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Weekly Travel Itinerary  
for  
Robert J. Eaddy  
South Carolina

|                       |                    |               |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Apr. 3 (Monday)    | CFSA State Office  | (803)765-5429 |
| 2. Apr. 4 (Tuesday)   | CFSA State Office  | (803)765-5429 |
| 3. Apr. 5 (Wednesday) | CFSA State Office  | (803)765-5429 |
| 4. Apr. 6 (Thursday)  | Florence CFSA Off. | (803)669-9686 |
| 5. Apr. 7 (Friday)    | CWS - OFF DAY      | (803)364-2472 |

Weekly AmeriCorps Activities  
for  
Robert J. Eaddy  
Regional Facilitator  
South Carolina

March 27 (Monday) (3 hours)

I worked in the CFSA State Office and made telephone calls to (NRCS, RECD, and USFS) State Project Coordinators and Program Managers reminding them of our joint AmeriCorps Planning Meeting for March 28, 1995. I called Mrs. Jean Moore the new Executive Director of the S. C. Commission on National & Community Service and requested 2 or 3 AmeriCorps members from her agency to participate in our program on April 25, 1995 at Santee State Park. She was very agreeable and promised to check with her staff and advise on Friday, March 31, 1995, if they could.

March 28 (Tuesday) 4 hours

I held a follow up Planning meeting with NRCS, RECD, and USFS AmeriCorps Program Directors for our April 25 & 26, 1995 USDA AmeriCorps Meeting. We have agreed on the program and are finalizing our plans which include selecting a Community Project for all 40 AmeriCorps members to participate in on April 25, which is "National Service Day".

Gloria Richardson with RECD from the AmeriCorps Office in Holly Hill and Amy Overstreet with NRCS AmeriCorps Office in Newberry who has a close working relationship with the media were assigned to select a Community Project from the general area of these locations: Holly Hill, Elloree, Summerton, and Santee. We want to get strong community support and media involvement. We want Joel Berg there also participating with our 40 AmeriCorps Members. After the project that morning we would like to get Joel and the 4 USDA Agency Directors together for lunch.

I will make a follow up visit to the facility next week to coordinate some last minute revisions.



March 29 (Wednesday) (9 hours)

I traveled to the Williamsburg Enterprise Community and met with Victor Rowell, Chairman of the Wmburg. EC, and AmeriCorps Members Sherry Conyers, and Brook Rodgers. During this meeting I reviewed progress reports on their projects. The first project reviewed was The Black River State Park Site. The project involved the AmeriCorps members conducting their research work in the Williamsburg County Tax Assessor's Office. They searched the Tax Maps and made a list of all river front property by tract number, and total acreage from Kingstree, S. C. to Hwy. 41 near Andrews, S. C. Next they took the tract numbers and researched the property files to obtain the owners names and addresses. Next these were compared with the telephone directory to obtain current telephone numbers. Next they used Flood Zone Maps to identify the location of the property sites and referenced each with a tax map number. This was presented to the EC Chairman and Enterprise Committee. The Committee then decided that a revised list should be made with only sites of 2,000 acres or more since this would be easier to work. A new map was prepared with a revised list of property owners. The Steering Committee of the Williamsburg Enterprise Community then applied to the S.C. Parks, Recreational and Tourism Department (PRT) for a financial grant to purchase a State Park Site. PRT has instructed the EC that they will support their effort and to contact all of the landowners and determine which ones will either sell, or donate their property. Next prioritize the sites and then get back with PRT. At this time the project has the EC Committee, the City of Kingstree, the County Council, PRT and the Governors Office supporting the project.

When this project is completed it will provide recreation for the community, tourist dollars for the local economy, and support industry and other economic growth in the community. This project will provide boating, conning, fishing, water skiing, biking, hiking, golfing, picnicking, and a retirement community will be built near by the area.

A Williamsburg County Housing Survey is currently being conducted for S.C. State University under the 1890 Program by the 2 AmeriCorps members. The Williamsburg EC will share information from this survey. This data will determine the housing needs of the county. The EC will be able to determine what kinds of grants are needed for senior citizens, the poor, and young adults and what areas are most critical.



The Cooper's Academy Historical Preservation site is the next project Sherry and Brook will begin work on as an AmeriCorps team. This was the first school for blacks in Williamsburg County. They are working with the Historical Society of Kingstree, the county council, and many citizens of the community. They are conducting research on the site and will help these community citizens apply for grants to restore the site and original structure which is now very dilapidate. Attached is some information on the academy.

Wednesday afternoon I meet with the USFS AmeriCorps Cluster and Project Coordinator. I was informed by Willie Humphrey the project coordinator that Deborah Fulton an AmeriCorps member had filed an Informal EEO Complaint against him. The EEO Counselor has not yet arrived. Deborah left the office at noon and did not return that afternoon. All of the cluster members present had a good attitude and were excited about their work. Each of the members briefed me on their project which are as follows:

Reestablished a Nature Trail at Greelyville. James Mack the AmeriCorps member used a local Boy Scout Troop to provide the labor to clear underbrush and redefine the actual trail. Many plants were pruned and additional new trees were planted at this project site. Trees were identified along the trail, a small pond was cleaned and restored along with a rock fountain was restored. A brochure and map are being developed as a teaching aid when used by local schools for educational purposes.

Establishing a Nature Trail for D.P. Cooper Elementary School. James Mack will use masons from a local lodge for the labor in this project. Science students and some teachers have volunteered to help. Grant money will be used to fund the project. Kingstree High School Industrial Arts Class will produce the cement benches and tables and help construct the pond. James has drawn a map of the area with the proposed trail plotted. He has flagged with ribbon the actual trail on the ground. Wooden bridges will need to be built over the open drainage ditches along the trail, bird baths and feeder will be erected, trees will be identified with signs, outdoor picnic shelters will be constructed.

The County Wide Dry Hydrant Project. Kendra Williams and James Mack are working together on this project. This project is sponsored by the Santee Wateree RC&D. A feasibility study has been done. A draft for a \$35,000 grant has been written. One hundred possible sights have been defined across the county. The AmeriCorps members have plotted all sights on a county map. CFSA records were used to identify each owner. Sixty of the One hundred sites have been field



surveyed by the AmeriCorps members. This project is moving along very well.

**Williamsburg Academy Grounds Beautification Project.** AmeriCorps member Michael Busby is the project leader. Some \$300 in funds were donated by the First National Bank of Kingstree, S. C. to carry out the project. The project evolves landscaping an exit and entrance area to the academy parking area. A set of landscape plans which include a sketch of the area with the location of each plant and the names of all plants. Some 60 dwarf Youpon Holly and 2 Palm trees will be planted in this project. The labor for the project will be provided by the students and their parents with the support of Mrs. Berry the school administrator. This project is completed in the planning stage and ready for the hands on ground work.

**Kingstree Elementary School Beautification Project.** AmeriCorps member Tynia Thomas is the project chairman. This project includes work on the school grounds, erection of a green house, and work on a small city park adjacent to the school. Tynia consulted with Dr. Bradshaw from the Extension Service for assistance in developing a plan and selecting suitable plants. The landscape plan has been developed and a drawing of the area prepared. Low maintenance plants have been selected, such as Yellow Jasmine, Sable Palmetto, and many natural shrubs from the area, and some ornamental plants will be incorporated. Bird feeders will be installed. Tynia is working closely with Mrs. McGill from the Kingstree Elementary School.

**Hemingway High School Grounds Beautification Project.** AmeriCorps member Kendra Williams is the project chairman. The project evolves landscaping the walkway entrance in front of the school. The landscape plan and sketch have been prepared. The Anderson State Bank has donated \$300 and the school is matching the same amount for a total of \$600 to purchase the shrubs. Mrs. Hudson the assistant principal will select the students who will help plant the shrubs. Kendra will coordinate with Mrs. Hudson this week as to when the hands on work will begin.

**Student Finger Printing** This is a county wide public safety project. It will involve finger printing approximately 3,000 children from ages 5 to 8 years in kindergarten through grade 3. The Williamsburg County School District supports this project. All 5 AmeriCorps members will be involved in this project. All members have received finger print training from the sheriff's department. AmeriCorps members shall train community volunteers to perform this project. I. D. cards were provided by the FBI/Department of Justice. USFS has provided the ink and ink pads. The



following have volunteered to assist the AmeriCorps team with the finger printing.

Local County Law Enforcement Offices

School Board Members

Ministers

One member of the County Council

One member of the Department of Social Services

May 1, 1995 is the proposed date to start the finger printing. Scheduling will be done by the School Boards and School Principals. A letter for parental consent for each student will be mailed the first week of April. Teachers will prepare the header information on each I.D. Card before finger printing begins. Much research has been done by the AmeriCorps team through the "Missing children Program and the Adam Walsh Foundation".

March 30 (Thursday) (9 hours)

I traveled to Greenwood and met with all 4 NRCS AmeriCorps clusters. Members from the clusters presented progress reports on their projects. Some AmeriCorps members have received a letter from President Bill Clinton others have not yet received theirs. NRCS Program Director gave each AmeriCorps member 15 AmeriCorps stickers he had made and advised the clusters that a large AmeriCorps emblem was available for presentations.

The project reports were as follows:

Emergency 911 Project for McCormick County. The Greenwood II AmeriCorps team conducted this project with some early help from Greenwood team I. The County was divided on a county road map in two parts. Three members worked one side and the other members worked the other side. The team surveyed and remapped McCormick County by mapping and recording data on all state, county, and forest service roads in the county limits. This is the first phase of a program to initiate an emergency response system that does not exist at the present time. The Greenwood II team, with project leader David Holcombe, has been able to help get this program off the ground by providing assistance to the Council of Governments, Upper Savannah Division, as well as Mr. Paul Bjorkman. The team members took accurate mileage measurements, as well as recording the number of residences and commercial properties, and grading of the roads. This data is put in a computer for future use in the county. By March 16, 1995 they finished the road work. Two members compiled the data base collected in the county office. There were 750 entries on the spread sheet. The McCormick County Council of Government said,



"had not the AmeriCorps team done the work, it would have taken McCormick County two years to have done it with their personnel". A very positive attitude was provided the team by the project leader. McCormick County is very rural, has a high rate of unemployment, many roads are not paved and often muddy and hard to travel by regular cars. Mr. Paul Bjorkman was so pleased with the project that he said he will tell Congressman Lindsay Graham about it and request that he support funding the AmeriCorps Program.

Emergency 911 Abbeville County. Greenwood I team spent the last three weeks in Abbeville county completing the roadwork phase of Abbeville implementation. Their objectives were to inventory every road in the county, compile a spreadsheet of their gathered data, and update a digitized road map of the county. Their road data included road type, signage, number of residents, zip codes, fire districts, political boundaries, and landmarks. They included anything that might help a rescue squad get to their destination faster. There were some 832 roads in the county, of which 235 were unnamed, and 41 new roads had to be drawn in on the county map. Approximately 3,300 miles were covered during this project. Greenville TV Channel 4 did a new coverage on this project. Joel, I am trying to get you a copy. Abbeville County will now begin their addressing phase.

Dam Inspections. Newberry Team II was assigned to work with DHEC under the direction of George Ballentine to survey low hazard dams. The survey was done in Aiken County and the team surveyed the county in search of 100 low hazard dams. After locating the dam, the team looked for new development and used the GPS (Global Positioning System) to measure latitude and longitude. In addition, ownership was verified to update DHEC's records. Each Friday all data had to be loaded down to a computer in Columbia, S. C. The information will be useful to Aiken residents as well because if new development is present, the classification of the dam is upgraded to high hazard, thus alerting residents to the danger of a broken dam. Some 600 hours were spent on this project. These earthen dams range from 100 feet to 300 feet and pond water from 20.0 to 40.0 acres in area.

Emergency 911 Saluda County, Phase Two. Newberry Team I returned to Saluda County to continue work on the Emergency 911 project where phase one ended, by undertaking Phase two during the month of March. AmeriCorps primary objective involves modifying every county tax map, over 200, in an effort to create a comprehensive numbering system which will eventually include every household in Saluda County. The Newberry Team I members are dedicated to improving the quality of life for South Carolina and are proud to do their part in upholding the

AmeriCorps' pledge of "Getting Things Done".

After the project chairman of all teams finished their presentations they were each given a desk plaque of the State of S.C. with an AmeriCorps emblem and agency decal.

Next community service projects were reviewed which included work with public schools to establish nature trails, an Earth Day project in which a picnic table would be built in Laurens, S.C. Building a green house for an Aiken High School, etc. Mentor program in high school where team members meet with students every Friday and help them with their studies, etc. Other outreach projects included attending and participating in the Timber Feast in Saluda, set up a display for AmeriCorps and enter it in the local parade. Many other possible projects were discussed and prioritized.

March 31 (Friday) (6 hours)

Worked in the State CFSA Office. Tried to get in touch with Jean Moore, Executive Director of the S. C. Commission and National Community Service but she was out all day. Talked with USFS Program Director about April 25 and 26 meeting and my trip to Williamsburg AmeriCorps Office. Spent remainder of day writing this report.



## COOPER'S ACADEMY

A meeting was called in December 1905 at Bethesda M. E. Church situated within reach of Cades S.C. and Kingstree, S.C., by Moses C. Cooper, H. J. Cooper and Miss Ada Martin for the purpose of establishing a better school, and improving the educational conditions among the Blacks of Williamsburg and adjoining counties. This school would be the only school in the community for black children.

The founders of the school wanted the school to accommodate students from areas such as St. Mark, the Nesmith communities, and those from other side of Cedar Swamp. Those who attended the meeting, quickly grasped the new feature and work for the future institution begun.

The first building erected a short distance from Bethesda Church, which is one of the most beautiful spot in Williamsburg county.

The school in its early years went up to the eighth grade, and in 1927 the county took over and it became a public school, and additional grades up to the tenth grade were added, but while a private school, students paid tuition and supporters held a community fair each October.

When it became a public school, the old dormitory was converted to classrooms and serves as a high school wing of the school. Prior to this, students who lived too far from the academy to commute lived on campus. Room rent and tuition fee must be paid in advance at the beginning on the month. A fee of \$ 1.25 must be paid to the matron of the building department and a fee of \$ 2.50 must be paid to the secretary of the institution.

Some students had to walk over logs through the swamp to school. A wood stove in each classroom provided warmth in the winter. Parents would bring loads of firewood to school to keep up a sufficient supply. Before rural electrification, generators provided electric light, but in the early days, natural light had to suffice.

It has been the aim of those connected with the institution to maintain the highest religious and educational standards. Religious instruction was held in the chapel of the Bethesda Methodist Church on the site and the students took part in the morning services each day of the school year.

Communication with the opposite sex was strictly forbidden. Students violating this rule or any other rule would be dealt with accordingly to the law of the institution.

Closed in 1958. the students then went to Cades Elementary, and high school after consolidation. Some county transportation to the school was available by the 1950's, but private means of transport

was the rule and even through the last decade the school's existence, many students were walking miles to school.



Thursday, January 24, 1991 The Lake City News &amp; Post-11

# Old school stirs memories, affection of former students

## Monument planned to honor founders

In a quiet country setting in the Bethesda community near Cades stands an old two-story wood frame school building that holds a special place in the memories and affections of former students and those interested in the history of the area.

Recently, some of these former students gathered at Bethesda United Methodist Church, adjacent to the school and the old dormitory building, to share memories and recollections of Cooper Academy, organized in 1905 as the only school in the community for black children.

The United Methodist Men of Bethesda Church have organized to erect a monument in memory of the organizers of the Academy—Moses C. Cooper, H.J. Cooper, and Ada E. Martin. It is expected to be unveiled later this spring, and a fundraising effort is underway.

The project was initiated by T.R. Cooper, Florence District 3 school board member, who serves as chairman of the monument committee, and supported by the Methodist Men, whose president is Joseph Brown, Jr. "The community feels that this legacy should and must be preserved," Cooper said. "The planned memorial is a fitting tribute to the memory of the organizers. It is a proper remembrance of those who embodied so much of what we should admire in individuals."

Cooper continued, "The memorial will serve both to honor the organizers and remind some of us that if it were not for those persons who had vision and insight to organize the school, black children during that time would not have received an education. Also, we hope that this will inspire the younger generation to make the most of their talents and abilities."

The founders of the school wanted to accommodate students from surrounding areas such as the St. Mark and Westside communities and those from the other side of Cedar Swamp. Before the school was built, the only other schools for rural students were located in Kingstree and Lake City, 15 or more miles distant, out of reach of many rural schoolchildren.

The school in the early years went up to eighth grade and, in 1927 the county took over and it became a public school, additional grades up to tenth grade were added. While a private school, students paid tuition and supporters held a community fair each October. When it became a public school, the old dormitory was converted to classrooms and served as the high school wing of the school. Prior to that, students who lived too far from the academy to commute, lived on campus.

Some of the former students, when asked about school life at Cooper Academy, and how it differed from today, smiled knowingly as they remembered a very different era when discipline and standards were stricter.

According to the catalog for 1926-27: "A student's presence is not desired if there is any unwillingness to enter into the spirit of the school, and a student may be asked to leave the school at any time even without flagrant offense."

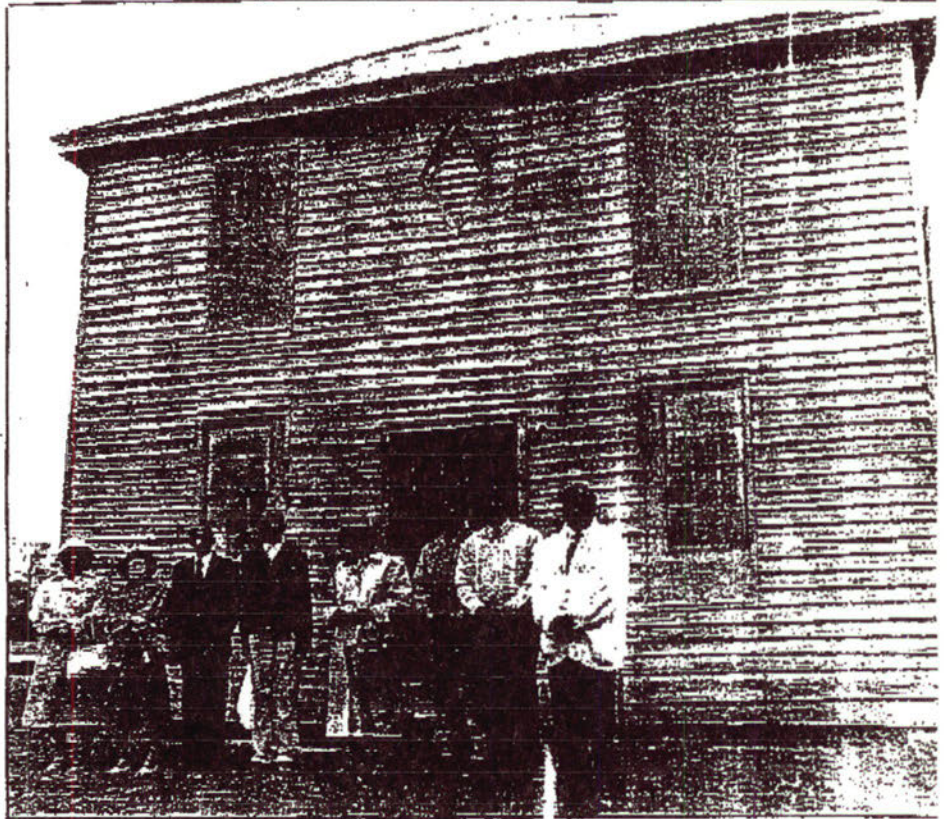
Some students had to walk over logs through the swamp to get to school. A woodstove in each classroom provided warmth in winter. Parents would bring loads of wood to school to keep up a sufficient supply. Before rural electrification, generators provided electric light, but in the earliest days, natural light had to suffice. A social was held every month in the chapel.

Some of the former students also recalled how much shorter the school year was in former days because many of the students had to work on farms getting in crops. But some parents were determined to see that their children got an education, and made the necessary sacrifices. There were no mandatory attendance laws.

Religious instruction was held in the chapel of the Bethesda Methodist Church on the site and the students took part in morning services each day of the school year. They were "part of a congregation of Christian people," the catalog states.

Closed in 1958, the students then went to Cades elementary and high schools after consolidation. Some county transportation to the school was available by the 1950s but private means of transport was the rule, and even up through that last decade of the school's existence, many students were walking miles to school.

"This school has planted the seeds of education for many of the young people in this community over the years," said John C. Barr. As the former students, and members of the History of Cooper Academy Committee, walked over to the front of the old school for a picture last week, the rains that had been falling steadily had stopped, a break in the clouds appeared, and a patch of blue sky opened up, a fitting tribute by Mother Nature to a fine old structure and the long tradition of education it represents.



GATHERING TO REMEMBER Cooper Academy, a building with a long and memorable history for people in the Bethesda Community are former students and members of the History of Cooper Academy Committee, from left: Jessie Mae Cooper, Ruth R. Gordon, H.J. Cooper, J.B. Cooper, Gladys Murray,

John C. Barr, T.R. Cooper, and James C. Barr. Not pictured are Moses C. Cooper and Samuel Brown. H.J. Cooper, J.J. Cooper, and Moses C. Cooper are sons of one of the academy founders, Moses Cooper.



