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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Economic
and Community
Development Services

Nogales Office
2585 N. Grand Ave., Ste 2
Nogales, Arizona 85621
Phone (520) 281-1068
TDD (602) 280-8705
FAX (602) 281-1460

FAX TO: DAVID GIBSON

FROM: BONNIE FRICKS

sif
FIVE PAGES TOTAL

SUBJECT: 1) ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES
2) NAT'L TRAINING
3) CITY OF DOUGLAS AMERICORPS MEMBER

DATE: JANUARY 4, 1996

*Joel - For
your approval*

1) ATTACHED ARE FOUR OBJECTIVES WHICH, A CHAMPION
COMMUNITY, THE CITY OF ELOY AND ONE OBJECTIVE WHICH, AN
EZ/EC COMMUNITY, NOGALES WOULD LIKE TO HAVE APPROVED FOR
IMPLEMENTATION BY THEIR 1996 AMERICORPS MEMBERS LETICIA
LUJAN AND ANGEL SUAREZ.

PLEASE ADVISE WHAT ACTION I/THEY NEED TO TAKE TO ACCOMPLISH
THIS.

2) I RECEIVED THE INFO ON NAT'L TRAINING AND WE WILL TRY
TO EXPEDITE OBTAINING AMEX CARDS FOR OUR RECD MEMBERS.

3) AS YOU KNOW, WE LOST OUR MEMBER IN DOUGLAS. THE
QUESTION I LEFT ON YOUR VOICE MAIL WAS TO SEE IF IT IS
POSSIBLE TO HAVE A PART TIME PERSON. THE PERSON THEY
SELECTED TO TAKE ART MACIAS' PLACE HAD A HEART ATTACK ON
CHRISTMAS DAY AND NOW THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR ANYONE TO
COMPLETE 1700 HOURS.

I WILL BE IN NOGALES ON JANUARY 5, 8, & 9 IF YOU WANT TO
CALL OR FAX THE ANSWERS.

THANXXXX MUCHOOOOO

PLEASE ADVISE.

*Dave
did not know
which 2 pgs you
received
of*

*ofc 520/281-1068
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SITE #: 95ADFD047G30R

ELOY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE /
CITY OF ELOY

Champion

OBJECTIVE 2: TOLTEC ROAD BEAUTIFICATION

A group of local citizens, business owners, and community leaders will be organized into a volunteer group to address the issue of Toltec Road revitalization. The group will meet regularly to receive training and organize to stem the deterioration of Toltec Road. This effort will result in the creation of a working crew of volunteers who will renovate a significant portion of the road.

WORK TO BE DONE:

To recruit and organize a volunteer group consisting of 30 local citizens, business owners, and community leaders for the purpose of improving the physical appearance of initial sites visited by tourists.

RESULT OF THE WORK:

The volunteer group will work with a local youth volunteer group, Chamber of Commerce, and the Public Works Department to clean up approximately one mile of the road. Renovations will be undertaken by teams of volunteers recruited from the community and will use materials donated by local utility organizations. The improvements will alter the appearance in a way that will be sensitive to community character and historic considerations.

MEANS OF MEASURING QUALITY:

Visible improvements will include landscaping, lighting, and signage.

STANDARD OF QUALITY:

The renovations will result in 4,000 tourists and 75% of the 7,800 citizens visiting local businesses and the visitor center on Toltec Road each year.

NUMBER OF SERVICE RECIPIENTS:

Ten street lights and five benches will be donated by the Arizona Public Service Aesthetic Fund for one mile of the road. The cost for donated materials will be approximately \$15,000. The estimated number of volunteer hours will be 480.

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ELOY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE /
CITY OF ELOY**OBJECTIVE 3: NAU CAMPUS PROJECT**

School officials and community leaders will be organized into a council to address the issue of bringing a four-year program to Central Arizona Community College (CAC). The council will corroborate with officials from Northern Arizona University (NAU) and CAC to assist with implementing plans to construct a university building on the college campus. This effort will result in instituting a four-year program in Pinal County.

WORK TO BE DONE:

Disseminate information and coordinate meetings involving school districts, Chamber of Commerce, and City Officials for the purpose of expanding educational opportunities at the local community college.

RESULT OF THE WORK:

School officials and community leaders will coordinate efforts with officials from CAC and NAU to implement a project which will begin construction of a building on the college campus to house the university building.

STANDARD OF QUALITY:

Local education opportunities will be enhanced by a four-year degree program. There is currently no four-year program in Pinal County.

MEANS OF MEASURING QUALITY:

Formation of broad based civic group which will include government, schools, businesses, service organizations, and private citizens.

NUMBER OF SERVICE RECIPIENTS:

Ten members will participate in the civic group. The program will serve 100 students in Pinal County each semester.

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ELOY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE /
CITY OF ELOY

OBJECTIVE 4: COTTON MUSEUM

A group of local citizens and property owners will be organized into a volunteer team to address the issues of restoring and preserving an old historic building to accommodate a cotton museum. The team will meet regularly with the local historical society to implement a plan for housing the museum. This effort will result in preserving a part of the town's history and increasing tourist activity.

WORK TO BE DONE:

To recruit, organize, and assist a volunteer team made up of property owners and local citizens with restoring and preserving a historical building and to establish Eloy's first cotton museum.

RESULT OF THE WORK:

The volunteer team will work closely with the local historical society and the state historical preservation office to research and utilize grants available for the restoration of a historic building. The cotton museum will be undertaken by a team of volunteers recruited from the community.

MEANS OF MEASURING QUALITY:

Designation of property on the National Register of Historic Places.

NUMBER OF SERVICE RECIPIENTS:

Four thousand tourists and winter visitors will visit the cotton museum each year, increasing business and creating approximately 10 jobs.

SITE #: 95ADFD047G30R

ELOY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE /
CITY OF ELOY**OBJECTIVE 5: MAIN STREET PROJECT**

A group of local citizens and business owners will be organized into a council to address the issue of downtown revitalization. The council will meet regularly to receive training and organize to stem the deterioration of main street and specifically storefronts. This effort will result in the creation of a working crew of volunteers who will renovate 3 blocks in the downtown area.

WORK TO BE DONE:

To recruit and organize a volunteer council made up of local citizens and business owners and/or landlords for the purpose of improving the physical appearance of the downtown shopping area.

RESULT OF THE WORK:

The citizen group will work with the city public works department, Chamber of Commerce, and Planning and Zoning Department to design and implement a project which will carry out low-cost storefront renovations that will improve storefront appearance in a way that will be sensitive to community character and historic considerations. Storefront renovations will be undertaken by teams of volunteers recruited from the community and will use materials donated by local businesses and civic organizations.

MEANS OF MEASURING QUALITY:

A customer satisfaction questionnaire will determine what percentage of downtown shoppers approve of the renovations and if they will visit the downtown on a regular basis.

STANDARD OF QUALITY:

Storefront renovations are of high quality and are perceived by the shopping public to be consistent with the aesthetics of the community and present an inviting appearance. This will result in local shoppers feeling more welcome to the downtown and will increase the frequency with which they patronize local businesses.

NUMBER OF SERVICE RECIPIENTS:

Sixty-six percent of 27 storefronts will be improved. Approximately \$6,500 in materials will be donated. Volunteers will donate 320 work hours. Seventy-five percent of the 7,800 residents will shop the downtown area on a regular basis.

1. Objective:

Local community education and business leaders have recognized the urgent need for the formulation and the implementation of a coordinated effort to work to better prepare local high school seniors to make the "school to work" transition.

Action Item:

The AmeriCorps Member will work with participating high school seniors. The member will also work with local businesses to arrange internships for the seniors. The Member will be responsible for the inventory of 75 students inclinations, aptitudes and interests with respect to choosing work options, and for directing said individuals to internship with community businesses. In addition, the Member will provide individual counseling to students in the area of job interview protocol.

Result:

75 high school senior will have completed a school to work transition internships program. This activity supports the Nogales- Santa Cruz County Economic Development Foundation's goal of facilitating the training and preparation of local workforce.

2. Objective:

The Board of Directors of the Nogales-Santa Cruz County Economic Development Foundation and the local JTPA Private Industry Council, in recognition of the need to train local workers to be qualified to participate in a more highly developed service sector, requested that the staff of the NSCCEDF and the AmeriCorps Member conduct research for the purpose of identifying areas in the local service sector requiring a larger pool of qualified labor. Identification of these areas will enable the local JTPA to use Federal dollars to train workers which will then be easily absorbed by the local economy.

Action Item:

The AmeriCorps Member will be active in assisting the Executive Director of the NSCCEDF in setting research parameters. After having determined the project framework, the AmeriCorps Member will play an integral role in the identification of areas in which local citizens can be trained for the purpose of attending greater levels of employability.

Result:

Accurate information provided by the AmeriCorps Member will enable the local JTPA organization to train 10-15 Nogales/Santa Cruz County citizens in the areas of identified need, thereby increasing their abilities to secure gainful employment.

