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TENNESSEE WILDERNESS ROAD

America's
Frontier
Adventure





UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

(File) WV RDT

Fact Sheet

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is the President's national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their country in organized efforts, fostering citizen responsibility and building their communities. Americans age 17 or older can make a substantial commitment to their country and earn education awards for college or vocational training in return.

What Kind of Services Do the Members Provide?

Education
Public Safety
Human Services
Environment

What Kind of Benefits Do the Members Receive?

Living Stipend During Service (\$12,000 for 1700 hours of service)
Educational Awards for College or Vocational training (\$4,725 for tuition or student loan forgiveness)
Basic Health Insurance
Child Care Allowance

Who Can Participate?

Anyone over 17 years of age, including high school dropouts, high school graduates, college students, college graduates, and professional school graduates.

How Many USDA AmeriCorp members are Serving in West Virginia?

Fifteen

Where are they located?

Logan County	McDowell County
Randolph County	Barbour County
Monongalia County	Preston County
Hardy County	Monongalia County
Kanawha County	Lincoln County
Mingo County	

What type of service do the members perform?

The members are part of the USDA Rural Development Team. This program creates teams of professional participants who assist rural communities in identifying needs and resources available for economic, human, and environmental well-being. Participants from diverse educational and technical backgrounds were matched according to skills needed in specific locations. A concerted effort has been made to recruit participants who wanted to return to areas similar to those in which they were raised, thus beginning to reverse the "brain drain." The USDA Rural Development Team works to empower communities to develop local leadership to help themselves and to accomplish much needed community planning activities necessary to assure the economic vitality and productivity of rural and mid-sized communities.

What Kind of Service do the Members Perform?

Rural Economic Development

* Members in West Virginia assisted with implementation of a business retention and expansion program including the production and distribution of a monthly newsletter that is intended to improve dialogue, link communities together, and provide funding opportunities; they also developed a computer program for the West Virginia Division of Forestry that allows small business owners to calculate costs of producing various materials for long term investment strategies.

Emergency Response and Prevention

* In Middlebourne, West Virginia, a member organized a dry fire hydrant in the area by working with fire departments and local communities to get access to water for rural fire protection.

Fisheries Restoration

* In Middlebourne, W.Va. the member worked to develop a pond system for the production of striped bass on a commercial basis. He also began forming an organization of arm water fish producers in the area.

Community Improvement and Personal Responsibility Development

* A Community Service Day was organized for all Northern AmeriCorp Members in which they worked at the Union Mission of **Fairmont** to help decorate for the youth Holiday party, tape plastic to windows in the homeless shelter, and prepare information packets for a fund-raising event.

* In **Wilcoe**, WV another member sent surveys to prominent businesses in **McDowell County** that employ 25 people or more, in-home day care providers, private day care owners, and parents of Head Start children to collect data to include in grant applications to obtain funding for local day care programs.

* In **Lincoln County**, a Member received a grant from the Appalachian Community Fund in the amount of \$4,500. The grant will be used to purchase a computer, software, and advertising space in the local paper for a bartering program. The Member is also assisting the Lincoln County Economic Development Authority to become a Certified Development Community. This would entitle them to receive \$25,000 to improve economic development in the county or region.

Water Quality Protection

* In **Kingwood**, W.Va.. a member performed soil nutrient content analysis and animal manure nutrient analysis in order to improve local water quality. In Moorefield, W.Va. , the Member performed nutrient and pesticide management activities to improve the local water quality. The two members have provided assistance on a combined total of 1,000 acres.

Rural Housing Improvement

* In **Williamson**, W.Va., a Member assisted in helping 50 families apply for rental housing assistance

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES--WEST VIRGINIA

Introduction

West Virginia will have four focused projects for FY 1996. Four AmeriCorps Members are requested to continue activities begun in FY 1995.

WV Project 1--Computer Networking/Information Management. USDA Forest Service. 1 AmeriCorp Member

Background

AmeriCorps Members placed with organizations throughout West Virginia and Minnesota have played a critical role acting as a "linking agent" between the Forest Service and rural communities. AmeriCorps Members, working in communities, have, in the course of their duties, identified community based organizations who have a need for increased access to electronic communications.

An AmeriCorps Member was placed with the USDA Forest Service to facilitate the development of electronic communications, including Internet, as well as other information management duties. Following up on "leads" identified by fellow AmeriCorps Members, this Member has been active in providing technical advice and programming support to ensure that these communities have access to a variety of electronic communications, information management software, electronic libraries, and related services. The Member has provided both "help desk" services as well as direct training at the community level. The ability to communicate electronically, search for information, and share information simultaneously with many diverse groups has proven to be invaluable for these communities.

Activities Planned for FY 1996

Although we have managed to build the infrastructure and rudimentary capabilities necessary for communities to communicate electronically, manage information (such as databases), and related activities, much more work is yet to be done. As Will Rodgers put it "you can be on the right track but still get run over by the train if you don't keep on movin'." Plans for FY 1996 include:

- For community based groups and others who have an active interest in sustainable, natural resource based economic development there are plans to broaden the scope of a needs survey currently being "field tested". Needs surveys will determine current hardware configurations, level of computer literacy, available software, communications needs, and needed access to information sources available in electronic formats (Census data, resource data, regulatory information, etc). 200 surveys will be sent.

No Direct service
Teach students
Community use Davis

- Using this customer driven approach, the Member will:

- a) Conduct at least 8 training seminars designed to address needs as identified in the survey above. These seminars will be conducted in locations throughout the state
- b) Ensure that at least 50 of the participants in a) above have access to the types of computer capabilities they indicate as desirable. Expectations will be determined by requesting seminar participants to indicate their expectations prior to attending. Expectations will be quantified and measured at end. 50 participants will rate "expectations met or exceeded".
- c) Keep community based organizations aware of relevant hardware/software developments. Send a "Technical Bulletin" detailing this information to a minimum of 100 organizations on a quarterly basis
- d) Identify sources of rural development information specific to natural resource based development. Have this information electronically accessible. On-line access to at least 5 of these information sources will be developed during the year of service.
- e) Provide at least 125 help desk service calls.

Activities will initially focus on those communities which applied for EZ/EC status and were not funded under the current grant cycle.

Expected Results of Activities

- Community based organizations will have enhanced access to information, thus providing them the opportunity to make more informed decisions, communicate with other professionals more freely, and sustain higher levels of productivity.
- Rural communities and organizations, those who have the most difficulty staying abreast of changing hardware and software technologies, will have continuing access to information and technical support.

Measurements of Quality/Success

- Pre and post tests of computer literacy for communities served.
- The number of help desk inquiries and how frequency changes with time.
- The degree and extent to which rural communities use electronic information. Pre, Post tests.
- Evaluations done by users intended to measure value of information and quality of service.

Number of Individuals Served

It is estimated that at least 400 people will benefit from the services provided by this Member directly. If one considers the diffusion effects of this technology into the broader community as well as the enhanced productivity and improved decision making, this project would affect perhaps 50,000 people in the regions served.

Long Term Prospects

We view the FY 95 activities relating to networking and information management as a demonstration of what can be done. Still relatively early in the process, we believe the viability of providing such assistance will be evident. Preliminary discussions are underway with state government representatives, Rural Development Councils, the USDA Rural Economic and Community Development (formerly the RDA), and foundations about the possibility of continuing and broadening efforts once AmeriCorps funding has diminished. In light of the extreme need and relatively low costs involved, we believe long term support will materialize.

Partners

West Virginia Division of Forestry
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
USDA Rural Economic and Community Development
Minnesota and West Virginia Extension Services
Appalachian Hardwood Center
West Virginia University
University of Minnesota
West Virginia Rural Development Council
Central Minnesota Initiative Fund
Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development

WV Project 2--Forest Products Conservation and Recycling.

Wood Technology Center, Elkins, WV. 1 AmeriCorps Member

Background

Located in an area where the production of forest products is central to the regional economy, the Randolph County Economic Development Authority became concerned that there did not seem to be a focused effort to ensure that West Virginia workers were receiving the necessary training to assure that their skills level remains competitive.

Analogous to many third world situations, West Virginia has traditionally exported logs and lumber to other countries and areas of the U.S. for further value added processing. The net result has been that jobs and profits have effectively been exported from the state. Responding to this concern, West Virginia's state government has made value added processing one of their strategic priorities for future efforts. Value added processing cannot occur, however, unless there is a workforce trained with the skills necessary to produce high quality products for the demanding global marketplace.

The Randolph County Economic Development Authority took on the challenge of forming a unique partnership of state, local, and federal agencies as well as representatives of the public sector to address this challenge. Funded by these same groups, the Wood Technology Center has taken upon itself the responsibility of being a place where workers receive intensive skills training necessary to find jobs in value added processing sectors. With only one part time staff member, the Wood Technology Center has got their facility up and running.

One AmeriCorps Member was placed at the Wood Technology Center in FY 95. Concerned with taking a customer driven approach to the services it provides, the Wood Technology Center has had the AmeriCorps Member actively engaged in the development and administration of a survey to determine the training and technical assistance needs if West Virginia is to play a more prominent role in value added manufacturing. This Member is also assisting the Wood Technology Center to identify necessary information and training aids to ensure that workers receive high quality training.

Activities Planned For FY 1996

- Assist in the development of 8 different training curriculums
- Assist in 25 training sessions
- Continue efforts to ensure that workers are aware of training opportunities available at the Wood Technology Center.
- Assist new staff members in keeping abreast of technologies that reduce waste, increase efficiency. Aid in assuring that the Wood Technology Center retains it's ability to integrate these technologies into their programs.