Former students remember proud tradition of school

Former students of Cooper Academy with painting of the school, from left: J.B. Cooper, Ruth Gordon, Joseph Gordon, Jessie Mae Cooper, and

Gladys Murray. All went on to finish college after attending the school, which will be commemorated with a monument in honor of the founders.

Photos  
and story by...  
John Van Dale



## AMERICORP WEEKLY UPDATE

November 21 through November 25

Janice Syverson, Minnesota

Happy Thanksgiving!

This is a short week so only did conference calls.

I told members I would like to set up a better schedule for our monthly site visits. We would like to include the supervisors and possibly the state coordinator in our monthly visits when we can. The supervisors would like to set a day in the month so when they plan their calendars the date will already be scheduled. The SE cluster has settled upon the third Wednesday of the month. The NW clusters have already set dates for Dec. thru Feb. and also have April scheduled. With this area having two clusters and being so spread out amongst offices maybe how we've set it up so far will continue to work. The supervisors in these clusters have been very much involved with their members and their projects. I probably won't be able to get a handle on the NE cluster monthly projects til we get the forestry members included (working on this).

## The Rochester/Lewiston cluster:

Lewiston - Mike and Linda have been getting training on soils and nutrients as well as sending out letters to producers in the watershed.

Rochester - Tracy has been setting up and preparing for a pasture management presentation for the RC&D meeting. Shelly has been organizing for a Joint Powers Board meeting and also working on a citizens committee mailing list.

## The Thief River Falls/Twin Valley Clusters:

TRF- Joy and Grahme have been working on a nutrient management day and also the winter shows.

Dean has been doing a survey for a need and interest in and any helpers or volunteers for these trails.

Brian and David were working on the crop residue alliance and found when they went to talk with the business people to support this there was no interest as felt there was no benefit for them. The members feel they need the supervisors to explain this residue alliance with them better so they can explain it to the communities better. This was true of the Outreach members in Twin Valley as well.

TV - Kathy and Kelly have been sending out letters to businesses for the Envirothon and trying to get somewhere on the crop residue alliance.

Jeff, Aaron and Holly did a mailing to solicit private funding for the trail for Minnesota. They were back in Ada to meet with the community about the walking trail to be done there in the



Mr. Charles M. Ingram  
Lee County CFSA Office  
P. O. Box 130  
Jonesville, VA 24263

7/3/95

To Mr. Ingram:

Summary of activities for the week of 6/25/95:

Landscape architecture:

(Continued from last week)

- Report & Illustrative Map of aesthetic evaluation for the Virginia Retreat (Lee's Retreat) Civil War Parkway
- Additional upgrade to CAD system

If you need further details, please let me know.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Doug F. Spencer  
Americorps.  
Old Dominion RC&D

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

Report for the Week of June 20 through 23

Mindy Clark

I arranged for public riverwalks to be announced on radio and in the paper, as well as on posters. I maintained the info on the kiosk and saw to servicing equipment.

A five page report on my Minneapolis trip was submitted to Gary Boring.

June 12-16, 1995

Restressed portable timber bridge. Extensive work on USDA Forest Service-AmeriCorps presentation and continued work on the Tazewell-Lincolnshire Park nail-laminated timber bridge.

Delton Alderman



Adrienne D. Perkins

Report for the week of June 19-23, 1995

I video taped and photographed the finished timber bridge in Tazewell both for the timber bridge grant and display. I finished the displays for the Appalachian Hardwood Expo, put up signs for the Expo and set up and attended the show.

James Pratt

Forest Products Marketing Specialist

6/26/95-6/30/95

I spent one day in Tazewell helping a co-worker with his timer-bridge project. While there, I went to the Historic Crab Orchard Museum Gift Shop to see if any local wood-crafters were displaying their products. I went to Lynchburg to pick up a Dry-Hydrant display to be included in the New River-Highlands RC&D display at the Appalachian Hardwood Expo. I also spent three days in West Virginia, one hanging up directional signs for the Expo, one setting up the New River-Highlands RC&D display, and one monitoring the display and dismantling it. I also spent much of my time

JUN-21-95 WED 7:00

USDA-FOREST

FAX NO. 5036952296

P.03

Northwest Service Academy  
Metro Center  
Week of June 12-16

**Team 1**

\*Members packed two dozen cedar logs 16-24" in diameter and 8 to 16 feet long over 200 yards down a steep canyon wall into Blue Heron Creek, a tributary to the Willamette River. In addition Members packed in 5 cubic yards of stone for rip rap on the banks and dug 19 keyholes to anchor the logs in the banks. The result was 300 feet of a year around salmon spawning stream restored in the heart of Lake Oswego, Oregon and a short article in the Oregonian.

**Team 3**

The team evaluated, measured and increment bored over 250 trees at the historic Eagle Creek Overlook in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Gorge. These trees are part of new insect and disease prevention test project. All trees are mapped, identified and monitored as potential public hazards at key high use recreation sites.

**Team 4**

The team worked at the Willard Creek Reserve in Eugene, Oregon that is managed under a partnership between the Nature Conservancy and the City of Eugene. Members monitored for two endangered plants by laying out 100 10X10 meter plots and removed invasives such as blackberry and scotch broom on three acres of the reserve. They documented the first sighting of Erigeron or the Willamette Daisy, a rare and endangered species, at the reserve.

**Team 5**

AmeriCorps Members worked with the Sabin Community Conservation Corps for three days. Teams painted the inside and outside of two houses in North Portland, performed yardwork for low-income housing residents, worked with Team 1 on their stream restoration project for one day and joined Shunway Middle School in Vancouver to help celebrate their successful recycling initiatives on the last day of school.

**Team 6**

Members constructed and planted twenty terraces on a steep, eroding slope in the Mt. Hood National Forest (four log terraces, eight brush terraces and eight boulder terraces). Members also completed fifteen acres of timber stand exams on national forest land and removed and recycled nine tires from cut banks along Highway 26.

**Individual Projects**

The Community Cycling Center team based in NE Portland tested the NIKE Club Ride program with six youth age 8-12 this weekend on their first ride. This is the first step in a project targeting over 40 at risk youth this summer and hundreds next fall and winter.

The Sandy River Watershed Analysis team continued producing computer generated vegetation overlays using the Global Information System mapping program for scientist to use in their final report due next month.

JUN 21 '95 8:00

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PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



## AmeriCorps Activity Report

June 26, 1995

Audrey L. A. Biggs  
Outreach Coordinator  
Progress Report—June Wk 18-24

## Accomplishments:

I met with the chairperson of the MFHW Committee to evaluate activity and prepare correspondence. I sent thank you letters to 31 participants and speakers at the Middle Fork Holston River Canoe trip. I also began the set up for the MFHWQ Newsletter, and the final edit of the RC&D Letter.

I met with and trained the outreach sub-committee chairperson of the Little Reed Island Watershed about basic press releases. I worked with her to develop a promotion schedule for the Little Reed Island Watershed Field day. In addition to this, I wrote 1 press release, designed 2 possible schedules for the Field day, a letter of invitation to elected officials, landowners and interested agencies. I met with agency personnel to arrange for speakers, meals, and meeting facilities. I also participated in a time tour of the demonstration sites and began work on the preliminary materials that will be needed for the brochures, flyers.

Pg. 04

BELL CO CFSA

13/07 '95 14:40

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**USDA/AmeriCorps**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
760 South Broadway  
Salina, KS 67401-4642  
(913) 823-4500  
FAX (913) 823-4540

*Becky  
Washington, DC.*

Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program - Trip Report  
Week of June 19-23, 1995

Date: July 7, 1995

To: Larry D. Miles, AmeriCorps Project Director,  
NRCS, Salina, Kansas

File Code: 360-5

Eleven volunteer AmeriCorps members and one middle aged Regional USDA/AmeriCorps Facilitator reaffirmed their beliefs that community service can be both very satisfying and extremely hard work. The eleven members and I spent the week of June 19, with 20 Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks employees at Meade State Park cleaning up tree damage created by the fire of March 22.

Meade State Park is located in southwest Kansas, twelve miles southwest of Meade, Kansas. It is a five hour drive from the NRCS State Office in Salina.

Due to limits created by logistics, only eleven volunteers could be accepted for the clean-up effort. The members who participated in the extra community service were: Chad Volkman, Watershed Delineation Team, Salina; Neil Bass, Riparian Team, Emporia; Dean Krehbiel and Scott Allen, Riparian Team, Hutchinson; Tracy Hull and Trent Anderson, State and Federal Wildlife Area Restoration Team, Glen Elder; Cindy Ochs, State and Federal Wildlife Area Restoration Team, Webster; Scott Morris and Kurt Grimm, State and Federal Wildlife Area Restoration Team, Kanopolis; and Kyle Hedges and Mike Houck, Riparian Team, Dodge City.

Due to the distance of the site, the members arrived at the park on June 19. Upon arrival, park manager Mark Goldsberry gave us a guided tour around the park. Goldsberry explained that the park had been built by members of the civilian conservation corps (CCC) and showed us the remaining buildings of their camp. Mark also explained that Meade State Park was one of the few CCC camps for African Americans in Kansas. I believe it was very appropriate that AmeriCorps members were present to help fix what the CCC had created.

After the tour all of the members, excluding Scott Morris, pitched their tents next to the lake in preparation for a week of hard work. Scott Morris, without a tent, chose to sleep two nights at the site in a sleeping bag on a picnic table. The rest of the time he spent in the NRCS van. I chose to sleep on an army stretcher in the metal shop building along with a mother cat and her kitten named, "Scooter." Scooter more than once played with my toes at 4 a.m.

I had told the members to expect cold cereal for breakfast, cold sandwiches for lunch, and hot meals for dinner. We were totally surprised by the quality and quantity of food prepared for us. Breakfast menus, which were served at



6:30 a.m. June 20 through June 23, varied from day to day. On successive breakfasts we were given: french toast; juice; fruit; milk; coffee; scrambled eggs; home made biscuits, rolls and donuts; cereal; and cookies.

The cuisine for lunch also varied from day to day with: roast beef and chicken salad sandwiches; potato chips; pizza; chicken and noddles; cakes; cookies; and brownies. Dinner menus were also as varied as the other two meals including; grilled hot dogs and hamburgers; baked beans; potato salad; plus all of the trimmings. At each meal and throughout the day we were given plenty of liquids. No one went away hungry. Sodas and snacks, though seldom taken, were available after dinner. Each member, plus myself, did kitchen duty at least once.

Scott Morris was given the opportunity to join the group provided: he did not talk all of the time; bathed; wore clean clothes; and concentrated on the work. It was also agreed that his fellow team member at Kanopolis State Park, Kurt Grimm would not have to baby-sit him at Meade. I kept a constant watch on Scott.

Periodically, I told him by gestures or verbally to quit talking so much and he obliged. Within the first few hours in the field on June 20 his shirt was black, as if he had purposely hugged a fire damaged tree in order to look like he had worked. He was then given the name, "Hug A Tree Morris." One afternoon, he disappeared from the team. I asked four members of the team without avail, "have you seen him?" Finally, Neil Bass said that Goldsberry had stopped and asked him to go somewhere. I found Scott along with one of Goldsberry's employees at the shop peeling potatoes for the potato salad to be served later. One day Scott was late for dinner and he said that he had gotten lost going from the camp site to the office.

After the second night of sleeping on a picnic table, Scott decided to sleep in the NRCS van. Scott was tired of the mosquitos and the raccoons who attempted to invade the tents and the park shop almost every night. Except for spells of constant talking, Scott did very well. He was not allowed to use a chain saw or drive a tractor. The park employees and helpers quickly became aware of Scott's special qualities.

Mark Goldsberry and his employees stressed safety and gave our members a safety class the first morning before the other twenty Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks employees from western Kansas arrived. We were admonished to wear the hard hats that I brought from NRCS, plus the ear plugs given to us by the Kanopolis people. Whenever available, chaps were worn by people using the chain saws.

The safety training paid off for both the members and parks people. During the three days of intense labor, only three minor accidents happened. A parks person got a wood chip in their eye, a park supervisor had a branch glance off his hard hat and bloody his nose, and one park employee suffered a bruised leg after a log bounced up and struck him. Everyone had minor scratches, and a few of us had blisters on our feet. It was surprising there was not more poison ivy infection, because many of us were constantly in it.

Considering that we are not forestry workers used to cutting down, cutting up, moving, and stacking trees, things went very well. The safety record



for this group of 32 people, unfamiliar with each other, working 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in 90 degree temperatures with at least five tractors, eight chain saws, five log chains, and one front end loader, was good.

All of the members and myself with the exception of Scott Morris used the chain saws. We all took turns with the different jobs. AmeriCorps members began and ended the park job. During the morning of June 20, before the heavy equipment and regular park employees arrived, our members with guidance from Meade State Park personnel began clearing damaged trees. On June 22, three months to the day of the fire, our members wrapped up the project in the afternoon as the parks people took their heavy equipment and departed after lunch. A total of about 1,000 damaged trees on about 15 acres were taken down and moved. The size of the trees ranged from 4 feet in diameter with a height of 100 feet, to 3 inches in diameter with a height of 10 feet.

A reporter and photographer from the Hutchinson News came to do a story on the event on June 20. After visiting with me about AmeriCorps, he asked to speak to a member. Kyle Hedges was chosen. While the interview was taking place, I resumed my work. When I later stopped to listen to what was being said, I overheard Kyle say that he had been working on the wetland inventory which had now stopped. The reporter asked why the wetlands research had been taking place and why it has been curtailed. Kyle kept explaining that they were not really doing wetland inventory and not to misinterpret what he was saying. Finally, I overheard the reporter say that, "farmers will find out sooner or later." I left the interview to call you. I wanted someone to know that if the reporter said our riparian members were still doing wetland identifications, there could be a backlash.

As it turned out, the article stated Kyle was only doing, "wetland research." The three column article about the Meade Park project was fairly accurate. However, the photo mis-identified one of the park employees as one of our members.

The following are my personal observations and actual comments from the reflection session I held after dinner on June 21:

- \* Cindy, Tracy and Trent, (one plus two) always seemed to be late to a meal. Trent never ate breakfast and seemed aloof.
- \* Neil, from Florida, had never seen a wheat combine run, nor had he been on one during harvest. On June 22, Mark Goldsberry flagged down a combine operator cutting wheat in a nearby field and asked him to give Neil a ride. We have both video and print photos of the event. Neil was also taken on a brief tour of an ostrich farm the next day.
- \* The members were amazed that the park employees working with them also pitched tents and slept on the ground.
- \* Scott Allen mentioned he was pleased to see that no one was acting like a boss, and everyone was carrying their full load.



- \* It was not until the last day that we fully understood who Dave White was. Dave acted like one of the regular park employees sleeping outdoors, sweating and working as hard, if not harder, as the others. He is Mark Goldsberry's Regional Supervisor for the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks.
- \* The members expressed satisfaction that park employees were very helpful and patient with them in the cutting down of the trees. This was important to the members, because they do not do this kind of work on a daily basis.
- \* Cindy and Tracy complained that they heard comments from some park employees that women could not handle chain saws, drive tractors, etc. I told them to remember that in our training session about sexual harassment, I talked about the problems women have experienced when they enter nontraditional jobs.
- \* Several of the members, especially Cindy, complained about the, "Tractor Driver From Hell." The driver of the front-end loader from Reading, Kansas, upset several, including park employees. The "Driver From Hell" sped through the area with no regard to others around him. He dangerously dumped logs close to members and park employees. Cindy was still debating whether to file a complaint about the driver with the parks people before leaving the park.
- \* The open air showers that we all used did not work as well as some wanted.
- \* There was a sense of excitement when the large trees fell. They shook the ground upon impact.
- \* The park raccoons were often a topic of conversation. At night when people were fishing, were gone, or attempting to sleep, the raccoons were stealing or looking for food. One night people in the park employee camp could not sleep, because a fellow employee was snoring too loud, and another kept yelling at the raccoons in an attempt to scare them off.
- \* Several members saw a raccoon come out of its hole in a tree and run to higher branches, while the tree was being cut down. The animal, while shaken, did survive the fall.
- \* All of the members thought the experience in the park was very worthwhile. It allowed members from the various teams to get to know each other and to bond. Cindy wants an application for another term.
- \* Tracy has lost her green sheets about the educational award and wants another copy. She also informed me that she had made an oral agreement with Cloud County Community College to delay the payment of her tuition fees for 1994/1995 school year until she had completed her tour with AmeriCorps. She wants to use the award money to pay off those fees. I hope that the Corporation will honor that agreement. Otherwise, we will have one very angry member.



Thank you notes will be sent to several employees at Meade State Park, especially: Mark Goldsberry; "Willie" Helms the chief cook; and Jim and Myrna Perona. Jim and Myrna are a retired couple who spend a lot of their summers at the park. They took us under their wings and were the first to arrive in the morning and the last to leave in the evening. They helped watch after Scott Morris, they cooked, and made sure that we had enough to eat and drink. Before we left, Jim and Myrna told me how much they liked our members and AmeriCorps. I told them that letters from them to their congressional representatives could not hurt the AmeriCorps program. Tom Flowers, Meade County District Conservationist also should be thanked, as he brought the members and myself sodas one afternoon and took video and photographs of the members.

The video that Tom made of the park member getting hurt can be used as a training film. The video and its audio shows Dave White asking the victim if he knows which way the tree being cut will fall. A few seconds later the video shows the entire accident, how it happened and the reaction to it. Several of our members witnessed the entire incident.

While we travelled home, AmeriCorps member Chad Volkman said, "A lot of people really respect us when they learn that we are either college graduates or young people seeking college degrees."

The experience at Meade State Park was very satisfying. We all worked very hard. By noon of each day we were extremely dirty, and by 5 p.m. we were all very tired, hot and thirsty. Yet, I did not hear one complaint about what we were doing or about the conditions we were working in. I am very proud of this group of volunteers. I only wish that Joel Berg could have joined us for at least a day. I also wish that some of the AmeriCorps detractors could have joined the members in that endeavor. I will long remember Tracy's whisper to me as she was departing and after dumping a cup of ice water down my back, "Thanks for inviting us to do this." I too want to echo that sentiment.

On behalf of the members and myself, I want to thank Mr. Habiger and you, Larry, for giving us the opportunity to demonstrate that AmeriCorps can, "get things done."

Schedule for the week of June 26-30, 1995:

- \* June 26, NRCS, Manhattan
- \* June 27, Meet with Hays Team in Smith Center
- \* June 28, NRCS, Salina
- \* June 29, Meet with Manhattan Team
- \* June 30, NRCS, Salina, Satellite Conference

  
Jim Meisenheimer

Kansas USDA/AmeriCorps Regional Facilitator

cc:

Roger Lemmons, CFSA, Manhattan, KS

Paula Cole Jones, Program Manager, AmeriCorps, PRG-CAR, NRCS,  
Washington, D.C.

Joel Berg, Office of Public Affairs (Communications), Washington, D.C.





**USDA/AmeriCorps**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
760 South Broadway  
Salina, KS 67401-4642  
(913) 823-4500  
FAX (913) 823-4540

*Becky*

Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program - Trip Report  
Week of June 12-16, 1995

Date: June 26, 1995

To: Larry D. Miles, AmeriCorps Project Director,  
NRCS, Salina, Kansas

File Code: 360-5

The first three days of the week were spent: putting together the details of the Meade State Park trip; finalizing and sending out the newsletter; and finalizing and getting the article on Cindy Ochs approved.

The article on Cindy Ochs appeared in the Salina Journal on June 16. I am disappointed that they did not include my statement that, "Ochs serves with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS), Salina." I guess I should be pleased with what they did print after giving them three drafts. They were patient while we waited on approval from Washington to print the article.

I am somewhat disappointed in the response that we received from our members when we asked for volunteers to go to Meade State Park to help clean up the fire damage. We were limited to 11 members and myself. Ten members (and possibly Trent Anderson) have volunteered to go. Several of the riparian team members chose not to go because they wanted to stay on their work schedule. Perhaps the park members declined because it was too much like what they were doing, and there is a push to get the parks ready for the 4th of July weekend? Scott Morris is going along with team member Kurt Grimm. Kurt has asked that he not be required to baby-sit Scott. I have assured the Kanopolis people that I will take responsibility for Scott. The Kanopolis people have also asked about hiring members for next year.

The Kanopolis question? Assuming there is another AmeriCorps tour, will you automatically rehire the current members who reapply? My qualified answer was, "I assumed you would look at the evaluations and recommendations of the members applying." The question was in reference to Scott Morris.

I did travel to Melvern Reservoir, Reading, Kansas, to meet with AmeriCorps member Nathan Sexton. I have never been to Reading or the reservoir and getting there was another new experience. A brief review of Nathan's service is:



- \* A member of the Perry team with a stipend of \$7,660
- \* A biologist who was eligible for a position on the \$12,000 wetlands team that became open in Topeka.
- \* Lived in Emporia and car pooled daily to Topeka with a member who has now resigned.
- \* Was accidentally overpaid one pay period and we asked for the return of the overpayment. The overpayment visibly upset him.