*Nogales
EC*

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Joel Berg

Director of National Service

Company: USDA

Phone: (202) 720-6350

Fax: (202) 720-4614

From: John Thomas Jr.

Company: Rural Development

Phone: (505) 761-4960

Fax: (505)-761-4976

Date: June 3, 1996

Pages including this 1
cover page:

Comments: Joel attached is a brief overview of the work activities that have taken place in the community of Lama, by the AmeriCorps team. Thanks for your support. I have corrected some typo's from the previous copy that I sent to Jim Coyle.

Please be advised that the Residents of Lama are sending a letter to President Clinton, thanking him for our assistance. Letters of thanks have already gone out to the Congressional leadership in New Mexico. We received three days of coverage from the three TV stations here in New Mexico. Over all the impact of our AmeriCorps program in New Mexico is very, very positive. We hope to do a better job of reporting our accomplishments in the next quarterly report.

Overview of the Lama Forest Fire and Rural Development/AmeriCorps Involvement

On May 15, State Director M. Steven Anaya made an assessment of the needs of the residents of the Lama Forest Fire Disaster, to determine how the Rural Development Agency could assist the victims of this disaster. Members of this team included Ernie Watson, Communications Specialists, and John Thomas, Rural Development Coordinator/State AmeriCorps Contact. Mr. Anaya asked the residents what they needed in terms of assistance. The spokesperson indicated they needed a number of items such as a community water system, a fire truck and volunteer fire department, a community center. One of the items that they expressed immediate assistance with was volunteers to assist with the clean up with the burned out homes. Mr. Miller indicated that they could provide housing with tents from the Philmont Boy Scout Camp, local resident from the area would provide food to feed the volunteers.

We arrived late on the evening of the 15th back at the New Mexico State Office. On May 16, I called all of the New Mexico USDA AmeriCorps members and asked if they would be willing to participate in the cleanup of the homes in the Lama area, five members were able to participate in this endeavor.

I called Jim Coyle, in Washington with a request for additional assistance. Jim ask Joel Berg to participate in a conference call to discuss the situation. Mr. Berg suggested that I request assistance from the NCCC AmeriCorps group out of Denver Colorado. I called the group about mid afternoon on May 16, 1996. On May 17 midmorning I had a commitment of 20 AmeriCorps members from San Diego, California and sixteen from Denver Colorado to assist with the clean up of the burned out homes in the community of Lama New Mexico.

On May 19, I attended a meeting with M. Steven Anaya, RD State Director, Ernie Watson, communication specialist, representatives from Congressman Richardson office, representatives from Pete Domenici office, Mike Gregro from HUD, members from the SBA, State and local Governments. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the strategy for meeting the needs of the citizens from the community of Lama. Upon my return to the Village of Questa I located the AmeriCorps team from the San Diego Campus.

I arrived at Questa at approximately 10:30 PM, The AmeriCorps members from San Diego were out in the parking lot doing sit ups.

I was at the site at 6:00 AM to inform the National Guard where we wanted tents to be placed to serve as a kitchen area and additional sleeping quarters for the AmeriCorps members. I signed for the two large tents, numerous chairs, and four tables from the National Guard.

The first item of business for the AmeriCorps team was to set up the tents from the Philmont Boy Scout Camp, and infrastructure to provide food and shelter for the AmeriCorps members who would be assisting the citizens of Lama. At 10:00 AM Congressman Bill Richardson addressed the group and informed them that SBA would be providing assistance to them in the form of low interest loans, cleanup assistance in the form of Presidents Clinton's AmeriCorps team.

After lunch the AmeriCorps team went to work on the home of Margaret Nes and Bob Alderisio, address PO Box 157, San Cristobal, New Mexico 87564. Fifteen AmeriCorps members worked until dark on this structure. The structure was total gutted. We removed all metal from this structure and placed it in a pile for pick up by a metal salvage operator. All remaining rubble was placed in drums and hauled off to a dumpster that was placed within a mile of the site by Taos County. We completely filled this dumpster with rubble from the burned out structure. I called the County with a request to supply us with additional dumpsters. We placed a second team at the home of Steve and Carol Hinton, address P.O. Box 156, San Cristobal, N.M. 87564. This was a large expensive home with four outbuildings. We tried to salvage adobes at this home so that the homeowner could rebuild with them. It took a team of six AmeriCorps members four days to salvage the building materials at this site and accomplish the clean up activities.

The landscape reminds me of the jungles of Vietnam. Majestic ponderosa pines that were 80 feet tall, are burned spars like dark burned toothpicks on a lunar barren surface. Helicopters streak over head as they carry water to hot spots that yet burn in the forest. We have to yell at one another to communicate over the roar of the jet helicopters. My thoughts were, this is a piece of cake, no one is shooting at us.

At this time we had 20 AmeriCorps members from San Diego, California, and 16 AmeriCorps members from Denver Colorado, and 5 AmeriCorps members from RD New Mexico and 1 AmeriCorps member from NRCS, New Mexico, and my self.

Showers were of critical importance as this is a very harsh environment to work in. We were up at 6:00 AM and worked until dark approximately 8:30PM. I rented five rooms to serve as shower facilities in the Village of Questa. This soon proved to be unacceptable as it was 11:30 PM before we were able to run the crew through the showers.

On May 22, I began looking for alternate arrangement for shower facilities. We talked with the Mayor of Questa to solicit his support for providing shower facilities. The superintendent of the Questa Schools agreed to provide shower facilities however we would be required to pay a fee. The mine officials at the MolyCorp mine agreed to let us use the mine facilities at no cost. They also agreed to provide dump trucks and loaders to assist in the clean up of the rubble of the burned out homes. We are really on a roll with the support from the community. Perhaps we are a bit optimistic as a new snake has raised its ugly head. The volunteers who have agreed to provide the food for the community members have indicated that they did not intend to feed 50 volunteer AmeriCorps members in addition to the residents of Lama. The entire food chore is being shifted on to the shoulders of Harry Miller's wife. This is an overwhelming task to be handled out of a small home that survived the fire.

Rural Development State Director, M Steven Anaya immediately began working with the senior citizens center in Questa to contract with the feeding of our AmeriCorps team. The harsh environment, dust, ashes, soot, has rendered our gloves useless, our face masks clogged with soot. I spend another \$139.00 for gloves and masks. The local stores have been tapped out with their donations to fire crews, and victims of the fire.

The Red River Fish Hatchery has begun filling cisterns with water from the fish hatchery. Residents see their first source of water in their cisterns since the fire. The National Guard is providing tankers as a source of potable water for the AmeriCorps members and remaining residents in Lama.

The Taos County has provided three dump trucks and two loaders to assist the AmeriCorps team with the cleanup. There is concern that this is a violation of the State of New Mexico's anti donation clause which prohibits the use of public equipment for individuals. The use of this equipment has really increase our efficiency. We can do more in an hour that we could do all day just using pickups and trash cans to haul the debris to the dumpsters.

The Steve Stumpp home is totally destroyed. This is a large adobe structure. The homeowners wish to salvage as many adobe brick as possible for rebuilding. The walls are quite dangerous as they are rather high and unstable with a heavy concrete bond beam on the top layer. We have to work with care to insure that no one is injured in the cleanup operation. Spirits are high but the crew is physical wearing out. Another problem that we face is laundry facilities. We have a limited supply of clean clothes, a major task in the morning is to select our cleanest dirty clothes to work in for another day.

Jim Dixon and Kathy Christenson home is totally destroyed. We salvage the adobe bricks and prepare the home for removal of the burned out foundation by the Taos County equipment.

The Dexter Ing home is totally destroyed. We remove the burned out metal, and debris and pile it up for pick up by the Taos County equipment. This home is tough because it has a burned out basement that we have to haul the debris up approximately 12 feet.

The Marcus Sanders home is totally destroyed. He wants to leave the adobe walls in place and salvage what he can. We remove an outbuilding. We haul approximately 1/2 of the rubbish to the dumpster prior to the County equipment arriving on the site.

The Joel Kimmel home is totally destroyed. This is an easy task! We clean up this home in a couple of hours. We have a pile of ash about 6 feet high and approximately 20 feet circumference. AmeriCorps power is just beginning to get started.

The "Outlaw Terry Klein" has requested our assistance with land reclamation, outbuilding cleanup, and cleaning smoke damaged interior. Terry is the mother of three children. One of her relatives stayed at the home site to try and save the home. When the fire threatened the home the relative took

refuge in a horno an outdoor Indian oven used to cook bread. Terry Klein ran a State Police road blockage to take food and water to the relative. She was arrested, jailed, and charged with assault with a deadly weapon using her car to run the road block. The District Attorney has dropped the charges, upon the request of Congressman Bill Richardson. The Outlaw Terry Klein has really played a major roll in getting the residents spirits up, and facing the tasks of rebuilding.

Bill Deknatel lost three homes in the fire and has requested assistance with the cleanup.