No Value Added

Expected Results of Activities

- Natural resources and energy are conserved
- 400 workers are trained in value added processing techniques.
- 50 workers obtain jobs as a result of training at the Wood Technology Center.

Measurements of Quality/Success

- Pre and post training surveys of ability in training topic
- Estimates from employers on efficiency, resource conservation, costs savings, value added production

Number of Individuals Served

- 400 workers directly

Long Term Prospects

Long term prospects for survival of the Wood Technology Center are very good due to its combination of public and private support.

Partners

West Virginia Division of Forestry
West Virginia Rural Development Council
Economic Development Administration, US Dept of Commerce
Appalachian Hardwood Center
Randolph County Economic Development Authority

WV Project 3--Community Development Specialist (1 Member).

Resource Conservation and Technology Specialist (1 Member).
West Virginia Division of Forestry.

Background

Rapid expansion of the forest products industry in West Virginia has created a need to determine if it is advisable for the state to engage in additional large scale development. Residues from harvesting operations, in addition to those left from sawmilling operations must be accounted for if the state is to have a clear understanding of resource availability. Additionally, understanding clearly the extent to which the resource is currently utilized will be important information for the state to have should they deem it advisable to implement policies or technical assistance programs intended to encourage greater resource conservation.

One AmeriCorps Member was placed with the West Virginia Division of Forestry to assist in this effort. This Member has been contacting mill owners, loggers, and woodlot owners in order to assess the current state of utilization. In addition, this Member has been developing computer applications intended to expedite technical assistance efforts aimed at improving resource recovery and improving overall efficiency in mills. These programs will be utilized by the AmeriCorps Member and Division of Forestry staff in the next few months.

Activities for FY 1996

Activities planned for FY 1996 include:

- Conservation Education Specialist. Working with the West Virginia Division of Forestry, Appalachian Hardwood Center, industry associations, and others, develop a program designed to educate communities, industry, economic development groups, and interested sub-communities (perhaps environmental groups) on the benefits of actively pursuing conservation and recycling as a sustainable development strategy. For instance, off the shelf technologies exist which can reduce wood use by up to 20 percent. As an educator, this Member would be responsible for developing presentations which describe the technologies as well as the societal, economic, and environmental benefits.

1 AmeriCorps Member, with the title Community Development Specialist, will be responsible for providing direct assistance to community and regional economic development groups interested in promoting sustainable, natural resource based economic development in their area. This Member will be a resource person trained in economic development methodologies and will be provided with information on technical and financial resources available to assist communities. This Member will work closely with the Appalachian Hardwood Center, Extension agents, universities, state/federal agencies to bring customized assistance directly to the community level. This Member will coordinate with the Conservation Education Specialist above to assist in the implementation of projects which develop as a result of education activities.

Expected Results of Activities

- Activities of Conservation Education Specialist will result in 5 communities and/or businesses implementing conservation and recycling strategies learned. Will result in 5% decrease in resource use for cooperators.
- Improved opportunities for communities to engage in sustainable, natural resource based economic development.
- Activities of the Community Development Specialist will result in 5 projects focusing on conservation and recycling being funded.
- 30 jobs will be created

For Profit

No Fundraising

Measurements of Quality/Success

- Expected results (above) achieved
- 1,500 people receive information on the benefits of conservation and recycling
- Evaluations done by communities served by Community Development Specialist & Education Specialist

Number of Individuals Served

1,800 directly. Communities that engage in conservation/recycling strategies receive indirect benefits in the form of a cleaner environment, reduced resource use, and job creation.

Long Term Prospects

Prospects for these positions having a lasting impact are very good. Linkages made between the communities and technical/financial assistance providers should be long lasting. Technologies made available to communities/businesses should have long lasting impact on resource conservation and efficiency. An attempt will be made to institutionalize these services, in cooperation with state agencies.

Partners

Appalachian Hardwood Center
WV Rural Development Council
Governors Office, WV
WV Department of Economic Development
USDA Rural Economic and Community Development
Economic Development Administration, US Dept. of Commerce

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES--MINNESOTA

AWH

Introduction

For Minnesota, there are three focus areas for a FY 96 AmeriCorps program. All proposed activities are a continuation of efforts begun during FY 95.

MN PROJECT 1--Alternative Agroforestry (1 Member). Organizations: Wes Min and Prairie Country RC&D Councils

Background

In September 1994 an AmeriCorps Member was placed with two RC&D's in west-central Minnesota, Wes Min and Prairie Country RC&D's. There were two major reasons for placing an AmeriCorps Member with these organizations:

- 1) The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) of the USDA is being phased out. If no alternative agricultural crop is found, farmers that have been paid to keep their lands out of production will likely return to farming. The likely result will be a surplus of farm goods with resulting depressed prices for all. These two RC&D's have been active in promoting the concept of planting former CRP lands to hybrid poplar. Often called "fiber farms", fiber produced can be used for the production of bio-energy or for paper.
- 2) Woody Riparian Buffers. A failure of farmers and other landowners to leave buffers along streams has resulted in soil erosion and water quality problems throughout the Minnesota River Valley. Wes Min and Prairie Country RC&D's have been engaged in working with local residents to encourage the planting of hybrid poplar to reduce erosion and provide income for land that would otherwise be fallow.

8,000 acres in an 8 county area have been classified for their suitability to plant hybrid poplar taking into consideration soils, harvest access, planting costs, erosion potential and other forest related considerations. The Member has also taken a lead role in researching incentives available for planting poplar, developing markets for fiber produced, producing fact sheets, and notifying landowners and community leaders of the potential for an alternative crop. The Member has produced a public access TV show which describes the benefits of Woody Riparian Buffers and Bio-Energy. Presentations have been made at 15 meetings describing benefits of both efforts (approximately 300 people).

Activities for FY 1996

It is anticipated that the US Department of Energy will be funding a proposal submitted by these RC&D's whose to provide additional financial incentives for the building of the countrys' first bio-energy plant fired with fuels that are "fiber farmed". In addition, paper and power companies in the area have expressed great interest in purchasing fiber from these farms.

Activities for '96 will include:

- Continue efforts to educate farmers on the benefits of Woody Riparian Buffers and Bio-Energy. Conduct 10 educational programs which will reach at least 300 people. Educational program will result in farmers agreeing to plant 5,000 acres of hybrid poplar to demonstrate potential of Bio-Energy.
- Meetings and negotiations with fiber purchasers

In addition to these duties, the AmeriCorps Member will be asked to provide technical assistance to current woodland owners. High demand for timber and lack of nearby technical expertise has resulted in a situation where timber is being removed in a non-sustainable fashion. Duties would include advising landowners of Best Management options available and innovative markets.

Expected Results of Activities

- Farmers expected to leave the CRP program will become "fiber farmers".
- 10 local jobs will be created.
- The feasibility of a locally produced, alternative fuel will be demonstrated to 300 farmers.
- Other consumers of fiber (primarily paper companies) will be able to obtain fiber at competitive prices. The BIOMASS produced from the 5,000 acres will be purchased by paper companies and electric utilities.
- The possible negative impact of CRP farmers returning to agriculture and depressing prices will be avoided.
- 10 seminars will be given describing Best Management Practices resulting in 60 woodlot owners having increased knowledge of sound management techniques. Erosion will be reduced by 10%. 5 new markets for locally produced markets will be developed resulting in a 5% increase in small landowner revenues derived from their forests.

Measurements of Quality/Success

- The number of acres planted to hybrid poplar.
- Number and volume of poplar purchasing agreements in place.

- Increased knowledge of Best Management Practices (pre/post seminar surveys).
- Attendees at information/persuasion sessions on the benefits of Hybrid Poplar express an increased understanding of the concept and a willingness to consider planting (post meeting surveys).

Number of Individuals Served

The farmers and communities that depend on them in an 8 county area in West Central Minnesota is the primary focus of these activities. Approximately 150,000 people live in this area.

Long Term Prospects

Long term prospects for a continuation of this project are very good. Ultimately, the extent to which former CRP lands become fiber farms will depend on future DOE support for bio-energy concepts or, absent this support, the negotiated price that the paper companies are willing to pay.

Partners

Northern States Power
 Energy Performance Systems, Inc
 Electric Power Research Institute
 US Dept. of Energy
 MN Agriculture Utilization and Research Institute
 Douglas, Todd, Otter Tail, Grant, Pope, Swift, and Stearns Counties
 Representative Colin C. Peterson
 Senator Paul D. Wellstone
 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

MN Project 2--Rural Economic Development (1 Member)
Rural Tourism (1 Member)
Southeast Minnesota Forest Resource Center

Background

One AmeriCorps Member was placed with the Forest Resource Center (FRC) in September of 1994. The Forest Resource Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education, applied research, and the responsible use, renewal, and appreciation of natural resources. The FRC provides technical assistance and demonstration sites in resource conservation management. The FRC is a regional leader in rural economic development. Their Shitake Mushroom project, Hedgerow project, and Forest Utilization Demonstration sites exist to provide hands on experience and examples to farmers and woodlot owners on how to increase the profitability and value of their lands while becoming better stewards of their environment.

The FRC has traditionally been a day use facility. The FRC is poised to become the Residential Environmental Learning Center for the tri-state areas of southeastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, and southwestern Wisconsin. Plans have been developed for a dormitory, dining facility, and classroom complex that would serve at least 240 people.

