Within its new structure, the Department continues to operate over 200 programs organized into seven mission areas:

- ☐ farm and foreign agricultural services;
- ☐ rural development;
- ☐ food, nutrition, and consumer services;
- ☐ natural resources and environment;
- ☐ food safety;
- ☐ research, education, and economics; and
- ☐ marketing and regulatory programs.

Summary Budget Information

FY 1993 (Actual)		FY 1996 (Budgeted)	
Budget	Staff	Budget	Staff
\$67.857 billion	114,420	\$54.064 billion	105,452

Reinvention Highlights

USDA, a leader in streamlining the federal government, has undertaken the most massive restructuring in its 134-year history. USDA's dramatic reinvention is helping to make government work better but cost less.

At headquarters and at field locations throughout the country, we are providing better service to our customers -- to the farmers who depend on us for program information; to the families who visit our national forests; to the rural Americans who look to us for help with their housing, their water systems, and even for links to advanced technologies such as the Internet.

As part of this Administration's commitment to providing better customer service, we have reorganized USDA around the seven mission areas listed above. The number of USDA agencies has been reduced from 43 to 30. And we have consolidated our field operations into multi-agency service centers.

These service centers house several USDA agencies under one roof, providing one-stop shopping. Instead of having to travel to many different sites for help, farmers can now go to one centrally located office, making it more convenient for people to participate in USDA farm, rural development, and conservation programs. And if people have a question about farm programs, or rural development, or soil conservation, they call one number, not three different numbers. They talk to one USDA employee, not three or more. We've even changed the way we answer the phone. For example, Susan Stevick of the USDA Service Center in Lyndon, Kansas, answers the phone, "Hello. This is the Osage County Department of Agriculture," and not "the Farm Service Agency," or "the Natural Resources Conservation Agency." She knows that most callers don't care which agency they reach, but they do

Conservation Agency." She knows that most callers don't care which agency they reach, but they do want USDA to answer their questions and provide the services they need.

In the field and in Washington, that's what we're doing -- and we're doing it better and at a lower cost to taxpayers. Already, in our creation of one-stop service centers, we have closed or collocated 538 offices in 224 counties.

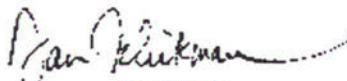
We have reduced our staff by nearly 10,000 people in the last three years -- ahead of schedule. And the savings resulting from these reductions are ahead of schedule, too -- already more than \$900 million. We expect to save about \$4.1 billion between 1993 and 1999 as a result of streamlining the Department.

Our field office employees serve America on the front lines. Their positive attitudes about their jobs, about the federal government, and about serving America are contagious. Here are a few examples of USDA individuals and offices that are making government work better and cost less:

- ❑ A group of employees from the National Finance Center has been nominated for a government computer award for excellence. Their new system replaces voluminous paper and microfiche reports and greatly improves productivity. Instead of spending 400 hours to prepare a report, employees now spend 11 hours. First year savings are expected to exceed \$500,000.
- ❑ The School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children is improving the health of our nation's 50 million school children. Requiring the nation's 94,000 schools to serve meals meeting the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* will improve long-term health and life expectancy.
- ❑ The Economic Research Service (ERS) is 25 percent smaller now than in 1993 and is already working better. The service is using the Internet to make it easier for the public to get information. ERS employees set up an information center to help customers get ERS products and services. And they have a new phone line to respond to questions.
- ❑ Over 3.5 million Americans in 13 states now receive food stamp benefits through electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards, which enable them to access their benefits directly at the supermarket cash register, in the same way many Americans already use automated teller machine cards. EBT technology reduces administrative costs to states and eases the administrative burden on retailers who redeem food stamps.
- ❑ USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service has dramatically overhauled and reinvented the entire meat and poultry inspection system. Three years of Administration efforts recently culminated in a sweeping reform of federal food safety rules that will use hard science to prevent and reduce contamination of meat and poultry. This is part of a comprehensive effort to protect consumers from food-borne illnesses, which cost \$1 billion to \$4 billion each year in lost productivity and medical costs.
- ❑ The USDA AmeriCorps national service program has enabled about 2,000 Americans to help pay for their postsecondary educations by performing vital services fighting hunger, protecting the environment, and rebuilding rural communities. In its first year of operation, the services provided by the program helped 828,000 citizens and improved 234,000 acres of land. Because this program empowered local communities to help solve their own problems, less than 2 percent of its entire budget went to Washington-based administrative overhead.
- ❑ The Department is pioneering new uses of technology to boost the economy and aid communities. USDA has improved access to information and education to help producers and others involved in the agricultural economy make sound choices and decisions in an increasingly risky business. Through use of the Internet and other information technology, USDA provides quick access to important economic information. Also, since 1993, USDA has provided grants totaling \$27.5 million to rural projects in 39 states to help rural schools, libraries, and medical facilities acquire advanced telecommunications systems.
- ❑ Major changes have been initiated in administrative processes and systems. USDA has been a leader in initiating Electronic Commerce (a procurement system) and Employee Express (a personnel system). One business process reengineering project on credit card reform is expected to improve service and has the potential to realize up to \$45 million in administrative efficiencies and cost avoidances by the year 2000.
- ❑ The Agricultural Marketing Service completed a review of all its regulations. As a result, 2,000 pages will be removed from the *Code of Federal Regulations* during the next two years. Net

annual savings will amount to \$200,000.

Reinventing government is not easy. It involves people. It takes time. But the end result is worthwhile a more responsive, more flexible, and less bureaucratic USDA that better serves the American people. Our top priority is, and will continue to be, customer service. USDA employees are on the front lines where they can deliver information, answer questions, and provide needed services to the American people.


Dan Glickman



AmeriCorps

IS COMING

1993

- November** **Proposed State Regulations Published**
Final version of interim regulations for State Commissions published. Any state wishing to participate in national service programs establishes a commission through which at least two-thirds of the federal funding flows.
- December** **Proposed National Program Regulations Published**
Publication for public comment of the Corporation's proposed program regulations and applications for state and national direct funding.

1994

- January** **Final State and National Regulations and Applications Published**
Publication of final regulations and applications for state and national direct funding.
- Technical Assistance Outreach Underway**
The Corporation will provide extensive technical assistance to potential grant applicants. Assistance will include regional public meetings, national and regional teleconferencing, and travelling "road shows."
- National Public Information Campaign Underway**
Communications campaign to reach potential programs and participants.
- March** **National/Multi-State Applications Due**
Applications for national or multi-state programs due to the Corporation.
- April** **Ongoing Review of Direct Funding Programs**
Corporation reviews programs applying for national service direct funding.
- May** **Announcement of First Grants (National/Multi-State Programs)**
First grant awards announced for national, multi-state, and other programs eligible to apply directly to the Corporation.
- Recruitment Campaign Begins**
Programs begin recruitment of AmeriCorps members.
- First Grant Programs Begin/CCC Underway**
First national service grant programs begin service. First CCC camps underway.
- June** **State Applications Due**
Applications for state programs due to the Corporation.
- July** **Announcement of Grants (State Programs)**
Grant awards announced for state programs.
- September** **Official Launch of AmeriCorps**
Major rollout of what will be up to 20,000 AmeriCorps members serving in communities across the country.

USDA AMERICORPS SITES
(To start operation September 1994)

ANTI-HUNGER -

- #1 Vermont, state-wide
- #2 District of Columbia
- #3 Milwaukee, Wis.
- #4 Mississippi Delta, Miss.
- #5 Los Angeles, Calif.

PUBLIC LANDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT -

- #6 Western Kansas
- #7 Western Oklahoma
- #8 Texas Coast
- #9 Atlanta, Ga.
- #10 Boston, Mass.
- #11 East St. Louis, Ill.
- #12 New Jersey, state-wide
- #13 District of Columbia
- #14 Chicago, Ill.
- #15 Portland, Ore.
- #16 San Bernadino National Forrest, Southern California
- #17 Six Rivers National Forrest, Northern California
- #18 Olympic National Forest Washington State
- #19 Rogue River National Forest, Southern Oregon
- #20 Arizona, state-wide national forests
- #21 Bienville National Forrest, Miss.
- #22 Green Mountain National Forest, Vt.
- #23 White Mountain National Forest, N.H.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT -

- #24 New England (Maine, Vermont, Northwestern New York)
- #25 Appalachia (Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia)
- #26 South Carolina, state-wide
- #27 Mississippi Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi)
- #28 Great Lakes (Michigan, Ohio)
- #29 Minnesota, state-wide
- #30 Texas Colonias
- #31 Four Corners (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah)
- #32 Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington)
- #33 California, state-wide

FLOOD RELIEF -

- #34 Illinois
- #35 Iowa
- #36 Kansas
- #37 Minnesota
- #38 Missouri
- #39 Nebraska
- #40 North Dakota
- #41 South Dakota
- #42 Wisconsin

Call Joel Berg at (202) 720-6350 for information on specific sites.

**Department of Agriculture
Honorable Mike Espy**

White House Liaison: Fred Slabach, 720- 3631, Fax 720-5437

Director of National Service: Joel Berg, 720-6350, Fax 720-4614

I. AmeriCorps Programs for 1994-1995

Starting in September of 1994, the Department will place 1,200 AmeriCorps national service participants throughout urban and rural America. The USDA program, funded in part by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, will be the largest single federal agency component of the President's national service initiative.

Espy announced that beginning this September, USDA will run 42 different AmeriCorps projects that are designed to fight hunger and improve nutrition, preserve national forests and improve community environmental quality, promote rural development and increase rural water delivery, and boost ongoing flood-relief efforts in the Midwest. These projects will be placed in 32 states, representing every region of the country.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of Americans to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. Participants in the program will work for a year earning a stipend of at least \$7,500, and then receive an educational voucher worth \$4,725.

The USDA AmeriCorps effort reflects high levels of cooperation among USDA agencies. The Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), the Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), the Forest Service (FS), the Rural Development Administration (RDA), the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) all will play significant roles in managing this program.

The Anti-Hunger projects will be at five sites -- two rural and three urban -- with high levels of hunger and poverty. The projects will work to reduce the number of citizens suffering from hunger, improve the nutritional content of family diets, and give poor citizens necessary empowerment tools to help lift themselves out of poverty. Designed and run in a unique partnership between USDA, youth service corps, and local anti-hunger groups, this program will be a model of reinventing government.

The environmental projects will occur at 32 rural and urban sites in 21 states. The goals of the projects are to help solve local environmental problems, protect local watersheds, repair and upgrade community facilities, promote sustainable agriculture, conduct environmental education seminars, and preserve and restore national forests.

The rural development projects will engage generally older participants, who are college graduates and professional school graduates, in work in 10 pilot regions throughout America. Participants will help communities protect watersheds, improve housing, promote economic development, boost sustainable agriculture, and aid the Clinton Administration's Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community initiative. Special disaster-relief projects will also be run in the eight Midwest states most impacted by last summer's record flooding.

Recruitment for USDA programs has already begun. Said Espy, "I urge all interested citizens to call our 1-800-880-4183 line or contact local project recruiters. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, 'Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.'"

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- #5 Los Angeles, California

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- #38 Missouri
- #39 Nebraska
- #40 North Dakota
- #41 South Dakota
- #42 Wisconsin

II. Summer National Service Programs, 1994

1) Chicago Summer of Safety Program - Run in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice, the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences, and the Chicago Housing Authority, this 50 member program is combining urban gardening and urban tree planting with community crime patrols at two public housing developments in Chicago.

2) DC Summer Program - USDA is running a special, 50-member, national service project this summer in the District of Columbia that closely follows the AmeriCorps model but is being run without any funds or without official sanction from the Corporation for National and Community Service. USDA is providing funds for the \$147 a week stipend and for all other operating expenditures other than the scholarship; the government of the District of Columbia is providing \$1,000 scholarships for each participant. The program, which is being managed on a day-to-day basis by the DC Service Corps, is engaging three crews in conservation work, one crew in hunger work, and one crew in work at the U.S. Arboretum.

III. Other Agency Sponsored Service Programs

1) The Northwest Service Academy - Funded originally by the Commission on National and Community Service, this pilot AmeriCorps program, operating on the Mount Hood USDA National near the Washington/Oregon border and managed mostly by USDA Forest Service employees, is scheduled to start this summer participants who will provide environmental service.