Twenty AmeriCorps members have been scheduled to clean the acequa the primary water source for the community of Lama. Ash and debris has clogged the stream. Resident will be able to fill their cisterns once again after the ditch has been cleaned.

The Lama Foundation is a nonprofit group that had approximately 20 rental homes lost in the fire. The AmeriCorps members from Denver Colorado have been assigned to assist with the clean up of the rubble of the burned out homes. The AmeriCorps members are also assisting with the clean up and protection of the springs that serve this community with drinking water.

These AmeriCorps kids have just about done me in, this 53 year old fellow just can't keep up with the youth of AmeriCorps. Additional assistance requests come in on a daily basis. The residents have all expressed their thanks from their hearts and souls. Harry Miller has indicated that the AmeriCorps team has given these residents of Lama a new lease on life. He indicated that the enthusiasm and youth of this group has sparked a ray of hope in the hearts and minds of the community of Lama. Mr. Miller indicated that he feared that some of the residents would have given up and died within a few months without the infusion of hope inspired by the AmeriCorps members.

We will not be able to complete all the requests for assistance by May 31, 1996, however the community of Lama, near Taos, New Mexico will never forget the assistance that a group of AmeriCorps team members provided not only in the work that was provided, but primarily in the inspiration of life and hope that the AmeriCorps members inspired in the victims of the fire and residents of the community. The residents of Lama are overwhelmed and

amazed with the amount of work that the AmeriCorps team accomplished. In fact they consider the AmeriCorps arrival at Lama to be a Miracle and a divine act of God sent to mitigate the pain and suffering of the forest fire.

JOHN THOMAS JR.

Rural Development Coordinator/State AmeriCorps Contact

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE****Natural Resources
Conservation
Service****18484 Hwy. 18, Suite 195
Apple Valley, CA. 92307
Phone (619) 242-2906****Subject: AmeriCorps Program
Apple Valley, San Bernardino Co.****Date: March 15, 1995****To: Kathrine Gibney
Team USDA National Service Program
Washington D.C.**

I am not sure if my response will be of assistance to you in responding to Congressman Lewis' negative comments regarding the increase in the AmeriCorps Program budget for fiscal year 96. My program is not a typical program, in that my members are working on soil surveys that are not surveys that we usually produce, these surveys are primarily focused on the environmental issues such as Threatened and Endangered Species, PM-10 production (PM-10 are soil particles that cause respiratory health problems), and other soil related environmental issues.

These soil surveys are located within the Mojave Desert at the following military bases: Fort Irwin Army Base, Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base, and the Edwards Air Force Base. All three bases are vital to our national defense as they provide areas for our military troops to test their war game plans and strategies. Environmental issues are a major concern with the military as they need to be able to continue their training, but they also recognize that they need to comply with existing laws and regulations, and also protect the health and safety of the communities adjacent to, or downwind from the bases (PM-10 concern). These bases, along with other areas within the Mojave Desert (approximately 10,000,000 acres of land) do not have basic soils data. Many of the land use decisions that are being made do not have the basic soils resource data to support these decisions.

My AmeriCorps Members are working at each of these soil survey sites gathering vegetative and soils data to accelerate our soil survey mapping and data input for digitizing the soils data. This will enable the end uses of this information, the decision makers, and others such as planners, engineers, environmentalist, and military officials to be able to make sound decisions on current and future activities planned for each of these bases.

Congressman Lewis has been a strong supporter of the military in years past. Any effort that can be provided by the AmeriCorp Program to aid in the acceleration of the soil survey will assist the military to continue their training activities and protect our national security.

One of the questions asked, wanted to know about volunteers being able to perform this work. It is highly unlikely to find anyone wanting to volunteer to work on these soil surveys, due to the technical expertise needed, locations of these soil surveys, and physical demand required. Most people who have the expertise, don't want to work out in the desert, they also want to get paid for their knowledge. We are very fortunate to be able to get the high caliber AmeriCorps Members that we now have working on these surveys. We have not had any volunteers wanting to work on the soil surveys to date.

Also, as time permits they are also reaching out to the community educating them on soils, and its importance to our environment. Their outreach efforts extend from children to the adults, including teachers so that they can include information on soils in their teaching curriculum.

One of the projects that my members are working on at the present time is called the Soil Saver Club Program. This program is targeted to the elementary school kids. It is a hands on program that educates the kids on soils. To date approximately 4,000 workbooks have been given out, with approximately 500 of these in Spanish, targeted to the Hispanic students. (Note: This is a program that the local Resource Conservation District that we work with, had tried to get started for over a year, but was not successful. Had it not been for the AmeriCorps Members efforts, the 4,000 students would not have been provided this opportunity to learn about soils). They are not done working on this program. Additional outreach efforts are planned for those outlying areas within San Bernardino County that typically do not receive this additional emphasis.

As for the total time for direct service, I do not know how to answer that question. My AmeriCorps Program is unique in that the accomplishments that they attaining will not be realized until they have left the program. The final product will be the digitized maps and soils data that they assisted in gathering to accelerate the soil survey process.

I hope that this helps, if I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to call me.


Rick Aguayo
District Conservationist
Apple Valley FO

To: Katherine Gibney

From: Jim Earsom
USDA NRCS-Redlands FO, California

March 16, 1995

AmeriCorps Members Hours

1. How many hours of direct service?

From September 12, 1994 to August 8, 1995, the AmeriCorps will have performed approximately **4,700 hours**. The ending date will vary due to some AmeriCorps starting date was two weeks later.

2. How many hours will be performed by volunteers....?

Up to this date there are 0 hours performed by volunteers but in the past years we have had many volunteers.

3. What has been the average.....of hours by volunteers?

Approximately **325 hours average**

4. Are there any specific tasks to be performed this year by AmeriCorps that could not be performed by volunteers?

Yes, projects such as cooperator updates, out reach to growers that still use furrow irrigation to see if they would like to change to drip irrigation, Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP), Big Bear Rathbone Creek water quality project, among others.

Our volunteers do best on short term projects. Usually volunteers are here for one or two months then they leave.

...media advisory

CONTACT: Jim Earsom (909) 799-7407
 Anita Brown (916) 757-8241

NATIONAL AMERICORP DIRECTOR FOR USDA VISITS REDLANDS

REDLANDS, Calif., Nov. 7--The national Director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 1200 AmeriCorp positions, will be touring project sites in the Redlands area on Thurs. Oct. 13. Joel Berg will be available to the media to discuss the USDA's AmeriCorp activities in the areas of Public Lands and Environment, Rural Development and Anti-Hunger.

Redlands, Ontario, and Big Bear Lake are the sites of a number of area conservation projects involving seven AmeriCorps workers with the USDA's Soil Conservation Service. They are working at Big Bear to survey and map natural resources and supervise water quality work while San Antonio Heights workers are coordinating with developers on fire and erosion minimizing practices such as appropriate landscaping and road maintenance.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service initiative, is composed of diverse groups of Americans who will begin performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs in return for a \$12,000 stipend and a \$4,725 educational voucher.

###

Monthly
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Americorp is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of young people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. Participants will work for a year earning a stipend of at least \$12,000, receive an educational award worth \$4,725, child care and health benefits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

**RITA BICKEL
OR
GERRY GONZALEZ
AT EXTENSION 2191 ON THE CAL POLY CAMPUS**



Time's copy / Hank's original

AmeriCorp Members Join Conservation Work Force

by Penny Peterson, AmeriCorp member with Jim Earsom, SCS District Conservationist

The Inland Empire West and East Valley RCDs now have the added support of seven members of President Clinton's AmeriCorps program, a national service initiative in which diverse groups of Americans will perform ten months of critical community service to meet environmental, educational, public safety, and human needs.

Members based out of the Inland Empire West RCD include Tai Diep and Kevin Nguyen, Civil Engineering student at California Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly); Jami Fisher, a Landscape Irrigation Science student from Cal Poly; and Penny Peterson, an Environmental Studies and Geography graduate from Cal State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). Members working out of the East Valley RCD include Toan Bui, a Mechanical Engineering graduate of Cal Poly; Barbara Castillo, a Business Administration graduate from CSUSB; and Adriane Gonzalez, an Agricultural Engineering student at Cal Poly.

After orientation, members will develop projects based on



the needs of their communities. Although individuals will be working on different issues, members from both RCDs will be working together to tackle community based projects such as assisting with the development of watershed management plans, water audits, irrigation water management, animal waste management plans, and environmental/conservation education. These are solutions to community based problems that the RCDs and USDA Soil Conservation Service have needed to develop, but haven't had the time or staff to meet the demands.

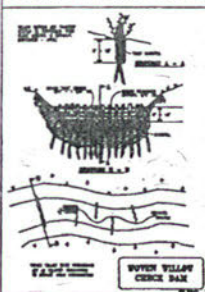
In return for 1,700 hours of service, AmeriCorps members will receive a living stipend of \$12,000 and an

educational stipend of \$4,725 to be used for college or to pay back existing student loans. Health care and child care are also provided.