Although the Member has engaged in a variety of activities, primary responsibilities at the Center have been:

- 1) Working with the University of Wisconsin at Lacrosse, the Member is active in assessing the needs of potential users of the FRC residential facilities.
- 2) Developed a multi-media presentation to inform communities and organizations about the FRC and its' plans for expansion.
- 3) Conducted presentations and other community outreach activities.
- 4) Developed educational programming suitable for a "new mix" of clientele. Classes held on a variety of forest management and rural development topics. **600 attendees**
- 5) Assisted in the Shitake and Hedgerow Projects. **10 educational programs presented to 150 people.**
- 6) Initiated a Regional Rural Tourism Initiative. Developed a conference to be held April 5, 1995 entitled "Quality Service Development: Growth & Tourism". Attendees expected to come from a three state area. **200 attendees expected.** Attendees will also discuss the most appropriate mechanism to promote regional collaboration of tourism development.
- 7) Played the lead role in establishing a collaborative relationship between community development organizations, community leaders, and local tourism businesses.

Activities For FY 1996

One AmeriCorps Member position (titled Rural Development Specialist) is being requested to continue activities 2-5 listed above. This Member will largely continue to do the same activities listed in the background material above because of recent indications that many more people want to attend these activities than currently can be accommodated. This Member will also, during the course of implementing activities 3-5 above, identify participants interested in initiating a development project and will refer them to organizations with specialized technical and financial knowledge.

Another additional Member is being requested to continue and expand the Regional Rural Tourism Initiative mentioned as activity 6 above.

As a result of the AmeriCorps Members' activities this fall at FRC, several rural tourism coalitions in Southern Minnesota are beginning to discuss working collaboratively to diversify their economies' through tourism development. The Mississippi Valley Partners coalition located along the Mississippi River; the Bluff Country and Trail Towns and other smaller groups encompass 7 counties in Southern Minnesota. These organizations have a membership of over 300 rural entrepreneurs who live in communities of less than 5000 people, many with less than 500. Significant historic, cultural, and environmental attractions exist in the area and local entrepreneurs recognize a need to "package" these attractions as a destination. The relatively close proximity to major urban centers such as Minneapolis, Chicago, Madison, and Des Moines presents significant market opportunities. This Rural Tourism Specialist would:

- 1) Work closely with regional tourism groups, the Minnesota Extension Service, community leaders, elected representatives, and others to coordinate the creation of a regional tourism plan focused on balancing the needs of rural communities to promote tourism while, maintaining a "rural lifestyle" acceptable to its' residents.
- 2) Conduct three regional conferences examining how other communities have achieved a balance between development and quality of life issues. Expected attendance is 200.
- 3) With the Minnesota Cooperative Extension Service, create a summary of technical and financial resources for communities interested in tourism development. Produce and distribute 3000 copies.
- 4) Conduct eight regional seminars for local governments, Chambers of Commerce, local leaders, and entrepreneurs on marketing research methodologies which can be employed to identify suitable target markets. Total attendees = 225
- 5) Coordinate planning and assist in implementation of 3 grantwriting seminars which will focus on enabling communities to obtain resources necessary to conduct tourism development activities. Expected attendees = 100

Expected Results of Activities

Rural Tourism Development Specialist (1 Member)

- 3,525 community leaders and/or organizations will have information and techniques necessary for the sustainable development of Minnesota's tourism.
- At least 10 communities will receive financial resources sufficient to implement community based tourism development projects.
- Improved understanding for states residents on linkage between environmental protection, economic development, quality of life.
- 30 tourism related jobs created
- Alternative recreational opportunities are highlighted and made part of the states' "package" of available recreational activities.
- Provide opportunity for urban residents to understand rural way of life and to have a "back to nature" experience.
- Instill an enhanced appreciation for nature and an environmental ethic.
- Improved coordination and cooperation between tourism development groups in the region.

Rural Economic Development Specialist (1 Member)

- 750 seminar attendees will learn of new rural economic development strategies.
- Will assist at least 50 of seminar attendees identify public/private technical and financial assistance necessary in order to implement rural economic development projects.
- The above activities will result in 35 full or part-time jobs created.
- Communities will experience a 10% increase in tourism volume.

Measurements of Quality/Success

- Pre & Post presentation surveys to determine understanding and willingness to try some of opportunities/techniques shown.
- Users of FRC will be polled to determine how they learned about the facility.
- Extent to which regional tourism development groups collaborate

- Extent to which recreational opportunities in the area are made known to previously unserved markets. Measured by surveys conducted at local tourism establishments. Goal = 10% increase in business.
- 15 rural development projects (other than tourism) are implemented.
- 10 rural tourism development projects are initiated and 30 jobs created.
- 15 communities develop market research and development plans.

Number of Individuals Served

Seven county area in southern Minnesota (Approximately 125,000 people).

Long Term Prospects

The long term prospects for activities continuing once the AmeriCorps Members leave is very good. As previously mentioned, the FRC is currently engaged in a conversion from a day use to a residential facility. The Blandin Foundation provided a 1.5 million dollar challenge grant to FRC that was matched by the State of Minnesota. The additional 2.8 million dollars will be raised through public/private efforts. Once constructed, the FRC intends for their facility to be self-sustaining by using the facility during off peak demand times as a location for business retreats and other events. Strong public/private support for this facility and their goals should assure a bright future.

Partners

Minnesota Extension Service
 Minnesota Office of Tourism
 Wabasha, Dodge, Olmstead, Goodhue, Winona, Houston, Fillmore County govts.
 Mississippi Valley Partners
 Bluff Country Tourism Council
 Trail Towns Tourism Coalition
 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

MN Project 3--Central Minnesota Sustainable Development Demonstration Project.
4 AmeriCorps Members. Central Minnesota Initiative Fund

Background

Experts examining the issue of sustainable development generally agree that if sustainable development of natural resources is to occur, several unique but inter-related aspects must be addressed. It is difficult for sustainable development to approach its' full potential unless:

- The proposed development makes long term economic sense.
- "Off the shelf" technologies are employed to reduce waste and increase efficiency.
- Financing is available to encourage the adoption of new technology.
- The environment is protected. There is a clear interdependence between humans, the natural resources that surround us, and economic development. A failure to protect the environment will result in a degradation of the natural resource base that economic development is reliant upon and/or create conditions unsuitable for human habitation.
- Human dimensions are addressed. Ensure that community members have equal opportunities to contribute to the economy, enjoy the environment, and participate in decisions that affect them.
- There is institutional support. Government, private organizations, and other elements of the social infrastructure play an integral part in adopting laws, policies, and incentives that can encourage change.
- Diversity is encouraged. Maintain diverse biological, economic, and social systems.
- Problems are prevented. Should anticipate and prevent social, economic, and environmental problems rather than attempt to solve them after the fact.

The Central Minnesota Initiative Fund (CMIF), a non-profit organization funded primarily by the McKnight Foundation, is intensely interested in determining how the process of sustainable development can be implemented in communities where natural resources are the predominant source of income for local residents. For much of the 14 county area served by CMIF forest resources contribute 25% to the local economy, with some counties in excess of 30%. Failure to plan for the sustainable development of these communities can result in dramatic dislocations and community instability such as those that occurred in the Pacific Northwest (Spotted Owl debate).

In their proposal for an AmeriCorps Member, CMIF stated that they wanted to develop an understanding of the barriers to sustainable development in natural resource communities and, once these are understood, play a lead role in providing leadership and financial resources to addressing these barriers. In partnership with federal agencies, communities, foundations, and the private sector, CMIF intends to use its' considerable financial resources, knowledge of the communities it serves, and organizational capability to ensure that the area they serve has a sustainable future.

An AmeriCorps Member was placed with their organization in September 1994. Two other nearby organizations, the East Central Regional Development Commission and the Mille Lacs Community Development Corporation, who have overlapping service areas but differing missions, also have AmeriCorps Members placed with them. These three organizations have agreed to collaborate on bringing sustainable solutions which capitalize on the competitive advantages communities in the area possess.

Currently, the AmeriCorps Members placed with these organizations are actively engaging industry representatives (the owners themselves), financial institutions, local government leaders, community members, state agencies, and others in a dialogue. Employing surveys, small group meetings, and eventually focus groups, these Members are assessing the current situation regarding:

- a) Resources. Members are determining the situation regarding the availability of resources (natural, capital, financial).
- b) Capability. Answering the question of whether there is sufficient knowledge, skills, and technology available in the area to address problems relating to sustainability (sometimes referred to as community capacity for change).
- c) Institutions. According to Lundgren (Univ. of Mn.) appropriate institutions must exist to authorize, legitimize, and support activity. Lack of appropriate institutions, failure of institutions to meet their stated missions, or a lack of political support from them is likely to lead to failure. Members are currently identifying sources of technical/financial assistance, state and federal agencies that play (or can play) a role in sustainable development, foundations, environmental groups, community leaders, and other necessary "players".
- d) Incentives. Members are determining what incentives (financial or non-financial) currently exist for engaging in sustainable development activities.

It is anticipated that by June 1995, at least 500 individuals representing community groups, members of the environmental community, all levels of government, educators, business and financial interests, and other appropriate constituencies representing a cross section of their 14 county area will be contacted. It is necessary to collect this data (a-d above) in order to be able to describe the current situation and the barriers to implementing sustainable development.

Once the current situation has been characterized, advisory committees made up of a cross section of industry leaders, community members, state agency representatives, members of the environmental community, foundation representatives, members of the financial community and others will be assembled. Once the current situation has been described, committee members will be:

- I) Asked to describe how the current situation could be improved in order to encourage sustainable development. Describe how the desired situation would work, what it would be responsible for, who it would report to, etc. This describes the DESIRED STATE.
- II) Responsible for then assessing how existing foundations, state & federal agencies, non-profit organizations, industry groups, regional organizations, communities, individuals, and others can, with existing programs and resources, better coordinate their activities to eliminate duplication of efforts and bring economies of scale in order to meet goals described in 1 above.
- III) Requested to identify "gaps" between the ideal state described in 1 above and what is possible with a coordination of efforts (as described in 2 above). For those gaps identified, make recommendations on how those organizations named in 2 above can bring about change to close the gaps or mitigate existing conditions. Depending on the results of the analyses above, the Central Minnesota Initiative Fund alone may potentially invest millions of dollars in the next few years unsustainable development projects in the area it serves. Thus, the relatively small investment of money made by AmeriCorps and the technical expertise added by the Forest Service will yield substantial returns to local communities. Worst case, project dollars from all sources will far exceed the minimal investments.