2) Youth Forest Camps - Funded by the non-profit National Forest Foundation, the camps will continue this summer with approximately 250 participants at three sites in Washington, Oregon, and Virginia. Each site will operate an eight or ten week session. The participants will be paid minimum wage and perform conservation work in National Forests.

3) Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) - The program engages 15-17 year-olds in four to six weeks of conservation work on National Forests and National Parks during the summer. In 1993, USDA sponsored 1,003 number of participants, accomplishing \$3 million worth of work, or \$1.43 returned for each dollar invested.

IV. Agency Sponsored Volunteer Programs

1) 4-H Youth Program - Managed by the USDA Extension Service in conjunction with states, counties, land grant universities, and the National 4-H Foundation, the 4-H program is the largest single volunteer program in the world. In 1993, 679,177 different volunteers performed an average of 220 hours of service in 3,150 counties throughout the United States. Service included environmental protection work, urban gardening, workforce preparedness, citizenship, and community betterment.

2) Soil Conservation Service Earth Team - A Conservation Program run by the USDA Soil Conservation Service, the Earth Team engaged 12,000 volunteers in over half a million hours of service at in all fifty states. The volunteers have planted trees, surveyed land, designed and planted grass waterways, developed environmental education materials, created computer databases of local soils, and staffed local offices.

3) Forest Service Volunteer Program - In 1994, 102,000 volunteers performed \$37.7 million of work, volunteering National Forests. They helped maintain trails, renovate historical areas, aid archeological preservation projects, hosted at campgrounds, and helped with recreation programs.

4) Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) - Managed by the USDA Extension Service in all fifty states and Puerto Rico, EFNEP program volunteers work alongside paraprofessionals to assist low income families in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and attributes, and changed behavior needed to improve their diets and nutritional well-being. In FY93, 48,621 volunteers provided service in 735 counties across the nation.

V. Employee Volunteer Programs

1) Adopted School - Approximately 100 USDA employees volunteer at the Van Ness School in Southeast D.C. as part of the "Partners in Education" program. The employees have tutored students, organized field trips, and raised money for computers.

2) Season of Sharing - Under the personal leadership of Secretary Espy, in December of 1993 USDA employees raised money for and volunteered to serve holiday meals and provided toys to over 1,000 adults and children from homeless families. The event took the place of traditional Departmental holiday parties.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE PRINCIPLES FOR AMERICORPS/USDA PROJECTS

1) All participants must be directly supervised on a daily basis.

For both legal and policy reasons, all AmeriCorps participants must be managed by at least one employee whose full-time job is to manage that AmeriCorps site. Both requirements of the work projects planned and the requirements of AmeriCorps that are specified by law are too complicated and too time-consuming to be managed by employees who have national service as only a collateral duty. However, sites may want to divide management functions between functions necessary for the work projects (planning and supervising the day-to-day project work, compiling time sheets, payroll, providing training necessary to complete each project, ensuring discipline, coordinating with other related USDA programs, etc.) from the functions necessary to meet the requirements of the national service law (providing general participant orientation and training, furnishing ongoing educational programs, creating team-building activities, and conducting project and participant evaluation, etc.).

In the case of the anti-hunger sites and the public land environment sites, each crew of ten participants will have an employee working full-time as a crew leader.

In the case of the rural development program, each region will have a full-time employee focusing on the AmeriCorps functions of the program. Within each region, participants will be working together in clusters of no less than five, and agencies will provide part-time project management supervision for each participant in those clusters.

2) Traditional management structures must be reinvented in order to meet the unique new needs of AmeriCorps programs.

Staff may be required to be sited in places where individual agencies do not currently have offices. Unique types of detailing arrangements and cooperative agreements have to be created. Employees who volunteer for this duty could conceivably be temporarily moved to other parts of the country. Fortunately, the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, which confers authority to USDA and other federal agencies to run AmeriCorps programs, confers to the Department broad new powers and flexibility to run national service programs without being hamstrung by existing regulations or agency boundaries. Thus, AmeriCorps is a perfect program through which we can dramatically reinvent government.

3) Not all AmeriCorps participants will necessarily work out of USDA offices.

If there is no nearby USDA office in a locale in which work needs to be performed, or if there is no space in the local USDA office, AmeriCorps participants could work out of colleges and universities, city halls and other municipal buildings, rural development councils, non-profit groups, etc.

4) USDA agencies must maintain a comfort level that the work performed by AmeriCorps participants advances one of the main missions of that agency.

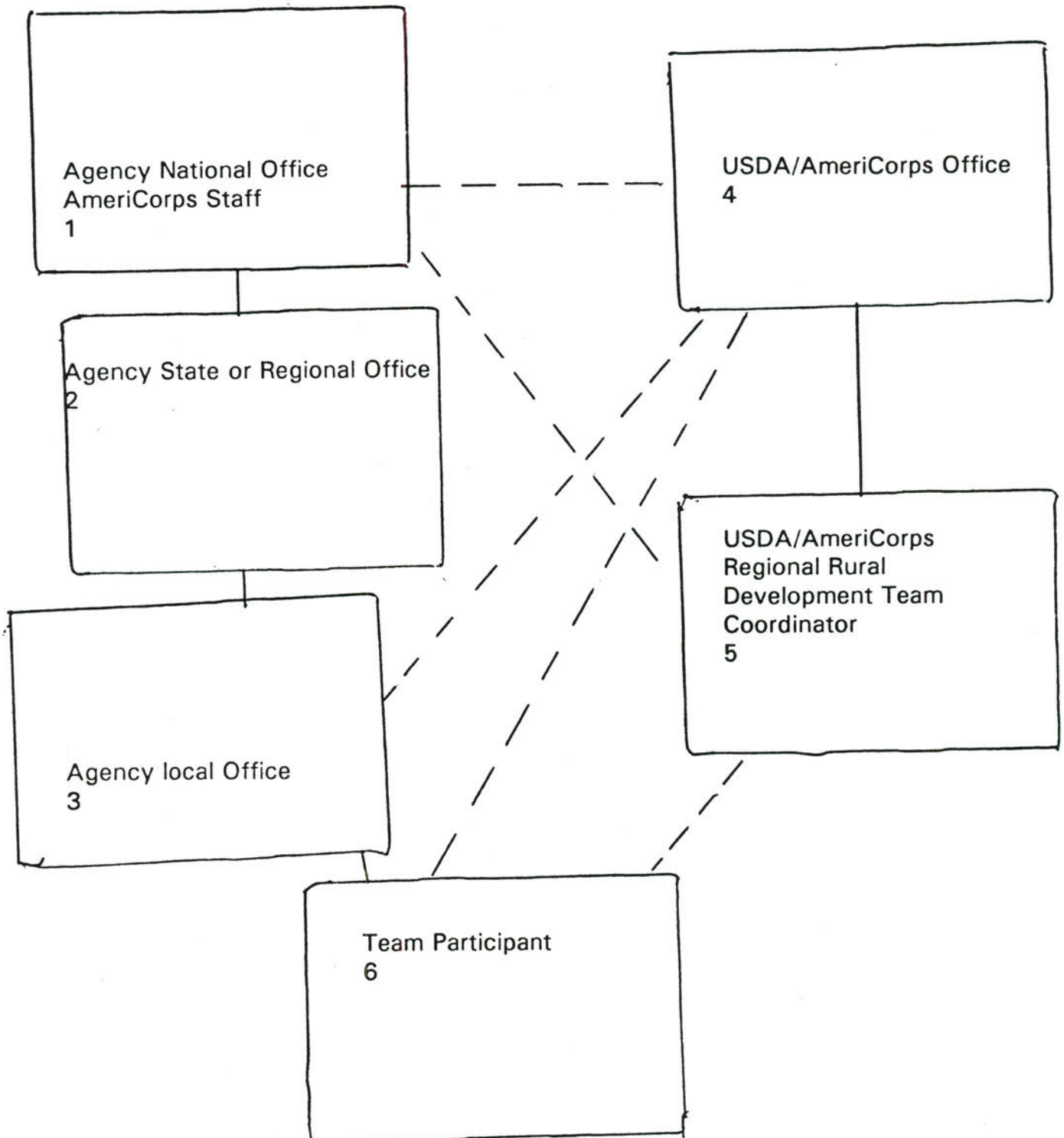
The agencies need to maintain at least some direct oversight over the work of the participants in order to ensure that agency money is being properly used in a way that meets the intent of the Congressional appropriations funding that program. More generally, agencies must sincerely believe that the participants are doing useful work that advances one or more of the main functions of that agency.

5) The USDA Office of National Service is ultimately responsible for making sure that all agency projects work together to meet the vision of the Secretary, the President, and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The regulations of the Corporation for National and Community Service make it clear that the ultimate responsibility for coordinating federal national service programs rests with each cabinet secretary. Given that Secretary Espy has delegated this responsibility to the Office of National Service within the USDA Office of Communications, this office holds final responsibility for ensuring high quality in all USDA AmeriCorps programs. This office must balance the overall needs of the Department and the AmeriCorps program with the needs of the individual agencies. This office will give as much flexibility to the agencies as possible while working with agencies to develop Department-wide AmeriCorps guidelines.

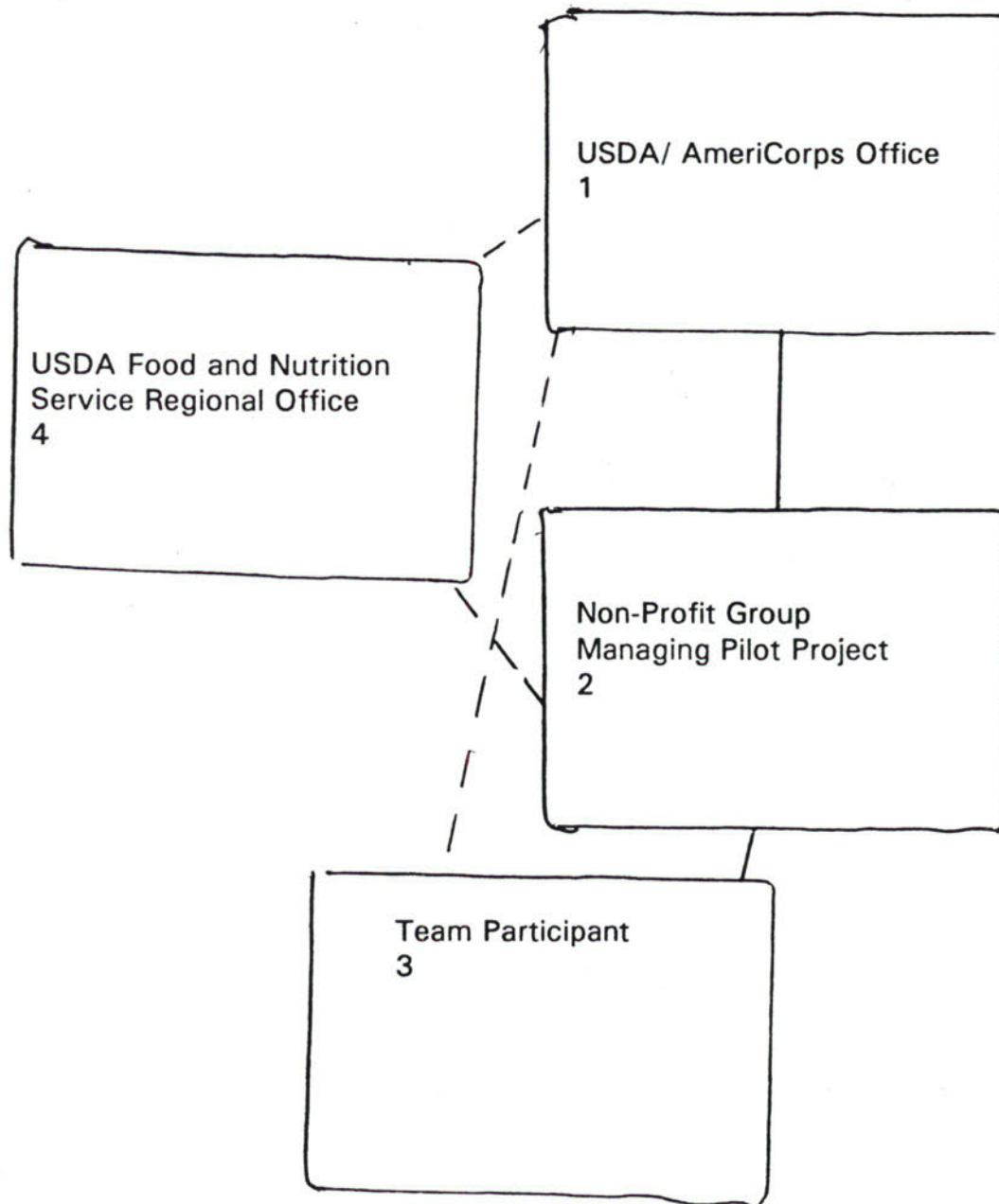
**MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR USDA/AMERICORPS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM PARTICIPANTS
IN ALL REGIONS MANAGED BY SCS, FS, RDA, FMHA, AND ASCS
EXCEPT THE MIDWEST FLOOD STATES**

(Solid lines = direct lines of authority, dotted lines = lines of consultation)



**MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR USDA/AMERICORPS
ANTI-HUNGER, NUTRITION, AND EMPOWERMENT TEAM PARTICIPANTS**

(Solid lines = direct lines of authority, dotted lines = lines of consultation)





QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD BE ANSWERED BY
ANY POTENTIAL AMERICORPS/USDA PILOT PROJECT

Questions for All USDA Pilot Projects:

Where would the pilot project be located? What kind of communities would it serve?