Nathan could not afford the daily commute to and from Perry State Park after the Topeka member resigned. Therefore, his team leader at Perry after consulting with you, allowed Nathan to work at the Melvern Wildlife Area which is only a few miles from Emporia. The accommodations were made with Nathan in order to keep him. Nathan does travel to Perry State Park once during each pay period to complete his paperwork and check with his team.

Nathan seemed very pleased to see me Thursday. He wanted to see the photo album and the most recent pictures. He wanted to know what the other members across the state in both corps were doing. Depending on where his significant other will find a job, he wants to sign up for another AmeriCorps tour.

I gave him a copy of the latest newsletter which discusses the procedure for getting the educational award. Nathan's award will pay off his current student loans. Another educational award would allow him to start graduate school.

Soon after I arrived, we went to check the barriers he had placed at flood closed roads around the reservoir and to clean a shelter house. During the trip we brainstormed about plans for an AmeriCorps graduation. He liked the idea of meeting at a central location, doing a few hours of community service and then having an awards ceremony, similar to what we did at the Kansas Commission on National and Community Service's Day of Celebration on April 19.

We would like to get the members together more often so they can interrelate. Nathan and others always ask about the other members during my visits. They all seem to be cognizant of Scott Morris's situation and want to know how he is doing. The riparian teams seem to have a grapevine that produces some news or gossip. We did a good job networking during our training. However, due to budget constraints and geographical distances, it is impractical to bring them in just to talk and to have a pep rally, even though I would like to. Hopefully, my monthly visits and newsletters help fill the void. Perhaps we need to work harder at networking with teams from the Kansas Commission on National and Community Service? Even that may not be sufficient, as they want to know what their own corps are doing.



Schedule for the week of June 19-23:

- \* June 19, Morning NRCS, Salina, and Afternoon Meade State Park
- \* June 20, Meade State Park
- \* June 21, Meade State Park
- \* June 22, Meade State Park
- \* June 23, Meade State Park



Jim Meisenheimer  
Kansas USDA/AmeriCorps Regional Facilitator

cc:

Roger Lemmons, CFSA, Manhattan, KS

Paula Cole Jones, Program Manager, AmeriCorps, PRG-CAR, NRCS,  
Washington, D.C.

Joel Berg, Office of Public Affairs (Communications), Washington, D.C.

J.Seymour:WO

Thoughts on AmeriCorps:  
from Athalie "Mac" Neely,  
4 Corners AmeriCorps member  
Mancos Ranger District  
PO Box 330  
Mancos, CO 81328  
303-533-7716

From Mancos Valley Resources President: A partner in 4 projects I have done.

"AmeriCorps members working in the 4 Corners area, specifically Mancos, Colorado have had a significant positive impact. Mac Neely, through the San Juan National Forest has been instrumental in coordinating a section of the Mancos Riverwalk for Outdoor Environmental Education. She was able to bring funds together with a strong volunteer effort to complete this project. Currently she is implementing a field demonstration for a Dairy Heifer Replacement Project linking farmers and ranchers in the Mancos Valley with dairymen in New Mexico.

National service provides a leadership component in small rural communities where leadership is minimal or over-taxed. I am a graduate of the University Year for ACTION, a national service program of the 70's. This community has reaped the benefits of that training as we sought and received \$150,000 over the past 3 years to fund "Action Plan" projects.

Small communities in rural America need AmeriCorps.

signed, Dee Booton, MVR President.

For myself I can say that this program has benefited me a great deal. As a 74 year old member, who has worked all her life, and volunteered for the Forest Service for 8 years, you might think there was not much left to experience, but every day I learn something new. I have become a strong member in a community new to me, have been accepted and made friends which I would not have without this program, and feel that I have made a worthwhile contribution to Mancos. This is not always possible to do in a town where one lives, and makes me proud. I have met many AmeriCorps members who have made an impact on me - One even taught me how to do composting.

In doing the quarterly reports I have learned much about what others are doing, and am amazed at the scope of activities going on. Who would have ever thought about a Bed and Breakfast in a Hogan? What a great idea! I enjoy the sharing of ideas and the comradeship. But most importantly, I am the type of person who must "get things done" - AmeriCorps allows me to do this. I am proud and happy that I can put my expertise and knowledge to work to benefit rural America, and AmeriCorps.



MESSAGE DISPLAY FOR JOHN SEYMOUR

To JOHN SEYMOUR:WO  
CC LC .

From: Garth Heaton:R04F01A  
Postmark: Jul 03,95 9:45 AM Delivered: Jul 03,95 11:43 AM  
Status: Previously read  
Subject: Reply to: Input Opportunity

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Reply text:

From: Garth Heaton:R04F01A  
Date: Jul 03,95 9:45 AM

John, I am responding to your request to tell you about our commitment to AmeriCorps. Hope my response is not too late to add to the Agency response. The AmeriCorps program on the Ashley NF will achieve many objectives for the Forest and the communities we serve. The prospects of having this program has already achieved some of those objectives, i.e., demonstrating our commitment to care for the land and serve people. Realization of the program will have far reaching consequences for northeastern Utah. Those wanting to continue their advanced education will get the chance, community ties will be strengthened, community and federal relationships and partnerships will continue to improve and develop, natural resource management will be highlighted, and beneficial products will be realized.....the most important of these products will be those associated with self-improvement of AmeriCorps members.....These members will have the opportunity to carry on with their education and give back, a hundred fold, to society their skills and knowledge over and over again. As you know, we have the opportunity in NE Utah to work with the Uinta Indian Tribe. This program will provide the opportunity for several tribal members to start and/or continue their education and use their knowledge and skills for the reservation.

Preceding message:

From: JOHN SEYMOUR:WO  
Date: Jun 28,95 1:24 PM  
Create opportunity for other AmeriCorps Members.

-----X-----

June 28, 1995

Ref: What effects will proposed legislation have on our AmeriCorps programs?  
What will the effects be?

The answer to the first questions is obvious, we will cease to exist here on the San Bernardino National Forest. Our program is dependent on being funded wholly by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service. Without that support we will go out of business.

The answer to the second part is just as clear but the effects will be shared by every member. They will be denied the opportunity to perform national service and earn educational awards. They will, in a great majority of the cases not be able to either start or continue a higher education. They will not be in any position to be able to contribute to the concept of national service.

The citizens of this country will also lose. The work that our AmeriCorps members are performing is essential to the management of our national forest and surrounding forests. Without the assistance of AmeriCorps the American public will be forced to foot the bill for the work that AmeriCorps members are doing for a THIRD of the cost. The public wants and expects our forests to have clean, usable campgrounds, developed and maintained hiking trails, healthy stands of marketable timber, streams free of debris that hinder fish and wildlife habitat. Our members are developing off-highway-vehicle trails, they are working in our elementary schools to help educate our children about not only the beauty of our national forests but about the responsibility they will inherit to enhance and protect them. The members themselves will lose out on the opportunity to contribute to the concept of national service.

Our program is one of the largest in the nation. Through this and other projects throughout the United States we are able to enrich the environment and improve facilities for residents and visitors. This program inspires members to be civic minded. It gives members the opportunity to give something back and to learn respect for public lands, themselves and those that come after them.

There is no doubt in my mind that there are federal programs that are a drain on the economy and are the result of "pork barrel politics" but this is NOT one of them. I, my staff and the 72 members of the San Bernardino National Forest AmeriCorps urge you to remove the language from the bill that prohibits U.S.D.A. Forest Service funds from being used for AmeriCorps.

Sincerely;

Terence R. Murphy  
Program Director  
San Bernardino National Forest  
AmeriCorps



MESSAGE DISPLAY FOR JOHN SEYMOUR

To JOHN SEYMOUR:WO

From: Alan Pigg:R8

Host: R08A

Postmark: Jun 28,95 4:28 PM

Delivered: Jun 28,95 4:27 PM

Subject: Reply to a reply: Input Opportunity

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Reply text:

From: Alan Pigg:R8

Date: Jun 28,95 4:28 PM

THANKS.

Preceding message:

From: JOHN SEYMOUR:WO

Date: Jun 28,95 4:10 PM

Thanks, Alan. Sounds like you had a great workshop/meeting. I regret missing the opportunity. Will be looking forward to seeing the comments. The spirit comes through. Good going!

From: Alan Pigg:R8

Date: Jun 28,95 3:49 PM

We just finished a two and one half day workshop on the successes experienced in the FS RDT AmeriCorps. A sample of projects and successes were presented in panel format. It is hard to express the professional quality and dedication these members presented in relation to the work they are doing. They are definitely "Getting things done" and it is a bargain for the American tax payers. Most of them have done more in a short amount of time that many people can imagine. They are helping some really poor rural communities in ways that will last for many years. We had a facilitated session (SWOT) analysis and the results will be typed up and sent to you and to the Corporation, but the strengths brought out are very impressive. I just wish you had been here to hear first hand about the program. Many projects are paying off in community pride, leveraging funds, grants, training, education, and organizational assistance. If anyone reviews the success of the FS Americorps Rural Development, they will be proud of what these members are doing and say "great job-keep it up cause you just got started good."

From: JOHN SEYMOUR:WO

Date: Jun 28,95 1:24 PM

Create opportunity for other AmeriCorps Members.

-----X-----

MESSAGE DISPLAY FOR JOHN SEYMOUR

To JOHN SEYMOUR:WO

From: LEWIS KEARNEY:R08F04A

Postmark: Jun 28,95 1:54 PM

Delivered: Jun 28,95 1:49 PM

Subject: Reply to: Input Opportunity

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Reply text:

From: LEWIS KEARNEY:R08F04A

Date: Jun 28,95 1:54 PM

Has given local gov'ts a chance to do things they could not do before the program. Program has given many rural communities a chance to attain a "can-do" attitude by our members helping with planning, ec. development. One county has NO (zero) solid waste system. Member has assisted with grant from EPA to get ball rolling towards a system. One of our counties is 6th poorest in USA. Thru recycling training and infrastructure assistance, county is NOW selling recycling materials for county income. A program called "Garbage Busters" have gone into schools and have reached 2000 children in recycling promotions. Have assisted a county (county engineer) to buy into a timber bridge where they were going to use a culvert (Americorps member an engineer). County admitted culvert would have failed. (John, yersterday in Atlanta, in Americorps workshop, we filled flip chart pages up with bullet statements like this. You need to get that from A.Pigg).

Preceding message:

From: JOHN SEYMOUR:WO

Date: Jun 28,95 1:24 PM

Create oportunity for other AmeriCorps Members.

-----X-----





UNITED  
STATES  
DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

Consolidated  
Farm Service  
Agency

Sauk County CFSA Office  
1007 Washington Avenue  
Baraboo, WI 53913-1895  
Phone: (608) 356-5529  
FAX: (608) 356-3405

TO: Joel Berg, Director of National Service  
Charles W. Sims, CFSA Liaison to AmeriCorps

FROM: Thomas J. Brandt  
Wisconsin Regional Facilitator

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

DATE: August 14, 1995

SUBJECT: Final Progress Report

Members are completing their final hours of service, with some already finished.

Graduation activities for the members were held at the state NRCS office. In attendance were many of the NRCS personnel with whom the members worked, along with State Conservationist Patricia Leavenworth. A review was done of the project's objectives and the extent to which each was accomplished.

Wetland inventory maps were updated for four counties. The producers in one county were given the wetland determinations in person by AmeriCorps members, who explained the determinations and informed the producers of actions which could and could not be taken on these lands while participating in USDA programs. The district conservationist feels producers are definitely better informed as a result of AmeriCorps. There are far fewer appeals and more producers are contacting NRCS and checking for approval before proceeding with work on or near wetlands. He also added that most farmers now have a better attitude regarding wetland determinations and delineations than they had before their contact with AmeriCorps members.

Soil survey maps were digitized for five counties. AmeriCorps members participated in six local government meetings or public demonstrations to expose others to the GIS process and show the possibilities of the system down the road. Members felt that, along with it being an excellent learning experience for them, those exposed to GIS through the demonstrations have a better appreciation and understanding of it and in the future will show a willingness to use the information gathered.

Focus was then placed on the members and how well they worked as a team. Despite a fairly diverse cultural background, members were very cooperative, communicated freely, and worked to solve problems as a team. Any conflicts which arose between members were very minor and the members were able to resolve them quickly.

Members were presented with AmeriCorps service pins and certificates of appreciation from NRCS.

It has been a pleasure to be a part of the initial AmeriCorps/USDA team and I hope to have the opportunity to serve again in the future.





**USDA/AmeriCorps**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
760 South Broadway  
Salina, KS 67401-4642  
(913) 823-4500  
FAX (913) 823-4540

Berg

Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program - Trip Report  
Week of June 26-30, 1995

Date: July 13, 1995

To: Larry D. Miles, AmeriCorps Project Director,  
NRCS, Salina, Kansas

File Code: 360-5

We travelled to the Kansas State University and Extension Forestry, Cooperative Extension Service (CES), on June 26 to discuss the proposed Aquatic Habitat and Riparian Area Restoration Project in Shawnee and Wabaunsee Counties. Jim Rassman from CES chaired the meeting. Representatives were present from the City of Topeka, Shawnee County Conservation District, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, State Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the CES. Major items of discussion included equipment and vehicles.

The participants decided that the entities using the members in their respective areas would provide the equipment when needed at a particular site. The real concern was the means of transporting members to and from the sites.

The idea of renting vehicles was discarded due to budget constraints. None of the participating agencies have vehicles available for use. Therefore, it was decided it would be cost effective to reimburse the AmeriCorps members for driving their own vehicles. In the meantime, I was asked to contact Wally Schlueter at GSA in Overland Park, Kansas, about the possibility of getting a vehicle through GSA.

We stopped at Milford State Park to check on AmeriCorps member Doris Hankins. Doris wants help with IRS and her defaulted student loan. She also wants to pre-enroll at Barton Community College in July. The college wants payment of pre-registration fees at that time. The college will agree not to collect the fees until she has earned her AmeriCorps educational award in October. However, they need assurance that the corporation will pay the fees. This is similar to Tracy Hull's situation with Cloud County Community College from last semester. I hope the corporation will honor both requests.

On June 29, I called Mr. Schlueter about the possibility of getting a van or suburban and was informed that it would not be a problem. He will contact us as soon as he finds one. There will be no cost for the vehicle which will be in running order.



Larry D. Miles, AmeriCorps Project Director  
July 13, 1995  
Trip Report June 26-30, 1995

On my way to meet with the Hays team working at the Smith County CFSA/NRCS Office, I stopped at Glen Elder State Park and gave Tracy Hull pictures of her and Trent taken during the Meade project. Tracy and Judy wanted to see the rest of the pictures I had taken.

Upon arrival at Smith County, the first thing members wanted to see were the Meade pictures. Like other teams, they too inquired about the other team members in the corps.

The Hays team spent three nights at Colby, two nights in Sharon Springs, one night at Smith Center, and anticipated spending nights in Cheyenne, Decatur, Norton and Rawlins Counties.

Their community service activities in recent months have included: planting 8,000 trees for 12 farmers in Graham and Trego Counties; and helping Victoria High School students plant 400 trees.

Kami has worked on the recycling project in Hays preparing packets and helping with an information meeting in which 100 people attended. She will help distribute recycling packets to 100 homes in the near future.

We received a fax from the Kansas Office for Community Service on June 28. We were invited to join with corps members from Missouri and Kansas at Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, to help clean up flood debris on July 5 through July 7. Neil Bass from the Emporia team, and Kevin Feleay and Cody Lind from the Topeka team joined me in that endeavor. Ste. Genevieve is located south of St. Louis.

Schedule for the week of July 3-7, 1995:

- \* 3, NRCS, Salina SO
- \* 4, Holiday
- \* 5, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri
- \* 6, " " "
- \* 7, Return trip from Ste. Genevieve, Missouri to Salina, Kansas

  
Jim Meisenheimer  
Kansas AmeriCorps/USDA Regional Facilitator

cc:

Roger Lemmons, CFSA, Manhattan, KS  
Paula Cole Jones, Program Manager, AmeriCorps, PRG-CAR, NRCS,  
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Joel Berg, Office of Public Affairs (Communications), Washington, D.C.

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Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program - Trip Report  
Week of November 20-24, 1995

Date: December 4, 1995

To: Larry D. Miles, AmeriCorps Project Director,  
NRCS, Salina, Kansas

File Code: 360-5

The week was spent trekking across Kansas with Joel Berg to meet the available AmeriCorps members. My trek began on November 20 with the intention of spending a full day with the Topeka team. However, after receiving several telephone calls from Joel's office, I spent the morning in the Shawnee County NRCS District Office inviting press and congressional representatives to meet with Joel and the members.

Jim Byrnes, Corporation for National and Community Service, State Program Director, Region VI, took me to Senator Kassebaum's and Senator Dole's offices to meet their representatives. Scott Hesse from Senator Dole's office welcomed the invitation. Due to the presence of Senator Kassebaum in Topeka, none of her staff were able to accept our invitation. I did fax an invitation to her Wichita office asking them to meet with us at the Cheney State Park. Mr. Byrnes also put me in contact with Representative Brownback's office. A staff person from that office joined us on November 21.

Pat Kells, Executive Director, Kansas Office for Community Service, was also invited. In her normal gregarious manner, she accepted our invitation and arranged newspaper coverage on November 21.

Norman Sawyer, Project Leader, was able to contact and invite television stations to our meeting. I also sent a fax to each of the U.S. Representatives Pat Roberts and Todd Tiahart asking their staffs to join us at Hays and Cheney State Park.

Finally, by noon, and after receiving a report from Rosie Collins, Secretary, NRCS, Salina, that the south side of the office building was being repainted and that my car, parked a few feet from the building, was potentially in harms way. As I joined the team in their endeavors, I constantly wondered what new color my car would be when I returned to the office. Rosie had asked if my car could be moved, and I assured her that I had not left a separate set of keys at the office.

The members of the Topeka Aquatic team genuinely like each other. More than once I was told how well they serve together and like one another. On November 20-21 they were building a retaining wall along a path used by the citizens for walking, jogging, bicycling, and roller blading. When it rains the path is normally



covered with silt. While we labored, they told me of their other endeavors, including the debris removed from creeks in the area, and their other community service activities.

AmeriCorps member Bree Enderlee took me to the Federal Surplus Office, an office they had gone to, without avail, in search for water protection gear. The personnel at the office had told Norman Sawyer and our members that they would not transfer any items to us at no cost. Bree and I heard the same line again from the secretaries. However, after a few minutes of questioning them about their procedure and explaining who we were, they called for their office manager. After listening to us and answering questions, he agreed to let us review their merchandise. He is now very willing to work with us, especially after he learned that we know Wally Schlueter from GSA in Overland Park, Kansas. Both Bree and I were pleased with our trip to the surplus office. We will return in search of hard-toed boots, additional winter jackets, and rubber gloves.

November 21 was an eventful day as Joel Berg arrived, and I had the pleasure of introducing him to Norman Sawyer, Jim Byrnes, AmeriCorps team member Bree Enderlee, and the representatives from Senator Dole's and Representative Brownback's offices. Pat Kells was also there to renew a friendship. After introductions, Bree took Joel to the site where the rest of the members were serving, and I escorted the congressional representatives. Bree was able to have some time with Joel on a one-to-one basis, something I wish all of the members could have had.

At the site, Joel met and talked the members and as usual joined them in their service. Cameras and reporters from three television stations, and a print photographer joined us. AmeriCorps member Kimberly Rose and Joel were interviewed by different reporters. Scott Hesse, Senator Dole's representative asked the members about their community service, not understanding that everything they did was community service.

A parks supervisor for the City of Topeka, while watching the members build the retaining wall in front of cameras and congressional staff, commented to me that he was really impressed that college graduates did not believe it was beneath them to give hard labor in return for educational benefits.

Before leaving the team, Milton Nokes and I shared notes that he and AmeriCorps member Shana Martin may use in our AmeriCorps Conflict Resolution Training session in February. Hopefully, a few days before the class we can convene and develop a comprehensive presentation for the members.

The next team visit was at nearby Valley Falls with the Perry team. We arrived just in time for lunch. Since the Road Kill Cafe was closed, we all found ourselves at the ice cream parlor where Joel in a magnanimous gesture, bought lunch for all. A few, including Joel, imbibed the parlor's renowned milk shakes. Joel was heard to remark that it was one of the best shakes he had ever had. During lunch, the members listened and conversed with Joel.

Each member told Joel what they would be doing if they had not joined AmeriCorps. Like the Topeka team, they mentioned they enjoy their service and



like each other. Team leader Rick Linneman told Joel that he thinks the stipend should be at least \$12,000 for all members. Rick correctly believes that his members serve (work) just as hard as those on the rural development team who receive the higher stipend.

After our brief visit with the Perry team, we journeyed to the Kickapoo Reservation to meet AmeriCorps members Kristen, Patrick, and Chaline. As we arrived, they were about to meet with tribal representative Richard Beams. In order for the members and Joel to have a free flowing and unencumbered discussion, I took Beams aside to another room and enjoined him in conversation. I was also able to meet with Peggy Strube, Trading Post Manager, about the billing to Farm Service Agency (FSA), Manhattan, for gasoline for a tribal vehicle used by the members.