Activities for FY 1996

The project has not progressed to step III above at the time this paper is being prepared. Therefore, committees have not made their recommendations. It is reasonable to expect that 1 person will be needed for each of the activities listed below.

Activities that will be conducted at a minimum include:

- Indirect*
- a) Community Development Specialist. In order for sustainable development to become widely accepted, it is necessary that community members, elected representatives, state agency officials, trade associations, and the private sector have a clear understanding of sustainable development and what its' implications are. As a Community Development Specialist, an AmeriCorps Member will seek to create a better understanding and consensus of what sustainable development is and, with the assistance of other AmeriCorps Members and cooperating agencies and organizations, demonstrate the mechanics of how to implement sustainable development and hopefully create a climate where sustainable development can become "institutionalized".

Specific activities will include:

- 1) **Education.** Working with local governments and community leaders, conduct 10 seminars to explain what sustainable development is and how its' implemented
- 2) **Develop Consensus.** Issues involved in sustainable development are complex and controversial. In order for activity to occur, there must be an agreement on what the problems are and how to attack them. This will be done for all groups in 1 above
- 3) **Assemble Resources.** Each sustainable development project is different. It is expected that 20 projects will result from 1,2 above. In cooperation with agencies/organizations in II above, bring the proper mix of technical and financial resources into the project. Once resources have been assembled, this Member would "pass off" the projects to b,c,d below.

Indirect

- b) **Organizational Coordination.** It is anticipated that step II,3 above will result in many opportunities for inter and intra organizational coordination and cooperation in order to bring about conditions favorable for sustainable development. Experience has shown that it is difficult for a mix of agencies/organizations/local communities to stay focused and coordinated unless someone takes on the responsibility of managing the (in close partnership with those assigned by the community to take an active role). For the 20 projects above, this Member will:
 - i. Ensure that there is agreement on that dimensions and nature of the problem to be solved and that a method for attacking them has been developed.
 - ii. Ensure that adequate technical and financial resources are available to complete the project.
 - iii. Keep project teams focused and coordinated.
 - iv. Resolve conflicts
 - v. Ensure that project team members and communities are kept informed of progress
 - vi. Ensure that implementation and closure is achieved
- c) **Financial Assistance.** Based on preliminary results, access to capital appears to be a significant barrier to those communities wishing to engage in sustainable development projects. Although the Central Minnesota Initiative Fund has agreed to play a major

role in providing project dollars, it will be necessary to develop other resources in order to cover items not within CMIF's purview and to avoid fostering a dependent relationship with one organization. Working with communities and a,b above, the Financial Assistance Specialist will assist in the development of 25 proposals to develop necessary financial assistance for communities.

- d) Technical Assistance Specialist. Technology plays a key role in reducing waste, improving efficiency, and enhancing communication. Clearly, one AmeriCorps Member cannot solve all the technical problems of communities wishing to engage in a project related to sustainable development. This Member can, however, work with communities to define what their technology needs are and, where appropriate, identify the appropriate organization or consultant who has expertise in the needed field. This specialist will stay actively engaged with the communities and will work with a,b,c above to ensure that appropriate and available technologies are made available to communities.

Expected results of activities.

- 20 sustainable development projects will be completed during the year period. Preliminary indications from communities are that the following projects should be undertaken

- OK -
- a) 3 projects to reduce organics in landfills. Minnesota, like many states, is moving to prohibit any organic materials such as yard waste, construction residues and demolition, pallets, food wastes, etc from being disposed of in landfills. Communities have no low cost ways of disposing of these organics. Communities can cooperate in the development of composting facilities which can convert these materials to useable topsoil. 10 jobs.
 - b) 4 projects to improve access to information technology. These projects include:
 - i. Electronic communications capability with other specialists in various fields and other agencies/ organizations. (40 organizations)
 - ii. Electronic access to remote databases (10 organizations)
 - iii. Electronic bulletin board for the sharing of activities, training, opportunities, and events relevant to community development personnel. (50 organizations)
 - iv. Mapping and Geographic Information Systems. Community sized systems. (25 organizations)

- c) 4 special forest products. Home craftsmen and others can supplement their incomes by growing, making, or gathering a variety of products that come from the forests. Such products include florals, boughs, ginseng, medicinals, mushrooms. (7 organizations)
- d) Coping With Regulations. (5 projects). Communities and organizations are subject to a plethora of regulations from the local, state, and federal levels. Despite recent efforts by Congress, society requires regulations in order to govern acceptable behaviours. Communities and organizations can, in cooperation with regulators, develop more efficient processes for the dissemination of information and processing applications. (150 organizations).
- e) Attracting and keeping "enviro-friendly" businesses. (4 projects). In order for communities to either attract or retain "enviro-friendly" businesses, it is necessary for them to understand what such businesses are looking for and to try and make sure it exists. If such conditions already exist, these benefits must be made known to prospective businesses. Projects include:
- i. What do "eco" businesses look for? (training)
 - ii. Community based lending programs. Starting and operating.
 - iii. Skilled Workers. (training)
 - iv. Getting the word out, marketing your town (training)
 - v. Encouraging Cooperatives (training and technical assistance).

Total communities/organizations impacted by (e) is 250

Broad Community Benefits

- Partnerships are formed. Cooperative and unified efforts between governments, business, nonprofit organizations, citizens, and others to address issues of interdependence.
- Businesses engage in additional production of value-added secondary forest products. Additional jobs and income for rural communities are created. 5% increase for participating businesses
- 10 "Eco-friendly" businesses are attracted to the area or retained
- Communities/organizations have greater access to information in order to make better informed decisions
- Environmental problems, such as disposal issues and landfills are addressed. Goal 5% reduction in waste stream
- Greater acceptance of sustainable development as an economic development "tool" at the institutional level
- Communities better able to serve their constituents due to productivity and access to information.
- 10% reduction in fines or other penalties for failure to comply with environmental regulations
- More highly trained workforce that is competitive in the global economy

Measurements of Quality/Success

- 75% of communities/organizations involved in information technology rate skills as "significantly improved".
- For reduction of organics in landfills projects, 10 jobs are created and waste stream is reduced by 5%
- 10 "Eco-Friendly" businesses are attracted or retained
- 10% reduction in fines or other penalties due to regulation enforcement
- For community and organizations, pre and post meeting surveys will be conducted to gauge their understanding and support of issues relating to sustainable development. A database will be maintained of those community members who indicate an active interest in remaining informed and engaged in matters relating to sustainable development.
- Partnerships that are a result of this effort will be documented. Significant achievements/successes that occur will be documented.

- The value of special forest products produced will be documented by surveying craftsmen.
- Indicators of increased acceptance at the institutional level such as letters of support from agency heads, regulations passed, policies favorable to sustainable development, etc, will be documented.

Number of Individuals Served

The Central Minnesota Initiative Fund (CMIF) serves a 14 county area in Central Minnesota. The area served by CMIF extends from the metropolitan area just north of the Twin Cities to just south of Bemidji in the heart of Minnesota's northern forests. Projects detailed above will directly serve 532 communities/organizations and will attract or retain an estimated 100 jobs in the area.

Secondary benefits will accrue to many individuals in the communities. In the 14 county area served by CMIF, there are a total of 162 communities with a total population of approximately 1/2 million. Many of these communities are highly dependent on forest resources for their livelihoods. Estimates done by Schuster (USDA Forest Service, Missoula, MT) show that forest dependency (all forest related businesses plus tourism, includes multiplier effects) ranges for these 14 counties from a high of 30+ percent of the total counties economy for one county to a low of 7%. Many of the counties served by CMIF have forest dependencies in the 20's.

Long Term Prospects

The Central Minnesota Initiative Fund has indicated that they have received numerous calls from a broad spectrum of the business, financial, and academic communities as well as from representatives of various local governments. Callers generally indicated an active interest in the project and expressed their support.