Would the project be residential, non-residential, or both?

What kind of specific work would participants perform on a daily basis? Would participants stay on one project throughout the year or switch projects weekly or monthly?

How would the project provide valuable service to the community by systematically filling unmet social needs? How will the project ensure that none of the work performed duplicates the work performed of existing programs?

How might the project help priority areas affected adversely by federal policies?

How might the project operate in an empowerment zone or an enterprise community?

How would the work performed fulfill significant missions of USDA?

What kind of support would be needed from USDA for the participants to perform such tasks? How much of the program would be directly managed by USDA and how much would be managed by a sponsoring organization?

What kind of support would be needed from other federal agencies, state and local government, non-profit organizations, or the private sector for the participants to perform such tasks? How could we obtain such support?

How will the project planners consult with participants and potential participants, representatives of the communities to be served, community-based agencies with demonstrated record of experience in providing services, and labor organizations?

How will this project build upon existing programs, including federal programs?

How will this project relate to existing volunteer organizations? To existing 4-H programs? To existing youth service corps?

What kind of supervision of participants would be needed? What education and training will supervisors need? What kind of extra supervision will be needed in residential programs?

How would the projects recruit participants that are socio-economically diverse and include a balance of citizens by race, class, gender, and age? How will the project recruit a management team that is similarly diverse?

What percentage of participants could be recruited from a national pool of applicants compiled by USDA or the Corporation for National Service?

What kind of training would the participants need? What kind of ongoing training would be needed for participants during the course of the program?

What measurable goals can we set for personal benefits obtained by participants? How will the program promote civic responsibility and produce positive change in participants?

What kind of materials or equipment would the project need?

What kind of administrative staff will the project need? How many employees will it have and how much will they get paid?

How can the project expand significantly in the next few years as a full-scale national program is phased-in?

How much will the project cost in total? How much will it cost per person?

How will the project reinvent government by promoting opportunity, responsibility, and community? How will the project be managed entrepreneurially instead of bureaucratically?

How can the project build a distinct identity for the President's AmeriCorps program that is explicitly different from either targeted jobs programs or diffuse volunteerism efforts?

Could the project benefit from the use of former Peace Corps volunteers in the area in a volunteer capacity?

Questions for Rural Development Team Pilot Projects:

How will the project improve the economic conditions, protect watersheds, increase the delivery of running water, boost sustainable agriculture, promote leadership, leverage resources, build volunteerism, and/or improve the environment in rural areas?

What can this project achieve measurable goals in meeting economic, environmental, or human needs?

What kind of specific education will participants need? Why kind of undergraduate or graduate degrees will they need? What kind of additional training will they need? Who will conduct the training? How much of the training should be identical for all participants and

how much should be unique to the specific jobs that each participant will be performing? What type of ongoing training will participants receive after they have started the program?

How will the participants be recruited and selected? How will specific skills of participants be matched-up with specific needs of individual communities? How will the project recruit local participants?

How will the project utilize the latest communications and information technologies?

Questions for Empowerment and Anti-Hunger Pilot Projects:

How will the project reduce hunger, improve nutrition education, increase participation by diverse socio-economic groups in USDA feeding programs, reduce food-borne illnesses, and empower poor citizens to lift themselves out of poverty?

What measurable goals can this project achieve in meeting human needs?

How will the project interact with state and local social service offices?

Will outreach be conducted door-to-door in neighborhoods, at special public events, in social services offices, or in some other manner?

Questions for Public Lands and Environment Pilot Projects:

How will this project protect, conserve, maintain, and improve public lands? How will this project protect soil, improve water quality, plant trees, teach environmental education, promote energy conservation, and boost sustainable agriculture?

What can this project achieve measurable goals in meeting environmental needs?

Can some participants meet the voucher requirement by working four summers in a row? Would such an approach hinder our ability to build diverse crews? Could a small percentage of people in each program be on the four-year plan?

How might the project interact with Youth Conservation Corps programs now managed by USDA and the Department of Interior?

How might the project interact with the Earth Team program now managed by the Soil Conservation Service?

PILOT PROJECT CHECK-LIST

Precise Geographical Entity:

Project Type:

Other Project at Location:

USDA Washington Coordinator:

USDA Agency Involvement:

USDA Field Coordinator:

Other Federal Agency Contact:

Recruitment Coordinator:

Youth Service Partners:

Policy Partners:

Educational Partners:

Training Partners:

State Commission Contacts:

Local Government Contacts:

Senate or Congressional Office Contacts:

Total Budget:

Federal Funding Sources:

State and Local Funding Sources:

Private or Non-Profit Funding Sources:

Work Project #1 Description and Contact:

Work Project #2 Description and Contact:

Work Project #3 Description and Contact:

Work Project #4 Description and Contact:

Work Project #5 and Contact:

Office Site or Sites:

PILOT PROJECT TIME-LINE

By March 5, identify:

- USDA Washington Coordinator
- USDA Agency Involvement
- State Commission Contacts
- Local Government Contacts
- Senate or Congressional Office Contacts

By March 8, mail information to all potential partners:

By March 10, identify:

- Precise Geographical Entity
- USDA Field Coordinator
- Other Federal Agency Contact
- Youth Service Partners
- Policy Partners
- Educational Partners

By March 20, identify:

- Recruitment Coordinator
- Training Partners

By March 22, Begin drafting pilot proposal

By March 24, write recruitment, training, education, and evaluation plans

By March 25, specify:

Total Budget

Federal Funding Sources

State and Local Funding Sources

Private or Non-Profit Funding Sources

Work Project #1 Description and Contact

Work Project #2 Description and Contact

Work Project #3 Description and Contact

Work Project #4 Description and Contact

Work Project #5 Description and Contact

Office Site or Sites

By March 26, write draft pilot proposal:

By March 30, receive comments back from sub-cabinet and agencies

By April 1, submit proposal to OSEC for approval

By April 10, 199, submit proposal to CNCS

USDA APPLICATION TIME LINE:

By March 1, obtain staff on detail from SCRD, Food and Consumer,
and NRE

By March 5, identify for each pilot site

USDA Washington Coordinator

USDA Agency Involvement

State Commission Contacts

Local Government Contacts

Senate or Congressional Office Contacts

By March 8, mail information to all potential partners

By March 10, identify for each pilot site

Precise Geographical Entity

USDA Field Coordinator

Other Federal Agency Contact

Youth Service Partners

Policy Partners

Educational Partners

By March 15, complete budget and management structure for Center
for National Service

By March, 15, write proposal section all how pilot projects will interact

By March 20, identify:

Recruitment Coordinator

Training Partners

By March 22, Begin drafting pilot proposal

By March 24, write recruitment, training, education, and evaluation plans for each pilot

By March 25, specify:

Total Budget

Federal Funding Sources

State and Local Funding Sources

Private or Non-Profit Funding Sources

Work Project #1 Description and Contact

Work Project #2 Description and Contact

Work Project #3 Description and Contact

Work Project #4 Description and Contact

Work Project #5 and Contact

Office Site or Sites

By March 26, write national recruitment, training, education, and evaluation plans

By March 27, write draft pilot proposal:

By March 30, receive comments back from sub-cabinet and agencies

By April 1, submit proposal to OSEC for approval

By April 10, submit proposal to CNCS

By May 10, implement local and national recruitment drives

TO: Ali Webb

FROM: Sally Katt

Subject: Ag in the Classroom

I met with Laurie Green, acting Ag in the Classroom director, to get a status report. They are still awaiting the appointment of a permanent director. According to Laurie, the Secretary's office and the White House appointments office are getting pressure from the House Ag Committee to get an appointment made. This pressure is coming from the state Ag in the Classroom organizations which are made up of the leadership of state agriculture and education groups.

Laurie works at USDA two days a week, basically running the program at a maintenance level. She spends the rest of her week in Annapolis at her job as with the Maryland State Department of Agriculture where she is the Ag in the Classroom director for Maryland. AITC also has a full time secretary here at the department.

As you know, AITC is a state based program. Each state has set up its own AITC committee, finds its own money and runs its own programs. These state committees are extremely important and determine the scope and success of the programs. Some states, like Maryland, have a coordinator paid for out of the State department of agriculture. In other states, the Farm Bureau or other ag group take on the leadership. Some states have created not for profit organization to run the program. Though there are AITC groups in every state, there are great variations as to the level of activity in each state.

What is a typical program? Most states do teacher training either in the summer or in evening or week end work shops. Most states have developed materials for one or more grade levels. Teaching teachers how to use the materials is often a focus of the teacher training. States also arrange for farmer visits to the classroom, publish newsletters for teachers and students, undertake activities at the State fairs and much more. The enclosed STATE UPDATES will give you all the details.

USDA's role is one of coordinator. It does a newsletter which goes out to 20,000 people- teachers as well as ag people working in the state programs.(see sample) This newsletter is done by a contractor and is going forward on time. According to Laurie, is extremely popular. USDA also does a Resource Guide to teaching materials, State Updates and runs a national meeting. The Resource Guide was done in August of 1993 and should be good for another year. The State Updates were done in August 1993 and should be re-done before the next annual meeting. The 1994 meeting will take place June 8 - 11 in Kansas City. Laurie has just finished a meeting with a number of state contacts to plan the meeting. They expect 200 - 300 attendees. Many of those will be teachers. The national meetings have two audiences- people

who are running the programs from across the country and teachers from the local area who want to find out what they can do in their classrooms. These two groups require different programming, and the national meeting tries to do this.

The national AITC office is also doing a remake of a the "Great American Farm" a very popular set of teaching materials produced by USDA. The new materials, called "Ag is Everywhere" is geared to grades 1 -3 and is being done under contract through the Extension Service. Laurie showed me the rough draft and it looks good to me.

Overall, the program is running well, even with a part time director. That's mostly because it's a state program and the action takes place there. What Laurie does not have the time to do, as a full time director would, is to make the calls and connections among states that need to be made-- for example, telling people in one state about materials being developed in another, helping find sources of funding or helping a state group reorganize. She also does not have the time or authority to come up with new directions for the program.

It was fun to take a close look at the AITC again. I'm amazed and pleased that it's working the way we planned it-- with the states and local people at the center making it happen.

I'd be happy to talk further with you about the program and where it might go from here.

AmeriCorps National Network of Programs

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Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: New England (Maine, Vermont, Northwestern New York)

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 30

Description of AmeriCorps program:

The Rural Development Team is one of the three AmeriCorps programs that the United States Department of Agriculture will start at pilot sites across the country in September of 1994; the other two programs are an Anti-Hunger Team and a Public Lands and Environment Team. The Rural Development Team will place a socio-economic mix of college graduates and professional school graduates in 11 pilot regions in rural areas throughout America. Participants will help communities protect watersheds, improve housing, promote economic development, boost sustainable agriculture, respond to disasters, and aid the Clinton Administration's Empowerment Zone initiative.