The report Joel gave me about his discussion with the Kickapoo members was not pleasant to me. I learned that the Kickapoo members, or at least some, do not like my reports concerning them, especially the style of the reports. They, or a few, of the members believe that I have impugned their reputations. They believe the problem at the reservation is due more to poverty than culture. Joel stated that he had told the members he liked my method of reporting and thought their situation was more cultural than poverty related. However, I may hereafter use more of a handbook format for my reports on the Kickapoo team. Needless to say, I was personally very upset about the members' comments about my leadership. If I didn't care about them as members and about the project, it wouldn't matter. But, I have given a great deal of my time and some of my personal income to individual members of the team. They too have been used and have anxieties. No one from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), NRCS, or AmeriCorps intentionally mislead them about the project. I agreed to Joel's suggestion to have a meeting in the near future with the members and representatives from FSA, NRCS, Extension, Rural Economic Conservation Development (RECD), and the Kickapoo tribe.

We ended our day on November 21 by meeting with George Pyle, Editor of the Salina Journal, at 6:00 p.m.

The number one question for Joel as we trekked across Kansas was, "Where does Western Kansas begin?" At every stop after the reservation, the question was asked and everyone had a different answer.

On November 22, we travelled to Hays to meet the members of the Big Creek Project. While at the site, Joel gave the AmeriCorps oath to Brock Rogers in front of the local television station's camera. While performing community service with the members, Joel was able to stick one leg into a creek and get wet and dirty. He was also able, along with member Neil Bass, to do a radio interview. Before leaving the team, I insisted that the team leader find a large glove to cover member Dale Sparks' exposed hand. The hand is constantly exposed to the elements due to a brace covering his wrist. The situation had not changed from my first visit with the team. Joel also spoke by telephone with FSA member Katrina Hine on the Southeast Kansas team.

Larry Miles, Project Director; Cheney State Park AmeriCorps members; Jerry Schmidt, Cheney State Park Manager; Alan Starks, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Regional Supervisor, and I met Joel at the Cheney State Park on



November 24. After a briefing, questions and answers, we all went out to create new trails along the water front. Joel and I noted that the members were not wearing hard hats or chaps when using the chain saws. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Joel bought pizza for the entourage.

Upon returning to Salina, I sent my reservation in for the "Making Diversity Work for AmeriCorps Workshop" being held December 11-14, in Overland Park, Kansas. I hope that the workshop will help me better understand our travails with the Kickapoo. I also learned of the week's accidents experienced by members while at home or on the site. Jim Talley was hurt at Kanopolis; Faye Yoder, a Kanopolis member, was hurt while at home; and Jennifer Rima was hurt at Glen Elder.

In retrospect, the week was enjoyable. Arranging for the local press and congressional representatives to meet Joel and the members was fun. It acknowledged, except for the Salina and Topeka press contacts, the media contacts can be attributed to the fine efforts of Katherine Gibney and others in Washington, D.C. Keeping Joel on time for scheduled appointments was challenging. I am not sure if he ever ascertained where Western Kansas began. I do know that the members he met and spoke with appreciated his concern about them as members and for their projects. He did indicate that other AmeriCorps apparel was being considered for the members.

Schedule for the week of November 27-December 1, 1995:

- 27 NRCS, Salina
- 28 Defensive driving training for part of the teams at Kansas Highway Patrol Center
- 29 NRCS, Salina
- 30 Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, get GSA cars for FSA teams.
- 1 Scheduled day off

  
Jim Meisenheimer  
Kansas AmeriCorps/USDA

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Joel Berg, Office of Public Affairs (Communications), Washington,  
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Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program - Trip Report  
Week of November 13-17, 1995

Date: November 29, 1995

To: Larry D. Miles, AmeriCorps Project Director,  
NRCS, Salina, Kansas

File Code: 360-5

November 13 was spent finding hard-toed shoes for Milford member Rick Henry. I took a pair of insulated boots left over from last year.

The meeting with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) teams at the FSA State Office in Manhattan was as indecisive as the projects have been. Katrina, with the Southeast Kansas team, is having trouble getting schools to respond to her. She sent out 35 letters to school district superintendents about her availability and has gotten very little response. Perhaps it is due to the rigid curriculum requirements of the state board of education, or the fact that her offer of assistance is being ignored. She has learned from some Ag. class room instructors that they were unaware of her letters to their administrators.

Extension personnel Katrina contacted also seem to be ignoring her offer of service. Katrina has a lot she can be doing, especially with the Farm Assistance Program. She has gotten a wealth of material from Farm Bureau and the Kansas State University Extension Service in Manhattan. Katrina could be doing several things in the way of farm safety and environmental concerns on the county level that county extension agents don't have time to do.

We need publicity in Katrina's project area about her availability and her projects. We discussed the possibility of getting her publicity through FSA and county extension newsletters, plus the local weekly newspapers in the area. We also need to set up some information meetings. She also needs to make contact with school instructors about her availability and how she can be a resource person for them. Thursday evening during my 5:30 p.m. discussion with her, I learned that during a meeting in Elk County she was assailed for what she was attempting to do with water quality.

A "gentleman" told her that he and others did not want the government checking his water, etc. She informed him that what she would be doing would be for the benefit of the farm families, that it was all voluntary, and the results would be kept confidential. Later she learned that the man who stirred up the people at the meeting about her potential service was a tank truck driver who may be dumping the contents of his truck into streams and wells.



The report from the Kickapoo team was good and bad. Someone from the Attorney General's Office is investigating the purchase of a computer, printer, and fax by a AmeriCorps leader who was dismissed. The USDA/AmeriCorps members are having a difficult time communicating with Richard Beams, the tribal contact person. One of the members said that she would no longer report to him. The team stated that Mr. Beams does not listen and tells them to do things for which funds are not available, or he tells them to do things that are not feasible.

The Kickapoo team came forward with several ideas that they can do including working with the Indian Nation High School. Projects identified with the school include creating a wetland, identifying grasses, tree plantings, creating children gardens, and working with a greenhouse. In addition, the math and science programs in the school are weak, and the teachers could use help. There will be plenty to do when the growing season begins.

What can the members be doing during the next three months? The tribal council has suggested that our team provide things to do for their team members when they return after the first of the year. That puts pressure on them.

Members Pat May and Kristen Mitchell expressed concerns that they were not using their degrees during service. The session was a way for the team to vent their anxiety about their situation. I learned, much to my dismay and consternation, early on November 15, three of them would not be attending our scheduled CPR/First Aid training session that day. Chaline didn't want to leave her kids that early, Kristen had already taken the classes, and they had other things to do.

Tribal leaders have given the members the use of a vehicle. It was decided to see if FSA could set up an account for the vehicle at the Kickapoo Trading Post.

Our CPR/First Aid training session was good. Forty-one members attended. Those absent were the three from the Kickapoo team, Jeff from the Milford team; and Ryan and Gary from the Topeka team. The team members tended not to mingle with other members of the corps. During the session, individual team leaders helped their members. It was a nice sight seeing Rich Linneman take pictures of his Perry team and help them with their training. Kurt was also active with his Kanopolis team as was Jim and Tony with their respective teams. Lance was definitely in-charge of the Hays teams. It is interesting to see the smiles on the faces of team leaders. The team leaders really seem to be enjoying their roles.

Lisa Mermis, a part-time member, from the Hays team was also present. Lance's smiles may be in part due to Lisa. As noticed in my trip to Hays, Lisa and Lance seem to be inseparable. They are always together, almost in a touching way. I hope there is not a falling out between the two which could cause conflict within the team. Most of the teams seem to be in a norming or performing stage.

During the CPR training, Kevin Prichard of the Hays team left the room. A few seconds later we heard a big boom sound. One of the instructors went to check out the sound and found Kevin sitting dazed in a hallway. Kevin had left the room because he had felt light headed. Once he was in the hallway he started to faint



and hit the rest room door. Shortly after the first aid instructors found Kevin, I arrived. We summoned help and had a real first aid scenario on our hands. I summoned Lance and he stayed with Kevin until we decided to take him to the hospital emergency room for a check.

The hospital tests showed that Kevin had a lack of blood sugar which caused the dizziness. A dietitian told him how to control the problem and we returned to the training session. Before the training session was over, I had Kevin explain to the corps members what had happened to him and what the test results showed.

Lance reported that his part-time member Krista had an auto accident over the weekend and would be gone for about six weeks.

A day in the park with AmeriCorps members was spent at Kanopolis Reservoir on November 16. Kurt Grimm, team leader, is doing a good job in directing his team composed of Aimee, Faye, Diana, and Jim. The situation at Kanopolis is much different than last year, when the members dealt constantly with a member who had a learning disability. Kurt really seems happy as he serves this year. Ricardo has resigned to move back to Denver. Jim arrived at noon and after a telephone call from his wife, who is pregnant, left immediately. Jim's wife is having complications and he went home to be with her.

Aimee is a petite young women with a squeaky voice. The glint in her eye coupled with her smile and unique voice makes for a very charming person. Faye, a single parent of two boys, is the hyperactive one of the three women. Faye gives a hundred percent and loves serving outdoors. Even at lunch Faye is busy as she reads while she eats. During the afternoon, Faye and I talked a lot as we cleared trails in Horse Thief Canyon. It is difficult for her to pay all the bills when she only makes \$7,945. While things are difficult financially for her, she was not complaining.

Diana is to be married next week. A brief honeymoon will be taken in Missouri. That is the second marriage within this year's class. I also learned from Kurt that the Kanopolis Park is closed the day after Thanksgiving and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. It was then I realized that Faye and perhaps others could not afford, financially, to miss those days of work. Neither Faye nor I were aware of the closing. After discussing the issue with her, I suggested that she do community service in Salina the days the park is closed. She and perhaps Jim Talley, also from Salina and in a similar situation, could help with Meals On Wheels, the Salvation Army, Goodwill, or a nursing home. When we discussed the matter with State Park Manager Rick Martin he agreed with my suggestions. He agreed to call some nursing homes if Faye needed assistance with that.

On Friday November 17, I called the other parks about their closing during the holidays and the alternative schedules for their members. Mike Nyhoff at Glen Elder was glad that I called and said that his team was now going through a storming phase.

Glen Elder members Julie and Jennifer have been having words. As reported in an earlier report Julie is the one who likes to listen to Mozart and New Orleans Jazz. Jennifer is the member who likes to listen to Motley Crew and Queen. There is



obviously a clash of values and perhaps personalities. It has been reported to Nyhoff that Julie threatened to punch Jennifer. Mike asked the team leader to be more assertive with his team and a session on values. Nyhoff reports that his team is definitely ready for the class on conflict. Both Mike and I agreed that it was normal for the team to go through stages and that the storming stage was not atypical.

Friday I prepared for Joel's visit during the week of November 20. I did not know until hearing Elizabeth's voice mail message on Saturday that attempts should be made to meet with staff members from the various congressional representatives, plus the press. I have arranged for him to meet with George Pyle, Editor, Salina Journal, at 6:30 p.m. on November 21.

Wally Schleuter from GSA in Overland Park, Kansas offered us three 1990 Chevy Corsicas and I accepted two of them. We will tag them under the auspices of NRCS. An agreement will be worked out as to how FSA will reimburse NRCS for expenses. I need to find out when and how we get the vehicles from Offut Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Schedule for the week of November 20-24:

- 20 Leave at 5:30 a.m. to meet with Topeka team
- 21 Pick up Joel at Federal Building at 9 a.m.
  - meet with press
  - meet with Topeka team members
  - meet with Congressional staff and team members if possible
  - meet with Perry team at Valley Falls
  - meet with Kickapoo team, if time allows
  - meet with Salina Journal Editor at 6:30 p.m. in Salina
- 22 Meet with Hays team and take Joel to Wichita
- 23 Thanksgiving
- 24 Take Joel to meet with Cheney team near Wichita, if possible.

  
Jim Meisenheimer  
Kansas AmeriCorps/USDA

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Berg

Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program - Trip Report  
Week of November 6-10, 1995

Date: November 20, 1995

To: Larry D. Miles, AmeriCorps Project Director,  
NRCS, Salina, Kansas

File Code: 360-5

November 6-7 were spent at the DRMOs at Ft. Riley and McConnell Air Force Base. I was able to get, at no cost, twenty-eight pair of insulated pants from Ft. Riley, estimated value \$3,215.80. The trip to McConnell Air Force Base was more beneficial, as I received an estimated value of \$7,029.41 worth of clothing. The clothing from McConnell consisted of parkas, insulated pants, three pair of boots, twenty chemical suits, rain suits, etc. The personnel at McConnell are more helpful and courteous than those at Ft. Riley.

The training session for team leaders held on November 8 went well. The topic of the meeting was conflict and team forming. I was pleased with the dialog among the team leaders. Hopefully, the handouts and material presented will be useful for them and their team members.

Shana Martin from the Cheney team joined me at McConnell Air Force Base on November 7. While we picked out winter clothing for the members, we discussed the issue of conflict and how to deal with it. Shana has taken classes and attended seminars on conflict. Her mother teaches classes on how to deal with anger in several counties, at no charge. I hope we can use Shana, her mother, and Topeka member Milton Nokes (Milton has a masters degree in psychology and has worked in a half way house), to present our class on conflict to all of our members. I asked the team leaders at their session if they wanted to be present at the session on conflict with their team members. Most of the leaders stated they would like to be present.

My travel on November 9 took me to the Hays team where I met with all of the current members, including the current part-time members. Ken Urban was conducting a team meeting with the full-time members when I arrived. I was impressed with the content of the meeting and the scope of their mission. Ken went over their goals in detail, which includes stream bank stabilization and some moderate construction work. When the project discussion was finished the members discussed their plans for community service.



Our members are taking their 20 percent community service much more seriously than last year. In fact, some teams are perhaps going too far with it. Some of the items the Hays team have done or will be doing are:

- \* Helping clean side walks at nursing homes in the city after snow storms
- \* Painting, clearing snow, and decorating at Old Fort Hays
- \* Giving talks at various schools in the area about conservation
- \* Helping with the Sternberg Museum
- \* Getting publicity for AmeriCorps as shown by their presence on the public access channel

Working (serving) with the Hays team was another good experience. I was allowed to put on hip-wadders and work with a couple of members dragging debris out of a stream. I learned from Andy that he and his wife, as a lark, had gone parachute jumping. Brian likes the corps and what he is doing. He was concerned about his unsubsidized Stanford loan.

I learned as a result of a summer accident, Dale has a bad wrist and serves with pain. He works hard and needs a glove to protect the wrist and the exposed hand. Due to the inability to grip, he presses everything he picks up against his body. Consequently, he gets dirty quicker than the others. Dale, our member from Kentucky with the southern accent, wants to begin work on a Ph.D. at Indiana State University.

Kevin, the senior member of the team, also blends in well. The other male members are veterans from last year. Lance, team leader, seems to be doing more coordinating and directing than actual hands on service. Perhaps that is necessary when you have a team as large as this one.

The part-time members are somewhat of an enigma. Lisa doesn't seem to like to get dirty. While I was there she seemed to be with Lance all of the time. Kris needs appropriate clothing for the project. Kris mentioned a desire to transfer after the winter or spring semester to another project. Kris is a photographer for the college and we could use her skills in that area. Both Kris and Lisa want to attend the CPR/First Aid training session on November 15. I only briefly met Melody. If my first impression is correct, she may provide more service than the other two. Neil and the other veterans swore in the part-time members at the university site while I was there.

November 10, a paid day off for the members, was spent in Wichita with the Cheney team, minus Shana who had other commitments. We met at the veterans hospital where they had volunteered to help with Veteran's Day activities. The members were welcomed and well received. National Chief-of-Staff for Kansas, the Military Order of the Purple Heart Robert Holzman was enthused with their presence. He wants me to send him more material about AmeriCorps in order to contact others about it.

The members were very intrigued with the 100 year old World War 1 veteran they met. The centenarian is very alert and physically fit. He still drives his own car in and around Wichita. The members liked talking to a person who could accurately remember the details of the past century. The veteran, many years ago, had been in-charge of Red Cross units for several parts of the nation. The AmeriCorps members and the centenarian could all relate to community service. Several of the members commented that he will definitely be a part of their diary.

Volunteer duties at the hospital included: helping take and return veterans from the nursing wing of the hospital to the Veterans' Day Ceremony in the auditorium, distributing cards, and talking to veterans in the hospital. Kari did especially well with the visiting aspect. She did so well that we often had to go find her when the others had finished their rounds. She was always found conversing with a veteran.

The Cheney team is a group that has probably gone too far with their extra community service. They could give every Friday to the patients at the veterans' hospital. The hospital's director was very pleased with their presence and help. The team is also involved with a day care center in Hutchinson and are wanted there whenever possible. They also have several other community service activities scheduled. I have suggested that they limit their extra community service activities to a selected few. I hate to stifle enthusiasm for extra community service.

Schedule for the week of November 13-17:

- 13 A.M. Find shoes for Milford Member Rick Henry  
P.M. NRCS, Salina
- 14 A.M. NRCS, Salina  
P.M. meet with FSA teams at FSA State Office in Manhattan
- 15 CPR/First Aid training, 4-H Building, McPherson
- 16 Meet with Topeka team
- 17 Scheduled day off

  
Jim Meisenheimer  
Kansas AmeriCorps/USDA

cc:

Paula Cole Jones, Program Manager, AmeriCorps, PRG-CAR, NRCS,  
Washington, D.C.

Joel Berg, Office of Public Affairs (Communications), Washington, D.C.

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Berg



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Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program - Trip Report  
Week of October 16-20, 1995

Date: October 27, 1995

To: Larry D. Miles, AmeriCorps Project Director,  
NRCS, Salina, Kansas

File Code: 360-5

The USDA/AmeriCorps members met October 19-20, 1995, for orientation at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Office in Salina. Forty-two members from NRCS and four members from Farm Service Agency (FSA), or a total of 46 members were present. One of the FSA members, Louis Wyrick, did not join the session until late on October 20, and another FSA member, Chaline Owings, did not arrive or notify us of her intentions. The NRCS members were composed of 26 males and 16 females. The FSA members were composed of two males and two females.

You opened the session by welcoming members to AmeriCorps and by introducing the staff who would be working with them. Then Jim Habiger, State Conservationist, NRCS, spoke to the members. After Mr. Habiger's comments, you asked each member, according to team, to stand and say something about themselves. After the introductions were completed I asked the eight returning AmeriCorps members, led by Kurt Grimm, to swear in the new members. Kurt had been sworn in at the October 12 ceremony in Kansas City, Missouri. Before the morning session ended, the members were told about the health insurance benefits and educational award.

During the afternoon session, the members were divided into six groups, each led by a returning member, and sent across the city to do community service work. One team painted handicapped access ramps, four teams picked up trash at intersections. The team I joined at the city disposal site had the least fun. The work was dirty and seemingly fruitless as the debris was everywhere. Each of us agreed that we would start recycling. When my team arrived back to the office at 4:00 p.m., I learned that Kari Hacker, a member of the Cheney State Park team, had slipped down an embankment and cut her leg. Ken Urban, District Conservationist for Saline County, was with the team and immediately took her to the hospital where she received six stitches. I was very pleased that Ken had joined the team for the afternoon.

The sixth team, led by Neil Bass, was sent to the Salina Head Start School where members interacted with the students. The smiles on the members' faces upon returning to the office showed that something very positive had taken place. The male members of the team were especially gratified, because the kids gave them a lot of attention. Most of the students at Head Start are from homes without



fathers. AmeriCorps members at the Head Start site spoke of very positive experiences with the children. After the session with the kids and a short video, Carolyn Weinhold, Director for Head Start, explained her program to the members. She then asked the members to tell her and the staff about AmeriCorps. She related to me on Sunday that she was very pleased with the AmeriCorps members.

The community service activity was beneficial in several ways. One, it showed the new members what AmeriCorps was about. Two, it allowed the members from various teams to meet each other on a personal level while doing actual service. Three, it allowed me to meet and get to know the members of the team I joined. Four, we learned from the members' experiences at Head Start that teams could give similar community service in their communities.

The first session October 20, was spent reviewing the events of the previous afternoon. Rick Henry, a new member on the Milford State Park team, related his experience with Head Start. He told us that three of the kids climbed all over him, "I really enjoyed the time with them." It should be noted that Rick told the AmeriCorps class during introductions that, "I had joined AmeriCorps because I come from a large family from which no one has ever attended college. I want to go to college and this is a way for me to do so." Rick further stated that he had been working in the training of greyhound dogs. Since the greyhound racing business is declining and because of his desire to attend college, AmeriCorps was a logical choice for him. Others in the class mentioned a desire to further their education or to pay off student loans.

Kathy Razak, Personnel Clerk, NRCS, helped the members complete the enrollment forms. Judy Zanardi, Purchasing Agent, NRCS, instructed the members on the use of government vehicles. I led the members through the membership handbook; the importance of safety; the need for a safety plan for each of the sites; media coverage and how to deal with the media; clustering; a tentative training schedule; and what the chain of command should be. I also requested sizes for coats, boots, gloves and pants for those who need winter clothing.