Although it is premature to make predictions, it appears that an active partnership may be possible which includes the following groups:

- a) Central Minnesota Initiative Fund
- b) Minnesota Technologys
- c) Northwest Area Foundation
- d) Blandin Foundation
- e) St Cloud State University
- f) Bemidji State University
- g) Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- h) Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development
- i) USDA Forest Service, NA S&PF Economic Action Programs
- j) East Central Regional Development Commission
- k) Mille Lacs Area Community Development
- l) Minnesota Power
- m) Great Lakes Lumbermans Association

(F.R) RDT WV

Inaugural Partnership Dinner
March 14, 1995
6:30 PM
Cove Lake State Park

6:30 PM	Registration/Reception	
6:55	Welcome	
7:00	Dinner	
7:45	Introduction to TQP	Mark Wilson
7:55	Partnership Dreams	
	* Dan Meredith, Pres. Chamber of Commerce	
	* Tom Stiner, Campbell County Executive	
	* David Seivers, State Director-RECD	
	* Betsy Child, Sr Vice Pres-TVA Econ Dev	
8:20	Partnership Involvement	Phil McMullan Phil Scharre
8:55	Closing Thoughts	
9:00	Adjourn	

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS

*to the following for graciously providing resources
for this banquet and TQP*

Cain Ford
Campbell Co Baptist Association
Campbell Co Chamber of Commerce
Cross Funeral Home
Dennis Powers DBA Allstate Insurance
First Bank
First National Bank
Grimm Products
Hack Ayers Realty
Jerry Cross
Jerry's Market
JoAnn Watts
LaFollette Medical Center
PM Realty
Regional Education And Community Health Services, Inc.
South Campbell County Rotary Club
Tom Stiner
William 'Bear' Stephenson
WLAJ Radio

Total Quality Partnership
Campbell County, TN

Community Meetings

All Meeting Times are 7:00 PM

Tuesday	Apr 4	Caryville Elementary	Gymnasium
Thursday	Apr 6	Stinking Creek Elementary	Cafeteria
Monday	Apr 10	Jacksboro Middle School	Auditorium
Tuesday	Apr 11	Jellico High School	Auditorium
Thursday	Apr 13	Elk Valley Elementary	Gymnasium
Monday	Apr 24	LaFollette Middle School	Cafeteria
Tuesday	Apr 25	Stony Fork School	Cafeteria
Thursday	Apr 27	White Oak Elementary	Cafeteria

*the designer is the leader of the ship -
no captain is better than a ship's design*

SUGGESTED SHORT TERM GOALS FOR TQP

SAFETY/HEALTH ISSUES

Water extensions to: Hoot Owl Holler
Duff
Morley

Connect water lines of Clear Fork and LaFollette
Utilities

Jellico sewer system upgrade

Fire department integration/computerization

Telemed Law Enforcement/Agency evaluations

School Clinics

Flood Control for Elk Creek Watershed

Conduct a *SAFE H₂O - SAVES LIVES* Campaign

Extensive, county-wide litter clean-up program

BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT

Industrial Access Roads for: OSWEGO Industrial Park
Caryville Industrial Park
Ershel Collins Indus Park

Power substation for Newcomb/Elk Valley area

Small Business Incubation Center

Industrial Marketing emphasis - (material preparation)

EDUCATION

JR Achievement Organizations for CCHS and JHS

Campus for Roane State Community College

RECREATION

Tennis courts for CCHS and JHS

LaFollette City Ball Park Projects - LMS
Pine Park

Community Recreation Center for Jellico

OTHER

Resource support for Parent Resource Center - White Oak

InterNet evaluation/training for Not-for-Profits

My suggestions are:

Determine the direction. Set the pace. Applaud the spirit.

Total Quality Partnership

Current Partnership List & Banquet Participants

Judy Adkins
Jack Alexander
Lee Asbury
Forrester Baird
Kenny Baird
Larry Boles
Helen Broyles
Ozell Bunch
Ray Burns
Barry Cooper
Howard Cummings
Anne Dunthorn
Gail Garrett
Rita Goins
Leta Grimm
Steve Grimm
Fred Kahre
Malcolm King
Luke Kirklin
Rebecca Kirklin
Alan McClary
Dan Meredith
Sharon Mills
Steve Morgan
Al Morton
Cindy Nance

Gary Owens
Glenn Petree
Dennis Prewitt
June Pyle
Bobby Renfro
Vicki Sanders
Jerry Sharp
Larry Smith
Mike Smithers
Betty Snodderly
'Bear' Stephenson
Cheryl Tidwell
Carolyn Terry
Carol Vinsant
Cindy Vinsant
Bill Waddell
Frank Wallace
JoAnn Watts
Gary Williams
Renita Williams
Jay Willoughby
Mark Wilson
Nelsie Wooden
Others: _____

Jerry Amonett	-	RECD
Betsy Child	-	TVA
Jane Fowler	-	TVA
Bob Freeman	-	E TN Development District
Dennis Grahl	-	Martin Marietta
Robert Hartman	-	SBA
Barton Hawkins	-	RECD
Terry Holley	-	E TN Foundation
Phil Hyatt	-	TVA
Mike McGill	-	TN Board of Regents
Phil McMullan	-	TVA
Randy McNally	-	TN State Senator
Bill Martin	-	Martin Marietta
Tom Mayberry	-	RECD
Beth Phillips	-	TN Dept Econ and Comm Dev
Jeff Powell	-	RECD
Phil Scharre	-	TVA
David Seivers	-	RECD
Ray Smyth	-	RECD
Tom Stiner	-	Campbell County Executive
Bob Winter	-	RECD
Others:		_____

(File) RDT - WV

THE "HONOR LOFT" CONCEPT FOR EARLY LEVEL READING STUDENTS (grades K -3)

DEvised BY:

WARDELL HERRING (Superintendent of Durant City Public School District)

AND

CHARLES E. OSBORN JR. (USDA/ AmeriCorps)

INTRODUCTION

Congressman Thompson: This concept/project represents the end product of several "brain - storming" sessions between the two originators. At a very early age, school children appear to be hungry for any positive form of attention. Thus this concept was devised in an attempt to encourage both motivation and incentives to award young students for excellence in performance. In one respect it appears superficially to be only of a "small" attempt. However, in actual practice during the past several months, it has surprisingly proven to become a major motivating technique during a school child's early (and extremely impressionable) age. It is termed the "HONOR LOFT" concept.

MECHANICS/GOALS

Every human being (young or older) greatly appreciate "praise and recognition" for a well done task. During our early discussions with children, a major percentage indicated that they would welcome some sort of visible classroom recognition by their peers. Thus the following experiment was implemented (by steps) to attempt to offer a concept that would fulfill this request.

- (a) First, the actual "building" of a small loft within each classroom where reading and writing were of primary importance (K - 3).
- (b) Lumber, nails, etc. were donated by a local building supply firm.
- (c) The voluntary services of a local carpenter (father of two children at the school) were recruited.

NOTE: These lofts are of very simple construction and only stand approximately SIX FEET IN HEIGHT. Steps are leading to the front.

- (d) A desk and a small cot/bed were placed in the loft (the bed is for very young children taking "nap time")
- (e) A "sign" stating WEEKLY HONOR LOFT was placed at the front.
- (f) Students showing the most progress during the previous week were awarded the place "above all others" in the HONOR LOFT for the next week (along with a small certificate of recognition to take home).

- (g) Any one student could only occupy the loft for TWO consecutive weeks to eliminate a monopoly situation. After vacating the loft for one week, they were again eligible to attempt to re-gain the occupancy of the loft.

RESULTS

Surprisingly, a marked improvement of most children in their basic skills was observed. Most children openly "strived" to obtain the privilege of attaining this "symbol" of positive recognition. Equally as surprising were the reactions of the parents. At home they would encourage their children to strive to reach "the honor loft". Some parents framed the certificate. Other parents actually took the time to "sneak in" to the classroom to take a picture of their child in the loft. It soon became obvious that parental pride spilled over to their children. Continued motivation became a strong by-product of this concept/experiment.

POSSIBLE SUGGESTIONS FOR CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON

The congressman may wish to consider offering this suggestion/concept to the Superintendents of his entire Second District. If these reasonable donations of time and building materials are secured, it would represent one of the few projects for each school district that would involve an absolute "0" dollar amount from their budgets.

If further questions are needing answer, call:

(a) Wardell Herring (Durant City Public School District)
Phone: 653 -3175 (Durant)

(b) Charles Osborn (USDA/AmeriCorps)
Phone: 834 - 3301 (Lexington)

cc: Bettye Oliver
Special Assistant to the Administrator

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson
Second Congressional District







(File) RD-KY

MEDIA ADVISORY

Nearly 200 members of AmeriCorps from across Tennessee will be in Memphis January 15-16 for a weekend of training and service in connection with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Photo and interview opportunities with teams of young Americans volunteering as guides at the National Civil Rights Museum and with MIFA and other community agencies will be available both days as indicated on the attached schedule.

For details and assistance, please call **Carol White**, Executive Director of the Tennessee Commission on National and Community Service at the following numbers:

Thursday, Friday	January 12-13	615-532-9250
Sunday	January 15	901-525-2458
Monday	January 16	615-504-0834

(cellular in Memphis)



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY
TENNESSEE AMERICORPS SCHEDULE
JANUARY 15-16, 1995**

Sunday, January 15, 1995

- AM Nearly 200 AmeriCorps members from Tennessee's 8 programs drive to Memphis, TN, for a weekend of service, observation of the King holiday, conflict resolution training, and team-building.
- 2 PM Orientation to the ML King, Jr. Hall, 485 Beale Street, Memphis
Special speaker: Taylor Rodgers, former AFSCME President
AmeriCorps Team Tennessee Teambuilding Activities
- 4 Orientation for Monday service at National Civil Rights Museum
- 5 Orientation for Monday service with Memphis Interfaith Association
Orientation on Team Tennessee AmeriCorps
- 7 Dinner and ML King, Jr. speaker (to be confirmed)
- 8-9:30 Conflict resolution training
Coordinated by Amerikids AmeriCorps program members

Monday, January 16, 1995

- 7:30 All AmeriCorps members gather for the day to do physical warm-ups, share information on plans for the day. Outside at 2nd & Calhoun; rain site inside the National Civil Rights Museum
- 8-12 AmeriCorps members break into service teams, for service including:
- *Guides at the National Civil Rights Museum on its busiest day of the year
 - *Partnership service with Memphis Interfaith Association (MIFA)
 - Helping with clean-up at Estival Place, a unique transitional housing program that provides rent-free housing for eligible formerly homeless families for up to one year.
 - Helping with MIFA's Handyman program which provides help to senior homeowners who are unable to complete or contract minor home repairs or maintenance.
 - *Memphis Leadership Foundation
 - Helping clean up new apartment complexes in preparation for conversion to low income housing
 - *Final Net at First United Methodist Church
 - Helping prepare lunches for the homeless; working in a used clothing closet and food pantry

PHOTOCOPIED
PRESERVATION

**FAX SHEET**DATE: 10-30-94

(804) 287-1737 FAX #

NUMBER OF PAGES: Transmittal Sheet + 2TO: Joel BergTELEPHONE/FAX #: 202/720-4614OFFICE: 202/720-6350

FROM:

Pat Paul

STATE OFFICE

RICHMOND, VA

804/287-1681

Fax 804/287-1737

If there are problems with transmission, call:

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

COMMENTS:

Here is Virginia release for clearance
for AmeriCorps Kickoff to be held next week.
We'd like to get out to papers asap. Thanks
Pat

NEW RIVER HIGHLANDS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

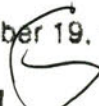
110 West Spiller Street
Wytheville, VA 24382-1929

AmeriCorps

Local Kickoff Ceremony

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, October 19, 1994

Contact: [Name] 
[Company Name]
[Phone Number]

Wytheville, VA—New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council is hosting a "Kick Off" ceremony on October 28, 1994 to introduce the AmeriCorps Program. The event will be held at the Wytheville Municipal Building in Council Chambers at 9:00 AM.