Description of Project Work:

In Maine, participants will work with cranberry growers to develop more environmentally-sensitive farming operations, and will improve the quality of water on local lakes, assist four communities with the development of a railroad bed for community hiking, biking and snowmobiling trails, and engage in a wide variety of other projects. In Vermont, participants will work to protect the Winooski River Watershed and to provide skills and technical information to help 40 rural fire departments in Vermont develop comprehensive fire protection plans. In New York, participants will work to increase soil and water conservation measures throughout Erie County.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service
Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

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Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: Appalachia (Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia)

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 80

Description of AmeriCorps program:

The Rural Development Team is one of the three AmeriCorps programs that the United States Department of Agriculture will start at pilot sites across the country in September of 1994; the other two programs are an Anti-Hunger Team and a Public Lands and Environment Team. The Rural Development Team will place a socio-economic mix of college graduates and professional school graduates in 11 pilot regions in rural areas throughout America. Participants will help communities protect watersheds, improve housing, promote economic development, boost sustainable agriculture, respond to disasters, and aid the Clinton Administration's Empowerment Zone initiative.

Description of Project Work:

Participants will work on a wide variety of economic development and environmental protection projects. Some examples include: determining the actual potential to create collaborative regional tourism based economic and community development in Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties, Tennessee; contacting all 800-plus landowners in the Bent Creek Watershed of Tennessee to explain how to participate in the variety of programs aimed at helping conserve natural resources; converting abandoned railroad line in Southern Virginia to a recreational trail for use by thousands of local citizens; and providing in-field technical assistance to help West Virginia farmers protect water quality.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service
Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

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Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: South Carolina

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 37 participants

Description of AmeriCorps program:

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Description of Project Work:

Participants will work on a wide variety of economic development and environmental protection projects. Some examples include: conducting assessments of water quality in rural watersheds which have a high concentration of livestock and farming operations; conducting survey and assessment of environmental conditions and impacts in minority and low income rural communities; assisting rural farm families in identifying practices that will decrease water pollution risk on individual farmsteads and homesites; and implementing a grasslands initiative to educate grasslands farmers of their impact upon the ecosystem.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service
Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

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Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: Mississippi Delta (Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi)

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 67

Description of AmeriCorps program:

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Description of Project Work:

Participants will work on a wide variety of economic development and environmental protection projects. Some examples include: installing 1,575 dry fire hydrants to increase fire protection in 45 parishes of Louisiana; moving 250 residents out of a floodplain in Arkansas; improving livestock waste treatment in 13 counties in southwest Mississippi; assisting elderly and limited resource farmers with routine animal husbandry practices; writing and producing environmental educational materials for teachers; and developing arboretums for on-site assistance to teachers with environmental education.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service
Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

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Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: Great Lakes (Ohio and Michigan)

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 20

Description of AmeriCorps program:

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Description of Project Work:

Participants in Ohio will work to preserve, maintain, and enhance the Big Darby Creek aquatic and riparian ecosystem; will assist five Soil and Water Conservation District partners to do survey and design work for the installation of water quality improvement Best Management Practices (BMP); will establish riparian corridor buffer strips. Participants in Michigan will provide FARM"ASYST evaluations to local landowners to help identify and eliminate risks to drinking water supplies.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service
Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

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Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: Minnesota

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 21

Description of AmeriCorps program:

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Description of Project Work:

Participants will work on a wide variety of economic development and environmental protection projects. Some examples include: performing maintenance, providing customer service, landscaping, installing bird boxes, installing informational signs and checking safety along recreational trails; promoting local tourism and further developing local recreational trails; and promoting an understanding of conservation and utilization of conservation programs and opportunities.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service
Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

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Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: Texas Colonias

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 30

Description of AmeriCorps program:

The Rural Development Team is one of the three AmeriCorps programs that the United States Department of Agriculture will start at pilot sites across the country in September of 1994; the other two programs are an Anti-Hunger Team and a Public Lands and Environment Team. The Rural Development Team will place a socio-economic mix of college graduates and professional school graduates in 11 pilot regions in rural areas throughout America. Participants will help communities protect watersheds, improve housing, promote economic development, boost sustainable agriculture, respond to disasters, and aid the Clinton Administration's Empowerment Zone initiative.

Description of Project Work:

Participants will work on a wide variety of economic development and environmental protection projects. Some examples include: increasing the number of citizens whose homes are hooked up to running water by facilitating community applications for USDA rural water and waste programs; increasing knowledge among socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the surrounding communities of the availability of loans for rural housing ownership, housing repair, and water hook-up services; and working with local residents to facilitate the creation of at least one local non-profit agency which will address a critical local need such as downtown revitalization, child care, etc.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service

Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

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Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: Four Corners (Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah)

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 50

Description of AmeriCorps program:

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Description of Project Work:

Participants will work on a wide variety of economic development and environmental protection projects. Some examples include: creating 100 jobs in the community through conducting and then following-up on an inventory to determine the potential for resource-based industries; increasing knowledge among socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the surrounding communities of the availability of loans for farm owners, operation, emergencies, etc.; and increasing the number of citizens whose homes are hooked up to running water by facilitating community applications for USDA rural water and waste programs.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service

Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

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Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: Pacific Northwest (Oregon and Washington)

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 43

Description of AmeriCorps program:

The Rural Development Team is one of the three AmeriCorps programs that the United States Department of Agriculture will start at pilot sites across the country in September of 1994; the other two programs are an Anti-Hunger Team and a Public Lands and Environment Team. The Rural Development Team will place a socio-economic mix of college graduates and professional school graduates in 11 pilot regions in rural areas throughout America. Participants will help communities protect watersheds, improve housing, promote economic development, boost sustainable agriculture, respond to disasters, and aid the Clinton Administration's Empowerment Zone initiative.

Description of Project Work:

Participants will work on a wide variety of economic development and environmental protection projects. Some examples include: providing assistance to rural inhabitants in Southwest Oregon to enable their active participation in planning and implementing activities related to natural resource enhancement, economic and community development to improve the livability of their communities; gaining voluntary participation of 20 private landowners in Washington to plan, design, and install critical conservation practices; and restoring 6 miles of stream, benefiting the 17,5000 residents of the nearby Yakima Indian Reservation.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service
Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

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Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: California

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 30

Description of AmeriCorps program:

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Description of Project Work:

Participants will develop an ecosystem -- "whole watershed" -- approach to managing forest and watersheds in small, private ownerships while protecting watersheds and individual species. They will supervise tree planting and erosion control projects completed meeting compliance with plans and specifications. They will repair burned watersheds and protect them from further damage from wildfire and erosion. Participants will also clean debris, install protective measures, and prepare designs.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service
Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

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Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: Midwest Flood States (Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wisconsin, Minnesota)

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 78

Description of AmeriCorps program:

The Rural Development Team is one of the three AmeriCorps programs that the United States Department of Agriculture will start at pilot sites across the country in September of 1994; the other two programs are an Anti-Hunger Team and a Public Lands and Environment Team. The Rural Development Team will place a socio-economic mix of college graduates and professional school graduates in 11 pilot regions in rural areas throughout America. Participants will help communities protect watersheds, improve housing, promote economic development, boost sustainable agriculture, respond to disasters, and aid the Clinton Administration's Empowerment Zone initiative.

Description of Project Work:

Participants will work on a wide variety of flood relief, economic development, and environmental protection projects. Some examples include: determining and delineating 200 wetlands and incorporating this information into the flood-relief planning process; directly explaining the impact of the wetlands delineation to a minimum of 200 affected landowners; creating 420 wetlands plans to restore farmable areas back to original wetlands conditions; and planning and implementing the improvement of 420 animal waste systems in order to reduce groundwater pollution.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service
Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

Facility Construction and Maintenance	\$218,863
Water and Soil	\$197,706
Range and Forage Management	\$139,592
Administration	\$138,665
Protection	\$42,300
Research	\$15,120
All Other	\$79,344

How do we define measurable goals for this program in meeting environmental needs?

c. Working with existing programs

How will this AmeriCorps Team build upon existing programs, including federal program?

How will this initiative relate to existing volunteer organizations? To existing 4-H programs? To existing youth service corps?

What kind of structure will the initiative have? How will the structure interact with state and local governments?

We still need to answer how this program will specifically interact with existing programs and the ambitious new environmental initiatives being planned by the Administration. How will it interact with the existing Soil Conservation Service Earth Team?

How will our program affect current Youth Conservation Corps programs managed by USDA and the Department of Interior? Will any staff or funds be transferred from the existing program? YCC coordinators believe strongly that the existing program should basically be left intact, and that it should be used as a "farm team" for 15-17 year-olds who may later enter year-round programs.

We need to fully research past programs such as CCC and YAC, as well as the current YCC, to learn any lessons that might be useful for planning our program.

How will this program interact with the National Civilian Community Corps, run in a quasi-military fashion, that was set up originally by the Boren bill?

d. Specific types of service to be performed

Here are just a few, non-representative, samples of work projects team members can perform:

1. National forests and parks conservation

Because all team members will be at least 18 years old, all of them will be able to use equipment and machinery that will allow them to perform the most valuable work needed on public lands. One type of obvious work that team members can perform is trail maintenance. Team members can also engage in some of the following types of work, which are already performed by YCC participants: recreation management, fish and wildlife management, timber management, facility construction and maintenance, water and soil work, range and forage management, administration, protection, and research. More specifically, they can build barricades around restoration areas, replace old fire pits with new fire grates/stoves, maintain anti-bear food storage bins, build foot bridges, build campsites, make facilities wheelchair accessible, and construct leach fields for collecting graywater.

According to a December 1992 report issued by the Forest service, 1,349 service slots could be created in our forests immediately to begin addressing the vast work backlog. The number of slots that could be created within four years are 78,312.

The attached chart outlines the major types of work that the Forest Service believes that youth servers can perform:

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES	COST (\$MILLIONS) AND JOBS POTENTIAL (Employment in					
	IMMEDIATE - First Year				2ND THRU 4TH YEARS	
	LOW RANGE		HIGH RANGE			
	COSTS	JOBS	COSTS	JOBS	COSTS	JOBS
Watershed Improvements	13.4	276	32.8	674	76.5	1,560
Range Improvements	7.2	181	17.5	438	22.2	458
Range Vegetative	2.9	56	4.8	96	146.4	2,928
Wildlife Habitat Improvement	20.6	514	50.1	1,253	97.5	2,433
Fish Habitat Improvement	14.4	289	34.9	698	92.1	1,846
T&E Species Habitat	4.3	108	27.0	675	50.5	1,268
Timber Stand Improvement	40.7	1,234	81.3	2,464	243.9	7,392
Insect and Disease Control	6.0	120	10.0	200	30.0	600
Minerals (Inactive Mine	--	--	4.5	90	6.0	120
Fuels management	1.3	40	132.0	4,000	396	12,000
Facilities						
Administrative Buildings	21.4	325	39.6	600	150.0	2,250
Research Buildings	15.6	237	29.3	443	82.0	1,200
Roads and Bridges	48.3	805	80.8	1,347	300.0	5,000

	COST (\$MILLIONS) AND JOBS POTENTIAL (Employment in					
Dams	3.0	50	5.0	80	10.0	170
Recreation						
Facilities Backlog	33.1	663	60.7	1,214	200.0	4,000
Trail Backlog	18.1	548	30.0	909	140.0	5,100
Site Routine O&M	84.0	2,230	140.0	3,720	364.0	9,660
Land Line: Boundary Survey &	3.5	100	8.5	250	29.9	885
Research Inventory Plots	4.3	145	10.0	333	30.0	999
Post Graduate Training	9.0	300	15.0	500	45.0	1,500
Urban & Community Tree	50.0	2,500	100.0	5,000	300.0	15,000
Reforestation and TSI on Non						
Forest Land	20.0	606	20.0	606	60.0	1,818
Timber Bridges	1.2	20	1.2	20	7.5	125
TOTALS	\$422.3	11,349	\$935.0	25,610	\$2879.5	78,312

Note: Employment estimated based on ratios of jobs per thousand dollars in costs. These ratios vary from \$20,000 per labor intensive job to over \$60,000 per heavy construction job. They include materials, supervision and program support.

A program initiated in 1993 could generate from 11,000 to 25,000 jobs at a cost of \$935 million. Thousands of backlogged and unfunded projects would be completed. Some type of tasks that could be performed by AmeriCorps participants:

Watershed Improvements - Projects to protect wetlands, reestablish vegetative cover in riparian zones, shape gullied land, revegetate denuded areas and to eliminate acid and other pollutant drainage from abandoned mines and oil and gas wells -- all in order to improve watershed conditions, fisheries and wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities.