I am more impressed with this class than of the last. The members on this year's team have more diversity and seem more focused. While we did not get anyone from the national database, we have members from California, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. The ethnic, gender, and educational diversity is also greater this year. Yes, we will have membership attrition. I will be surprised if we keep Ricardo Valdivieso or Jim Talley on the Kanopolis team. I appreciated your comments about commitment of members to the program and to their fellow team members.

I am concerned about two members of the FSA teams. Chaline Owings did not attend the meeting or tell me that she was not going to attend. She had called me earlier in the week and stated that she was having trouble finding suitable housing on or near the Kickapoo Reservation. Much to my surprise, I learned on October 19, that Patrick May and Christine Mitchell of the Kickapoo team arrived in Salina during the night of October 18. I reluctantly gave each of them a personal forty- two dollar check for the lodging. I also used my USDA/American Express credit card to pay for all of the FSA members' rooms. I did that after consultation with personnel at the FSA State Office in Manhattan.



Louis Wyrick, member of the Southeast Kansas Ag. in the Classroom team did not appear on October 19, as I had expected. At about 7:45 a.m. on October 20, he called and said he had arrived in town late and would be at the session. He arrived at about 10:00 a.m., the meeting began at 8:15 a.m. He was wearing shoes that had the sides blown out. In order for him to get his paperwork completed I had him meet with Kathy Razak. After the session, he and his fellow team member Katrina Hine and I met until about 1:00 p.m. Louis wants reimbursed for the motel. I told him I had a room reserved for him and cancelled it when he did not arrive as expected. He then proceeded to hang around the office asking questions about employment with NRCS. I am thoroughly disgusted with him. His references were not good. He was only selected after Jayne Garcia turned down the appointment. In my zeal to fill the slot on the team, I turned to him because of his excellent educational background. I did learn that part of his time with a Missouri utility company had been spent picking up trash.

The reference for Louis, a college professor, said that Louis had trouble relating to students and people. I now believe that. Louis wants to locate in an area that would allow him a social life. I will, after consulting with the FSA State Office in Manhattan, tell him that he must locate in a county near Katrina or near the county through which all of his paperwork will flow. I will also tell him again that the success of the program is dependent upon good interaction with students, educators, county extension personnel, and farmers. I will also stress that I or a representative will check on the afore to ascertain if that interaction is going well. He will be told that if there is not good interaction, we cannot relegate him to picking up trash. Therefore, he should consider resigning if he does not think he can be successful in his AmeriCorps role.

Schedule for the week of October 23:

- 23 NRCS, Salina
- 24 FSA team, Kickapoo Reservation, Brown County
- 25 Cheney Team, Cheney State Park
- 26 Milford Team, Milford Wildlife Area
- 27 NRCS, Salina



Jim Meisenheimer  
Kansas AmeriCorps/USDA Regional Facilitator

cc:

Roger Lemmons, Program Specialist, FSA, Manhattan, KS  
Paula Cole Jones, Program Manager, AmeriCorps, PRG-CAR, NRCS,  
Washington, D.C.

Joel Berg, Office of Public Affairs (Communications), Washington,  
D.C.



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Berg

Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program - Trip Report  
Week of May 29 - June 2, 1995

Date: June 20, 1995

To: Larry D. Miles, AmeriCorps Project Director,  
NRCS, Salina, Kansas

File Code: 360-5

The wet weather has put a damper on the work of our members in all of the areas. The members in many cases will have to repair park facilities recently fixed. Riparian team members are finding it difficult to get into the fields on many days.

An ill Jennifer Weaver, with a 10:00 a.m. doctor appointment, met me at 8:30 a.m. in the Tuttle Creek State Park Office on May 31. Before talking to her about the incident at Milford State Park, I met with Keith Salmans, Wildlife/Park Manager at Tuttle Creek, to discuss her work. Keith wanted to know who had signed her timesheet for the week before, and how many hours were shown on May 25? Robert Parks, a maintenance person, had signed the timesheet for the eight hours worked on May 25.

During my meeting with Jennifer, she told me that Sharon Lietz, at Milford State Park, had confronted her about coming in late on May 25, and for taking too much time for lunch. Jennifer explained that she had some personal items to pick up at the wildlife area and had taken her own pickup truck to get them. Besides, she said that she used her lunch time plus thirty minutes to get the items and she had documented the travel time. When asked about the discrepancy in hours, she explained it in the following manner: she and Mike Harris, Park Ranger at Milford State Park, disagreed on her hours for that day because she wanted to leave at 4:00 p.m. She had been willing to settle for seven hours that day, but she was upset with Mike and told him she would have someone else sign the timesheet. How did she account for the extra hour? She had been doing extra work for the fisheries biologist at Tuttle Creek to make the time up. There was an hour of work left to do, which she went home and did.

I discussed with her the importance of getting to work on time and in letting park personnel know, when possible, when she would be late for work or would be absent. We also discussed who should be signing her timesheets.

After meeting with her, I discussed her explanations with Keith. Some of what Jennifer said sounds plausible and other parts I cannot disprove. After conferring with you on June 2, I wrote Jennifer a two page letter detailing our expectations



for her during the remaining part of her service. Items included in the letter were: hours needed to complete her AmeriCorps tour; who should be signing her timesheets; where she should be providing her service; and what to do if she is knowingly not going to be at work on time.

The rest of my day at Tuttle Creek State Park was spent with AmeriCorps members Monte and Ryan. At first we went to the Rocky Ford Fishing Area to fix a railing on a walkway at the old dam. However, due to the unrelenting rain and a hammer accidentally slipping out of Monte's hand and flying into the raging river, we gave up and went back to the park office. Now I know what they do when they cannot work in the park or wildlife area. Fixing machinery and changing the oil in vehicles was the activity for the rest of the day. While we puttered around the workshop, I learned that Ryan had been sick and had missed a couple of Fridays because of problems with his glands. He really hates missing any days of work.

Ryan's doctor did a biopsy on his glands and ruled out cancer. Tuberculosis has also been eliminated as a cause of the illness. Final test results were to arrive last weekend.

What is Ryan's future after AmeriCorps? After seeing how difficult it is for those with biology degrees to get hired by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, he will work on a two-year training program in aviation. He will always have the experience of having served in the parks.

If AmeriCorps were to continue for another year, and if Monte does not find a permanent position, he will apply for another tour. He wants to be considered for a \$12,000 position at the park in 1996. If CFSA offers a proposal for eastern Kansas (which included a biologist), he would be interested. He did say that the parks people had wanted to designate him as the team leader for Milford/Tuttle Creek State Parks this year.

Monte did not accept the invitation to become team leader, because the pay would not be greater than the other members. He could not find any reason why he should be telling the others what to do. I told him that his college degree gives him achieved, not just ascribed, status the other three do not have.

I ended my day on May 31, by stopping at Milford State Park to see Doris Hankins and Tom Silvosky, Park Manager. I did confide in Tom about my discussion with Jennifer Weaver concerning the incident at his office on May 25. We also read the letter from the Internal Revenue Service to Doris which had been forwarded to me. The letter is in reference to her defaulted student loan. While I was there, Tom called her lending institution about her situation. Once he hears back from the institution, he will contact me. He wants to use the Tuttle Creek/Milford team in June. I told him that he should work with Keith Salmans and Mark Mohler on scheduling.

I arrived at Webster State Park at 9:00 a.m., June 1, after leaving Salina at 6:30 a.m. The members were not there. Bill has returned to service after recovering from surgery but had gone to the doctor for a checkup. Cindy had called in and said that she would be late because her purse had been stolen and she needed to



cancel checks, etc. Just as I was ready to leave the park and find the Hays team, Cindy arrived. Cindy explained that her purse had contained her watch, car keys, AmeriCorps ID and health card, and a diamond ring among other things. I have provided her with a new AmeriCorps ID and health card.

The water level on June 1 at Webster Reservoir was higher than in recent memory. In 1991, the reservoir was so dry that one could walk across the reservoir without getting wet. The flood of 1993 filled the reservoir and caused damage. The flood of 1995 has created new damage, plus reclaiming the damaged areas of 1993. For the first time in the reservoir's history, a flood gate was opened on June 1. Due to high water, several roads and all but one campsite in the park were closed. Picnic tables, grills, and a courtesy dock had to be moved to high ground.

Cindy talks about the park as if it belonged to her. She was upset with all of the damage, especially that which the members had repaired. The first place we visited was a stilling basin below the flood gates. Cindy showed me a handicap accessible fishing dock (which cost \$70,000 to build) that she and member Bill Plante had recently weighted down with sand filled bags to keep the high water from breaking it away from the shore. She mentioned that while they were filling the bags with sand she had gotten dust in to her left eye causing an allergic reaction, which developed a blister on her eye ball. The eye swelled shut after applying ice, causing her to think she had "frost-bite."

Evidence of Cindy's pride in her service was demonstrated in her showing me what the team had done. Pride was shown when she complained about park visitors who do not throw their trash away. As we made our way around the damaged park, she pointed to the Wacondas damaged in the last flood which the members spent a lot of time repairing. Wacondas are a pivoting sheltered picnic table that can be turned, allowing for constant shade.

Cindy is a single parent with a 13 year daughter and a two year old son. She is very proud of her work on the Wacondas. She mentioned that a few weeks ago she had taken her children to fish in the reservoir, and showed them the Wacondas. Cindy related that her daughter was proud of what she had accomplished. I told Cindy it was a great compliment for any parent to be told by a teenage child, "they were proud of their parent and their work." Cindy's work with the Wacondas is so good that the assistant park manager has asked her to train his two seasonal employees on how to build and repair them.

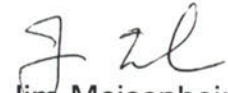
Cindy wants to re-enlist with AmeriCorps for another tour, even with a stipend of \$7,945. She wants to use her educational award to learn to do income taxes. As I left Webster Reservoir, Cindy was grabbing a broom in order to work in the park shop until the assistant park manager arrived to give her more work instructions.

AmeriCorps is an ideal program for Cindy. She could easily be on welfare with little hope for the future. Instead, she is giving meaningful service to her community in return for an educational award. The educational award will allow her to become skilled in a service that should benefit her and others, and keep her off welfare.



Schedule for the week of June 5 through June 9:

- \* June 5, NRCS, Salina SO
- \* June 6, NRCS, Salina SO
- \* June 7, Emporia - with members
- \* June 8, Hutchinson - with members
- \* June 9, NRCS, Salina SO



Jim Meisenheimer  
Kansas USDA/AmeriCorps Regional Facilitator

cc:

Roger Lemmons, CFSA, Manhattan, KS

Paula Cole Jones, Program Manager, AmeriCorps, PRG-CAR, NRCS,  
Washington, D.C.

Joel Berg, Office of Public Affairs (Communications), Washington, D.C.

Berg

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Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program - Trip Report  
Week of May 22-26, 1995

Date: June 7, 1995

To: Larry D. Miles, AmeriCorps Project Director,  
NRCS, Salina, Kansas

File Code: 360-5

AmeriCorps member Lance Hockett from the Hays team was in the state office to get supplies for the team's trip to Wallace County in the far west part of the state. The team was getting ready to spend three days in the sparsely populated county doing riparian work. The trip to Wallace County will necessitate two nights stay at the county's only motel.

Gary Bernasek, Field Supervisor at Perry Reservoir, called to say that AmeriCorps member Greg Wahlmeir would be going to Army National Guard Camp the first week in June.

Tuesday and half of Wednesday were spent at the Kansas State CFSA Office in Manhattan helping revise community service objectives for the proposed CFSA AmeriCorps projects for 1996. After leaving CFSA on Wednesday, I stopped by the Manhattan NRCS Area Office to check on our team. Kayla and Jean were found working on maps. Due to heavy rains in the area and the large amount of water coming towards Manhattan, they were afraid that they might have to give a lot of community service filling sandbags.

Jennifer Weaver, from the Milford State Park Team, now stationed at the Tuttle Creek State Park, had told me that after May 22 she would be back at the Milford State Park working with Doris. On my way back to Salina on May 24, I stopped at Milford State Park to see how the two were doing. To my surprise, Jennifer was not there nor had she reported that she was not coming in. She also had not reported on May 23. Upon arriving back at Salina, I called Tuttle Creek State Park to see if she had reported there. When I found that she had not, I called her at home and left a message that I had missed finding her at Milford, and I planned on working with her and Doris on May 26. That was the second time I had to call her at home because she had not reported for work.

Thursday, I met with AmeriCorps members Mike and Kyle at Dodge City. Kyle, Mike and team leader Dwain Daniel seemed glad to see me and were ready to talk. They talked about what they were doing and asked about what the other AmeriCorps members were doing. Kyle and Mike had tried to volunteer by telephone to go help clean-up storm damage at the Edward's County Hospital in



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Larry D. Miles  
May 22-26, 1995 Trip Report

June 7, 1995  
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nearby Kinsley, but had been turned away. As of May 25, they were still convinced that the hospital personnel needed help. Six patients had been removed from the facility and debris from the water and wind damage had to be removed.

Mike and Kyle have been active with their service. On May 19, they took fifty-five fifth graders from the Cimarron School District on a nature walk at Meade State Park. Due to the March fire in a large part of the park, they were able to show students the effects of fire on habitat.

Kyle and Mike have found several types of unidentified fresh water shrimp in upland depressions on CRP land. These shrimp are food for the shore birds and ducks that use the water in the depressions. The question from the members, the team leader, and Mike Debes, Ford County District Conservationist, was "what kind of shrimp were they seeing?"

During the afternoon they wanted to show me what they were seeing in Ford and Meade Counties. We drove by several upland depressions that have been inventoried. We travelled to Meade State Park to see the damage caused by the fire and to meet with the park manager.

Meade State Park, one of the smaller state parks in Kansas, was built by the civilian conservation corps (CCC). Due to its size and remoteness, it does have a lot of resources for alleviating damage. The members showed me the nature trail they had taken the students on, and many trees were burned by the March fire. The park manager said that due to the fire, half of the park is closed to the public. The loss in park revenue for the Memorial weekend is estimated at \$5,000. While \$5,000 may not seem much, the Memorial weekend is their third largest weekend of the year for generating income.

Kyle and Mike talked about going back to the park to help with the clean-up and replanting of trees. When we discussed the idea of bringing in other AmeriCorps members to help, I learned the camp to be used is in disrepair. The park manager suggested using tents, and said hot water and showers would be available. The assistant park manager said she could also get people into the area to provide food. It was even suggested that the corps in nearby Oklahoma working on windbreaks could be invited to help get things done.

Kyle and Mike like their service with AmeriCorps. Kyle, wife and 10 month old daughter are from southeast Kansas and have never lived in the southwest part of the state, which is very different from their home. If Kyle cannot find a job after his service, he may seek another AmeriCorps position.

The disquieting news of the week came on May 26. I had become very uneasy about Doris Hankins' situation. I had even begun wondering, if I were not in tune with the feelings and language of people who have received aid from the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS)? I called the Salina SRS Office for answers. I was told to figure out what motivates Doris, such as: is she insecure in moving to the next step, is she scared about going on her own, or is she in need of a mentor. Show her in hard figures how the AmeriCorps education award will help her get off assistance. The fact that she has seemingly not made



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an effort to fix her car or find transportation to the park, plus her large number of work days missed, greatly upsets me.

Larry D. Miles

May 22-26, 1995 Trip Report

June 7, 1995

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While I was thinking about Doris, Tom Silovsky, Milford State Park Field Supervisor, called. I expressed my feelings of consternation about Doris. We discussed her letter to me asking for help with the Internal Revenue Service and her defaulted student loan. I told Tom that if Doris does not intend to complete her 1700 of service that I had lost interest in helping her with the loan. He assured me that the two of them have again worked out a way for her to meet the requirement. If so, I will pursue a way to help her with the student loan for the second time.

Tom's consternation is with Jennifer Weaver. He does not want her back at Milford State Park. She arrived late at the park on May 25. Jennifer and Doris then took an hour and thirty minutes for lunch. Supposedly, they went to find Mark Mohler, Wildlife and Park Manager, who was on annual leave. Jennifer then decided to leave at 3:30 p.m. and asked Mike Harris, Park Ranger, to sign her timesheet for the day totaling eight hours. When he would not sign it, she supposedly became irate and almost attacked him across the desk. Tom has been told that Jennifer has been very uncooperative at Tuttle Creek State Park, especially when asked to perform service that she does not want to do.

The second call of the day came from team leader Mike Nyhoff at Glen Elder. His disgust comes with member Trent Anderson. Trent has been absent for several days due to an accident at park. However, Trent has failed to communicate with Mike about the severity of his injury or when he can be expected back at the park. It has been very difficult for Mike to get a timesheet. Mike wants to terminate this AmeriCorps member. Before the separation takes place, Mike will speak to the doctor treating Trent and get a written statement on what the member is able to do. Mike believes that the member could be providing service in the park office while his shoulder injury is healing. Mike has also received reports that the member has been seen at various parties since his injury.

Mike again stated that he is pleased with the service of AmeriCorps members Judy Long and Tracy Hull. He also related that he has received positive interest about AmeriCorps from people in his area.

On Sunday, May 28, I received a telephone call from Jennifer Weaver at my apartment. She told me that she was going back to Tuttle Creek to work at the park with Paul and others. They would have her do mowing. She said that she was going back to Tuttle Creek because she learned that she could not get along with the Milford State Park people. I told her that I had gotten a telephone call from the Milford State Park personnel on Friday about her, and I would have to speak to you about the situation. I also told her that I did not want to discuss the situation over the telephone. Instead, I wanted to gather the facts and meet with her face to face before any decisions were made about her situation. I did thank her for calling. She said that she had tried to call the evening of May 25 but could not get me. I told her that I had not returned home from Dodge City until 8:00 p.m.





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Beng

Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program - Trip Report  
Week of June 5-9, 1995

Date: June 23, 1995

To: Larry D. Miles, AmeriCorps Project Director,  
NRCS, Salina, Kansas

File Code: 360-5

AmeriCorps members are asking about their educational award. The answer is in the green sheets, AmeriCorps Educational Awards, page 2, "What Happens When You Complete Your Service." I will emphasize that question and answer it in the next newsletter. Hopefully, the awards will be issued promptly to those who need to pay off student loans and to those who need the money for school. Our members have provided good service. We now need to be prompt with the educational awards. If we are not prompt, our reputation will suffer.

The other major question from members is about the next class. Will there be another tour? When do they need to get their applications in? At least two members on the rural development teams have expressed interest in the proposed \$12,000 positions on the environment teams for next year. Those members would rather have well paying permanent jobs than AmeriCorps positions. However, the job market is so tight for biology majors that they are willing to move to an environmental team with a \$12,000 stipend. Dean Krehbiel from the Hutchinson team, with a wife and child says, "I need to support my family." Neil Bass sent in his application to be an AmeriCorps NCCC Team Leader. Neil is an excellent candidate. If he is not selected, he too is interested in a \$12,000 park position, even after getting his Masters in biology this summer. Do we need to be careful about hiring those who are re-enlisting only because there are currently no jobs to be found, even though we know they are good members?

A young woman from Osborne, Kansas, with a degree in psychology called and asked about AmeriCorps' future. She wants to serve two terms at the Glen Elder Reservoir in order to receive enough money to go to graduate school. She has sent her AmeriCorps application to Washington. She called because she has been offered both part-time and full-time jobs. The part-time position would end at the end of September. If she knew that AmeriCorps would be funded again and she would get on, she would take the part-time position. I could not give her any advice.

After reading George Pyle's editorial of June 9 in the Salina Journal titled, "Phony Spending Cuts," in which he supports the existence of AmeriCorps, I called his office about my article on Cindy Ochs. I was asked to bring the article in for



review. I knew that the Salina Journal only prints articles written by their staff, even though they used much of our news release on the members at Kanopolis. After Mr. Pyle and an associate editor read the article, they wanted to take a photo of me which they will attach to the article. When they could not find a photographer, they asked me to come back on June 12. Wait! Washington has not approved the article, even though it was faxed to them on June 5. Will NRCS care? I did identify myself as the Regional Facilitator, USDA/AmeriCorps. The people at Webster State Park now want to take the news release to a weekly county newspaper. They have agreed to wait until the Salina Journal, which covers north central and northwest Kansas, publishes the article.

Keith Salmans from Tuttle Creek called again on Friday about Jennifer Weaver. She is absent without leave (AWOL). Others have seen her driving around. I called her residence and left a message.

Mike Nyhoff from Glen Elder sent me a note that Trent Anderson had written before his injury. Trent could also be considered AWOL? The note written by Trent shortly after April 19, was very positive. He had enjoyed participating in the National Day of Community Service in Topeka. He was enthusiastic about the team's service at the park. How did we lose him?

Wednesday was spent with Neil Bass and Jim Peterson in Morris County at the historic Council Grove. They questioned how other riparian teams could do more than five transects a day. Jim completed his Masters of Science (MS) degree in environmental biology this spring, and Neil is very close to receiving his MS in biology.

Their service, to a non-biologist, is boring. As Neil says, "we are too close to the end now to quit and not get our educational award." Their community service may now surpass that of the Topeka team. Due to the weather, they have not been able to apply the protective cover next to the trees that they helped plant at the Emporia Middle School. If Emporia were not so far away for many of our members, it would be a good place to take all of the members for a graduation exercise. I think a graduation exercise should include a few hours of community service.