The RC&D Council has secured 5 AmeriCorps positions with a grant from the USDA AmeriCorps Rural Development Program. The positions include a Forest Engineer, Outreach Coordinator, Forest Economic Specialist, Landscape Architect and Forest Marketing Specialist. AmeriCorps is the President's national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's rural development needs at the community level.

The Rural Development program creates teams of professional and paraprofessional participants who assist rural communities in identifying needs and resources available for economic, human, and environmental growth. AmeriCorps members are matched with community areas according to their education and technical background. The USDA Rural Development Team will work to empower communities to develop local leadership to help themselves and to accomplish much needed community planning activities necessary to assure the economic vitality and productivity of rural & mid-sized communities.

(more)

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Guest speakers at this event include Mayor Trent Crewe of Wytheville; Sam Terry, Chairperson of the RC&D Council; David Olson, Public Affairs Officer for the Jefferson National Forest; and Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist, USDA, Soil Conservation Service.

"The United States Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of races, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA, office of communication at 202-720-5881 (voice) or 202-720-7808 (TDD).

To File a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, US Department of agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 690-1538 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

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PRESERVATION

NAME: MELISSA A. VANOVER

POSITION: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 1

LOCATION: MCCREARY COUNTY, KENTUCKY

SUPERVISOR: MIKE HAYS, MCCREARY COUNTY ECON. DEV COUNCIL / BILL BRUMM, STEARNS
RANGER DISTRICT

POSITION DESC: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

NAME: JUSTIN TAYLOR SCHUL

POSITION: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 1

LOCATION: MCCREARY COUNTY, KENTUCKY

SUPERVISOR: BRUCE MURPHY, DEPUTY COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE ; BILL BRUMM, STEARNS
RANGER DISTRICT

POSITION DESC.: ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE
PROJECTS

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

**AMERICORPS ASSESSMENT
OF APPLICANT POPULATION**

STATE:	DATE: 09-15-94	TOTAL # OF APPLICANTS	# OFFERED MEMBERSHIP	# DECLINING OFFER	FINAL SELECTIONS
Number of male applicants		10	9	8	1
Number of female applicants		21	7	5	1
Number with disabilities		unknown	unknown	unknown	0
Total		35	16	13	2
How many applicants had:					
high school diploma		4 unknown	4 unknown		
or high school diploma					
technical certification or some college		4	2		
BA or BS		21	14	13	2
Graduate School		6			
Professional School					
Number of applicants that required:					
*health insurance					
*child care					
Total number of children					
Number of applicants that were:					
White/Non Hispanic					2
Black (African-American)					
American Indian					
Alaska Native		2			
Hispanic					
Asian/Pacific Islander		1	1		
Other					
Unknown		32	13		
Total		35	16		
Number from National Corporation 800 line		27	14	9	0
Number from the USDA 800 line		4			0

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

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

MESSAGE SCAN FOR JOHN A. SEBELIUS

To J.Sebelius:WO

From: Elizabeth Crane:R8

Host: R08A

Postmark: Sep 27,95 3:01 PM

Delivered: Sep 27,95 3:06 PM

Status: Previously read Filed

Subject: the 17 objectives

Comments:

for your reading pleasure...

-----X-----

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

Grantee Department of Agriculture Site Rural Development

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVE

R

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

To seek sustainable economic development opportunities to diversify local economies, resulting in local people obtaining job training and higher paying employment while maintaining the quality of the rural environment. To enhance the local economy and the quality of life in rural communities through increased environmental education awareness and training, and outreach to students concerning federal job opportunities.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Americorp member will work directly with local groups and organizations that are working under the rural community assistance program or desire to become involved with the rural community assistance program. The Americorp member will work with current grantees, such as Southern Highroads and Limestone Valley RC&D, to work on inventories, work on feasibility studies, assist in writing plans and reports, facilitate identifying sustainable economic development opportunities. The member will facilitate these groups to most efficiently and effectively provide community job training opportunities with resulting employment while caring for the quality of the rural environment. The member will be available to facilitate other rural community assistance program participants and interested publics in the same line.

2) What is hoped for result of the activities described above?

The work with the groups and organizations associated with the rural community assistance program will increase local employment and income, with local individuals being trained for employment, more efficient use of rural community assistance programs. Americorp member will present Forest Service programs on environmental education in many of the rural, economically disadvantaged counties. This task achieves two objectives. It enhances the quality of life in these communities through enhanced environmental sensitivity and local community beautification efforts. This task also informs students and young adults of the possibility of a federal career in the natural resource arena.

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

Close contact will be kept with the groups and organizations working with the rural community assistance programs with periodic checks on projects and document reviews. Environmental education programs will be reviewed before they are given for completeness and quality.

4) What standard will you gauge success?

WJ The establishment of a sustainable, natural resource based business employing 5 local people. The completion of a minimum of one environmental education program bi-weekly. Increase visitor use of scenic highway by 10%.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

R

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To seek sustainable economic development opportunities to diversify local economies, resulting in local people obtaining job training and higher paying employment while maintaining the quality of the rural environment.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will work directly with local community leaders on a needs assessment which will identify sustainable economic development opportunities, conduct cost/benefit studies, and provide technical assistance.

Member will provide technical assistance analyzing issues of environmental concern in regards to economic development plans.

Member will complete the infrastructure database and analysis of rural community needs in Owsley, Clay and Jackson counties. Jackson county is identified as an Enterprise Community.

Member will coordinate with citizen groups regarding environmental impacts of new natural resource based economic development.

2) What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Increasing opportunities for local employment and income by creating opportunities for natural resource based economic development.

Training of at least 20 local citizens to be employed by natural resource based businesses.

Development of economic development plans which will enable local citizens to write sound businesses plan.

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

Natural Resource professionals will review all environmental impact analysis.

Local community leaders will be interviewed following completion of project or training.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

Job training and development of sound business plans will lead to the establishment of at least 2 sustainable natural resource based cooperatives.

Income levels of persons employed in natural resources will increase by 5% based on inventory data collected from the infrastructure database.

W0

OK

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To develop an effective 911 Emergency Response system that will enable local firefighters to increase their response time by 10 minutes.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Install and train local officials on the use of 911 software.

Conduct road inventory of signs, minor structure, culverts, and ponds.

Conduct cost assessment of needed infrastructure improvements.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Reduce response time of local fire departments to rural and urban fires by 10 minutes saving 5 structures and 100 acres of forestland from fire damage.

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

Completion of the projects within the allotted time, allowing for unavoidable delays and obstacles.

A functioning 911 system utilized by local fire departments.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

Lower fire insurance rates.

Increased interest in installation of dry fire hydrants to further protect rural areas.

5) How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your members perform?

5 local rural fire departments

Public Safety officials.

Rural and urban citizens.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OK

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To develop and begin implementation of a comprehensive 5-year community wide plan to improve local community resulting in successful development and organization of park and recreation facilities on the reservation.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1) What work will be done? What service will your members engage in?

A community needs assessment for recreational opportunities will be developed, identifying potential park locations will be identified.

A comprehensive parks and recreation plan will be completed and presented to the Parks and Recreation Department for Cherokee identifying financial resources to implement this plan. The planning consideration will reflect the scenic beauty and cultural heritage of the Cherokee Reservation.

Member will implement Master Plan which calls for the refurbishing 7 community parks, making 3 scenic areas on the reservation more accessible for persons with disabilities, constructing 25 miles of trails, and developing 4 public picnic areas.

2) What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Organized development of recreational parks in the community.

Involvement by tribe members to develop and implement the plan.

Establishment of a parks and community spaces featuring the scenic beauty and cultural heritage of the Cherokee Reservation.

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

The completed Master Plan will be approved by the Cherokee Parks and Recreation Department.

Recreational improvements will be made on the Cherokee Reservation.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

Construction of recreational sites will begin.

Local community members will maintain park and recreation facilities and develop future community improvements.

5) How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your members perform?

6 communities located within the reservation.

OK

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To conduct or arrange 150 environmental education presentations for grades K-12, resulting in increased knowledge by students and citizens as measured by pre- and post- program interview, with program quality judged by a 75% increase in scores, teacher evaluations and an enrollment of 200 participants.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Provide the school systems of Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties, Tennessee with a full-time Environmental Educator. These counties are classified as 100% rural with 50% of the population living at or below the poverty level. The member's work within these counties is how they will conduct unfunded, State mandated solid waste education to the citizens.

