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USDA Quote of the Week

From the October 18, 1995, Medford, Oregon *Mail-Tribune* --- in an editorial that references our nearby USDA AmeriCorps program on the Rogue River National Forest:

"It's hard to know whether Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., is opposed to national service programs in general, or because AmeriCorps is one of the few unambiguous successes President Clinton can point to in his first two years ... Clinton should welcome this Gingrich assault as an opportunity to contrast what the President rightly sees as a legitimate, creative use of government with the kind of automatic, anti-government slashing that Gingrich represents... There are 38 young men and women at a work camp in the Applegate Ranger District this winter, working in the woods as well as renovating structures in Butte Falls and Prospect. So far, AmeriCorps is a success in America's forests and urban areas."

DRAFT

DIRECT QUOTES FROM NEWSPAPER ARTICLES BY AMERICORPS/USDA MEMBERS

AMERICORPS/USDA MEMBERS

"It's not the best-paying job, but I'm learning an immense amount. The reason we're in AmeriCorps is to serve the community.

Mike Jensen, AmeriCorps/USDA
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER 19, 1994

"I have never done anything that I could look back at with pride and say I did that. I have never been able to leave my mark on anything; I now have something to show."

Cindy Ochs
AmeriCorps/USDA Member in Kansas
Public Lands and Environment Team

"Our age group kind of gets a bad rap for being apathetic and lazy. This program gives us an opportunity to demonstrate that is not true."

Dan Miller, AmeriCorps/USDA crew leader
THE MAIL TRIBUNE
Applegate, Oregon
November 2, 1994

"I can't tell you how proud I am of the work I do."

Karen Perry, AmeriCorps/USDA
THE DESERT SUN
FEBRUARY 18, 1995

"We're trying to bring economic development to small communities around here. If we weren't here, nobody would be doing it."

Aaron Neubert
THE FORUM
TWIN VALLEY, MINNESOTA
MARCH 26, 1995

"I think this program gives you a lot of discipline. It also gives you a real good work ethic."

John Maguire, AmeriCorps/USDA member
DAILY COURIER
GRANTS PASS, OREGON
MARCH 31, 1995

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"I was interested in AmeriCorps because my mom told me that my grandpa was in the CCC in the 1930s. I wanted to see what kind of work he did."

Robert Martin, AmeriCorps/USDA
MESSENGER & REPUBLICAN
CHEROKEE, OKLAHOMA
FEBRUARY 16, 1995

"We don't want to come in as Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps or some outside group and tell Rutland, 'This is what you should do.' That's not going to fly. It has to be grassroots. It has to come from people who are affected by the problem."

Zebediah Kellogg-Row
RUTLAND DAILY HERALD
RUTLAND, VERMONT
FEBRUARY 11, 1995

"This allows me to utilize my degree to its best potential. Plus, it allows me to give back some of what we've gotten. If Uncle Sam helped us out (in student loans), I have no problem giving back to him."

Audrey Biggs, AmeriCorps/USDA
SMYTH COUNTY NEWS
MARION, VIRGINIA
OCTOBER 19, 1994

"The best part is we're doing something that people are going to be able to notice years from now."

Don Harrision
SAN BERNARDINO SUN
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA
NOVEMBER 25, 1994

"One criticism of AmeriCorps has been that if you pay a volunteer, you won't be able to get normal volunteers. In my case, that is not true. . . I enjoyed my AmeriCorps projects so much that I have chosen to come back as an unpaid volunteer. I love being part of AmeriCorps, and I would recommend it to every college student as well as adults. I have been proud to say what I do, because it has been about helping people, and you can't do any better than that."

Trish McCracken, AmeriCorps/USDA member
WENTZVILLE JOURNAL
WENTZVILLE, ILLINOIS
SEPTEMBER 3, 1995

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DIRECT QUOTES BY AMERICORPS/USDA PROJECT MANAGERS FROM NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

"They are all hard workers, and one day they will be able to bring their children to some of the sites they have improved and say, 'See Junior, I did that.' "

Richard Dolan, AmeriCorps/USDA project manager
CLARION-LEDGER
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
FEBRUARY 15, 1995

"They've done a lot of work. And most of it would not have accomplished otherwise. They've helped communities, watersheds, and wildlife. And I think we've helped the next generation of Americans along the way."

Bill Fleeger, AmeriCorps/USDA Project Manager
THE MAIL COURIER
MEDFORD, OREGON
AUGUST 27, 1995

"I think that it's a win-win situation. These folks are providing community service and will be able to pay for school."