On May 9, Jim and Neil participated in the "Envirothon" at Howard, Kansas, in which area youth from Howard, Longton, Moline, and Elk Falls participated. Neil informed students about small mammal habitat, and Jim discussed ixodid ticks, and the use of fire as a management tool. Future plans call for the members involvement in Butcher's summer school intercession. Butcher, now in the Emporia School District, is the former Emporia State University Laboratory Elementary School still being used by the university. Four, three hour classes will be taught to Butcher students. Subjects will include basic entomology, ichthyology, and botany (trees and shrubs).

The members will also participate in wildflower tours held in Butler, Greenwood, Lyon, Marion, and Morris Counties on June 13 and 16. In addition, Neil spends a considerable amount of time with the Boy Scouts. Due to the congenitally of Neil, it seems that the female employees in every NRCS office he visits attempt to line him up with an eligible female. More community service?



Thursday's jaunt was to Pratt to be with Dean Krehbiel and Scott Allen. The two of them infrequently get to the field and are really bored with the riparian map work. Both of them need their educational awards to pay off college loans. Dean has good success communicating with his loan institution, university and the corporation for community service. Scott's case is the antithesis of Dean's, even though their college is the same.

I took the members to a "small" lunch at my expense. Dean and Scott readily accepted the free meal. After lunch and after we discussed the idea about helping do restoration work at Meade State Park, I took them with me to the headquarters of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to find Robert Barbee and learn if you had contacted him about the idea, you had not. He liked the idea and said that he could arrange for equipment. He then gave us the name and telephone number of the regional director for Meade State Park and asked us to make arrangements through him. Scott and Dean told him they estimated 10 to 12 AmeriCorps members would volunteer to participate in the restoration. Barbee also indicated that our members could be released for a few days, due to high water slowing service at the respective state parks.

Dean and Scott have had a very good relationship with both CFSA and NRCS. They cannot say enough nice things about Jesse Crockford, Area Conservationist at Hutchinson. They get along very well with CFSA County Executive Directors (CEDs) and program specialists in every county visited. In fact, one CED gave them applications for county office trainee positions, which they filled out.

The two mentioned that members of another unnamed AmeriCorps riparian team were criticized by a CED for not carrying county maps correctly. Upon hearing that, I researched the CFSA handbook that deals with maps. CFSA does not have written procedures on how to carry maps.

Schedule for the week of June 12 through June 16:

- \* June 12, NRCS, Salina SO
- \* June 13, Hays riparian team, Russell
- \* June 14, NRCS, Salina SO
- \* June 15, Melvern State Park, Reading
- \* June 16, Scheduled Day Off



Jim Meisenheimer  
Kansas USDA/AmeriCorps Regional Facilitator

cc:

Roger Lemmons, CFSA, Manhattan, KS

Paula Cole Jones, Program Manager, AmeriCorps, PRG-CAR, NRCS,  
Washington, D.C.

Joel Berg, Office of Public Affairs (Communications), Washington, D.C.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Stabilization and  
Conservation Service

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Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913-1895  
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TO: Joel Berg  
Americorps/USDA Staff

FROM: Thomas J. Brandt  
Wisconsin Regional Facilitator

DATE: June 23, 1995

SUBJECT: Progress Report and Itinerary

Based on discussions with the members, they greatly enjoyed your visit to Wisconsin and being able to see how the different projects in the Milwaukee area are benefitting the community. It helped emphasize to them what the true goal of Americorps is and how the work they are performing for NRCS is not meeting that definition. Planning is in the works for the rural development members to again visit Milwaukee and work with the others on a housing project.

Members also enjoyed the ropes challenge course which they attended. They stressed the fact that it demonstrated how various things can be accomplished through teamwork which cannot be completed by an individual.

Nothing finalized as far as graduation activities for the members.

Proposed Itinerary for June 26 - July 7:

Monday: Sauk County CFSA Office  
Tuesday: Sauk County CFSA Office  
Wednesday: Sauk County CFSA Office  
Thursday: Sauk County CFSA Office  
Friday: Compressed Day Off

Monday: Sauk County CFSA Office  
Tuesday: Independence Day  
Wednesday: Sauk County CFSA Office  
Thursday: Sauk County CFSA Office  
Friday: Sauk County CFSA Office



Participation in all programs administered by ASCS is open to all farmers without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.



Weekly AmeriCorps Activities  
for

Robert J. Eaddy  
Regional Facilitator  
South Carolina

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

July 3 (Monday) (3 hours)

I worked in the CFSA State Office. Jere Brittain with Clemson University was suppose to call and work with me on mapping out the 1995/96 AmeriCorps team schedule. Much work is ahead in preparing a realistic schedule and setting up work stations for this AmeriCorps team and the implementation of their project.

July 4 (Tuesday) (0 hours)  
National Holiday

July 5 (Wednesday) (8 hours)

To day-I received a copy of the new "AmeriCorps Operation Manual" and have spent the day reading this manual. I have several questions about numerous things that are in this handbook. I also made a copy for the Site Manager.

July 6 (Thursday) (3 hours)

I talked with NRCS today and they plan to have a separate graduation exercise for their 20 AmeriCorps members. Their graduation date is July 21, 1995, at Greenwood State Park. I had tried to get them to join USFS and RECD in a single USDA/AmeriCorps graduation but they feel the need to do special recognition for their members since they worked as teams on their projects and had such great success. USFS and RECD now plan to have a joint graduation for their 20 AmeriCorps Members. This graduation will probably be in August and I am now trying to find a central location and facility.

July 7 (Friday) (4 hours)

I talked with RECD AmeriCorps program director Gregg White. We discussed recent cluster meetings and the plans for the graduation exercise. I spent the rest of this day calling different locations canvassing a suitable place for the graduation.

August 14, 1995, has been tentatively established for the graduation exercise which will be held at the Santee State Park.

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UNITED  
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DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

USDA/AmeriCorps  
FACILITATOR  
APPALACHIAN PROJECT AREA

USDA/CFSA  
RR 1 BOX 64  
PINEVILLE KY 40977

606-337-3115  
606-337-3905 (FAX)

July 13, 1995

To: Joel Berg, Director National Service  
From: Virginia Short, Regional Facilitator  
Appalachian Project Area  
Subject: USDA/AmeriCorps FACILITATOR WEEKLY REPORT

Report for Appalachian Project Area, by states, is as follows:

KENTUCKY - (Facilitator Virginia Short) CPR Training for RECD and Forest Service members was recently held.

VIRGINIA - (Facilitator Charles Ingram) Individual Member reports as attached.

NORTH CAROLINA - (Facilitator Frank Leatherwood) No report received this week.

WEST VIRGINIA - (Facilitator Cliff Sypolt) No report received this week.

TENNESSEE - (Facilitator John Russell) Several informational items on AmeriCorps projects were furnished. These items were sent to Katherine Gibney, Coordinator of Communications, through regular mail.

Please be advised that CFSA facilitators are experiencing extreme agency workloads at present. Plans by facilitators to assist in "graduation" activities of first year members assigned to other USDA agency AmeriCorps projects will be forth coming.

*Virginia Short*

cc: Hampton Henton Jr., Acting SED  
KY STATE CFSA OFFICE

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To: Joel Berg  
AmeriCorps/USDA  
V: 202-720-6350, FX: 202-720-4614

Date: July 13, 1995

From: Rick Block  
Regional Facilitator  
V: 503-465-6442, FX: 503-465-6483

RE: Reports and Updates

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WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT:

Weeks of June 26 - July 14, 1995

The week of June 26th was devoted to CFSA activities only. I was on vacation the week of July 3rd. The following are developments which occurred the week of July 10th:

\* Amy Wilson, program director of NRCS's RC&D, briefed me about your concern over the media coverage of an AmeriCorps member. I have personally visited three of the five members of the RC&D project, while a CFSA District Director visited the other two. Based on these visits and your accusations of the members not performing community service, I have to give you my point of view of the situation. Unfortunately, you were not able to visit any of these members sites when you made your visit to Oregon. It may have left you a different impression. During my visits, I go over the projects the members are doing. I can assure you that these members go far beyond "writing handbooks". I am sure you are aware that environmental and rural economic development are by far very different in scope from PL&E programs. Building trails is quite different from bridging lasting partnerships among local communities. It takes an AmeriCorps member considerable time just to get acquainted with a community and its needs, let alone making measurable improvements in the right direction within a rural environment. In fact, hastily made decisions in this regard, without community involvement and support can lead to all the opposite results from the desired AmeriCorps objectives. Therefore, I am asking you to have more of an open mind. Talk to one of the RC&D members, a sponsor. Get a feel of what they are really doing that goes beyond the quarterly reports. Is the AmeriCorps spirit, members and communities being best served by your action taken or could some familiarization of the projects help you to appreciate what these members are doing?

In reference to this matter, I never received a copy of the May 3rd memorandum which addressed the press issue. If I had received it, I would have distributed it to all USDA AmeriCorps projects.

\* I received a phone call from a member of the RECD AmeriCorps project who asked for guidance over proper handling of the AmeriCorps quarterly reports. He was confused because he was getting instructions from the national office which differed from the State office. He was told by the national office that the quarterly report must be done by the members. The State Office has been re-writing the reports from the members. He was concerned about the changes made to his report and the fact that not all accompanying articles and documentation was not being included. I told him I would talk to Jim Coyle about this matter. I left a message on Jim's machine on July 12th.





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AMERICORP WEEKLY UPDATE  
July 6 through July 13, 1995  
Janice Syverson, Minnesota

Cluster Members and Project Managers feedback:

Thief River Falls/Twin Valley Clusters:

TRF - Ag Waste Mgmt - Completed a fact sheet on manure and soil testing to distribute to producers. Helped out at Norman County fair. Visited with producer on nutrient management topics and went over his three year plan which member had worked up.

Thief River Falls/Twin Valley - Trails

TRF - Still working on laminating and identifying the wetland plants, found to be a very slow and frustrating project. Working on Red Lake County's recreational trails information to get the tourism guide updated. Helped out at Norman County fair.

TV - Finished float for Norman County Fair, one of our members pulled the float with an ATV and picture made front page of local paper. Attended board meeting for the trail and seems a lot of problems have come up, which will need to be ironed out. Took some more video for the trail project.

Twin Valley, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, Warren, & McIntosh -  
Conservation Outreach Members

TV - Finished float for the county fair parade. Worked at their booth at the fair. Planned community project for Aug. 5 to paint storm catch basins in Mahanomen.

Crookston -

RLF -

Mc - On vacation this week.

Warren - Preparing flyers for the upcoming tillage days. Did some last minute work on puppets for educational trunks, which were used at the fair.

Six members from the cluster went to help out after a tornado went through a community on Sunday night in Kittson County. They went out to help a farmer who had damage to almost every building on his farm. They did a lot of picking up shingles and trees and unwrapping tin from machinery and hauling the debris away to help out.

Rochester/Lewiston Cluster:

Pasture Mgmt. Project - Working on grazing plans. Doing some reading on new grazing techniques. Working on the slide presentation part of her project, needs to get out and get some more pictures taken.

White Water Project - Worked on potential Watershed Taxing Area. Did a Citizens Advisory Committee meeting mailing. Attended Technical Committee meeting. Worked on a demonstration farm ad.

White Water River Watershed Project - Did a farm visit for another possible contract, have it all written up and ready for the producer to sign. Worked with one of the producers who already has a contract. Went on a field day pasture walk on rotational grazing. Worked at count fair one day setting up booth for SWCD and also displayed AmeriCorps information. They had another new contract signed this week and yet another in the works.

Cloquet Cluster:

Nemadji River Basin Project - Assisting the district with a couple tours. One is on Sustainable Farming, and the other on Private Woodlands. Did some press releases on these. Working on the agencies newsletter, doing an article on the Nemadji River project.

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I received a copy of the revised community service objectives from the RECD State Office. I also received a copy of the listing of organizations that the members have worked with.

\* I received an update from Mindy Martin on the USFS Rogue River AmeriCorps group. They had a wonderful softball tournament within the group. The group is currently pruning, doing trailwork and community service projects, such as installing lights for a school's play field. The local county commissioners are very pleased with the group, and will be conducting a publicized field day of AmeriCorps projects on August 1st. The entire group will be attending a session at Oregon State University which will help bridge the members into transition after AmeriCorps.

Mindy also mentioned that USDA program directors will be attending a work session in Houston next week.

\* I received a copy of one week's activities from the NWSA. A copy is attached. The NWSA will be holding a graduation/celebration of the first year on July 28th near Portland, OR. Members will lead invited guests on tours of NWSA projects.

\* The Oregon Commission for National and Community Service is planning a Celebration and Recognition event in Bend, OR on August 11-12. There is also a state-wide program director's meeting planned on August 24th.

#### TRAVEL ITINERARY:

None at this time.

#### MONTHLY EXPENSE REPORT:

None spent in July so far. Total so far in FY '95: \$1918.70. The use of NRCS vehicles have accumulated a mileage cost of \$544.95 to date.

#### FACILITATOR'S TIME INVOLVEMENT IN AMERICORPS:

4 hours so far in July. Total so far in FY '95: 404 hours.

#### OTHER CONCERNS:

None.

#### Enclosures

CC: Charles Sims, OC  
Jack Sainsbury, SED, OR STO  
Barbara Roberts, AO, OR STO  
Larry Frey, OR STO

July 11, 1995

To: Bettye W. Oliver  
AmeriCorps State Contact

Re: AmeriCorps 1995-96 Program Planning Meeting

On Monday July 10, 1995, AmeriCorps members Chanel Richards, Shelly Foutz-Lowe, LaDonna Gulley and LaDonna James held a meeting to discuss members ideas for improving the 1995-96 AmeriCorps year of service. The exchange of ideas included brainstorming on the most useful and positive program areas of this service year, issues dealing with program administration, and member training issues.

The July 10th meeting served a two fold purpose: 1) To provide State and Regional leadership with a specific listing of the areas of greatest concern as seen by the members and 2) To begin formulation of plans and regulations that will result in the development of a result oriented work environment. The members would like the seriousness of the issues addressed to be understood as they will directly effect the participant attitude toward volunteerism.

The major issues addressed in the meeting are as follows:

Program Issues

\*Every quarter the team should hold a meeting specifically to assist members with preparation of the quarterly report. Issues such as what information should be covered and review of the reporting format should be covered.

\*Team meetings should continue with one change. State and Agency cohesion could be improved upon by holding more frequent cluster meetings with all USDA and USDA sub-contracted teams.

\*This agency should take the responsibility of educating its employees on the AmeriCorps program. Site supervisors, grantees, and program coordinators should have a contractual obligation to attend training sessions concerning the mission of the National Service Corps and the duties, purpose and responsibilities of an AmeriCorps volunteer.

\*On the National level more emphasis should be placed on the individuals dedication to national service and less emphasis on the public opinion of the program.

\*National leadership should also attempt to show a more genuine interest in the activities of all AmeriCorps members. Some programs will show no measurable results at the end of one year but will have an impact just as lasting as any other program. Many communities are not accostomed to the atmosphere volunteerism requires and produces. It may take a year to establish an efficient volunteerism pool in these communities and consideration should be given to those circumstances.



## Training

\*Members for the 1995-96 program year should be selected and notified not later than close of business September 15 so that members will be available to attend the first of the year training sponsored by the Mississippi Commission. This training has proved invaluable during the 1994-94<sup>3</sup> year of service.

\*Although Customer Service Training is held yearly and a limited amount of spaces are available, the training received by the members allowed to attend this year was excellent. This Customer Service Training should be offered to all AmeriCorps members, as they should come into contact with the public daily. This training should also be offered at the program's onset for maximum use of the skills it helps develop.

\*Members should receive cultural diversity training. Emphasis should be placed on interaction with international, minority, handicapped and elderly persons.

\*An attempt should be made to make all AmeriCorps members computer literate even if they do not have computer terminals available to they<sup>m</sup> at their site.

2. \*Members should receive grant writing/researching instruction to better aid the rural areas of Mississippi.

\*In the National Office an effort needs to be made to hold the regional training (held this year in Memphis, TN) earlier. Although the training received was geared directly at the issues members would have to deal with in rural areas, everyone had been in their respective communities for months. The training provided too little, too late.

In light of the issues addressed above the AmeriCorps members would like to schedule a two hour block with George E. Irvin, Sr., Acting State Director, for the express purpose of discussing these issues and their chances for implementation. The majority of issues concerning the members will be addressed at the State level and Mr. Irvin will have authority to implement the changes. Understanding the State Directors busy schedule as well as the length of time required for some members to travel to Jackson we respectfully ask that 24 hours notice be given when a meeting date can be scheduled.

*LaDonna D. James*

LaDonna D. James  
AmeriCorps USDA Team Leader

AMERICORPS/CFSA USDA \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

ROD ATTERBERRY  
ILLINOIS AMERICORPS FACILITATOR  
P. O. BOX 107  
HAVANA, IL 62644-0107

OFFICE PHONE: 309-543-2582  
FAX NO. 309-543-3154

Joel Berg

July 7, 1995

Weekly Facilitator Report 07/06/95

Two Rivers Area

Public Lands Team

1. Painted at the Western Catholic Union in Quincy.

Rural Development Team

1. Checking, mapping, and measuring roads for Quincy 911. These were missed the first time (not by AmeriCorps members).
2. Laying out campsites.
3. Developing community highlights for Nebo.
4. Completing details for the CRP alternate use workshop.

East St. Louis

Fifteen senior citizens from Granite City were transported to the Jones Park Greenhouse. AmeriCorps members provided seeds and planting instructions. Members then held a seminar on planting and then the greenhouse plants were passed out to the community. This was not one of the original AmeriCorps projects.

I have not been receiving the USDA AmeriCorps newsletter. Is it still being published?

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August 15, 1995

To: Joel Berg, Director, National Service

From: Rhonda Lampkin, MS Delta Regional Facilitator *RL*

Subject: Weekly Report

We are rapidly approaching the end of our first successful service year in the MS Delta Region. Graduation ceremonies are being held in MS, ARK, and Louisiana throughout the month of August. AmeriCorps members, Site Supervisors, State Contacts, Project Managers, State Director, State Conservationist, State Commission Directors, Lt. Governor (LA), and representatives from non-profit organizations were on hand to witness this commemorative event. Rural Development Team members and supervisors were the recipients of numerous awards ranging from plaques to verbal gratification. Graduation exercises were planned and coordinated jointly by RECD, NRCS, and FS. Each agency's contribution is exemplary of the Team\USDA concept ignited by a cooperative spirit by all parties involved.

The USDA\AmeriCorps National Training held in Houston, TX was a huge success. A host of workshops were offered with topics ranging from "AmeriCorps\USDA Administrative Issues" to "Managing A Diverse AmeriCorps Team."

A newly proposed management structure was introduced that will minimize the responsibilities of AmeriCorps field staff. The department intends to institutionalize the management structure at the state level that will ensure joint management of all AmeriCorps USDA projects by an interagency Coordination Team composed of the State AmeriCorps USDA project directors, who represent each of the involved USDA agencies. The basic concept of jointly managing all USDA projects has already succeeded this year in South Carolina, the Four Corners, and Louisiana, where our field staff themselves took the initiative to cooperatively coordinate AmeriCorps\USDA projects. This new approach to managing AmeriCorps projects will provide a model of realistic methods to reinvent government for other federal agencies, and will bolster the overall "Team USDA" reorganization efforts.

Several states have initiated the recruitment process by soliciting for applications and distributing information packets to schools, universities, churches, non-profit agencies, and other community-based organizations. The response has been overwhelming and is indicative of the programs successful efforts in communicating the benefits and philosophies of AmeriCorps and National Service. USDA\AmeriCorps members have been vigilant in their communities and served as the catalyst to bring forth a positive change through their respective undertakings.

Under Secretary Jill Long and RHCDS and Administrator Maureen Kennedy will be visiting Mississippi. The State Contact is preparing a briefing paper on the AmeriCorps program for their visit. The paper will consist of the following information:

- Outstanding accomplishments achieved in the first year.
- Information on volunteers recruited to bolster success of local projects.
- Projected longevity and impact of community service projects.
- Other pertinent information related to AmeriCorps.

I will follow-up with a report highlighting the activities regarding the visit.

CF: Norm Reid  
Dave Gibson  
Jim Coyle  
Charles Sims

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AMERICORPS/CFSA USDA \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

ROD ATTERBERRY  
ILLINOIS AMERICORPS FACILITATOR  
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HAVANA, IL 62644-0107

OFFICE PHONE: 309-543-2582  
FAX NO. 309-543-3154

Joel Berg

May 12, 1995

Weekly AmeriCorp Report 05/12/95

Two Rivers Area

Two members of the Wisconsin Rural Development Team visited the project from May 9th thru May 11th. The guests stayed at Jensen Woods Church Camp.

On Tuesday they worked at Jensen Woods with the Public Lands Team. Members poured a concrete floor in the tack shed and enclosed the shed.

On Wednesday the guests met with all 5 Rural Development members. A general discussion on each persons projects and jobs was held. The guests attended the Golden townboard meeting with 2 members.

Thursday the guests worked at Jensen Woods with the public lands team.