Range Improvements - Range improvements consist of fencing and water development structures, and revegetation of denuded areas to improve forage conditions, wildlife and fish habitat, and soil and water quality.

Range Vegetation Management - Encompasses all activities associated with the management of NFS rangelands. Includes the description of baseline resource information for rangeland ecosystems, resource management planning, monitoring, administration of permitted livestock grazing, coordination of other land uses, and tracking compliance with forest plan and other management objectives. This is an interdisciplinary effort requiring significant coordination and commitment of resources by affected resource areas, user groups, and interested members of the public.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement - Construction and maintenance of structures and enhancement of habitat. Improvement activities include prescribed burning, opening construction and rehabilitation, wildlife stand improvement, seeding and planting, and water hole construction.

Fish Habitat Improvement - Reservoir rejuvenation and enhancement, stream bank stabilization, construction of fish ponds and spawning riffles, access trails for the disabled, and fish viewing stations.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Habitat Improvement - Protection and enhancement of required habitats, including breeding and nesting sites, feeding areas

and escape cover, protection from adverse developments and disturbing human activities.

Timber Stand Improvement - Treatment of timber stands to remove excess and competing vegetation to improve species composition, quality, growth rates, vigor and resistance to attacks from insects and diseases. Treatments are generally labor intensive as they favor the enhancement of selected trees.

Insect And Disease Control - The Forest Service provides protection and control services from insects and diseases on both Federal and non-Federal lands. Work includes suppression of pests such as the gypsy moth, southern and mountain pine beetles, and the tussock moth.

Minerals (Inactive Mine Rehab) - Work includes stabilization of mine waste dumps and spoil piles, and the elimination of acid and other pollutants from abandoned and inactive mines or oil and gas wells.

Fuels Management - Treating fuels through prescribed burning and other methods to reduce fire hazard and the severity of fires that do occur. This also greatly enhances the vigor and healthiness of treated areas.

Administrative Facilities - Pertains to office buildings, warehouses, and living quarters that are primarily needed to administer the National Forests, rather than serve the public. Includes repair and maintenance in the short term and new construction for long term projects.

Roads and Bridges - Addresses deferred maintenance of transportation infrastructure and new construction essential for public recreation, access for the disabled, fire control and other activities. This work will reduce negative environmental impacts of roads and bridges and increase the safety and enjoyment of persons accessing and traveling on the National Forests.

Recreation Facility Backlog - Rehabilitation, repair, and reconstruction of recreation facilities and sites to restore them to the established standard. Includes work to meet current legal, safety, or sanitation standards, restoration of soil and vegetation, and elimination of facilities and restoration of site.

Trail Backlog - Maintenance and reconstruction to restore trails to assigned standards. This is one-time restoration and repair to correct maintenance that has been deferred in the past. Include realignment of segments, upgrading to accommodate different uses, and obliteration of unneeded trails.

Recreation Operations and Maintenance - This activity includes the day-to-day care and operation of developed recreation sites cleaning, painting, routine maintenance, and other operational tasks are included. Increased attention over current budget levels is needed to prevent deterioration of facilities and to avoid potential health and safety problems.

Land Line: Boundary Survey & Marking - Only 38% of the 272,409 miles of Forest Service property have been properly established. This proposal would accurately locate the legal boundaries between National Forest and private land ownership.

Work would enhance private sector employment of survey and engineering firms.

Establishment and Remeasurement of Forest Inventory Plots - Establish and extend permanent field plot grid in the Western United States so that both commodity and noncommodity value statistics would become available on all forest land regardless of ownership and management status. These statistics are necessary in carrying out needed long- term research studies and for making decisions on the sustainability of the forest ecosystems and a basis for rational resource decision-making.

Reforestation and Timber Stand Improvement on Nonindustrial Private Lands: To demonstrate U. S. commitment to world leadership in forestry, ensure an adequate timber supply, to sequester atmospheric carbon dioxide, and to provide employment in rural areas. Includes tree planting and methods to enhance natural regeneration of forest stands following timber harvest, and cultural activities to improve species composition, spacing, growth and vigor of nonindustrial private forests.

Timber Bridges - Installation of new modern timber bridges and the replacement of existing structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridges with local labor to improve transportation infrastructure in rural areas. Almost one-half (215,398) of rural bridges greater than 20 feet in length in rural America are deficient.

2. Water quality assessments

Team members can conduct samplings and provide technical help with delivery systems. They can also work on sanitation and sewerage (wastewater treatment) system improvement.

3. Education

Team members --- going door-to-door, working in schools and speaking at civic clubs - -- could teach a wide variety of topics: safe handling of food, how to make your household more eco-friendly, testing for radon. For instance, the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) offers a "waste away" program each year to teach elementary students about the challenges of the solid waste problem. VINS provides program curriculum and tries to engage the entire community by culminating program with community-wide event - a "trash festival." VINS also has an excellent education program called "ELF" -- Environmental Learning for the Future" geared for elementary students. VINS trains volunteers to go into the classrooms monthly for an afternoon filled with role playing, hands-on projects, and field trips. The complete curriculum is taught over the course of five years and is enthusiastically supported by the community.

American Forest Foundation's Project Learning Tree is an award-winning K-12 curriculum and training program.

4. Energy Conservation-

Team members could work in crews to provide the physical assistance in weatherizing

homes and generally making them more energy efficient. Participants could work in public housing and low-income areas in both urban and rural communities. Team members would need basic training in carpentry, electrical or plumbing skills. We would recruit professional carpenters, electricians, and plumbers to help with basic training or to serve as team leaders.

Team members could also provide practical advice about basic ways to make homes more energy efficient. The participants could also develop educational material on energy conservation, such as "how to save dollars and help the planet" or a "guide to existing cost-saving programs provided by utility companies," etc.

One somewhat similar example is Christmas in April (CIA), a national volunteer program established by University of Pennsylvania students in 1980s to address basic housing needs of low-income communities in urban areas. Materials are donated by corporate sponsors.

5. River and Streams Protection

We could possibly run river protection teams in conjunction with the Department of Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency. In a Hudson River Team, USDA participants could work with farmers in the river's watershed to reduce the runoff of agricultural pesticides.

6. Tree planting

As part of the Clinton Administration's initiative to combat global warming, the Public Lands and Environmental team could play a lead role in tremendously expanding the number of trees planted annually in America. Plantings could take place in urban and rural areas on both public and private lands.

7. Urban Conservation Projects

Team members can repair facilities in public parks, paint murals, fix playgrounds and other facilities at public schools, run recycling programs, and run urban farming programs in which low-income individuals grow their own food.

8. Urban Farming Projects

Team members could help low-income urban residents to grow their own food. We could possibly run such a program at public housing complexes in tandem with the Department of Housing and Urban Renewal. We could possibly run a city-wide program in Chicago in tandem with the Chicago high school of agriculture.

9. Wetlands Restoration

- The Department of Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency have expressed interest in running a joint program to help restore the Everglades.

10. Disaster Relief and Recovery

Existing youth corps have played a vital role in the recovery of the flooded Midwest. For most disasters, team members could provide physical labor so critical to short-team clean-up, as well as human services needed for long-term recovery. They could also assist in some of the long-term infrastructure repair such as levee re-building.

11. Sustainable Agriculture - Team members could work under the direction of Extension agents or other sustainable agriculture experts to help local farmers complete some of the labor intensive work -- such as constructing fences -- that is needed to implement a sustainable agriculture plan.

e. Selecting and matching applicants

What percentage of participants will be recruited from a national pool of applicants to USDA or the Corporation? Can some participants meet the voucher requirement by working four summers in a row? Would such an approach hinder our ability to build diverse crews?

Could we a small percentage of people in each program be on the four-year plan whereby they would work for four consecutive summers?

We will pay participants either the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is higher in their particular locality. In addition, they will receive an educational voucher worth \$4,725 following a year of service. Team members will be between the ages of 18 and 25.

How will team applicants be selected and matched? Should participants be selected randomly or should they be screened and hand-picked?

What will be suitable service assignments? What role will the program have in making these assignments?

Will participants be engaged in the same type of work for the entire year or will they rotate between different types of projects?

f. Creating and maintaining program diversity

Diversity must be a key consideration during recruitment, curriculum design, project development, and training. The first year's program must meet all our diversity requirements since original problems are nearly impossible to fix.

How do we ensure that this program is managed by a diverse team and includes a diverse set of participants each and every year?

How can we engage participants in complex and challenging work without requiring educational levels that would stratify the participants and reduce participation? Simply put, how can we guarantee that less well educated participants don't spend all their time with shovels while better educated participants spend all their time with test tubes?

g. Training the team members

How would the participants be trained? For how long? Where? With what kind of curriculum?

Team members will need training about the general environment in which they will be working, especially in issues relating to safety. They will need training in use of the tools they will be using. They will need general training on often-used skills and specific training before each new project.

2

h. Supervising the team members

Who will supervise the team member? There will be a need to judge performance, initiate additional training when needed, and even perhaps to terminate or initiate re-assignment when necessary. How would they be supervised? Would they stay on one project throughout the year or frequently switch projects? What kind of extra supervision will be needed in residential programs?

We now assume one crew leader for every crew of about ten participants.

What kinds of uniform will team members be required to wear?

What kinds of tools, equipment, and supplies will the participants need and how will our programs obtain them?

How will the team involve participants in leadership positions in implementing and evaluating the programs?

How much self-government will team members have? How will team members be able to participate in designing their own programs, mandating their own rules, and helping enforce the rules?

What types of interactions will team members have with participants in other areas?

i. Effect on The Participants

How will the program promote civic responsibility and produce positive change in participants through training and participation in meaningful service with opportunities for reflection?

What measurable goals can we set for personal benefits obtained by team members?

This program can help future farmers attend college. Farmers who graduated college earn an average of \$68,652 in off-farm income, compared to \$29,334 for those who

were only high school educated.

j. Evaluating the Team

How will we ensure constant evaluation of the program in order to correct problems immediately?

Will we contract out for evaluation or ask the Corporation for a waiver so we can do our own evaluation?

k. Sizes and sites of pilot projects

The Forest Service and youth corps from Oregon and Washington have just received a major grant from the Commission on National and Community Service to run a national service training academy. This project will be based on a highly successful summer program. This program provides us with a very useful model, as do existing YCC programs.

What other facilities now exist in usable shape or near usable shape in the national forests that have been leftover from the YCC, the YAC, or even the original CCC?

We also want to ensure that we run pilot projects in a wide variety of different ecosystems, such as old growth forests, cities, coastal areas, new growth forests, suburbs, wetlands, tundra, and grasslands.

For the Corporation for National Service Proposal, we need a description of the criteria and process through which our grantee programs were selected.

The proposal to the Corporation for National and Community Service will need a description of the type and number of positions that will receive awards and a description of how approved national service positions will be apportioned by the applicant.

For each pilot location, how will we consult with participants and potential participants, representatives of the communities served, community-based agencies with demonstrated record of experience in providing services, and local labor organizations?

How will our pilots help priority areas affected adversely by federal policies?

Where are recently closed military installations that we might be able to use to house participants?

l. Growth scenarios

Where, and how quickly, should the program grow? Should we grow by expanding our pilot projects or by creating new ones?

How will we create a program so effective and so popular that will grow on its own regardless of the Administration in power?

m. Management structure needed

How much of the programs should we run ourselves and how much should we contract out entirely or partially to existing groups?

The proposal to the Corporation for National and Community Service will need a detailed description of key members of the management team.

How will we ensure that we don't create yet another cumbersome Washington bureaucracy?

We need to devise a legal system in which funds can be delivered directly to national service programs run by USDA agencies without going through a bureaucracy to charge administrative overhead.

For example, if certain Forest Service employees are running a pilot project, we need for the funds to go from the USDA Office of National Service directly to the pilot program, without going through either the national, regional, or local offices of the Forest Service. Can the USDA Office of National Service issue payment vouchers directly?

We need to investigate how we can produce payroll checks for less than the \$5-per-check fee now charged by the National Finance Center.

We need to produce one single enrollment form, including a code of conduct and a performance contract, instead of the seven-to-twelve different forms now required for entry into the YCC.

How can our program utilize the latest communications technologies?

n. Staff needed

How many USDA employees will be needed to manage the program? Will outside consultants also be required?