The USDA was empowered to compete for grant money under this program and secured funding for 1,200 AmeriCorps slots nationwide. With these funds, the USDA will have over 40 AmeriCorps programs in 32 states.

The program requires quarterly evaluations submitted to the national office. These evaluations will be used to determine the success of the program and are critical in determining funding for next year. Ultimately, continuation of the program next year depends on members being able to fulfill the AmeriCorp motto: "Getting Things Done."

29 EROSION CONTROL DRAWINGS & NOTES. Based on Accepted INDUSTRY STANDARDS

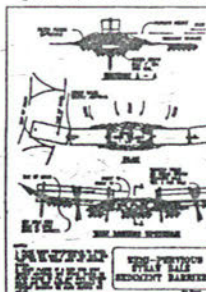


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(FIR)

RD -

California

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AMERICORPS PROGRAM PARTICIPANT NAME:

USDA Soil Conservation Service - Apple Valley Field Office, Apple Valley, CA.

PROGRAM NAME: SCS-Soil Survey Acceleration Program

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Soil Conservation Service is to provide leadership and administer programs to help people conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources and environment.

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Apple Valley Field Office/AmeriCorps Program is to assist in the acceleration of the development and availability of soil survey data to resource and environmental planners.

ANNUAL OBJECTIVES:**Objective A:**

Accelerate the development for three soil surveys within the Apple Valley Field Office work area by providing data on endangered plant and animal species, vegetation, and ecological site description data.

Work to be done: Three soil surveys are in progress in the Mojave Desert. Over 1 million acres of land are to be surveyed. Soil survey sites are located at Fort Irwin Army Base, Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base, and Edwards Air Force Base.

Result of Work: Acceleration of the availability of the soil survey data to base staff and other environmental planners.

Measure of the quality or success:

Additional acres mapped and/or reduction of time in soil survey data being made available to military planners and other customers. Presentations on the uses of the soil survey to landowners, groups, and other environmental planners who are conducting studies or projects on these military reservations.

Standard of quality: Quality of work rated high by Soil Survey Project Leader. Tasks assigned are completed with a minimum of 80 percent accuracy.

Number of service recipients:

Three branches of the military, 3 universities, Army Corps of Engineers, various private environmental and engineering companies who are conducting special studies and/or projects on the military reservations and to local groups and landowners.

Apple Valley, CA.

Objective B:

Digitize soil survey maps using Graphical Information System (GIS) at each soil survey office.

Work to be done: Data entry and formatting of data in the preparation of digitized soil survey maps will be required so as to meet our customers needs.

Result of Work: Digitized soil maps will be developed and made available to base planners and others who are conducting studies and/or environmental work at each base.

Measure of the quality or success:

Completion of digitized soils maps as quad areas are mapped.
Presentations of digitized soils maps and the uses of the soils survey to landowners, groups, and other environmental planners who are conducting studies or projects on these military reservations.

Standard of quality: Initial entry of data will require a minimum of 80 percent accuracy.

Number of service recipients:

Three branches of the military, 3 universities, Army Corps of Engineers, various private environmental and engineering companies who are conducting special studies and/or projects on the military reservations and to local groups and landowners.

AMERICORPS FIELD LOCATIONS & SITE MANAGERS

TEAM LOCATION	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	SITE MANAGER	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Petaluma Santa Rosa Ukiah	6	Shanks	Watershed/ecosystem planning. Rural development - ag. waste management. Fisheries restoration.
Lancaster Somis	5	Dean	Watershed restoration. Wildfire prevention. Watershed management.
Redlands Ontario	7	Earsom	Watershed restoration. Wildfire prevention. Watershed Management. Ag. waste management. (Would like total of 10 members).
Apple Valley	6	Aguayo	Rural development. Soils survey and associated ecological sciences (agronomy, range, etc.)
Auburn Grass Valley Placerville	6	Roan	Rural development, FSA conservation practice application and documentation, database edit and forest watershed management.

RD
CA
(File)

...media advisory

CONTACT: Lisa Shanks (707) 794-1242
Anita Brown (916) 757-8241

NATIONAL AMERICORP DIRECTOR FOR USDA VISITS PETALUMA

PETALUMA, Calif., Nov. 7--The national Director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 1200 AmeriCorp positions, will be touring project sites in the Petaluma area on Tues. Oct. 11. Joel Berg will be available to the media to discuss the USDA's AmeriCorp activities in the areas of Public Lands and Environment, Rural Development and Anti-Hunger.

Petaluma, Santa Rosa and Ukiah are the sites of water quality improvement projects of six AmeriCorps workers with the USDA's Soil Conservation Service. They are working with local landowners to restore riparian habitat and manage area dairy facilities, vineyards, forests and rangeland. Such mangement will mutually benefit agriculture and the salmon and steelhead species that rely on north coast streams for spawning.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative composed of diverse groups of Americans who will begin performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs in return for a \$12,000 stipend and a \$4,725 educational voucher.

###

Grantee: USDA - SCS

Site: High Sierra RC&D Area
(Auburn, Grass Valley, Placerville)

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Components of Objective Statements:

1. What work will be done and service activities of participants.

Key watersheds have been selected in the five northern counties of the Sierra Nevada Region. Fuel reduction plans will be prepared for private property owners in these watersheds to reduce wildfire hazards. These plans will take into account the desired land use by the owners; i.e. wildlife, forestry, etc. Funding and incentive programs will be developed to assist in the fuel reduction. The planning format will be on an ecosystem basis.

Participants will receive training on inventorying existing vegetation and development of land management plans. They will work with the land owner in a group setting and in a one-on-one basis to determine the landowners' desired outcome. These decisions will be placed in a plan for action and presented to the land owner.

2. What is the hoped for result?

The reduction in natural fire loads in key watersheds to limit the damaging effects of wildfires is the desired result. These key watersheds have been selected because of their location to specific communities in the Sierra. The participants will learn how to deal with individuals and make decisions. They will also learn about natural resources and ways to plan a fire safe environment.

3. How will you test the impact of service?

The test will be the acceptance of the plans and the implementation of fuel reduction projects.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Success will be 50% of plans implemented in the first year.

5. How many individuals will receive benefits?

The estimated number of land owners within the designated watersheds is 400.

Grantee: USDA - SCS

Site: High Sierra RC&D Area

COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

Components of Objective Statements:

1. What activities will you be engaged in?

As work progresses on the designated watersheds, additional watersheds and critical areas will be identified for future fuel reduction projects. Decision makers (county supervisors, etc.) will be informed of accomplishments with recommendations for future work. Regional agencies and organizations with responsibilities on wildfire activities will be contacted concerning development of partnerships with the AmeriCorps program.

2. What is the hoped for result of the activities?

The development of a long term program on natural fuel reduction within the Area is the desired result. Cooperative efforts from the various agencies and organizations, along with support of local government, will result in a continued effort to minimize the impacts of our inevitable wildfires.

3. How will you measure the quality of these activities?

We will measure quality by the number of additional watersheds and critical areas designated for future fuel reduction efforts. Also we will determine quality by the number of support groups and agencies that provide assistance in addressing future activities.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

A successful program will identify an additional ten watersheds and critical areas. We expect to develop partnerships with local fire districts, the California Department of Forestry, County Supervisors, the U.S. Forest Service, property owners associations, and local industries (i.e. lumber companies).

PEOPLE

October 11, 1994

At San Francisco

Manuel Roman - SCS Assistant State Conservationist
Timothy Cattron - SCS Director, Information Systems & AmeriCorps Director

At Petaluma

Lisa Woo Shanks - AmeriCorps manager & SCS District Conservationist
Mike Jensen - AmeriCorps member
Earl Brown - AmeriCorps member
William Randolph - AmeriCorps member
Colin Close - AmeriCorps member
Julie Maggi - AmeriCorps member
Nancy Scolari - AmeriCorps member
Charlette Epifanio - SCS Soil Conservationist
Chester Gin - SCS Soil Conservation Technician

At Lakeport

Dr. Hershel Read - SCS State Conservationist
Linden (Lin) Brooks - SCS Area Conservationist
Robert Roan - AmeriCorps manager (Auburn) & SCS District Conservationist
SCS district conservationists, soil survey party leaders, and area specialists

October 13, 1994

At Ontario (Redlands AmeriCorps Cluster)

James (Jim) Earsom - AmeriCorps manager (Redlands) & SCS District Conservationist
Jeff Wilson - Manager, Inland Empire West Resource Conservation District
Toan Bui - AmeriCorps member
Tai Diep - AmeriCorps member
Barbara Castillo - AmeriCorps member
Jamie Fisher - AmeriCorps member
Adrian Gonzalez - AmeriCorps member
Penny Peterson - AmeriCorps member
Kevin Nguyen - AmeriCorps member

At Apple Valley

Jesse (Rick) Aguayo - AmeriCorps manager (Apple Valley) & SCS District Conservationist
Carrie Haydu - AmeriCorps member
Crisand Giles - AmeriCorps member
Raymond Lanphier - SCS Civil Engineering Technician
Jackie Lindgren - SCS Office Automation Assistant

AMERICORPS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ONTARIO, CA (RCD OFFICE)
REDLANDS, CA (SCS FIELD OFFICE)

1. CHINO HILLS - Eldona Arns Horse Ranch

Jamie Fisher - Irrigation Science major Cal Poly Pomona University with emphasis on soils.