The Public Lands Team

1. Built and poured concrete for a tack shed.
2. Finished expanding 3 tree houses.
3. Finished installing the furnace in the bunk house.

The Rural Development Team

1. Collecting historical data on the Payson High School building. This information will be used to petition for the National Register for historic buildings.
2. The community profile for Barry has been completed and is being printed by the Central Illinois Public Service Co.

East St. Louis

Flood Team

1. Due to adverse weather conditions they were unable to work on site. They assisted with setting up the U.R.P.S. press conference.

Public Lands Team

1. Have planted 75% of the demonstration garden at State Community College.
2. Repaired a water leak in the main line at the East Side High School. One-half of the sprinkler system has been installed.
3. Landscaped and completed one abandoned lot.

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Consolidated  
Farm Service  
Agency

Androscoggin/Sagadahoc CFSA  
27 Westminster Street  
Lewiston, Maine 04240-3531

April 6, 1995

TO: Joel Berg, Director of National Service  
FROM: Mike Tardy, <sup>Mike</sup> Acting CED, Regional Americorps Facilitator  
SUBJECT: Weekly Report

Information from one of the clusters shows lots of activity going on. There are three different groups working out of the Down East area. One group working with the cranberry growers reports that a Cranberry Water Quality workshop series has discussed the following items: Understanding Wetlands, Environmental law, Crop insurance, Marketing, Pollination, How to work with government agencies. A video production is just being sent out for editing entitled, "Cranberries: America's Favorite Fruit".

Another group is working with the Hatchery. They have just completed the spawning of 15,000,000 clams. If there is a 50 percent survival rate, that could mean \$5,000,000. They are also working on water quality issues. They are meeting on a regular basis with area town selectmen as part of a Shellfish committee. They also have a lecture series going on at the University of Maine at Machais. Another research project is conditioning for early spawning and conditioning free of sediment. They are partners in monitoring with Jonesport/Beals High School; recently this monitoring allowed the opening of 9 miles of clam flats.

A water quality group is also working with Jonesport/Beals and Machais High School students on the production of a Water Quality video to be used for an Outreach Program. They are working with area high schools on environmental newsletters.

cc. G. Arnold Roach, Acting SED  
Richard Baird, Project Director

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

# of pages 1

|                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| TO: Joel Berg                   | From: Mike Tardy      |
| Dept./Agency: USDA Americorps   | Phone #: 207 783 9194 |
| Fax #: 202 720 4614             | Fax #: 207 783 4101   |
| NSN 7540-01-317-7368            | 5099-101              |
| GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION |                       |



AMERICORPS  
WEEKLY REPORT  
South Dakota

The South Dakota AmeriCorps members in Huron have continued to concentrate on "Ag in the Classroom" activities, attending Farm and Home Shows, Water Festivals, and several elementary schools in the area.

Last week (May 17) the Huron members went north of Huron to plant 500 willow trees along Lake Byron. The lake shore suffered extensive erosion as a result of the Midwest Flood of 1993 and the rains in 1994. They have also done much with shoreline stabilization.

The Mitchell cluster has also gone to area farms and creeks to place rip rap and cattle crossings, plant trees, and generally "clean up" after the erosion and wash out of roads, creeks, etc.

Many of the members are assisting with the South Dakota Special Olympics and other Community activities.

Attached is an article from the Huron Plainsman regarding the project at Lake Byron.

The Brookings members are working out of doors continuing their efforts on the wetlands and streams in that area.

NOTE:

I respectfully request an small extension on the June 1st deadline for the 1995-96 AmeriCorps project. I was out of town for several days and now Rick Weiland is unavailable for a few days.

Mr. Weiland is Senator Tom Daschle's State Director. He was very instrumental in assisting with the Lower Brule Reservation Project. Rick has indicated that he will visit the Reservation and Tribal Chairman, Mike Jandreau, with me as soon as humanly possible.

If this is not possible, I am not certain of the quality of my service objectives. The reservation is in dire straits, but we're not certain where they need help the most. Please let me know and your consideration is appreciated.

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PRESERVATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CONSOLIDATED FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
SAN JUAN COUNTY CFSA OFFICE  
504 NORTH MAIN  
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO 87410

PHONE (505) 334-3090  
FAX (505) 334-8659

TO: Mr. Joel Berg, Director of National Service  
FROM: Lloyd Wilhelm, Four Corners Facilitator  
SUBJECT: Weekly Report

May 11, 1995

The members have been reporting back that they are getting very busy with their projects. The 1995 Americorps year has reached mid-point and many feel a lot of pressure to reach the objectives designated for them. The members are making great strides, and I keep reassuring them that all will come together.

I had the opportunity to address the County Executive Directors from all over New Mexico at a training session in Albuquerque, NM last week. Many of the CED's were not familiar with the Americorps program, and this gave me an opportunity to explain what has been happening the last year, and what could happen for 1996. Many were very supportive and felt service oriented programs would be very helpful in their communities. I explained that we have submitted a proposal to the National Office and our office could host Americorps Members for the 1996 program year.

I have received several disturbing comments from other county offices concerning our members and their conduct. Employees have stated they felt the members were not being very productive and felt they were a waste of tax payers money. With the seriousness of the implication I immediately contacted John Thomas, State Contact for RECD, New Mexico who has supervisor responsibilities over these members. He will review their activities and take immediate action to correct the issue. I stressed that because of the political sensitivity of this program we do not need this type of public outcry. I will update you in the next few weeks as I receive information back from John.

On the positive note: I have received several comments from members and local people on the success of the National Day of Service Project in Farmington. The dedication of several of our members put this together and they should be commended on their efforts. Alyssa Shantel Farnsworth, and Erick Aune, both did an excellent job of carrying out the service initiative. I did not have time to commit to a successful organization of the days activities, so I delegated the responsibility to them and they carried it out.

Enclosed are several reports from some of our members on the success's they are having with their projects.



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PRESERVATION

ATTENTION ALERT ATTENTION ALERT ATTENTION ALERT ATTENTION ALERT

Concerning upcoming site visits by you Joel. The tentative dates listed in the memo dated May 4, 1995 of June 10, thru June 13, 1995 will have a conflict with already established events myself and some of the Site Coordinators have going. Merlin Berg has also stated June is not a good month for his area due to meeting he must attend and activities ongoing. After discussing the situation with all of our site coordinators we have devised a plan that we hope will be of much interest to you.

We are looking at having our Site Graduation Ceremonies combined with the whole Region at Mesa Verde Lodge, in Mancos Colorado around the last week of July or the first few weeks of August. The site is located in the World Renowned Archeological finds of the Anasazi Indian ruins in the Mesa Verde National Park. We will bring all of our members together from all four states and have a combined reflection, completion, graduation ceremony for all the members. This would be a great time for you to attend and share the philosophy of Americorps with our members. We also will arrange a tour of the region that will allow you to tour and meet the local leaders of the communities that have helped us make our projects a success.

## Possible tentative dates:

Arrive in Flagstaff, Arizona, on July 23, visit the community experiment farm and tour the local project sites. Work with members in the area on local projects. Meet with local media people for a interview. I will pick you up at the closest airport and accompany you through out the tour. The afternoon of July 24 will drive to Farmington New Mexico for lodging.

July 25 proceed to Mesa Verde Colorado for the Regional Ceremonies to commence around 2:pm Tuesday afternoon. We can tour Aztec, Durango, and Mancos sites as we proceed to meeting. Before the meeting we can meet with several newspapers and have extensive coverage by the local television stations. We would like you to address the group with opening remarks and share national view points and interests with the group.

July 26, Day of reflection by members with several workshops on completion of projects, and possible continuation of other projects. Meet with members individually with sharing of project success's.

July 27, Graduation Exercises for members with presentation of service recognition presented by you to all members. Proceed to Montecillo Utah in the afternoon for a tour of site operations by Utah Members located in city. Spend the night in Moab, Utah.

July 28, meet with members in the Price, Utah group along with other members of Americorps sister projects.

This would be a very extensive trip that would give you a very in depth tour of happenings in the Four Corners Region. Please reply to let us know if this would work into your schedule. We also can look at the first 2 weeks in August if your schedule would allow. I know it would be great and very enlightening to you, and our members would be delighted to have your input.



05/09/95 14:58

202 702 4614

USDA NAT SER OFF

000/006

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATIONUSDA/AMERICORPS  
RESPONSE FORM FOR SITE GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Date, location, and state where graduation ceremonies will be held:

Last Week July / 1st or 2nd Week August  
Mesa Verde, Colorado, Mancos CO

USDA agency or agencies from which AmeriCorps Members will be participating:

RECD, RCTD/NRCS/FS/ Nista

Number of USDA AmeriCorps Members expected to participate:

40 to 45

County or Counties of the duty station(s) of USDA AmeriCorps Members expected to participate:

San Juan, UT / San Juan NM / La Plata / Montezuma  
CO / Navajo / Apache AZ, Danga Ana NMA /  
McKinley NMA Bernalillo, Rio Arriba NMAny local leaders confirmed to attend: All Coordinators,

Brief description of any activities associated with the graduation:

See Attached memo.We will work agenda to coordinate with  
your travel plans

Name and number of contact person for graduation:

Lloyd WilhelmLet us know and we will organize a wide array  
of activities.505-334-3090Please fax to (202) 720-4614 when complete.

Call (202) 720-6350 with any questions.



MAY- 2-95 TUE 14:23 MONTICELLO

P.01

05/02/1995 14:18 6377335

BUSINESS CENTER

PAGE 03

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATIONTO: ELDON  
RE: COMMUNITY TIMEMY PERCEPTION OF WELLINGTON PETUNIA PLANTING, MOAB TRASH PICK UP  
AND PAINTING BLANDING FOOD BANK.

DURING THE CHINESE COMMUNIST MAO'S PERIOD, OFFICE WORKERS WERE SENT FROM CITIES OUT INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE TO HELP AT HARVEST TIME. THIS WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE THE EXALTATION OF MANUAL LABOR TO OFFICE WORKERS WHO OTHERWISE WOULD NOT HAVE BENEFITED FROM THIS EGALITARIAN EXPERIENCE. MAO SAW THE NECESSITY TO CREATE A CLASSLESS SOCIETY WITH LABOR SHARING AS BASIS OF COMMUNIST BELIEF. JUST AS MAO WAS HAILED AS SUPREME LEADER OF CHINESE PEOPLE, KRESHA EASTMAN IS HONORED AS LEADER OF SOUTHEAST AMERICORPS TEAM. IT IS THROUGH KRESHA'S ENCOURAGEMENT THAT AMERICORPS MEMBERS EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN POSITIVE EFFORTS THAT LAY THE GROUND WORK FOR PROJECTS THAT CAN BE DESCRIBED AS INVESTMENTS IN THE FUTURE.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLANT PETUNIAS FOR WELLINGTON CITY ENSURED GRATIFICATION OF RESIDENTS AS THEIR CITY HALL LAWN WILL BE A WALL OF COLOR THIS SUMMER TO BREAK THE MONOTONY OF A CONCRETE ENVIRONMENT. CLEANING TRASH ON HIGHWAY 191 FOR FOUR MILES IS AN INVESTMENT FOR FUTURE BEAUTIFICATION OF UTAH. TOURIST AND TRUCKERS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE AMERICORPS TEAM'S LABOR. IN BLANDING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE FOOD BANK WILL HAVE A CLEAN AND FRESHLY PAINTED BUILDING DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF THE DEDICATED AMERICORPS TEAM. LEADERS ARE FAR SIGHTED PEOPLE WHO SEE BEYOND THE HORIZON TO BUILD THE COMMON GOOD BETWEEN CLASSLESS SOCIETIES AND COMMUNITIES. FROM MY PERCEPTION THESE TWO PROJECTS WERE SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT THAT ENHANCED MY PERSONAL GROWTH FOR I LEARNED TO WORK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF WOMEN AND MANKIND RATHER THAN ADVANCEMENT OF ANNA PAWL.

*For the A-Corps  
NCH News letter*

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

## FAX TRANSMITTAL

|                      |              |                                 |                |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| To                   | Eric         | From                            | A-Corps - UTAH |
| Dept/Agency          | A-Corps      | Phone #                         |                |
| Fax #                | 505-334-8659 | Fax #                           |                |
| NSN 7540-01-317-7508 |              | GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION |                |

05/08/95 15:22

6025241618

AZ AMERICORP

001/001

Constanza Escudero

AmeriCorps. Quarterly Report.

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

Working with small rural communities as an AmeriCorps member has given me the opportunity to conduct ECON/DB. ECON/DB, a data base which provides socio-economic profiles for each community takes sixteen weeks to conduct. Still it depends on the size of each community, for example, if you conduct ECON/DB in large community, it will take a longer time to complete. The survey provides White Mountain Regional Developers with complete economic profiles to assist with specific new businesses in order not to over populate with too many of the same businesses.

In the Zuni Reservation I helped with the implementation of an existing grant for a solar kiln. Through this project the Pueblo of Zuni hopes to accomplish the following goals (1) Maintain and improve productivity of renewable resources. (2) Continue to gather information needed for natural resource management practices. (3) Provide opportunities for increased income and tribal employment. (4) Develop markets for forest products. (5) Encourage forestry educational opportunities. (6) Promote tribal involvement in forestry activities. (7) Develop a comprehensive fire management program. (8) Continue to expand leadership opportunities.

In the Navajo reservation, I will be focusing on priority projects and assisting the Navajo CDC with implementing the existing economic diversification grant.

Love your welcome to read & edit  
Please send me first what you + colleagues  
decide to, next before the final newsletter  
Thanks  
- Constanza



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Service

San Juan RC&D  
1060 Main Ave. #020  
Durango, Co. 81301

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## NEWS

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FOR RELEASE ON: 5/3/95

FOR INFORMATION: Ollie Powers  
San Juan RC&D  
(303)259-3287

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

### LOCAL YOUTH DEMONSTRATE THEIR DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Seeing the devastation of last summers Black Ridge fire, south of Durango, so upset twelve year old Michelle Barr of Durango that she decided to do something about it. She held a car wash, with the help of her cousins, to raise money for the purchase of 300 ponderosa pine trees for replanting on the ridge south of Durango.

Three hundred trees may not seem like much when compared to 14,000 acres of charred forest land, but to Michelle and her six cousins it was one way to make a difference.

(more)

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This was a self initiated project to benefit the community they live in. Community service is important for creating character and fostering community pride. Michelle and her cousins have contributed their time and labor to a cause they felt strongly about.

Last Saturday, Michelle and her dad, Darrel Bahr, along with cousins: Joshua Garcia, and friend Andrew Scarborough, Elisha, Teresa, and Catlin Garcia, Madeline and Sage Grey from Ignacio, and their aunt's, Tracy Grey and Jacquie Garcia and grandmother, Frances Blacker, planted the trees on private property on Black Ridge.

Assisting them were local San Juan Resource Conservation and Development AmeriCorps members, Mark Applegquist and Ollie Powers, who volunteered their time, as did RC&D coordinator Gary Jennings and Lee Campbell of the RC&D Council. Lunch was provided by the RC&D council and the La Plata Conservation District. Tree planting expertise was provided by Kent Grant of the Colorado State Forest Service.

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Provided by Ollie Powers, AmeriCorps member and information/education specialist working with the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development.

The San Juan Resource Conservation and Development is an organization committed to the rural development of the region. The San Juan Basin is rich in natural resources. The SJRC&D provides for their use in a manner which will insure future generations equal access & opportunity. With the help of local citizens the RC&D develops and implements action oriented plans for social, economic, and environmental betterment of their communities.

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Service

San Juan RC&D  
1060 Main Ave. #020  
Durango, Co. 81301

---

## NEWS

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FOR RELEASE ON: 5/3/95

FOR INFORMATION: Ollie Powers  
San Juan RC&D  
(303)259-3287

SIDEBAR TO NATIONAL SERVICE DAY ON OUR RANCH, 4/25/95

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

### OUR RANCH SAN JUAN INC., THE START OF A DREAM FOR BOB BROWNING

Bob Browning is following through on a lifelong dream to reconnect the population of the four corners area and the nation with animals and nature. Up until the last one hundred years all people were involved with animals both on farms, ranches and for use as a means of transportation.

The breakdown of this relationship may be partially responsible for societies increasingly distant relationship with the environment, said Mr. Browning.

(more)

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The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

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PRESERVATION

2

Mr. Browning feels that many children today experience a confused family life. This confusion at home along with the confused message they receive on television may contribute to the problems some youth are having in finding direction and purpose in what can sometimes be a very hectic lifestyle in today's world.

Many school teachers haven't experienced the joys and rewards associated with the care and nurturing of animals themselves and may not realize the wide range of benefits to the youth resulting from the bonding between student and farm animal.

"The family farm has almost disappeared in the last two decades," said Browning, "Our Ranch is an attempt to fill the gap."

When he grew up almost everyone had access to a family farm and some exposure to animals. Now a lot of the kids probably have very little opportunity to be around a farm.

"The bulk of the population in America do not have contact with animals and nature," said Browning, "...mechanized transportation is less than 100 years old....all travel was on horseback or on foot.....people were connected to animals for many years."

Mr. Browning, who raises Appaloosa horses, found that the Nez Perce Indians of northern Idaho are given credit for developing the Appaloosa breed but that the Nez Perce no longer had any registered Appaloosa horses. He thought that bringing the Nez Perce people closer to their heritage through the Appaloosa horse would be a great benefit to both young and old.

He took his idea to the Nez Perce people, the Dean of Agriculture at the University of Idaho and to the headquarters of the Appaloosa Horse Club in Moscow, Idaho. In a record three days, a corporation was founded to reconnect the Nez Perce to the Appaloosa industry.

(more)



"This was something that was supposed to happen for the Nez Perce," said Browning, " I was just the facilitator."

He has donated 13 horses to get them started. They now have over 30 head and have become very involved with the Appaloosa industry both here and abroad. A similar effort is being undertaken by Browning with the Navajo in Round Rock, Arizona. They recently received a grant to build an arena and to purchase medical supplies for the horses. He is working with the Navajo Prep School in Farmington and hopes that they will eventually have their own horsemanship academy.

Bob Browning is a man with a vision who is willing to work in order to prove it's validity.

"What I envision is thousands of these kinds of places (like Our Ranch) being developed in America," said Browning.

There are similar organizations in the U.S. but they are not acquainted with each other yet. They don't have a network to work together as a unit. Bob Browning would like the Four Corners to be the hub for ranches serving youth and their communities on a national scale.

###

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Provided by Ollie Powers, AmeriCorps member and information/education specialist working with the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development.

The San Juan Resource Conservation and Development is an organization committed to the rural development of the region. The San Juan Basin is rich in natural resources. The SJRC&D provides for their use in a manner which will insure future generations equal access & opportunity. With the help of local citizens the RC&D develops and implements action oriented plans for social, economic, and environmental betterment of their communities.

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION





# *AmeriCorps - USDA - Rural Development Team*

US Forest Service



701 Camino del Rio



Durango, Co 81301

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

## Memorandum



Date: May 2, 1995

To: Lloyd Wilhelm

From: Tim Richard *TR*

Re: Recent accomplishments

Lloyd, it's been too long since I've been able to send you info on my work, so here is a brief synopsis.

### Apr/May activities

- National Service Day, Apr. 25, 1995: I spent the day at the Bob Browning ranch in Farmington helping out with a number of jobs getting the place in shape for Our Ranch, Inc. to come in and provide disadvantaged youths opportunities they deserve. Projects: irrigation pipeline installation; petting zoo design and measurements.
- I've been co-facilitating (with Carla Garrison) a number of break out working groups in four weekly community meetings designed to elicit public participation for the Montezuma County Colorado Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
- I've been invited by the local chapter of the Sierra Club and a local citizens community group (5/8/95) to give a presentation on my AmeriCorps project with the San Juan/Rio Grande National Forest and Fort Lewis College Office of Community Services and my role in National Forest Plan Revision and how it can benefit communities and organizations.
- The City Manager of Cortez, Colo. has asked me to share my work with his office in order to improve their understanding of the community they operate in.
- An attorney has asked me if I would be interested in working for her as a "mediator" in a new service she is trying to establish in Cortez and Montezuma County. This is very preliminary and I don't know anymore, but I see it as a possible opportunity to provide a useful service to communities.

### Notes from the week of Apr 10-14, 1995

- Tuesday—Lunched with leaders of three orgs. to discuss pooling efforts to promote community ownership of sustainable rural landscape. And very preliminary first meeting with an outcome of members committing to continuing correspondence in order to explore the feasibility of a regional, cross-boundary relationship of several community activist organizations, municipalities, and citizens.
- Tuesday—A reporter from a Telluride radio station interviewed me about my work as an AmeriCorps member research in rural community development and as part of a planning team working with the San Juan National Forest Plan Revision.



- Wednesday—Attended, assisted and participated in the La Plata County Citizens Smart Growth Initiative working group meeting in which we discussed and defined growth in our own terms, listed what we perceived the issues to be regarding growth, offered possible solutions, and articulated our hopes for the future. Our input is being written into a report which will be delivered to Colorado Governor Roy Romer next week in Durango when he attends the Regional Smart Growth Summit.
- I just want to remind Washington of my/our contribution to Habitat to Humanity work two Mondays ago. I don't think we'll ever see them wielding an electric saw like Shannon, or see Shantel climbing a flimsy ladder with a leg brace on her knee, or see Todd persevering in order to start a nail driving with his bad arm, or the Navajo members working together to get that roof up.