Possible staff for Team:

Director

Recruitment and Training Coordinator

Internal and External Communications Coordinator

Pilot Project Liaison

Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

Support Staff

o. Costs

If most servers in the Environmental Corps are residential, then our estimated cost is

about \$20,000 per server. Thus a pilot program with 1,000 servers would cost \$20 million. This would allow us five rural sites of 100 each, and ten urban or suburban sites of 250.

How will health care be provided to participants?

What percentage of participants will need child care? How will we provide it to them?

What kind of support will disabled participants need?

p. Outreach needed for stakeholders

We need to gain support from existing youth service corps, from environmental and conservation groups, from the National Forest Foundation, from labor unions, and from farming and commodity groups.

q. Funding sources

The National and Community Trust Act mandates that 25% of all funds used to contract out work to non-federal conservation corps be obtained from non-federal sources.

What states, municipalities, non-profit groups, corporations, individuals, and/or foundations might be willing to help fund this?

What types of project might the team be able to complete on a fee-for-service basis?

r. Partnerships

What kind of partnerships can we form with other federal agencies? How would we run the Public Lands Corps in partnership with the Department of Interior? How can we revise our Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Interior that we already have to jointly run the YCC?

Could we run urban farming projects at public housing units in tandem with HUD? Could we run weatherization projects in tandem with the Department of Energy? Could we run environmental education programs in tandem with the Environmental Protection Agency or the Department of Education? Could we run a program in tandem with the Department of Transportation in which team members would perform conservation and planting projects on highway right-of-ways? Could the team work with the Army Corps of Engineers to repair levees?

We have already discussed with the Department of Interior the idea of jointly running a "Greater Everglades Recovery Team" that would partner up farmers, National Park Service employees, and youth volunteers in replacing seagrass and taking other steps

to save the fragile ecosystem of the Everglades.

p. Residential and non-residential

Most of the rural programs will be residential and most of the urban programs will be non-residential. How many residential facilities does the Forest Service now have? What is their capacity and how much money and time would it take to renovate them for year-round use?

Our partnership programs will be hampered by the lack of residential facilities owned by the Department of Interior. How can we work with the Department of Defense to use their residential facilities?

We will try to develop an exchange program so that young people in each type of program can experience at least a few weeks of the other. Where will rural residents be housed when visiting urban areas? Can we get local residents to put them up in their homes, as if they were exchange students from Europe? How will we transport participants between urban and rural areas?

What kinds of work will have to be performed and what kind of funds will have to be spent ensure adequate residential facilities for participants in rural areas?

VI. HOW AMERICORPS/USDA PROGRAMS WILL INTERACT

In one rural Empowerment Community, we might want to test placing a Empowerment and Anti-Hunger Team program, a Public Lands and Environment Team, AND a Rural Development Team program. How will each of our three programs interact with each other? In one urban community, we might want to test placing a Empowerment and Anti-Hunger Team program AND a Public Lands and Environment Team. We should test how programs in the same area can trade staff, cross-train participants, and maybe even exchange participants in order to maximize benefits to the community.

In some rural areas, we might want to place both a Rural Development Team and a Public Lands and Environment Team; the Rural Development Team could actually plan projects for the Public Lands and Environment Team. For instance, after studying a local rural economy, members of a Rural Development Team might determine that the best way to help the area is to upgrade recreation facilities at a nearby National Forest; they would then design that upgrade and then direct local members of the Public Lands and Environment Team to actually perform the construction work.

How will we build a national identity for disparate pilot programs? How will we tie the identity of the USDA programs to the larger national initiative? Will these programs have joint training either before or during the period of service? Will we have a joint training session for all three corps? If so, where will it be held and who will manage it? We need to build this cost into the budget. Can they have caravans from around the country while performing service?

VII. FUNDRAISING

We need clear guidelines from our Office of General Counsel on how we can raise money. Can we raise it directly? Can we funnel it through the Corporation of National Service? Can we funnel it through the National Forest Foundation? How can we avoid even the appearance of impropriety in raising money from interests that might be regulated or affected by the Department of Agriculture? Can various funders sponsor all or part of pilot projects? Can we get an exemption from the Combined Federal Campaign in raising money from federal employees?

Can we hold a national employees serve-a-thon in which USDA employees perform a day of service and get sponsored to do so by friends? If each of our 114,000 employees raises or personally donates an average of \$10, we will have raised over \$1 million.

Could we institute an employee check-off program in which our employees can donate weekly or yearly to our national service programs? Could we find a way to match those contributions with private contributions?

VIII. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

We need to study a wide variety of ways to boost the upward mobility of youth who participate in our programs. We need to discuss our service-learning, national service transcripts, guidance counselor centers, peer discussion groups and self-management, to help in obtaining other forms of federal student aid, and help in job placement. Can private money that we raise be used to supplement the national service voucher be given to participants?

IX. DIVERSITY

How can we make diversity -- by race, age, religion, class, gender, and orientation -- a reality in both our management team and our participants? Diversity must be a key consideration during recruitment, curriculum design, project development, and training.

How can we use a national recruitment pool to boost diversity? How can we incorporate physically disabled participants and program managers?

X. INTERACTING WITH ENTERPRISE ZONES AND COMMUNITIES

As much as possible, our programs will be placed in empowerment zones and enterprise communities.

Empowerment zones:

Each Empowerment Zone gets two HHS Title XX grants totalling \$40 million. Each Enterprise Community gets one HHS Title XX grant of up to \$3 million.

Employer tax credits to Eligible Enterprise Zone employers equal to 20% of the first 415,000 of wages or training expenses for qualified Enterprise zone employees. Can host organizations that hire Rural development corps participants obtain this benefit?

Are there other deductions that may be available?

XI. TIMELINE FOR RUNNING AMERICORPS/USDA

By March 1, 1994: Work with USDA budget and legal offices to develop tentative FY95 budget

By March 5, 1993: Identify possible pilot project locations and partnerships

By March 10, 1994: Sign memorandums of understanding with other agencies with whom we will jointly make proposals

By March 30, 1993: Preliminary proposal completed for submission to Corporation for National Service

April, 19, 1994 - NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY, (Possible national Serve-A-thon)

By May 15, 1994: Start-up plans finalized for projects approved by the Corporation for National Service

By May 20, 1994: Project personnel interviewed and placed

By May 30, 1994: Recruitment of participants for fall programs begin

By June 1994: Summer training starts for project managers and crew leaders

By September 1, 1994: Pilot projects begin

For more information, contact:

**Joel Berg or Katherine Gibney
USDA Office of Public Liaison
Room 213-A
14th and Independence, SW
Washington, DC 20250**

**Phone # (202) 720-2798
Fax # (202) 720-5043**

AGRICULTURE
The Honorable Mike Espy
Congressionally Authorized Programs of Volunteerism/Community Service

Chief of Staff: Ron Blackley, phone: 202-720-3631, fax: 202-720-5437
Agency Contact: Joel Berg, Office of Public Affairs, phone: 202-720-4623, fax: 202-720-5043

Name of Program and Contact Person	Program Description	Time Line	FY 1993 Service Funding Level	Number of Partic- ipants	Stipend	Post Service Benefit	Summer 1993 Program	Agency Volunteer Recognition	External Employee Volunteers	Cooperative Program with other Federal Agencies
Touch America Project AGENCY: Forest Service	During FY 1992 about 109,000 volunteers assisted on the management of the National Forest System. The Touch America Project (TAP) is a special component of the overall volunteer effort. It provides opportunities for youths, ages 14-17, to gain work experience and environmental awareness while working on the public lands. In FY 1992, private sector organizations sponsored over 4,600 youths in TAP. Projects included maintaining and building trails and constructing recreation areas. The FS and cooperating private sector entities provide tools, training, and supervision. The government assumes tort and workmen's compensation liability,									
Youth Conservation Corps AGENCY: Forest Service	The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) provides 8 weeks of summer employment for 15 through 18-year-olds from all strata of society. Youths earn minimum wage and learn while performing conservation work on the National Forest System. The enrollees are paid from Forest Service funds appropriated for resource activities. Each forest decides how much of its work to accomplish through a YCC program as opposed to hiring adult seasonal workers or private sector contracting. In FY 1992, 1,185 youth participated in the program.		\$2.5 million							

Earth Team Volunteer Program	The Earth Team was established in the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1981. Volunteers work in SCS field offices performing an assortment of duties in administration, technical support, information, and education. They also work on farms and ranches helping landowners deal with a variety of conservation problems. The Earth Team has memoranda of understanding with national organizations that help encourage conservation projects at the local level.	\$100,000
AGENCY: Soil Conservation Service		
Summer Employee's Program	OICD's Summer Employee's Program is sponsored in concert with the Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The program provides professional on-the-job (OJT) experience for both college and high school students. The program is tailored like an "internship" in that the OJT experience can be used for academic credit by the students. Once a week a group seminar is conducted by the three agencies to review the work experience and obtain feedback from the participants. Also, the students are exposed to guest speakers that cover an array of subjects from agriculture to transportation. Additionally, their OJT experience is enhanced by field trips that included such activities as: (a) the Congress and its function, (b) Embassy visits with the emphasis on their role and interaction with Government, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and their role and interaction with USDA/Government.	Minimal amount-- absorbed by agencies
AGENCY: Office of International Cooperation and Development		
Food Stamp Program	Outreach activities (i.e., explaining program rules, helping people apply and fill out forms, etc.). More outreach grants are coming up. Trying for 8-10 grants in FY 1993. (Private-Public Partnership).	Volunteers are unpaid.
AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service		
TEFAP - The Emergency Food Assistance Program (donated commodities)	Unload trucks, hand out food at donation sites, help with applications, etc.	Unpaid volunteers. Reimbursements allowed for specific costs incurred, e.g. trans. costs.
AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service		

Nutrition Education and Training Program	Provide nutrition education information in school meal programs and child care centers, help with distribution of materials, and in teaching principles of nutrition education. Example: High school and college students in costume (Nutrisaurus Rex) to teach nutrition education.	Unpaid; small program - no funds for reimbursements	
AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service Youth at Risk Program	The Youth at Risk Program provides funding for community-based programs to address the needs of at risk youth. Programs provide after school educational programs, programs to improve reading and science literacy and programs to address teen pregnancy, drug abuse, depression and other problems. Opportunities are available for youth to receive training and to assist with program delivery. In addition to Federal funding, local and private matching funds are provided.	\$10 million	1890 institutions serve as partners for several projects. 100,000 participating youth.
AGENCY: Extension Service			20
National Agricultural Library Volunteer Program	NAL provides opportunities for adult and youth volunteers. Depending on skills of the individual, volunteers provide clerical, technical, or professional assistance to NAL in operating its library and database programs.	N/A	
AGENCY: National Agricultural Library 4-H		Co-op with land grant colleges	3 million school age youths, 10-20 years old
Extension			3 million volunteers

National Forest Foundation Youth Camps	The National Forest Foundation is a nonprofit corporation established by statute. Its purpose is to raise funds from private sources for activities which support the programs administered by the FS. The Foundation has just begun its activities. One of its first projects will be to finance the operation of three summer camps for youth at risk on the George Washington, Mt. Hood, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests. There will be a special emphasis on supplementing the work experience with social and remedial education skills with a goal of feeding participants into the job corps or private sector employment.	8 and 10 week programs	FS will incur some minimal costs. Most of the program will be financed by FS.	200 expected	Minimum wage
AGENCY: Forest Service					

**INVENTORY OF ALREADY-EXISTING YOUTH SERVICE
AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS WITHIN USDA**



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office
of the
Secretary

Office of Budget
and Program
Analysis

Washington,
D.C.
20250

February 10, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joel Berg
Acting Director
Office of Public Affairs

FROM: Larry Wachs
Associate Director *Larry Wachs*

SUBJECT: Inventory of Volunteer/Service Programs

As requested here is an inventory of USDA volunteer/service programs. The attachment includes the name of the program, the sponsoring organization, a short description, and funding information.

Since we did not know the ultimate purpose for the inventory, we are simply providing you with the list. If you need additional help, please let us know.