Kevin Nguyen - Civil Engineering major Cal Poly Pomona

Tai Diep - Civil Engineering major Cal Poly Pomona

2. LYTLE CREEK RANGER STATION - Nature Discovery

Penny Peterson - B.A. Environmental Studies Cal State San Bernardino

3. REDLANDS FIELD OFFICE

Toan Bui - B.S. Mechanical Engineering Cal Poly Pomona
Cooperator inventory for outreach in water conservation

Adrian Gonzalez - Agricultural Engineering Major Cal Poly Pomona - Morongo Indian Reservation Riverbasin Study.

Barbara Castillo - B.A. Business Administration Cal State San Bernardino - AmeriCorps administration and education.

EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT – AMERICORPS

1

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>
9/13 & 14/94	Visited EWP sites to get a perspective of the work SCS has done within the communities.	Penny Adrian Tai Barbara
9/15/94	Visited future project sites – Marble Canyon	Tai Penny Adrian Barbara
9/19/94	Nature Discovery-Wildlife training at Lytle Creek Ranger Station, provided by Jim Engle. Other Naturalists present.	Tai Adrian Penny Barbara
	1st. AmeriCorps staff meeting at IEWRCD	Penny Adrian Tai Barbara Jim Earsom Bill Ruh Jeff Wilson
9/20/94	Nature Discovery-Aquatics training provided by Jim Engle at Fontana Nature Center. Other Naturalists present	Penny Tai Adrian Barbara
9/21/94	Nature Discovery-Native Americans training at Lytle Creek Ranger Station provided by Jim Engle. Other Naturalists present.	Penny Adrian Tai Barbara
9/23/94	Nature Discovery Wildlife Exploration field trip at Lytle Creek Ranger Station. Sixty kids and 12 adults participated in the 3 hour program. Other Naturalists were present.	Penny Adrian Tai Barbara
9/26/94	Three new AmeriCorps members began their service.	Toan Jami Kevin
9/26/94	Staff meeting at IEWRCD 2 pm. Set up schedule for the rest of the week and next week.	All Americorps Jim Earsom Bill Ruh
9/27/94	IWM training with Bryan Walker at various irrigation sites. Bryan instructed on use of the neutron probe.	Penny Tai Adrian Toan Jami Kevin

7:30 A.M.

8:00 medical

10:30

Anna Maria Antef minor

12:00 Noon

by 11:45

Direct of Inst of Social Science
Research

Professor Jose Moreno Mend

Jose Alva Alvarez

Leave Mexico (Arrive)
3:00 P.M.

	Set up AmeriCorps schedules for office staff.	Barbara
9/28/94	CAMPS cleanup for preparation of FOCS program. Progress reporting, volunteer hours, and mileage reports.	Barbara
	Briefing on Eldona Arns' horse ranch in Chino Hills and Tony DaCosta's dairy—done by Jim.	Jami Tai Toan Adrian
9/29/94	Morongo Indian Reservation briefing by Tom Benson from Davis regarding the future hydrology study for flood prevention.	Penny Tai Adrian Jami Toan Kevin
10/3 & 4/94	Topography training at IEWRCD by Engineer.	Jami Kevin Toan
10/3/94	Staff meeting at IEWRCD at 1 pm	All Americorps Bill Ruh Jim Earsom
10/4/94	Nature discovery with Jim Engle and other Naturalists.	Penny
10/5/94	Tour of Morongo Indian Reser.	Toan Adrian Jami Barbara Jim Earsom
10/11/94	AmeriCorps staff meeting at IEWRCD	All AmeriCorps Jim Earsom Bill Ruh Jeff Wilson John Donoghue

COMMUNITY BUILDING – AMERICORPS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>
9/23/94	Nature Discovery-Wildlife exploration program with 60 students and 12 adults attending. The program was 3 hours long and the participants were involved in several activities which included making animal tracts out of plaster. A hike was conducted in which the students were asked to look for signs of wildlife. Also, games were played in order to emphasize wildlife and nature needs. Teachers were provided with an evaluation sheet which was turned in at the end of the program.	Tai Adrian Penny Barbara
10/7 to 9/94 (different hrs.)	Participated in the annual Grape Harvest Festival by providing assistance in the IEWRCD booth. Approximately 600-700 persons passed by the booth. Reading material was provided. Jackie Amsler (Director) was grateful and satisfied with the AmeriCorps participation	Kevin Tai Adrian Penny
10/6/94	Received a letter from 4 Lake Arrowhead elementary students requesting information on soils and how they could help. Letter was written with answers and several brochures were mailed with the letter. Will wait for any correspondence.	Barbara
	Survey of dairy with Engineer. Survey will be used for planning to improve quality.	Kevin Tai
10/12/94	Assisted John Donoghue with research for NPS grant.	Tai Jami Kevin
	Co-operator map update.	Toan
10/13/94	Arns horse ranch survey all morning.	Jami Kevin Tai

COMMUNITY SERVICE – AMERICORPS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>
10/7 to 9/94	Grape Harvest Festival	Kevin Tai Penny Adrian
10/11/94	Annual Speak Off Contest for the EVRCD. Was one of of three judges that judged 8 participants from several high schools, on their speeches.	Barbara
	Nature Discovery-Wildlife in which 40 students attended. The students were involved in serveral activities that provided information and awareness on wildlife needs. This program enables the students to appreciate nature and its inhabitants.	Kevin

SAFETY TRAINING FOR AMERICORPS

Date

Activity

Who

10/11/94

Defensive Driving
* provided some tips on
how to be a better driver
and conditions that could
influence your driving.

Barbara

10/17/94

Grantee USDA - Soil Conservation Service

Site Redlands, CA

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

*A tool for creating or revising community building objectives.
Use one worksheet for each objective.*

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Teach Minority

- 1) What activities will you be engaged in? Educate limited resource farmers.
example 1: recruiting additional volunteers. Develop and implement watershed plans.
example 2: developing partnerships with other service organizations.
- 2) What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?
example 1: 1000 additional hours of volunteer service.
example 2: 3 meaningful partnerships developed.
Plans completed. Limited resource farmers using soil and water conservation practices.
- 3) How will you measure the quality of these activities?
example 1: log of additional volunteer hours.
example 2: survey of partners.
Limited resource farmers following conservation plans.
District Conservationist assessment of farmers understanding.
- 4) By what standard will you gauge success?
example 1: 900 additional hours of volunteer service logged.
example 2: 100% of partners believe the quality of service delivery has improved due to the partnership.
60% of farmers apply plans.
Community and agency feedback.

Grantee USDA - Soil Conservation Service

Site Redlands, CA

**CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES**

*A tool for creating or revising community service objectives.
Use one worksheet for each objective.*

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Reduce water pollution, conserve water, improve irrigation

- 1) **What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?** Design and install projects.
example 1: teaching low-achieving students
example 2: building low-income housing
- 2) **What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?** Designs completed, projects installed,
example 1: improved academic achievement waterfowl and fish habitat improved.
example 2: 10 houses built
- 3) **How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?** Compliance with SCS standards, plans,
example 1: test scores and specs. landowners judgement.
example 2: housing code/inspector's judgment
- 4) **By what standard will you gauge success?** 100% of installations pass inspection
example 1: 5% rise in service recipients' reading scores 80% rated high quality by SCS DC.
example 2: 100% of houses pass inspection
- 5) **How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?** 30 limited resource farmers
example 1: 500 low-achieving students of dairies plus several thousand
example 2: 10 low-income families down stream residents,
recreations.

Notice posted at 17 colleges

UNITED STATES Soil 1301 Redwood Way, Ste 170
DEPARTMENT OF Conservation Petaluma, CA 94954
AGRICULTURE Service (707) 794-1242

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July 12, 1994

**AmeriCorps
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

5 Positions:

- 2 Petaluma
- 2 Santa Rosa
- 1 Ukiah

Earn:

1. \$12,000 stipend for 1700 hours of service
2. \$4,725 education award
3. Health Insurance
4. Child care

Term of Employment:

One year, full time, Monday - Friday

Qualifications:

Must be US Citizen and age 17 or older.

Professional disciplines needed:

Soil Conservationist, Resource Conservationist, Range Conservationist, Biologist, Agronomist, Geologist, Forestry, Environmental Studies, Agricultural Engineer. Education and/or experience will be looked at. Good technical and communication skills needed.

Participants will be working in field positions to provide onsite technical assistance to landusers or completing resource inventories for water quality improvement, salmon and fisheries recovery, conservation, and similar work.