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



Members serving April 25 National  
Day of Service  
Original is being mailed.



Sincerely,

Lloyd Wilhelm,  
Four Corners Americorps Facilitator

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



# TAX APPROACHING!

USDA-CONSOLIDATED FARM SERVICE AGENCY.  
504 N. Main St. Aztec, NM, 87410  
(505)334-3090, Fax (505)334-8659



DATE: 5-19-95

TIME: 1:25

NUMBER OF PAGES: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: Joel Berg

COMPANY: USDA - Americorps

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: 1-202-720-4614

FROM: Lloyd Wilhelmer 4 Corners  
Americorps

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Weekly report

MESSAGE: We would appreciate  
input on your involvement  
in our graduation ceremonies in  
the Four Corners



AmeriCorps ★ USDA ★ Rural Development Team

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CONSOLIDATED FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
SAN JUAN COUNTY CFSA OFFICE  
504 NORTH MAIN  
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO 87410

PHONE (505) 334-3090

FAX (505) 334-8659

TO: Mr. Joel Berg, Director of National Service  
FROM: Lloyd Wilhelm, Four Corners Facilitator  
SUBJECT: Weekly Report

May 19, 1995

Well another busy week has passed with Americorps alive and well in the Four Corners Region. Many things have happened with a need for answers for several issues.

1. Have received reports that members nationally have been paid time and half on all hours above 80 in a pay period. I have checked with all my coordinators and we do have several instances where this has happened. The state offices, coordinators and members are reviewing the circumstances and are striving to reconcile the situation.
2. We have another instance where the members received a cost of living increase for 1995. The members hourly rate went from 6.62 per hour to 6.75 per hour. Because of this they would be out of stipend funds before they served their 1700 hrs of national service. We brought this to the attention of the State Coordinator, and he stated he would review the situation.
3. Attached is a newspaper article that appeared in The Arizona Republic on Saturday, May 13, 1995. Several members have seen this article and wish that you would check out the validity of the statements made by Mr. Eli Segal concerning Americorps future. I will mail the original copy for your information. Other articles will also be forthcoming.
4. Joel concerning your tentative schedule for site visits in the Four Corners Region. After checking with the host motels and availability of rooms, we have determined that our best week for your participation in a meeting as well as have a tour of our region will be the last week of August. Would you give me some input on your availability the week of August 27, thru September 01. I have been overwhelmed by the requests from our members for your participation and involvement in our region. Each one of them want you to visit their site and see the progress they have made in the local communities. We have determined that the members themselves will be involved extensively with the coordination and arranging of your visit to our area. They are the ones performing the service and I think they should be the ones receiving the credit for the accomplishments achieved.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Wilhelm,  
Four Corners Americorps Facilitator

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

\*\* TOTAL PAGE.008 \*\*



Weekly AmeriCorps Activities  
for

Robert J. Eaddy  
Regional Facilitator  
South Carolina

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

July 31 (Monday) (6 hours)

I called Donna Hines to obtain an AmeriCorps Order Form and get Rhonda Taylor's telephone number who is in charge of all orders with the Corporation. Then called Rhonda Taylor trying to order or requisitioning some AmeriCorps Stickers to use as seals on the graduation certificates. After several attempts I made contact with Charity at the Corporation for National Service and she promised to give me 20 of these stickers. I spent the rest of the day on the PC trying to design a suitable graduation certificate.

August 1 (Tuesday) (8 hours)

I called Deryl Jevons, USFS AmeriCorps program manager and Gregg White, RECD AmeriCorps program manager and discussed graduation arrangements and payment for scheduled use of Village Round at Santee State Park for August 14, 1995. This is the most central location and reasonably priced facility for all AmeriCorps members to use for a graduation.

August 2 (Wednesday) (8 hours)

To day was spent on the PC trying to get these AmeriCorps graduation certificates fixed to please both agencies. I also met with both Gregg White and Deryl Jevons and have started to work on the graduation program and have been busy trying to get a Key Note speaker. Also sent out letters of invitation to various dignitaries and politicians within the state (Senators Thurmond, and Hollings, Congressman Clyburn, Spratt, and Spence).

August 3 (Thursday) (8 hours)

I have spent this day on FSA's AmeriCorps Recruiting Program. Talked with Charles Sims at National Office and understand to go ahead with recruiting, but no

news releases, also begin to prepare Recruitment Plan and a detail work plan for carrying out 1996FY Program Objectives. Talked with Jean Moore, Director of S. C. Commission on National and Community Service. Ms. Moore is going to work with us this year in any way she can. They to are going ahead with their recruiting. I now have a Key Note Speaker for the graduation service. The speaker is Kathy Gibson, Program Director for Learn and Serve America, S. C. Department of Education. She works with the S. C. Commission and their AmeriCorps program.

August 4 (Friday) (8 hours)

Still working on my recruiting plan.

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



AMERICORPS/CFSA USDA \*\*\*\*\*

ROD ATTERBERRY  
ILLINOIS AMERICORPS FACILITATOR  
P. O. BOX 107  
HAVANA, IL 62644-0107

OFFICE PHONE: 309-543-2582  
FAX NO. 309-543-3154

Joel Berg

June 27, 1995

Weekly Facilitator Report 06/22/95

East St. Louis

Karla Kenton spoke on gardening to the 5th & 6th grade class in A.M. Jackson Grade School. The teacher picked 6 volunteers from each class to attend a 7 week gardening class taught by Karla. The 5th graders came to State Community College from 9:00 to 10:30 on Thursday and the 6th graders on Friday. The students were taught gardening, given seeds to plant at their schools science lab, and then transplanted them to the community garden at the school. Each student was given a certificate at the end of the class.

Two Rivers Project

Public Lands Team

1. Cut brush along stream that carries flood water out of Pearl and Nebo.

Rural Development Team

1. Mapping areas for 911 that were missed.
2. Working on CRP workshop.
3. Received instruction on Rushville land use inventory.
4. Attached news article.

PHOTOCOPY  
FACILITATION

To: Joel Berg  
AmeriCorps/USDA  
V: 202-720-6350, FX: 202-720-4614

Date: June 26, 1995

From: Rick Block  
Regional Facilitator  
V: 503-465-6442, FX: 503-465-6483

RE: Reports and Updates

**WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT:**

Weeks of June 12 - 24, 1995

The week of June 12th was devoted to CFSA activities. Due to CFSA workload, I will not be able to attend President Clinton's visit to Portland. Please see the newsletter enclosed regarding efforts by the local AmeriCorps to prepare for the visit and other news.

- \* I attended the RECD's paint renovation project in Baker City on June 23-24th. Gary Timm, the AmeriCorps member who spearheaded the event, did a great job with organization. Houses of low income residents were painted in three counties. There were many volunteers from the community who helped. It stood as a fine example of AmeriCorps and video footages captured it well.

**TRAVEL ITINERARY:**

None at this time.

**MONTHLY EXPENSE REPORT:**

\$422.72 spent in June so far. Total so far in FY '95: \$1918.70. Starting with the next report, I will add the cost of the use of the NRCS's vehicles which are paid at an upper level by memorandum of agreement between CFSA and NRCS. The NRCS vehicles have been used extensively since the beginning.

**FACILITATOR'S TIME INVOLVEMENT IN AMERICORPS:**

45 hours so far in June. Total so far in FY '95: 400 hours.

**OTHER CONCERNS:**

None.

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

CC: Charles Sims, OC  
Jack Sainsbury, SED, OR STO  
Barbara Roberts, AO, OR STO  
Larry Frey, OR STO





UNITED  
STATES  
DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

USDA/AmeriCorps  
FACILITATOR  
APPALACHIAN PROJECT AREA

USDA/CFSA  
RR 1 BOX 64  
PINEVILLE KY 40977

606-337-3115  
606-337-3905 (FAX)

July 21, 1995

To: Joel Berg, Director National Service  
From: Virginia Short, Regional Facilitator  
Appalachian Project Area  
Subject: USDA/AmeriCorps FACILITATOR WEEKLY REPORT

Report for Appalachian Project Area, by states, is as follows:

KENTUCKY - (Facilitator Virginia Short) Contacted all State Facilitators for a report of plans by other USDA agencies on upcoming Graduation Activities for first year AmeriCorps Members. Will report responses when available.

VIRGINIA - (Facilitator Charles Ingram) Working to secure Graduation Activity information.

NORTH CAROLINA - (Facilitator Frank Leatherwood) Working to secure Graduation Activity information.

WEST VIRGINIA - (Facilitator Cliff Sypolt) No report received this week.

TENNESSEE - (Facilitator John Russell) No report this week.

*Virginia Short*

cc: Hampton Henton Jr., Acting SED  
KY STATE CFSA OFFICE

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

To: Joel Berg  
AmeriCorps/USDA  
V: 202-720-6350, FX: 202-720-4614

Date: July 21, 1995

From: Rick Block  
Regional Facilitator  
V: 503-465-6442, FX: 503-465-6483

RE: Reports and Updates

WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT:

Week of July 17 - July 28, 1995

OPTIONAL FORM 88 (7-80)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

# of pages 10

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| To           | From    |
| Dept./Agency | Phone # |
| Fax #        | Fax #   |

NSN 7540-01-317-7368

5098-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

I will be on vacation from 7/26 thru 8/1/95. The week of July 17th was occupied mainly by CFSA activities. I received the following during the week of July 17th:

\* Jennifer Thompson, NRCS's EnviroCorps, gave me some highlights of her third quarterly report. The Whitaker Pond Restoration project had its plan approved in June focussing on restoration, revegetation and recreational enhancement on a 5-acre parcel which was formerly a junkyard. AmeriCorps members have been performing clean-up activities and several community organizations and businesses have contributed volunteer hours and discounted services. Clean-up will continue at least through the summer. To advance the educational and career positions of 20 high school drop-outs, EnviroCorps received a grant to secure youths for a 6-week summer program. AmeriCorps members received training on Leadership and Mentoring to prepare them for their new responsibilities of working with the youth.

AmeriCorps members are also receiving extensive training on the "Combined Sewer Overflow, Downspout Disconnection Program". This will be followed by surveying the downspouts of over a 1000 homes and discussing the project with homeowners to solicit their involvement. Disconnection of the downspouts alleviates roof runoff carrying untreated sewage into the sewer system which overflows into the Columbia Slough.

By the end of June, EnviroCorps has worked with approximately 2820 community members on numerous service projects. Community service internships with community organizations played a very useful part of the members' experiences.

\* Please find enclosed another newsletter from AmeriCorps Network Northwest, describing happenings in the Northwest.

TRAVEL ITINERARY:

None at this time.

MONTHLY EXPENSE REPORT:

None spent in July so far. Total so far in FY '95: \$1918.70. The use of NRCS vehicles have accumulated a mileage cost of \$544.95 to date.

FACILITATOR'S TIME INVOLVEMENT IN AMERICORPS:

5 hours so far in July. Total so far in FY '95: 405 hours.





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Rural Economic  
and Community  
Development

Suite 831, Federal Building  
Jackson, Mississippi 39269  
601-965-4318

March 30, 1995

To: Joel Berg, Director, National Service

From: Rhonda Lampkin, AmeriCorps Regional Facilitator (MS Delta)

Subject: Weekly Report

I spent the week in Memphis, TN at the national training for USDA/AmeriCorps Rural Development Team members and Project Managers. The training primarily focused on Community Development concepts in relation to revitalization, stages of group development, managing change, community strategic planning process, and leadership development. The theme of the training was "Helping Small Towns Survive." Members engaged in deep discussions on challenges faced by rural communities and steps taken to address critical human social, and economic needs. Members also discussed techniques used to integrate community service objectives into initial phases of Implementing EZ/EC Strategic Plans. Members located within an applicant community designed their service objectives to directly reflect the needs/solutions specified in the EZ/EC plan. During discussion sessions, supervisors reinforced the importance of members performing services as described in objectives parallel to those assessed in strategic plan.

Some members expressed concern for lack of funding available to implement programs and fulfill service objectives within this budget year, i.e., State RECD housing division depleted budget for 504 home repair loans. This creates a problem for RDT members responsible for outreach activities related to improving the quality of homes in rural communities. Members are exploring other alternatives by identifying resources available through other local, state, and federally funded programs addressing similar issues. By utilizing a proactive vs. reactive approach, members are better positioned to become more community responsive while meeting their service objectives.

CF: Norm Reid  
Dave Gibson

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Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

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Department of  
Agriculture

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Agency

Androscoggin/Sagadahoc CFSA  
27 Westminster Street  
Lewiston, Maine 04240-3531

March 30, 1995

TO: Joel Berg, Director of National Service  
FROM: <sup>Mike</sup>Mike Tardy, Acting CED, Regional Americorps Facilitator  
SUBJECT: Weekly Report

Richard Baird, the Project Director, has been in Washington this week. I tried getting in touch with the Cluster Leaders but we couldn't make connections. I do know that some members are still making the classroom visits and other members are getting outside to do some field work.

cc. G. Arnold Roach, Acting SED  
Richard Baird, Project Director

OPTIONAL FORM 39 (7-80)

**FAX TRANSMITTAL**

# of pages **1**

|                                      |                                          |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| To <b>Joel Berg</b>                  | From <b>Mike Tardy</b>                   |
| Dept./Agency <b>USDA/ Americorps</b> | Phone # <b>207 783 9194</b>              |
| Fax # <b>202 720 4614</b>            | Fax # <b>207 783 4101</b>                |
| NSN 7540-01-317-7368                 | 5098-107 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION |



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CONSOLIDATED FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
SAN JUAN COUNTY CFSA OFFICE  
504 NORTH MAIN  
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO 87410

PHONE (505) 334-3090

FAX (505) 334-8659

TO: Mr. Joel Berg, Director of National Service

FROM: Lloyd Wilhelm, Four Corners Facilitator

SUBJECT: Weekly "AMERICORP" progress report

March 30, 1995

I realize it has been several weeks sense the last time you have heard from the Four Corners Region. A lot of things have been happening and we have had several challenges to deal with.

1. Utah Americorps member Eldon Miller has suffered a tremendous Family Tragedy, in the death of his wife Carole. Carole had not been ill and her passing was unexpected. Eldon's address for contact purposes:  
Eldon Miller  
SEU-BTAC Room 137  
P.O. Box 1106  
Price, Utah 84501
2. We are planning a regional cluster meeting for the first week in June. Because of funding constraints we are working with several agencies and groups to locate a inexpensive location, that will be centrally located for all members. The Navajo Americorps contact Razzel Yazzie has been very cooperative, and is wishing to involve her people in the meeting. The meeting will be focused on individual successes of our members with involvement by local community leaders. We are also looking to have a group community service project planned in conjunction with the meeting. I will update your office as we finalize the agenda and activities.
3. "National Service Day" Plans are progressing well towards a large service project involving several local volunteer groups. The project is centered around a non-profit ranch which provides therapy to disabled children, through outdoor activities and horsemanship. We will be doing maintenance, painting, general cleanup, and construction projects for the duration of the day.

I feel this would be a tremendous opportunity for the national office to have a representative attend and participate in this day of service. When we finalize all activities we will be in contact to coordinate a visit by you or someone from one of the agencies. Because of my workload I asked Shantel Farnsworth, Americorps member to coordinate much of the activity. She has been doing a tremendous job in organizing the community. There will be representatives from the Media, local towns, businesses, Congressional Representatives, and many concerned citizens attending this function.

4. I talked with Gayle Slator, State Executive Director, Corporation National Service, Colorado on Wednesday March 29. She was very helpful in sharing contact people for the other 3 states in the 4 corners. We are looking at combining some of our activities with members in the local area. Through this contact I was able to establish contact with Ernesto Ramos, State Executive Director, for New Mexico. We have set up a meeting for April 3, to discuss our projects and share data. I am very excited with the possibilities these contacts offer.
5. Helping Small Towns Survive Conference, Memphis, Tennessee  
A very enlightening experience. After visiting with many of our members who attended we found several viewpoints. The members began new friendships, that will last a lifetime. Our members came away with a feeling of belonging to a big picture. All members felt the information was excellent, but felt the trainers needed help. Sometimes the presentation was dry, and they had a hard time staying tuned in. But, overall the exercises were very helpful.

The information given will be very useful in helping us give direction and support to our members. I feel we need to insure all members, support staff, and facilitators be involved in this type of training in the future. Most members involved with the USDA RD Americorps projects would benefit from this type of training. We will be sharing the information with other members during our upcoming cluster meetings.

From the individual accomplishments shared at the conference I feel we are actually performing many of our objectives that were set up for our members. I think the biggest problem is we are being to general and we need to get more specific. Our main drive the last few months has been to get our members to think more about quantifying their accomplishments. I feel our 2nd Quarter report will show this.

Overall I feel Dave Gibson did a fantastic job in organizing, and running the everyday activities at the conference.

We need to be careful when we try to get to much activity in one day. By pulling members out of the conference to give reports for their region, we actually took away from the ability of the trainers to conduct themselves professionally. Several remarks were made and time was lost in keeping the group focused on needed training. I do not mean to sound critical, just informational, for future planning.

6. Enclosed is a recognition from the local communities for work performed by 1 of our Americorps Members. We had 2 other members who received the same recognition, but they were a little shy in sharing their accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Wilhelm,  
Four Corners Americorps Facilitator



# NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

208 West Coal  
Gallup, New Mexico 87301-6306  
(505) 722-4327  
FAX (505) 722-9211

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Chairman  
CITY OF GALLUP

March 14, 1995

1ST VICE-CHAIRMAN  
Vacant

WARREN MATHERS  
2nd Vice-Chairman  
VILLAGE OF MILAN

Dear Participant:

LOUIE BONAGUIDE  
Treasurer  
CITY OF GALLUP

On behalf of the cities of Aztec and Bloomfield, the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments is conducting a Business Assistance and Retention Survey. From the results of this survey, we will gain insight into the current and future needs of businesses in the area. The results of the survey will identify businesses only by industry classification codes, so the information you provide will remain strictly confidential.

DR. WILLIAM HALL  
Immediate Past Chairman  
CITY OF FARMINGTON

Should you have any further questions please contact Larry Martin, Community Development Specialist, at the City of Farmington at (505) 599-1299.

## CITIES/VILLAGES

AZTEC  
BLOOMFIELD  
FARMINGTON  
GALLUP  
GRANT  
MILAN

## COUNTIES OF

CIBOLA  
McKINLEY  
SAN JUAN

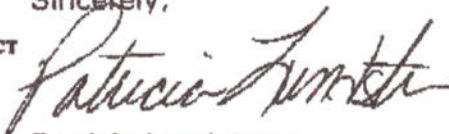
Thank you for your assistance.

## SPECIAL DISTRICTS

McKINLEY SOIL &  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Sincerely,

RAMAH WATER &  
SANITATION DISTRICT



RIO SAN JOSE FLOOD  
CONTROL DISTRICT

Patricia Lundstrom  
Executive Director

## OTHER

ENTERPRISE DIVISION  
HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT SIX

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208 West Coal  
Gallup, New Mexico 87301-6306  
(505) 722-4327  
FAX (505) 722-9211

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 23, 1995

PATRICIA LUNDSTROM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## OFFICERS

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Chairman  
CITY OF GALLUP

1ST VICE-CHAIRMAN  
Vacant

WARREN MATHERS  
2nd Vice-Chairman  
VILLAGE OF MILAN

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Treasurer  
CITY OF GALLUP

DR. WILLIAM HALL  
Immediate Past Chairman  
CITY OF FARMINGTON

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## SPECIAL DISTRICTS

McKINLEY SOIL &  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

RAMAH WATER &  
SANITATION DISTRICT

RIO SAN JOSE FLOOD  
CONTROL DISTRICT

## OTHER

ENTERPRISE DIVISION

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT SIX

Ms. Ana Gomez  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
AmeriCorps Team USDA  
504 North Main  
Aztec, New Mexico 87410

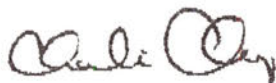
Dear Ana:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your superb assistance with the Aztec and Bloomfield business survey. Without your dedicated effort we would have been unable to meet the stringent deadline set forth for the completion of the project.

I've spoken with Patty Lundstrom and Jennifer Dowling at the COG, and they were equally impressed by the timeliness in which you were able to conduct all of the surveys. Though the analysis is currently in its early stages, the results appear to be promising and we anticipate gaining a great deal of insight.

Thank you again for your help and we will forward a copy of the final report to your office.

Sincerely,



Charlie Chavez  
Chairman  
Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

xc: Mayor Mike Padilla, City of Aztec  
Mayor Art Kittell, City of Bloomfield  
Debi Lee, Manager City of Aztec  
Al Keller, Manager City of Bloomfield



*Northwest New Mexico  
Council of Governments*

*Certificate of Appreciation  
Presented to*

*Ms. Ana Gomez*

*for Outstanding Support and  
Dedicated Service*

*This 23rd day of March of 19 95*

*Charlie Chavez*



*Chairman of the Board*

*Patricia Lundstrom*

*Executive Director*