Attachment

[Handwritten signature]

USDA
YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

NAME OF PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION/PARTICIPATION/STATUS OF PROGRAM	FY 1993 FUNDING LEVEL
Earth Team Volunteer Program AGENCY: Soil Conservation Service	The Earth Team was established in the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1981. Volunteers work in SCS field offices performing an assortment of duties in administration, technical support, information, and education. They also work on farms and ranches helping landowners deal with a variety of conservation problems. The Earth Team works with schools and communities, developing outdoor classrooms and related community education projects. The Earth Team has memoranda of understanding with national organizations that help encourage conservation projects at the local level. In FY 1992, \$5 million worth of time was donated to SCS by Earth Team volunteers who contributed over 460,000 hours. About 20 percent of these volunteers are under 21 years of age. Since 1985, over 57,000 volunteers have worked with SCS.	\$100,000

USDA
YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

NAME OF PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION/PARTICIPATION/STATUS OF PROGRAM	FY 1993 FUNDING LEVEL
Summer Employee's Program AGENCY: Office of International Cooperation and Development	OICD's Summer Employee's Program is sponsored in concert with the Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The program provides professional on-the-job (OJT) experience for both college and high school students. The program is tailored like an "Internship" in that the OJT experience can be used for academic credit by the students. Once a week a group seminar is conducted by the three agencies to review the work experience and obtain feedback from the participants. Also, the students are exposed to guest speakers that cover an array of subjects from agriculture to transportation. Additionally, their OJT experience is enhanced by field trips that include such activities as: (a) the Congress and its function, (b) Embassy visits with emphasis on their role and interaction with Government, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and their role and interaction with USDA/Government.	Minimal amount -- absorbed by agencies.

USDA
YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

NAME OF PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION/PARTICIPATION/STATUS OF PROGRAM	FY 1993 FUNDING LEVEL
Touch America Project AGENCY: Forest Service	During FY 1992 about 109,000 volunteers assisted in the management of the National Forest System. The Touch America Project (TAP) is a special component of the overall volunteer effort. It provides opportunities for youths, ages 14-17, to gain work experience and environmental awareness while working on the public lands. In FY 1992, private sector organizations sponsored over 4,600 youths in TAP. Projects included maintaining and building trails and constructing recreation areas. The FS and cooperating private sector entities provide tools, training, and supervision. The government assumes tort and workmen's compensation liability.	No funding is specifically earmarked in the FS budget for the administrative costs of volunteer work. It is anticipated that the FY 1993 program will continue the recent history of increasing enrollment by 8 - 10 percent from the prior year.
Youth Conservation Corps AGENCY: Forest Service	The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) provides 8 weeks of summer employment for 15 through 18-year-olds from all strata of society. Youths earn minimum wage and learn while performing conservation work on the National Forest System. The enrollees are paid from Forest Service funds appropriated for resource activities. Each forest decides how much of its work to accomplish through a YCC program as opposed to hiring adult seasonal workers or private sector contracting. In FY 1992 1,185 youth participated in the program.	Recent Interior Appropriations Acts have required the use of not less than \$1.0 million of the funds appropriated to FS for a YCC program. The agency has usually chosen to run a larger program in the \$2.5 million range, and anticipates about that level for FY 1993.

USDA
YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

NAME OF PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION/PARTICIPATION/STATUS OF PROGRAM	FY 1993 FUNDING LEVEL
Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers AGENCY: Forest Service	The Job Corps Program is funded by the Department of Labor. The FS currently operates 18 centers. The program enrolls youth aged 14 through 24. The FS Civilian Conservation Centers provide vocational training in carpentry, painting, welding, electrical work, masonry, heavy equipment operation, building and apartment maintenance, landscaping, as well as computer operation, typing, culinary arts, and pre-forestry. Students learn practical work skills and social orientation working in teams to complete conservation or construction projects on National Forests and for local communities to enhance or upgrade public facilities. National business and labor organizations are key partners who provide vocational training, participate in curriculum development, and provide apprenticeship placement assistance. They also supervise work projects, and certify apprentice training. The current enrollment capacity of the FS centers is 3,900. Since some courses may be completed in as little as 60 days, the number of participants in a year is much higher. In 1992, nearly 9,900 individuals participated in the FS program. The enrollees receive an initial allowance of \$40 per week which can increase to as much as \$100 per week based on incentive pay linked to specific accomplishments such as length of stay and completion of GED or trade skills.	Funding for the Job Corps Program follows the July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. The 1993 allocation to FS by the Department of Labor is \$75 million.
National Forest Foundation Youth Camps AGENCY: Forest Service	The National Forest Foundation is a nonprofit corporation established by statute. Its purpose is to raise funds from private sources for activities which support the programs administered by the FS. The Foundation has just begun its activities. One of its first projects will be to finance the operation of three summer camps for youth at risk on the George Washington, Mt. Hood, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests. The camps will each operate an eight week and a ten week session this summer, and about 200 young people are expected to participate. The enrollees will be paid the minimum wage and participate in a program of conservation work similar to the Youth Conservation Corps described above. There will be a special emphasis on supplementing the work experience with social and remedial education skills with a goal of feeding participants into the job corps or private sector employment.	The FS will incur some minimal administrative costs. Most of the program will be financed by the National Forest Foundation.

USDA
YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

NAME OF PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION/PARTICIPATION/STATUS OF PROGRAM	FY 1993 FUNDING LEVEL
Research Apprenticeship Program AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service & Cooperative State Research Service	The Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP) provides volunteer and paid opportunities for high school students, particularly minority and female students, to work in labs of the Agricultural Research Service and at universities. Students work with scientists on research projects in the biological and physical sciences and engineering fields. The program is designed to increase awareness of opportunities in food and agricultural sciences and ultimately increase the pool of applicants for employment. About 400-500 students participate each year.	ARS provides \$500,000 to support the program, of which \$250,000 is transferred to CSRS to fund the program at universities.
Volunteer Programs AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service	A number of ARS locations nationwide accept volunteer services for a wide variety of administrative and research support functions. The U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. relies on volunteers to perform a number of services, including serving as tour guides, providing assistance in the library, assisting in the maintenance of plant collections and working with researchers in the herbarium. Volunteers are provided with training and are asked to work at least four hours per week. Over 100 volunteers provide assistance at ARS locations.	ARS estimates that a portion of one staff year, less than \$50,000, is required to support the program.
4-H Program AGENCY: Extension Service	4-H provides informal educational, community service and leadership development opportunities for youth ages 6 to 19. 4-H programs are organized through local extension services and use adult and youth volunteers. Programs are operated in urban and rural areas and are supported through 1862 and the historically black 1890 land-grant institutions. About 5.5 million youth participate in 4-H.	Extension Service estimates that over \$65 million in Federal formula funds are devoted to 4-H and youth development programs.

USDA
YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

NAME OF PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION/PARTICIPATION/STATUS OF PROGRAM	FY 1993 FUNDING LEVEL
Youth at Risk Program AGENCY: Extension Service	The Youth at Risk program provides funding for community-based programs to address the needs of at risk youth. Programs provide after school educational programs, programs to improve reading and science literacy and programs to address teen pregnancy, drug abuse, depression and other problems. Opportunities are available for youth to receive training and to assist with program delivery. In addition to Federal funding, local and private matching funds are provided. 1890 institutions serve as partners for several projects. Extension estimates that over 100,000 youth participate in these programs.	\$10,000,000
National Agricultural Library Volunteer Program AGENCY: National Agricultural Library	NAL provides opportunities for adult and youth volunteers. Depending on skills of the individual, volunteers provide clerical, technical, or professional assistance to NAL in operating its library and database programs. NAL currently has about 20 regular volunteers.	N/A

USDA
YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

NAME OF PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION/PARTICIPATION/STATUS OF PROGRAM	FY 1993 FUNDING LEVEL
Food Stamp Program AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service	Outreach activities (i.e., explaining program rules, helping people apply and fill out forms, etc.). More outreach grants are coming up. Trying for 8-10 grants in FY 1993. (Private-Public partnership). Nutrition plans - help give information about proper nutrition to FS clients.	Volunteers are unpaid. Reimbursements can be made for specific costs incurred in volunteer activities. Only 11 States have outreach plans: NY, VT, MA, KY, TN, MO, MT, WA, AZ, CA, TX Only 9 States have nutrition education plans: NH, ME, NY, OH, MN, WI, OK, OR, WA.
TEFAP - The Emergency Food Assistance Program (donated commodities) AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service	Unload trucks, hand out food at donation sites, help with applications, etc.	Unpaid volunteers. Reimbursements allowed for specific costs incurred, e.g., transportation costs.
Nutrition Education and Training Program AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service	Provide nutrition education information in school meal programs and child care centers, help with distribution of materials, and in teaching principles of nutrition education. Example - High school and college students in costume (Nutrisaurus Rex) to teach nutrition education.	Unpaid; small program - no funds for reimbursement

USDA
YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

NAME OF PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION/PARTICIPATION/STATUS OF PROGRAM	FY 1993 FUNDING LEVEL
Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service	Transport to and from clinics and grocery stores, watch children during clinic visits, and help with client applications, etc.	Unpaid volunteers. Some States pay for specific reimbursement costs, e.g., transportation costs.
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service	Transport clients to and from the distribution site, help distribute commodities, give out nutrition information, etc.	Unpaid volunteers. Some sites may reimburse certain costs, e.g., transportation costs.
Summer Food Service Program AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service	Help organize summer activities at site, help distribute lunches, beverages, eating utensils, etc.	Unpaid volunteer. Sites may reimburse certain costs.

Return to CITE N
By 4/8/93

AGRICULTURE
The Honorable Mike Espy
Congressionally Authorized Programs of Volunteerism/Community Service

Chief of Staff: Ron Blackley, phone: 202-720-3631, fax: 202-720-5437
Agency Contact: Joel Berg, Office of Public Affairs, phone: 202-720-4623, fax: 202-720-5043

Name of Program and Contact Person	Program Description	Time Line	FY 1993 Service Funding Level	Number of Partic- ipants	Stipend	Post Service Benefit	Summer 1993 Program	Agency Volunteer Recognition	External Employee Volunteers	Cooperative Program wit other Feder Agencies
Touch America Project AGENCY: Forest Service	During FY 1992 about 109,000 volunteers assisted on the management of the National Forest System. The Touch America Project (TAP) is a special component of the overall volunteer effort. It provides opportunities for youths, ages 14-17, to gain work experience and environmental awareness while working on the public lands. In FY 1992, private sector organizations sponsored over 4,600 youths in TAP. Projects included maintaining and building trails and constructing recreation areas. The FS and cooperating private sector entities provide tools, training, and supervision. The government assumes tort and workmen's compensation liability,									
Youth Conservation Corps AGENCY: Forest Service	The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) provides 8 weeks of summer employment for 15 through 18-year-olds from all strata of society. Youths earn minimum wage and learn while performing conservation work on the National Forest System. The enrollees are paid from Forest Service funds appropriated for resource activities. Each forest decides how much of its work to accomplish through a YCC program as opposed to hiring adult seasonal workers or private sector contracting. In FY 1992, 1,185 youth participated in the program.		\$2.5 million							

Nutrition Education and Training Program	Provide nutrition education information in school meal programs and child care centers, help with distribution of materials, and in teaching principles of nutrition education. Example: High school and college students in costume (Nutrisaurus Rex) to teach nutrition education. The Youth at Risk Program provides funding for community-based programs to address the needs of at risk youth. Programs provide after school educational programs, programs to improve reading and science literacy and programs to address teen pregnancy, drug abuse, depression and other problems. Opportunities are available for youth to receive training and to assist with program delivery. In addition to Federal funding, local and private matching funds are provided.	Unpaid; small program - no funds for reimbursements	\$10 million	1890 institutions serve as partners for several projects. 100,000 participating youth.
National Agricultural Library Volunteer Program	NAL provides opportunities for adult and youth volunteers. Depending on skills of the individual, volunteers provide clerical, technical, or professional assistance to NAL in operating its library and database programs.	N/A		20
AGENCY: National Agricultural Library 4-H Extension		Co-op with land grant colleges	3 million school age youths, 10-20 years old	3 million volunteers

National Forest
Foundation Youth
Camps

AGENCY: Forest
Service

The National Forest Foundation is a nonprofit corporation established by statute. Its purpose is to raise funds from private sources for activities which support the programs administered by the FS. The Foundation has just begun its activities. One of its first projects will be to finance the operation of three summer camps for youth at risk on the George Washington, Mt. Hood, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests. There will be a special emphasis on supplementing the work experience with social and remedial education skills with a goal of feeding participants into the job corps or private sector employment.