Garbage Busters, a solid waste curriculum developed in FY95 will be taught in the schools by the AmeriCorps member. This curriculum features "Travis Tree", a unique character designed by the AmeriCorps member to demonstrate how a tree is harvested, processed into paper, and recycled. This curriculum also includes a segment on "Shopping for Your Environment" and other creative learning tools. This program will be funded by an AmeriCorps written grant from EPA.

Water Wizards, a water quality curriculum, will be distributed to third grade students in the five counties served by the RC&D. The member will provide technical assistance to instructors participating in the program.

The member will be responsible for coordination, planning, and implementation of the 6th grade Conservation Camp. This camp includes 17 stops which focus on natural resources and environmental issues important to the region.

Organize, arrange and host Enviro 2000, a teacher inservice workshop. Attendees of the workshop will receive instruction and information on environmental curriculums available through the agencies, businesses and the council.

Promotion of the Environmental Resource Center in the schools of the five counties to increase teacher use by 50%. The center was made possible through a grant from the USFS.

Envirothon, a regional high school team competition in soils, wildlife, aquatic resources, forestry and a current environmental issue will be held in late April. Registration, distribution of study materials, promotion and organization of the event will be the responsibility of the member. Serve as regional representative on the State Envirothon Committee.

Develop instructional units to be used in correlation with materials available through the Environmental Resource Center.

Partnerships, cooperation and workshops with local agencies such as TN Department of Forestry, Extension, TN Wildlife Resources Agency, TVA, Partners for Clean Communities Keep America Beautiful Affilliate, Natural Resources Conservation Service and other local groups will be formed.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

150 presentations in environmental education through a comprehensive menu of primary, middle, secondary and teacher support.

Environmental education materials developed and made available to the county school systems through the AmeriCorps member.

Through in-service teacher training the quality of environmental education will increase in five counties.

Envirothon will have participation from every eligible school.

Partnerships with agencies will give school systems the ability to provide additional educational opportunities to their students. These agencies will send representatives to RC&D activities such as Conservation Camp, Envirothon, Enviro 2000.

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

Improvement of scores on the pre- and post- tests on the Garbage Busters curriculum.

Continued requests for copies of educational materials produced by the RC&D. AmeriCorps members in Fresno, California requested a copy of the Garbage Busters curriculum for use in the education program there. An RC&D council in Kentucky is reproducing the Water Wizards curriculum for distribution to area schools.

Increased participation in all aspects of the RC&D education program.

Teachers and instructors evaluate Conservation Camp for effectiveness, organization and impact on the students.

Teachers evaluate the Enviro 2000 in-service training program both for content, effectiveness and topics presented.

Teachers participating in the Water Wizards program contacting the member for additional materials on water quality issues. These teachers will also return evaluation forms for each lesson.

Increased usage of materials in the Environmental Resource Center.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

A 20% increase in participation and 75% of participants scoring higher on post tests in the Garbage Busters curriculum.

Teacher evaluations, of the Water Wizards curriculum, rating all activities as appropriate and increase of 10% in participation.

An Envirothon team from every eligible high school.

70 teachers attending the Enviro 2000 workshop with 90% of the evaluations rating workshops as excellent or very good.

A 50% increase in usage of the Environmental Resource Center.

90% of those evaluating Conservation Camp indicating that it was very effective, had good impact on students and was well organized.

R

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To plan and develop strategies for sustainable community development based on information gathered from area needs assessments. Emphasis will be placed on sustainable economic development, and sustainable education, alternative agriculture, and ecotourism. Success will be evaluated implementation of at least 2 technology transfer opportunities.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

NO Assist with the development, writing, editing, and layout of materials for the development of a video documentary of a native cranberry restoration project. This will also involve assisting the Shady Valley Ruritan Club in the development of materials for the text and artwork for an informational Kiosk.

Coordinate a teacher inservice workshop for teachers in the 6 county RC&D area with an emphasis on Conservation and Environmental Education. Coordinate a regional Envirothon for high school students.

Assist in the development and planning of a regional waste reduction and recycling seminar for municipalities.

2) What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

The purpose of the cranberry restoration project is to stimulate economic development through tourism and educate the public about the uniqueness of the native cranberry and the Shady Valley community. The member will also assist the Ruritan Club in determining the suitability of the cranberry for small scale commercial production.

The teacher inservice and Envirothon will increase knowledge and awareness of the regions educators and students in the areas of conservation and environmental education. These trained teachers will begin teaching new generations of students about the importance of stewardship of our natural resources. These better educated students who are tomorrows environmental leaders, will be able to make better informed decisions affecting the environment.

OR The Waste Reduction and Recycling Seminar will enable local government to evaluate their waste handling methods to determine cost effective methods. By showing and demonstrating techniques that can apply to their situation, this technology will be transferred with optimal success.

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

Viewers of the video will be surveyed to determine the content and quality of the video. Visitors to the Kiosk will be interviewed in regards to its accessibility and effectiveness.

Teachers and students will be surveyed as to the quality and appropriateness of the teacher inservice and regional Envirothon.

Attendees to the Waste Reduction Seminar will be surveyed as to the quality and relevance of the workshop.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

wp
No
Visitors surveyed will give ratings to the quality of the video and kiosk and will be better informed about Shady Vally, the native cranberry, and other natural resources.

1256 teachers and 75 students will attend RC&D/AmeriCorps sponsored activities. 75% of those surveyed will rate the workshop and Environthon as worthwhile and will be interested in attending again.

75 municipal and community leaders will attend the Waste Reduction seminar, and of those surveyed, 75% will rate the seminar as worthwhile and 25% will begin to pursue waste reduction technologies.

Waste

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

Ann

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To provide technical assistance in solid waste management and resulting in increased source reduction, precycling, recycling and participation in Household Hazardous Waste Collections, as outlined in the region's ten year solid waste plans, resulting in a 10% decrease in solid waste going to landfills in a five county area.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

State required Ten Year Municipal Solid Waste Plans were developed for Claiborne, Grainger, and Hancock Counties, TN and have been submitted for approval. Plan revisions, implementation and technical assistance to the counties is anticipated for FY96.

Technical assistance in grant writing to secure the necessary funding in order to complete each counties solid waste infrastructure (i.e. convenience center equipment, recycling equipment and transportation equipment).

Implementation of the following grant proposals which were written and tentatively funded in FY95:

- A. EPA Solid Waste grant for \$40,000. Implement pioneering consumer source reduction education campaign to ultimately help our five counties reach the mandated 25% reduction in solid waste going to landfills. This will also help local store buyers to make better solid waste conscience product buying decisions.
- B. Farmers Home grant for \$68,060. Provide technical assistance and training to local county government, city government, and local business/industry to implement source reduction techniques and to train solid waste workers to sort, process, store, and maintain high quality recyclables to ensure marketability through outside organizations such as RMCET. This will help reduce the total amount of solid waste going to landfills.

Household Hazardous Waste collection days will be organized and with the State Department of Environment and Conservation and promoted through presentations to civic groups, posters, brochures, newspaper articles, ads, press releases and public service announcements.

Organize and locate/secure funding for the 1996 Earth Day Festival which will have emphasis and demonstrate recycling, source reduction, precycling and Household Hazardous Waste collections.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

The result of plan revisions, implementation and technical assistance to the counties will be assisting the counties to have the most cost effective and efficient solid waste handling/disposal system and help them attain the unfunded, State mandate of 25% reduction in waste going to landfills.

Through grant writing, necessary funds will be secured to complete county solid waste infrastructure (i.e., each county will have the state required minimum of working convenience centers and recycling centers, one each per county).

Implementation of source reduction and recycling. Grant funded programs will help reduce the total amount of solid waste going to landfills, therefore helping the counties attain the State mandated reduction.

Household Hazardous Waste collections will help decrease the total amount of waste going to landfills and increase knowledge about the dangers of common household chemicals.

Earth Day 1996 will increase public knowledge about recycling, source reduction, precycling and Household Hazardous Waste safe alternatives.

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

Three county solid waste plans will be approved by the State Department of Environment and Conservation.

Technical assistance through grant writing will enable each of the five counties served by the RC&D to have the minimum required solid waste infrastructure of at least one convenience center and one recycling center.

Implementation of source reduction/recycling grants and organization/promotion of Household Hazardous Waste collection days will reduce the amount of solid waste going to landfills by 10%.

Funding will be secured for the 1996 Earth Day Festival.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

Three ten year solid waste plans will be approved by the state.

Each of the five counties will have at least the required minimum number of convenience and recycling centers. (1 each per county.)

Source reduction and recycling programs will assist in attaining a 10% reduction in solid waste going to the landfills in all five counties.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection attendance will increase by 10%.

The 1996 Earth Day Festival will be funded and draw a minimum of 100 people.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To promote conservation education in the region and its school systems by organizing appropriate activities, and also to promote conservation education to the public through awareness such as events, presentations and workshops.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

The member will be responsible for the coordination and planning of the conservation camp for 4th graders in 3 counties. A total of 12 to 17 stations will be available at the camp with topics including environmental issues and conserving natural resources. An educational packet will also be developed to hand out to each participating student and teacher. A grant approved by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture will assist in funding these activities.

The third annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be coordinated by the member. Displays have been constructed to promote these events and to increase citizen awareness of these types of collections. The displays will be set up and the member will be available to answer questions at 6 different home and garden shows. It will also be utilized at local health fairs and in local businesses.

The member will research and compile data for a regional conservation education resource guide. This guide will list free or low cost education fact sheets, pamphlets, curriculum materials, and resource personnel available from agencies and others in the surrounding area.

2) What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Environmental education is an important part of the education of our future leaders. The conservation camp educates students and teachers about various conservation topics. It is hoped that each participant will learn and apply at least one concept to their everyday life.