Fill out AmeriCorps application (call 1-800-880-4183 for application)

Return application by August 5 to:

Lisa Woo Shanks
Soil Conservation Service
1301 Redwood Way, Ste 170
Petaluma, CA 94954

For more information call:

Lisa Woo Shanks, Soil Conservation Service
(707) 794-1242

Richard King, Soil Conservation Service
(707) 575-1409

AmeriCorps Hotline
(800) 880-4183

AMERICORPS ASSESSMENT OF APPLICANT POPULATION

FINAL REPORT

STATE; Petaluma/Santa Rosa/Ukiah Cluster California DATE: 9-28-94		TOTAL # OF APPLICANTS	FINAL SELECTIONS
Number of male applicants		24	3
Number of female applicants		28	3
Number with disabilities		0	0
How many applicants had:			
no high school diploma		0	0
a GED or High School diploma		1	0
technical certification or some college		7	1
BA or BS		43	4
Graduate School		1	1
Professional School		0	0
Number of applicants that required			
*health insurance		estimate 52	6
*child care		estimate 1	1
Total number of children		estimate 2	2
Number of applicants that were:			
Caucasian		48	4
African-American		1	0
Native American		2	1
Hispanic		1	1
Asian American/Pacific Islander		0	0
Other		0	0
Number from National Corporation 800 line		0	0
Number from the USDA 800 line		3*	1
*All found about about 800 line through local recruiting			

*The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 prohibits discrimination based on the need for either health care or child care.

AmeriCorps Recruitment Plan
Area I - Watershed Assistance
Soil Conservation Service - Petaluma/Santa Rosa/Ukiah
August 4, 1994

July 7 Received notice of project approval
July 8 Notify Conservation Partners of project approval
- President of Marin RCD
- President of So. Sonoma RCD
Meet with Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey's staff to coordinate press releases
July 11 Meet with Site Supervisors to develop strategy for publicity and recruitment
Meet with Petaluma People Services Center (job service organization catering to "at risk" students)
Interview with radio station KVON - Chris Arnold
July 12 Presentations at So. Sonoma RCD meeting and Santa Rosa-Sotoyome RCD meeting
July 13 Presentation at Gold Ridge RCD meeting (RK)
July 14 Presentation at Marin RCD meeting
July 15 Contact Employment Development Department (RK)
Contact Lytton Pomo Indian Reservation (RK)
Contact Marin County Farm Bureau
Contact Sonoma County Farm Bureau (RK)
July 18 Contact colleges by phone & fax notices:
Sonoma State (RK)
Humboldt State (RK)
Chico State (RK)
Cal Poly (RK)
Fresno State (RK)
San Francisco State
UC Berkeley
UC Davis (RK)
UC Santa Cruz
Santa Rosa Junior College (RK)
College of Marin
Mendocino Community College (TS)
Dominican College
City College of San Francisco
Napa Valley College
Solano Community College
Cabrillo College
July 27 Place ad in newspapers: Santa Rosa Press Democrat, Marin Independent Journal, Willits Weekly, Ukiah newspaper
July 29 Contact Coyote Valley Tribal Council (TS)
Contact United Native American Education Center
Aug 5 Select finalists for interviews
Aug 8 Attend training in Washington DC (RK)
Aug 22-24 Interview finalists
Aug 25 Send list of finalists to N.O. for approval
Aug 26 Notify applicants
Sept ~~12~~ 6 AmeriCorps starts in Petaluma & Santa Rosa
Sept ~~19~~ 12 AmeriCorps starts in Ukiah

UNITED STATES	Soil	1301 Redwood Way, Ste 170
DEPARTMENT OF	Conservation	Petaluma, CA 94954
AGRICULTURE	Service	(707) 794-1242

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October 11, 1994

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3 part article:

1. Overview of local program in Petaluma, CA, field office by Lisa Woo Shanks, District Conservationist
2. AmeriCorps member Mike Jensen writes impressions of program
3. AmeriCorps member Nancy Scolari writes impressions of program

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All Aboard AmeriCorps

First AmeriCorps members in the nation with the SCS include Nancy Scolari and Mike Jensen, at the Petaluma Field Office. Nancy and Mike started September 6, and were selected from over 50 applicants. The timing is perfect. The Stemple Creek Enhancement Plan was just completed. Now we have two AmeriCorps members to start implementing the plan--they will implement water quality improvements in the Stemple Creek watershed in Marin and Sonoma Counties.

Nancy and Mike will develop Conservation Plans including nutrient balancing and livestock management of riparian areas for dairies. Fish & Game will teach AmeriCorps members how to monitor pollutants (pH, DO, % Sat, NH3, NH4OH, Conductivity, Turbidity, & BOD) on several dairies. Nancy & Mike will develop fact sheets for dairy farmers describing pollutant tolerance levels.

"Their energy and enthusiasm are contagious. It's a dream job--doing ecosystem based planning at the beginning of their career," said Lisa Woo Shanks, DC in Petaluma.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative composed of diverse groups of Americans who will perform critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. The emphasis of AmeriCorps is community service; their motto is "getting things done." Members are paid a \$12,000 stipend, \$4750 educational voucher, health plan, and child care.

"A NEW PHASE IN MY LIFE"
by Mike Jensen

THE APPLICATION

August 1, 1994--I'm down in San Luis Obispo, celebrating my 25th birthday with friends from Cal Poly. I called home to talk to my family and my father tells me about a couple of jobs that have just been advertised. I had been scoping the newspaper looking for a job related to my degree in landscape architecture while working as a carpenter for a couple of contractors in Sonoma County. My father informs me of the AmeriCorps position looking for college graduates with environmental degrees. The deadline for applications for the AmeriCorps job was August 3rd. So I cut my vacation short and drove back up to Petaluma in the morning.

THE INTERVIEW

August 22, 1994--Dressed in a tie, sports coat and slacks, I arrived to the interview 10 minutes early at 8:35 a.m. I wasn't all that nervous...but I was curious about how technical their interview questions would be. "So, Mike? What time did you think the interview was scheduled?" Lisa Shanks asked. "I'm ten minutes early, right?" I reply. "WRONG!!!!" (The interview was scheduled for 8:15 a.m.)

Well, I guess I'm not getting this job, I thought. My dad must have taken the wrong time down or something. It kind of relaxed me for the interview knowing that I wouldn't have a chance anymore. The questions started out about personal history and did not seem that bad. The questions got harder as the interview went on because they would shift gears on you so fast. Next, the questions got really hard and were asked by some kind of doctor or shrink named Charlette Epifanio. I figured she must have been CIA or something. Well not quite that extreme. "How would you talk to an irate farmer?" she asked. Now these questions were getting very hypothetical and I figured there must have been some kind of grading key. I survived. No worries anyway. They hate me, I'm late. By far not a good interview by my standards.

A FINALIST

September 26, 1994--To my surprize found out I was one of the finalists. I was very happy, but started to worry as soon as I hung up the phone. What does finalist mean? Another interview? God, I hope not. At this time I wanted to find out more of what the job entails. What will I be enlisted for the next year of my life? Will I personally get enough out of it, to take a pay cut by more then half?

AMERICORPS MEMBERSHIP

September 29, 1994--Lisa Shanks called to let me know I had been officially accepted. She also wanted to know if I could start on the 6th if she got approval. I said, "sure."

Now I was excited for the job, and began looking forward to a new phase in my life. New phases are always exciting and they don't come all that often. Today, I'm fully STOKED!!!!!!

THE FIRST DAY

September 6, 1994--THE FIRST DAY, YEAH!!!! SSCRC, MCRCD, SCS, BCDC, EPA, ASCS, USDA, AO, MALT, CARCD, SFEP, NOAA, LAFCD, SFRWQCB, HELPME, ETC... Let us just say it was a crazy first day for memorizing names, agencies, and jurisdictions. Though it was a little confusing, it was very interesting to sit in on the Southern Sonoma Resource Conservation District meeting. For the first time I was exposed to all the issues and key players in the North Bay. I met a lot of people, and did my best to record as many names as possible. I survived THE FIRST DAY, YEAH!!!!!! And I even had fun.

PIECES MAKING SENSE

September 8, 1994--Today we drove out to Point Reyes Station to attend the Marin RCD meeting. The pieces really started to fall together today. For the first time I really started to understand how the SCS works with the RCD's and the landowners in the region. The North Bay Initiative started to make sense and I could see how all the jurisdiction were trying to open up communication with one another. There is a great importance for the agencies to know what the others are up to, if anything good for the region is going to happen.

KICK OFF!!!

September 12, 1994--Today we went down to San Francisco with the other four AmeriCorps members from Santa Rosa and Ukiah. The AmeriCorps program was referred to as the Peace Corps for the United States. The Mayor of San Francisco, Frank Jordan, spoke along with Dusty Baker, Manager of the S.F. Giants and many others. I really did not understand the full scope of the AmeriCorps program before. Young people and old will be working in a vast area of work to better the quality of America and its people. Some will work with gangs, others with disabled vets and elderly, while other will improve the quality of life through environmental projects. Today over 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers were sworn in by President Clinton and in three years time there will be over 100,000 in the U.S.