Rick Aguayo, AmeriCorps/USDA Project Manager
Apple Valley, California
THE DAILY PRESS
VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 25, 1995

DIRECT QUOTES BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

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

CONGRESSWOMAN LYNN WOOLSEY
THE SONOMA INDEX-TRIBUNE
SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 27, 1994

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

"Our inaugural year was overwhelmingly successful in achieving concrete results in boosting rural development, combating hunger, and improving the environment. . . .AmeriCorps meets many of the goals important to this administration, including rewarding work

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instead of welfare, moving power from government agencies to volunteer sector organizations, allowing middle-class youth to earn their way through college, and reminding all citizens that they have an obligation to their country.

Dan Glickman
Secretary of Agriculture

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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

Richard Rominger
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
San Bernardino Sun
San Bernardino, California

FORMER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

"Grounded in mainstream values of community, responsibility, and opportunity, national service makes sense because it meets multiple ends. It is good for the participants who benefit from their increased ability to attend college or vocational school, good for the communities which benefit from their service and good for the country which benefits from a renewed civic spirit. Moreover, the program is good for USDA because it gives us new ways to boost four mission areas of fighting hunger, protecting the environment and rebuilding rural America."

Mike Espy
Former Secretary of Agriculture

STATE PARK MANAGER

"We wouldn't have the money or the budget to get it done as quickly as we got it done with these guys. We're in hopes that the program continues next year."

Rick Martin, Kanopolis State Park Manger
About AmeriCorps/USDA program
THE MCPHERSON SENTINEL
KANOPOLIS LAKE, KANSAS
AUGUST 10, 1995

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MAYOR

"It's miraculous for a small town. We cannot afford to go out and hire a person to do what they are doing. We would have been a little dump if it hadn't been for them."

Mayor Lula Tyler
Mayor of Holly Grove, Arkansas
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT GAZETTE
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
JUNE 18, 1995

REPRINTS OF PORTIONS OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

AmeriCorps member Renee Spurlock is moving Holly Grove residents out of danger.

Approximately 60 homes in the east Arkansas town of 700 are inside the flood plain of the White River. During periods of heavy rain, Water seeps into the ground floor of some homes. If a 100-year flood were to sweep down the White River. it would take most of those homes with it to the Mississippi. So Spurlock, 35, a Holly Grove resident, is coordinating a program under the Federal Emergency Management Authority to buy the flood-threatened property and if the 135 residents of the area new lots on which to build.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT GAZETTE
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
JUNE 18, 1995

It was a day when AmeriCorps members showed what they can accomplish by working together. And they received encouragement from 6th District Congressman James Clyburn, who said experiences such as theirs can prevent occurrences such as the Oklahoma city bombing by teaching people to work together.

The 40 South Carolina members of the national service program started by President Clinton spent much of the morning Tuesday cleaning the town of Santee-- painting the town police department, cleaning the roadside along Highway 15 and making repairs to a nearby day care center.

SANTEE STRIPER
SANTEE, SOUTH CAROLINA
MAY 26, 1995

Washington County's eight AmeriCorps volunteers are leaving their mark on everything from cranberries to logging practices to seed clams.

Most of them like their positions so much that they are thinking of signing up for another year if Congress funds President Bill Clinton's national service initiative.

A repeat performance would be just fine with the staff of the three Washington County programs to which they are assigned.

THE ELLSWORTH AMERICAN
ELLSWORTH, MAINE
MAY 4, 1995

A giant step has been taken toward a 911 emergency service system in Saluda County, now that all the county's roads have been identified. . . . Recently, a Natural Resources Conservation Service AmeriCorps team of volunteers spent three weeks identifying all of the county's named and unnamed roads.

THE STATE
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 6, 1995

EDITORIALS

Respectful, open-minded, community based, worthy. No, this is not the new creed of the Boy Scouts. These are some of the values embodied by the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, a program to feed disadvantaged Vermonters that is worth watching.

The Burlington Free Press
About AmeriCorps/USDA's
Vermont Anti-Hunger Team

Enter a group of about 11 AmeriCorps volunteers. . . . They've picked up the brush. They've cleared out dead trees. Big Creek is looking better already.

And along the way, something wonderful has happened. A group of young people from different backgrounds, with different skills, have learned to work together. They have discovered the satisfaction of hard physical labor. They have experienced the value of public service, and they will be better because of it.

HAYS DAILY NEWS
HAYS, KANSAS
NOVEMBER 30, 1995

"There are 38 young men and women at a work camp in the Applegate Ranger District this winter, working in the woods as well as renovating structures in Butte Falls and Prospect. So far, AmeriCorps is a success in America's forests and urban areas."

THE MAIL TRIBUNE
MEDFORD, OREGON
OCTOBER 18, 1995