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Earth Team Volunteer Program	The Earth Team was established in the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1981. Volunteers work in SCS field offices performing an assortment of duties in administration, technical support, information, and education. They also work on farms and ranches helping landowners deal with a variety of conservation problems. The Earth Team has memoranda of understanding with national organizations that help encourage conservation projects at the local level.	\$100,000
AGENCY: Soil Conservation Service		
Summer Employee's Program	OICD's Summer Employee's Program is sponsored in concert with the Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The program provides professional on-the-job (OJT) experience for both college and high school students. The program is tailored like an "internship" in that the OJT experience can be used for academic credit by the students. Once a week a group seminar is conducted by the three agencies to review the work experience and obtain feedback from the participants. Also, the students are exposed to guest speakers that cover an array of subjects from agriculture to transportation. Additionally, their OJT experience is enhanced by field trips that included such activities as: (a) the Congress and its function, (b) Embassy visits with the emphasis on their role and interaction with Government, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and their role and interaction with USDA/Government. Outreach activities (i.e., explaining program rules, helping people apply and fill out forms, etc.). More outreach grants are coming up. Trying for 8-10 grants in FY 1993. (Private-Public Partnership). Unload trucks, hand out food at donation sites, help with applications, etc.	Minimal amount--absorbed by agencies
AGENCY: Office of International Cooperation and Development		
Food Stamp Program		Volunteers are unpaid.
AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service		
TEFAP - The Emergency Food Assistance Program (donated commodities)		Unpaid volunteers. Reimbursements allowed for specific costs incurred, e.g. trans. costs.
AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service		

Nutrition Education and Training Program AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service Youth at Risk Program AGENCY: Extension Service	Provide nutrition education information in school meal programs and child care centers, help with distribution of materials, and in teaching principles of nutrition education. Example: High school and college students in costume (Nutrisaurus Rex) to teach nutrition education. The Youth at Risk Program provides funding for community-based programs to address the needs of at risk youth. Programs provide after school educational programs, programs to improve reading and science literacy and programs to address teen pregnancy, drug abuse, depression and other problems. Opportunities are available for youth to receive training and to assist with program delivery. In addition to Federal funding, local and private matching funds are provided.	Unpaid; small program - no funds for reimbursements \$10 million	1890 institutions serve as partners for several projects. 100,000 participating youth.
National Agricultural Library Volunteer Program AGENCY: National Agricultural Library 4-H	NAL provides opportunities for adult and youth volunteers. Depending on skills of the individual, volunteers provide clerical, technical, or professional assistance to NAL in operating its library and database programs.	N/A	20
Extension		Co-op with land grant colleges	3 million school age youths, 10-20 years old 3 million volunteers

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**INVENTORY OF ALREADY-EXISTING YOUTH SERVICE
AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS WITHIN USDA**

To: White House Office of National Service

From: Joel Berg, Department of Agriculture

Date: April 11, 1993

RE: USDA Departmental Service Initiatives Report (Summary Memo)

A. Agency Sponsored Programs -- Highlights

While USDA runs many excellent youth service and adult volunteer programs, I have summarized four particularly outstanding ones below:

* **The Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP).** Managed by the Cooperative Extensive system, EFNEP operates in all fifty states and Puerto Rico. EFNEP volunteers assist low-income families in acquiring the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and changed behavior to dramatically improve their diets and nutritional well-being. In 1991, 54,163 EFNEP volunteers worked a total of 466,018 hours, providing an estimated \$2.3 million worth of service.

* **Earth Team.** A conservation program run by the Soil Conservation Service, the Earth Team engaged 10,000 volunteers in 500,000 hours of service at 1,800 sites throughout the nation. The volunteers helped staff Soil Conservation Service offices, planted trees, surveyed land, designed and constructed grass waterways, developed environmental education materials, and created computer databases of local soils.

* **American Indian Youth Practicum.** This program engages 25-50 youths for a week each summer in service and learning in national forests in Montana and the Dakotas. It brings together youths from still warring tribes and teaches community cooperation, environmental conservation principles, and the need for youths to stay in school. This program was created by a Girard, a ranger on the Custer Forrest in Montana. The program is paid for entirely out of normal Custer Forrest operating funds and is managed by Girard primarily on his personal time.

* **Youth Forest Camps.** Run by the non-profit National Forest Foundation which has been chartered by Congress, the camps program will begin this summer at two sites in Washington State and one in Virginia. The camps will each operate an eight week and ten week session this summer for about 200 people. The participants will be paid the minimum wage and perform conservation work in national forests.

B. Employee Voluntary Programs -- Highlights

USDA employees volunteer in many ways in Washington and around the country. The largest program is the one in which around 100 employees volunteer at the Van Ness School in Southeast DC as part of a "Partners in Education" program. The employees tutor students, run field trips, raise money to purchase computers, and buy gifts and deliver them to each child during the Christmas season.

C. Total Amount Spent on Service Initiatives

Not including the Jobs Corps Funding and 4-H Funding -- and also not counting some overhead costs which are impossible for us to estimate that this time -- USDA spent about \$13.1 million on its volunteer and youth service programs in 1992. Over \$65 million in federal formula funds were spent on 4-H programs in 1992. The Labor Department allocated \$75 million to the Forrest Service for the Job Corps programs in 1993. Thus, total spending for USDA would be about \$153.1 million.

D. Ideas for Program Development

Over 30 different USDA-affiliated Extension Offices submitted Summer of Service proposals. The proposals include a peer educators program in rural Southeast Colorado, a child care project in Hartford, Connecticut, a nutrition program state-wide in Mississippi, and a drug awareness project in Kansas City.

With Secretary Espy's full support, I am chairing a USDA working group on ways to incorporate USDA into President Clinton's long-term national service program. We are currently developing plans for two separate youth corps to be run by USDA:

1) A modern-day Civilian Conservation Corps run by the National Forrest Service and the Soil Conservation Service. The Forest Service already runs the Youth Conservation Corps Program and the Youth Forest Camps; the Soil Conservation service already runs the Earth Team. This new CCC would focus on the unique environmental problems of the 1990's, such as protecting our drinking water supplies and helping communities recycle.

2) A national anti-hunger and nutrition corps. Somewhat similar to the EFNEP program described above, this corps could be run by the Cooperative Extension system and the two USDA agencies that deal directly with food stamps and nutrition programs. Corps members would work in urban and rural areas to help families and individuals apply for food stamps and WIC, overhaul their diets, and prevent food poisoning; corps members could also help teach families about some of the new anti-poverty measures advocated by President Clinton such as microenterprise loans, the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit, and community development banks.

USDA
YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

NAME OF PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION/PARTICIPATION/STATUS OF PROGRAM	FY 1993 FUNDING LEVEL
Earth Team Volunteer Program AGENCY: Soil Conservation Service	The Earth Team was established in the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1981. Volunteers work in SCS field offices performing an assortment of duties in administration, technical support, information, and education. They also work on farms and ranches helping landowners deal with a variety of conservation problems. The Earth Team works with schools and communities, developing outdoor classrooms and related community education projects. The Earth Team has memoranda of understanding with national organizations that help encourage conservation projects at the local level. In FY 1992, \$5 million worth of time was donated to SCS by Earth Team volunteers who contributed over 460,000 hours. About 20 percent of these volunteers are under 21 years of age. Since 1985, over 57,000 volunteers have worked with SCS.	\$100,000

USDA
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USDA
YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

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Youth Conservation Corps AGENCY: Forest Service	The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) provides 8 weeks of summer employment for 15 through 18-year-olds from all strata of society. Youths earn minimum wage and learn while performing conservation work on the National Forest System. The enrollees are paid from Forest Service funds appropriated for resource activities. Each forest decides how much of its work to accomplish through a YCC program as opposed to hiring adult seasonal workers or private sector contracting. In FY 1992 1,185 youth participated in the program.	Recent Interior Appropriations Acts have required the use of not less than \$1.0 million of the funds appropriated to FS for a YCC program. The agency has usually chosen to run a larger program in the \$2.5 million range, and anticipates about that level for FY 1993.

USDA
YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

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Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers AGENCY: Forest Service	The Job Corps Program is funded by the Department of Labor. The FS currently operates 18 centers. The program enrolls youth aged 14 through 24. The FS Civilian Conservation Centers provide vocational training in carpentry, painting, welding, electrical work, masonry, heavy equipment operation, building and apartment maintenance, landscaping, as well as computer operation, typing, culinary arts, and pre-forestry. Students learn practical work skills and social orientation working in teams to complete conservation or construction projects on National Forests and for local communities to enhance or upgrade public facilities. National business and labor organizations are key partners who provide vocational training, participate in curriculum development, and provide apprenticeship placement assistance. They also supervise work projects, and certify apprentice training. The current enrollment capacity of the FS centers is 3,900. Since some courses may be completed in as little as 60 days, the number of participants in a year is much higher. In 1992, nearly 9,900 individuals participated in the FS program. The enrollees receive an initial allowance of \$40 per week which can increase to as much as \$100 per week based on incentive pay linked to specific accomplishments such as length of stay and completion of GED or trade skills.	Funding for the Job Corps Program follows the July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. The 1993 allocation to FS by the Department of Labor is \$75 million.
National Forest Foundation Youth Camps AGENCY: Forest Service	The National Forest Foundation is a nonprofit corporation established by statute. Its purpose is to raise funds from private sources for activities which support the programs administered by the FS. The Foundation has just begun its activities. One of its first projects will be to finance the operation of three summer camps for youth at risk on the George Washington, Mt. Hood, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests. The camps will each operate an eight week and a ten week session this summer, and about 200 young people are expected to participate. The enrollees will be paid the minimum wage and participate in a program of conservation work similar to the Youth Conservation Corps described above. There will be a special emphasis on supplementing the work experience with social and remedial education skills with a goal of feeding participants into the job corps or private sector employment.	The FS will incur some minimal administrative costs. Most of the program will be financed by the National Forest Foundation.

USDA
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Research Apprenticeship Program AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service & Cooperative State Research Service	The Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP) provides volunteer and paid opportunities for high school students, particularly minority and female students, to work in labs of the Agricultural Research Service and at universities. Students work with scientists on research projects in the biological and physical sciences and engineering fields. The program is designed to increase awareness of opportunities in food and agricultural sciences and ultimately increase the pool of applicants for employment. About 400-500 students participate each year.	ARS provides \$500,000 to support the program, of which \$250,000 is transferred to CSRS to fund the program at universities.
Volunteer Programs AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service	A number of ARS locations nationwide accept volunteer services for a wide variety of administrative and research support functions. The U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. relies on volunteers to perform a number of services, including serving as tour guides, providing assistance in the library, assisting in the maintenance of plant collections and working with researchers in the herbarium. Volunteers are provided with training and are asked to work at least four hours per week. Over 100 volunteers provide assistance at ARS locations.	ARS estimates that a portion of one staff year, less than \$50,000, is required to support the program.
4-H Program AGENCY: Extension Service	4-H provides informal educational, community service and leadership development opportunities for youth ages 6 to 19. 4-H programs are organized through local extension services and use adult and youth volunteers. Programs are operated in urban and rural areas and are supported through 1862 and the historically black 1890 land-grant institutions. About 5.5 million youth participate in 4-H.	Extension Service estimates that over \$65 million in Federal formula funds are devoted to 4-H and youth development programs.

USDA
YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

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Youth at Risk Program AGENCY: Extension Service	The Youth at Risk program provides funding for community-based programs to address the needs of at risk youth. Programs provide after school educational programs, programs to improve reading and science literacy and programs to address teen pregnancy, drug abuse, depression and other problems. Opportunities are available for youth to receive training and to assist with program delivery. In addition to Federal funding, local and private matching funds are provided. 1890 institutions serve as partners for several projects. Extension estimates that over 100,000 youth participate in these programs.	\$10,000,000
National Agricultural Library Volunteer Program AGENCY: National Agricultural Library	NAL provides opportunities for adult and youth volunteers. Depending on skills of the individual, volunteers provide clerical, technical, or professional assistance to NAL in operating its library and database programs. NAL currently has about 20 regular volunteers.	N/A

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PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

USDA YOUTH/VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAMS

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