"I COULDN'T ASK FOR MORE THAN THIS"
by Nancy Scolari

WHAT'S AMERICORPS?

September 6, 1994--I found out about the AmeriCorps position over the answering machine. A dear professor of mine at my university took the time to call me over the summer and inform me of positions with the Soil Conservation Service. I decided to look into the position because I had just recently finished a class in soil science which I enjoyed thoroughly. This seemed like the perfect opportunity to explore my interest in soil science.

I first talked to Richard King in Santa Rosa, who explained that the positions were available as a part of a nationwide program entitled AmeriCorps. Mr. King also explained the various positions and their objectives. The opportunity seemed like a perfect step in the right direction. I was searching for a program within the United States that was aimed at community service through environmental action. This job was ideal.

The more detailed information I found out about the program, the more anxious I was to begin but I needed to obtain the position first. I walked away from the office content with my first impressions. I couldn't wait to hear from SCS again.

At this time I left on my vacation in Mexico for two weeks. Anxious about my application, I called my mother to check up on my status. I was disturbed to find that I was never called back for an interview. When I returned to the United States, I decided to call and ask about any weaknesses that I may have had on my application. It was explained that SCS was unable to contact me because of conflicting information on my date of arrival. I was ecstatic to find out that they were willing to take the time to interview me the very next day.

I walked into the interview a bit nervous as expected and hoped for the best. I came out of the interview feeling I had just accomplished a great task. Now I just had to wait one more time.

I received a call the very next day! The Petaluma Field Office wanted an interview with me once again. I went into their office that very day and met Lisa Shanks, the District Conservationist. After meeting with the Petaluma office I decided that this was definitely where I wanted to work. I was very pleased with the work atmosphere of the whole office and the employees were very personable.

A few days later I was informed that I was selected as an AmeriCorps member. I was overwhelmed with excitement at the chance of finally starting my career and at the same time functioning as a vital part of my community. I couldn't ask for more than this. So far the experience has been wonderful. The people of the community have been very kind. I have spent all day meeting with people of different

agencies and the experience is overwhelming. I certainly hope that other AmeriCorps members are as satisfied as I am.

THE FIRST WEEK

September 9, 1994--This week was certainly overwhelming! So far I have attended 2 RCD meetings. Both of them were of various confusion levels. The most confusing was on the very first day. The Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District held a meeting in which a variety of acronyms were present--RCD, SCS, EPA, BCDC, etc. It was very difficult to get the gist of the meeting unless you were familiar with the different agencies. The next meeting I attended was for the Marin RCD. This meeting made a lot more sense. I think it was because I finally started catching on to the terms.

The most heated topic of interest seems to be affiliated with levee permits. There are a number of permit fees that landowners are required to pay to a number of agencies. The cost all adds up quickly and landowners are quite peeved. It didn't go over too well when BCDC proclaimed that there was an outstanding fee of \$.10 per cubic yard (totaling \$5200) that was to be required. Things heated up fast.

Overall the week was a good one. I got used to acronyms, names, and meetings. The best part was meeting the people of the community. They were all very helpful and were more than happy to answer any questions that I had. I am very privileged to work with some very cooperative people.

GRAND TOUR

September 23, 1994--I accompanied Charlette Epifanio when we went to check out an As-Built at "T's" dairy. The whole process was pretty fascinating. It's amazing how much more one can see once you've been enlightened. Charlette pointed out many things that I would have completely passed up and would have never seen in my life. On the job it seems like one really needs to train the eye to find what you're looking for. After we went through the As-Built, I was able to see the dairy in a whole different light. I began to see the drainage problems associated with the dairy. It was amazing that Mr. "T" went through all the trouble of putting in the drainage system and didn't really complete it. He guttered all of his structures just so that ultimately the water would run right over manure.

The next day I went out with Paul Sheffer on his grand tour of Petaluma and Sonoma Valley. This was a great learning experience. He is a very knowledgeable person. One day I would love to spit out information like he does. We were able to see a couple of vineyards and levees. On this day I decided that my job wasn't really a job. It seems like I'm on an extended vacation touring Sonoma and Marin counties.

Note:

Other AmeriCorps members are welcome to "type" to Mike Jensen and Nancy Scolari via e-mail. Their e-mail addresses are: ca1340!jensen and ca1340!scolari.

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Kathy

Company: AmeriCorps

Phone: 202-720-4369

Fax: 202-690-1131

From: John Thomas Jr.

Company: Rural Development

Phone: (505) 761-4960

Fax: (505)-761-4976

Date: May 29, 1996

Pages including this 13
cover page:

Comments: Kathy, enclosed are a few articles regarding the forest Fire that burned out the community of Lama. I have provided an overview of the AmeriCorps team involvement. Thanks, for your interest in the New Mexico AmeriCorps program.

Overview of the Lama Forest Fire and Rural Development/AmeriCorps Involvement

On May 15, State Director M. Steven Anaya made an assessment of the needs of the residents of the Lama Forest Fire Disaster, to determine how the Rural Development Agency could assist the victims of this disaster. Members of this team included Ernie Watson, Communications Specialists, and John Thomas, Rural Development Coordinator/State AmeriCorps Contact. Mr. Anaya asked the residents what they needed in terms of assistance. The spokesperson indicated they needed a number of items such as a community water system, a fire truck and volunteer fire department, a community center. One of the items that they expressed immediate assistance with was volunteers to assist with the clean up with the burned out homes. Mr. Miller indicated that they could provide housing with tents from the Philmont Boy Scout Camp, local resident from the area would provide food to feed the volunteers.

We arrived late on the evening of the 15th back at the New Mexico State Office. On May 16, I called all of the New Mexico USDA AmeriCorps members and asked if they would be willing to participate in the cleanup of the homes in the Lama area, five members were able to participate in this endeavor.

I called Jim Coyle, in Washington with a request for additional assistance. Jim ask Joel Berg to participate in a conference call to discuss the situation. Mr. Berg suggested that I request assistance from the TCCC AmeriCorps group out of Denver Colorado. I called the group about mid afternoon on May 16, 1996. On May 17 midmorning I had a commitment of 20 AmeriCorps members from San Diego, California and sixteen from Denver Colorado to assist with the clean up of the burned out homes in the community of Lama New Mexico.

On May 26, I attended a meeting with M. Steven Anaya, RD State Director, Ernie Watson, communication specialist, representatives from Congressman Richardson office, representatives from Pete Domenici office, Mike Gregro from HUD, members from the SBA, State and local Governments. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the strategy for meeting the needs of the citizens from the community of Lama. Upon my return to the Village of Questa I located the AmeriCorps team from the San Diego Campus.

I arrived at Questa at approximately 10:30 PM, The AmeriCorps members from San Diego were out in the parking lot doing sit ups.

I was at the site at 6:00 AM to inform the National Guard where we wanted tents to be placed to serve as a kitchen area and additional sleeping quarters for the AmeriCorps members. I signed for the two large tents, numerous chairs, and four tables from the National Guard.

The first item of business for the AmeriCorps team was to set up the tents from the Philmont Boy Scout Camp, and infrastructure to provide food and shelter for the AmeriCorps members who would be assisting the citizens of Lama. At 10:00 AM Congressman Bill Richardson addressed the group and informed them that SBA would be providing assistance to them in the form of low interest loans, cleanup assistance in the form of Presidents Clinton's AmeriCorps team.

After lunch the AmeriCorps team went to work on the home of Margaret Nes and Bob Alderisio, address PO Box 157, San Cristobal, New Mexico 87564. Fifteen AmeriCorps members worked until dark on this structure. The structure was total gutted. We removed all metal from this structure and placed it in a pile for pick up by a metal salvage operator. All remaining rubble was placed in drums and hauled off to a dumpster that was placed within a mile of the site by Taos County. We completely filled this dumpster with rubble from the burned out structure. I called the County with a request to supply us with additional dumpsters. We placed a second team at the home of Steve and Carol Hinton, address P.O. Box 156, San Cristobal, N.M. 87564. This was a large expensive home with four outbuildings. We tried to salvage adobes at this home so that the homeowner could rebuild with them. It took a team of six AmeriCorps members four days to salvage the building materials at this site and accomplish the clean up activities.

At this time we had 20 AmeriCorps members from San Diego, California, and 16 AmeriCorps members from Denver Colorado, and 5 AmeriCorps members from RD New Mexico and 1 AmeriCorps member from NRCS, New Mexico, and my self.

Showers were of critical importance as this is a very harsh environment to work in. We were up at 6:00 AM and worked until dark approximately

8:30PM. I rented five rooms to serve as shower facilities in the Village of Questa. This soon proved to be unacceptable as it was 11:30 PM before we were able to run the crew through the showers.

On May 22, I began looking for alternate arrangement for shower facilities. We talked with the Mayor of Questa to solicit his support for providing shower facilities. The superintendent of the Questa Schools agreed to provide shower facilities however we would be required to pay a fee. The mine officials at the MolyCorp mine agreed to let us use the mine facilities at no cost. They also agreed to provide dump trucks and loaders to assist in the clean up of the rubble of the burned out homes. We are really on a roll with the support from the community. Perhaps we are a bit optimistic as a new snake has raised its ugly head. The volunteers who have agreed to provide the food for the community members have indicated that they did not intend to feed 50 volunteer AmeriCorps members in addition to the residents of Lama. The entire food chore is being shifted on to the shoulders of Harry Miller's wife. This is an overwhelming task to be handled out of a small home that survived the fire.

Rural Development State Director, M Steven Anaya immediately began working with the senior citizens center in Questa to contract with the feeding of our AmeriCorps team. The harsh environment, dust, ashes, soot, has rendered our gloves useless, our face masks clogged with soot. I spend another \$139.00 for gloves and masks. The local stores have been tapped out with their donations to fire crews, and victims of the fire.

The Red River Fish Hatchery has begun filling cisterns with water from the fish hatchery. Residents see their first source of water in their cisterns since the fire. The National Guard is providing tankers as a source of potable water for the AmeriCorps members and remaining residents in Lama.

The Taos County has provided three dump trucks and two loaders to assist the AmeriCorps team with the cleanup. There is concern that this is a violation of the State of New Mexico's anti donation clause which prohibits the use of public equipment for individuals. The use of this equipment has really increase our efficiency. We can do more in an hour that we could do all day just using pickups and trash cans to haul the debris to the dumpsters.

The Steve Stumpp home is totally destroyed. This is a large adobe structure. The homeowners wish to salvage as many adobe brick as possible for rebuilding. The walls are quite dangerous as they are rather high and unstable with a heavy concrete bond beam on the top layer. We have to work with care to insure that no one is injured in the cleanup operation. Spirits are high but the crew is physical wearing out. Another problem that we face is laundry facilities. We have a limited supply of clean clothes, a major task in the morning is to select our cleanest dirty clothes to work in for another day.

Jim Dixon and Kathy Christenson home is totally destroyed. We salvage the adobe bricks and prepare the home for removal of the burned out foundation by the Taos County equipment.

The Dexter Ing home is totally destroyed. We remove the burned out metal, and debris and pile it up for pick up by the Taos County equipment. This home is tough because it has a burned out basement that we have to haul the debris up approximately 12 feet.

The Marcus Sanders home is totally destroyed. He wants to leave the adobe walls in place and salvage what he can. We remove an outbuilding. We haul approximately 1/2 of the rubbish to the dumpster prior to the County equipment arriving on the site.

The Joel Kimmel home is totally destroyed. This is an easy task! We clean up this home in a couple of hours. We have a pile of ash about 6 feet high and approximately 20 feet circumference. AmeriCorps power is just beginning to get started.

The "Outlaw Terry Klein" has requested our assistance with land reclamation, outbuilding cleanup, and cleaning smoke damaged interior. Terry is the mother of three children. One of her relatives stayed at the home site to try and save the home. When the fire threatened the home the relative took refuge in a horno an outdoor Indian oven used to cook bread. Terry Klein ran a State Police road blockage to take food and water to the relative. She was arrested, jailed, and charged with assault with a deadly weapon using her car to run the road block. The District Attorney has dropped the charges, upon the request of Congressman Bill Richardson. The Outlaw Terry Klein has really played a major roll in getting the residents spirits up, and facing the tasks of rebuilding.

Bill Deknatel lost three homes in the fire and has requested assistance with the cleanup.

Twenty AmeriCorps members have been scheduled to clean the acequa the primary water source for the community of Lama. Ash and debris has clogged the stream. Resident will be able to fill their cisterns once again after the ditch has been cleaned.

The Lama Foundation is a nonprofit group that had approximately 20 rental homes lost in the fire. The AmeriCorps members from Denver Colorado have been assigned to assist with the clean up of the rubble of the burned out homes. The AmeriCorps members are also assisting with the clean up and protection of the springs that serve this community with drinking water.

These AmeriCorps kids have just about done me in, this 53 year old fellow just can't keep up with the youth of AmeriCorps. Additional assistance requests come in on a daily basis. The residents have all expressed their thanks from their hearts and souls. Harry Miller has indicated that the AmeriCorps team has given these residents of Lama a new lease on life. He indicated that the enthusiasm and youth of this group has sparked a ray of hope in the hearts and minds of the community of Lama. Mr. Miller indicated that he feared that some of the residents would have given up and died within a few months without the infusion of hope inspired by the AmeriCorps members.

We will not be able to complete all the requests for assistance by May 31, 1996, however the community of Lama, near Taos, New Mexico will never forget the assistance that a group of AmeriCorps team members provided not only in the work that was provided, but primarily in the inspiration of life and hope that the AmeriCorps members inspired in the victims of the fire and residents of the community.

JOHN THOMAS JR.

Rural Development Coordinator/State AmeriCorps Contact

Assistance Programs Summary

For Lama, New Mexico Residents

The information provided below is to be used as a guideline for the application of the various programs offered by the various Federal, State and local agencies.

USDA Rural Development

Steve Anaya State Director 761-4950

John Thomas AmeriCorp Coordinator 761-4960

Gilbert Gallegos Rural Utilities Division Chief 761-4955

Chuck Knoop Housing Specialist 758-8631 (Taos) 753-7390 (Espanola)

Ernie Watson Public Information Coordinator 761-4950

502 (Repair/Rebuild) Loan

For families without adequate housing. Loan limit is \$104,500 in Taos County. Can refinance current debt if purpose was to acquire/build. Low Income limit applies. Current Interest Rate is 6.75%. Government assistance with interest is tied to family income. Government can pay rate down to 1% for very low income families.

Guaranteed Rural Housing (GRH)

Adjusted Income up to 115% of Median income. Loan Limit is \$104,500 for Taos. Market Interest Rate. 100% LTV. Applicant will need to get an interim loan from bank for the construction. permanent GRH can refinance this loan. If there is equity, some lends will roll closing costs into the loan. Normal closing costs but Mortgage Insurance is cheaper with GRH.

504 Loan/Grant

Rehabilitation for very low income homeowners with needed repairs. Suited for homes which are damaged but do not have to be totally rebuilt. Interest rate is 1%. Some limited Grant Funds for families where borrower is 62 years of age or older. Maximum loan is \$20,000 Maximum grant is \$7,500.

Long term projects:

Applications can be taken for the construction of facilities such as a community center/fire station or any other community facility.

Applications can also be made for development of a community user water system to provide safe drinking water. Such a system could also provide better fire protection.

Department of Housing & Urban Development

Contact: Mike Griego State Coordinator 262-6463 Ext. 223

Frank Padilla 262-6463

Carol Johnson 262-6463 Home Mortgages

Home Mortgage Assistance Section 203(b)

This program is available in all areas of the country, provided a market exists for the property and the home meets HUD's Minimum Property Standards. You may use the Section 203(b) Program to purchase a new or existing one to four family home in both urban and rural areas. A Section 203(b) mortgage may be repaid in monthly payments over 10, 15, 20, 25, or 30 years.

Section 203(k) Rehabilitation Home Mortgage Insurance

Section 203(k) mortgages allow you to purchase or refinance and rehabilitate a home at least 1 year old. A portion of the loan proceeds are used to pay off the existing mortgage, and the remaining funds are placed in an escrow account and released as rehabilitation is completed. The loan may be used to purchase a home and the land on which it is located and rehabilitation it; purchase a home on one site and move it onto a new foundation at another site and rehabilitate it; or refinance an existing mortgage to rehabilitate the home. In addition, a Section 203(k)

April 21, 1995

To: Joel Berg

From: Lorraine Clements

Subject: Texas AmeriCorps Sites

Fifteen USDA (RECD) AmeriCorps members are working in Texas along the Lower, Middle and Upper Rio Grande Valley working in the Colonia areas and on Colonia issues.

They have worked on a wide range issues. The most significant, however, have centered around:

- ** implementing the strategic plan for the empowerment zone in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Projects slated are an orange juice processing plant to be built in the navigation district; a housing rehab project in the Delta area, and a medical clinic in Port Isabel.
- ** 129 applications were taken in Jim Hogg County for housing rehab. Outreach for housing rehab and has occurred in all clusters.
- ** numerous incidents where AmeriCorps members have collected donations and helped individual Colonia residents or families.
- ** almost every cluster has done numerous community projects such as cleanups in their communities.
- ** outreach for self help housing in Horizon, near El Paso
- ** bathrooms have been installed in hundreds of Colonia homes
- ** members have assisted many applicants fill out our applications, many of whom do not speak English and who would have never used our programs if it had not been for their efforts
- ** besides, promoting RECD programs, members have been able to provide a needed personal customer service to residents that are in the most need. A common complaint from them is that there are not enough funding for these programs

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