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection will provide all interested citizens with the opportunity to have their household hazardous waste recycled. This event also allows local community residents to become actively involved with the Statewide solid waste reduction mandate.

The education materials guide will give educators a concise, organized document allowing them to find free or low cost resources for conservation education programming.

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

Teachers will be asked for feed back about the camp such as how could it better serve the educational needs of the students. The students will also be expected to finish the educational packet, which will allow each teacher to test the students knowlegde of all topics covered at the conservation camp.

Surveys will be conducted at each of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Sites.

Recipients of the education guide will be surveyed as to the guides value to them.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

Out of a possible 1050 students, 775 students have signed up to participate in the Conservation Camp in 1995 (73%). If 10% more students participate and 75% of teachers evaluated give a positive rating, then the event will be successful.

The 3rd annual Household Hazardous Waste collections will be successful if more than 20% of the households participate. As more people participate, awareness of the event is raised.

The Resource Guide project will be successful if 80% of the educators surveyed give a positive response and use the guide within 1 month.

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Forest Engineer
(Wood in Transportation)

Site Rural Development VA-1
Wytheville, VA

0012

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To identify demonstration sites and demonstrate modern timber bridge technology which will result in improved infrastructure and increase water quality in Southwestern Virginia. This will result in a 20% reduction in stream sedimentation. Modify standard dry fire hydrant designs for conditions in Southwestern Virginia resulting in a 15% reduction of fire insurance rates.

A

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Complete survey and needs assessment of existing bridges in Bland, Carroll, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pulaski, Smyth, Washington and Wythe Counties.

Complete study of low-cost wood bridges in SW VA.

Conduct demonstration workshops for loggers and landowners in the use of the "portable logging bridge".

Provide technical assistance in bridge installation.

Standard designs for installing dry fire hydrants have been modified in FY95 for conditions in SW VA. In FY96 we will begin assisting county officials to select sites for dry fire hydrants.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Completed survey and assessment results will provide local and county officials detailed information on possible locations for cost-effective timber bridges.

The study of low-cost wooden bridges will prove the economics and safety of wooden timber bridges in SW Virginia.

By implementing the "portable logging bridge" this technology will be demonstrated to local loggers and landowners. We hope that 25% of the workshop participants will utilize this bridge when conducting timber harvesting operations, which will result in a 20% sedimentation reduction in streams.

Rural fire protection will improve due to the installation of at least 20 dry fire hydrants in key locations. This will also result in a fire insurance rate decrease of approximately 15% to all rural households in the area.

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

All work plans will be approved by the State Department of Transportation. USDA Forest Service Engineers will review and approve all modern timber bridge designs.

Installation of bridges will be done under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer.

Dry fire hydrant sites will be approved by VDOF and county officials.

Use of portable bridge will follow VDOF BMP guidelines, and be supervised by professional forester on site installation. VDOF will monitor sedimentation per State guidelines.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

County officials and engineers will become familiar with the modern timber bridges and will begin construction of at least 2 more timber bridges to apply this technology.

At least 10 local landowners and loggers will use portable bridge technology in timber harvesting.

Counties will seek funding and install dry fire hydrants.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Development of tourism business opportunities within the Regional Tourism Development Authority service area for purposes of creating local jobs and boosting income through tourism.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Research feasibility of developing an economic structure for ten or more natural resource based tourism related business opportunities such as canoe rental, cabin rental, horseback riding, bus tours, tours of old and abandoned coal mines, outfitters for backpacking and bed and breakfasts.

Assess needs of current tourism business type operations to make them more attractive to visitors such as lodging facilities, restaurants, shopping areas, downtown areas, historic areas and recreational areas.

Development of brochures and maps depicting local attractions and activities for distribution to tourism agencies.

Develop local area festivals and events. Development will include:

- a. Organizing a committee to establish a festival or field day for areas which currently do not have one.
- b. Locate an area large enough to accommodate the expected attendance. Secure needed amenities such as food vendors, portable restrooms and tents.

2) What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Supplementing the economic base of the area with outside revenue.

Increased attendance to area attractions such as festivals, recreation areas and sites.

New business and employment opportunities for residents.

Create new outlets for local crafts people to exhibit and market their products.

Renew awareness of natural resource based recreational activities available in the surrounding area.

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

Improvement of area attractions made possible by the increased revenue.

Increased promotion and attendance of current festivals, historical sites and recreational areas.

Steady increase in the use of and development of new businesses and activities.

Surveys conducted at local events which denote out of area and out of state visitors. Guest registers at local attractions which denote where the guest learned of the activity of business.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

The establishment of at least 2 natural resource based recreational businesses in the area.

N 3 Successful establishment of at least 3 area festivals highlighting the attributes and uniqueness of the areas natural resources.

At least 50 persons from out of the area attending these events.

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Environmental
Specialist

Site Rural Development AR-1
North Little Rock, AR

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

AWR

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To promote alternative energy sources which are environmentally safe, to select appropriate sites for installation of dry fire hydrants thereby reducing economic and social losses from rural wildfires, to facilitate implementation and coordinate demonstration projects for five poultry liter spreaders which will reduce non-point source pollution in poultry producing counties, and to assist in the creation of an Native American cultural center.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will identify and coordinate two wood pellet demonstrations. These demonstrations will increase public awareness of wood pellets as an energy source for home heating.

Member will assist county officials in locating appropriate sites for dry fire hydrants. The State legislature has committed \$2.2 million for installing this cost effective form of rural fire protection. Member will contact landowners who have farm ponds of adequate size to support a dry hydrant, and will educate citizens on the benefits of this system. Local fire departments will conduct field demonstrations.

Converting poultry liter to fertilizer is the most cost effective means to prevent non-point source pollution to our rivers and streams. Member will implement three funded grant proposals developed in FY95 to convert poultry waste to fertilizer, make landowners aware of the five poultry liter spreaders which are available for use free of charge, and assist coordinate demonstration projects showing rates and use of poultry liter. The grants are:

A. Exxon Energy (\$62,000) grant to buy poultry liter spreaders.

B. Winrock International (\$25,000) matching funds to cost share poultry liter operations with private non-industrial landowners.

C. EPA (\$20,000) grant to conduct two demonstration projects.

Member will assist 4 Native American tribes to implement a plan to develop a cultural center and preserve 70 acres of lands containing burial mounds.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Citizens will become aware of wood pellets as an alternative energy source for heating using wood stoves. This will reduce sawdust waste and provide a cost effective means for heating low income housing.

Dry fire hydrants will be installed in rural areas, reducing fire risk, and lowering fire insurance rates by 10%.

The five poultry liter spreaders will be utilized by local farmers thereby reducing non-point source pollution from the runoff of the poultry liter which is currently in piles. This waste product will be turned into an effective fertilizer, increasing crop yields by 5%.

A cultural heritage center will become established and the burial mounds preserved for future generations.

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

Wood pellet manufacturers will provide records of increased sales, and wood stove manufacturers will provide records of the number of stoves purchased.

Fire insurance rates will be monitored by county officials for reductions in rates in those counties which install dry fire hydrants.

Piles of poultry liter will become an asset rather than a liability. Complaints about these piles are monitored by the NRCS. We anticipate a 50% reduction in citizen complaints.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

Citizens become aware of alternative wood pellet energy, and at least 30 households install wood pellet stoves.

Fire insurance rates reduced by 10% due to the installation of dry fire hydrants.

A 50% reduction of citizen complaints regarding piles of chicken liter. Utilization of poultry liter spreaders by 100 local operators.

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Alternative Wood Products

Site Rural Development AR-3
Batesville, AR

AWN

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To promote alternative wood products and value added manufacturing technologies resulting in local people obtaining job training and higher paying employment while maintaining the quality of the rural environment.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will conduct needs assessment of potential uses of wood products and technologies.

Member will assist RC&D council to promote partnerships between government agencies and introduce the concept of integrated manufacturing. The concept of integrated manufacturing was introduced in Arkansas by Winrock International through a Forest Service grant. This will enable local training in value-added technologies.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

A reduction of 50% of local pollution problems associated with small wood manufacturing.

At least 100 tons of sawdust, which was previously considered a liability, will be utilized for energy.

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

Sawdust and other by-products will be measure before and after implementation.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

Utilization of sawdust to heat at least three local chicken house operations.

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Housing Relocation Coordinator

Site Rural Development AR-5
Holly Grove, AR

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS:

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS:

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1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Assisting socially disadvantaged residents of the Dials Creek Floodplain to relocate in quality, affordable housing.

Continue to work with community leaders to explore structural and non-structural opportunities for implementing action items identified in the recently completed Holly Grove Floodplain Management Study.

Educate Holly Grove youth on natural resources, social, and economic issues concerning community development.

Create a network of technical and financial groups, organizations and agencies within Holly Grove and its hinterlands.

2) What is hoped for result of the activities described above?

To aid residents in relocating to alternate housing outside the floodplain.

Determine the housing needs of the residents affected by the FEMA buyout.

Provide and assist residents with housing applications for assistance in meeting their needs.

Organize a local committee to implement nonstructural measures within the floodplain. This will include floodproofing, demolition and relocation of existing structures.

Develop a plan to use the land secured by the FEMA buyout for wetland enhancement, outdoor classrooms and wetland park development.

Provide local leaders and educators with the information necessary to instruct the youth of Holly Grove on natural resource conservation.

Implement a youth education program dealing with the issues of natural resources, crime prevention, drug prevention and school retention.

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

Formation of a community group to address social, environmental and economic issues.

At least 15 youth education programs presented which actively involve minority youth from the area.

Completion of an Action Plan to address structural and non-structural opportunities of the Holly Grove Foodplain Management study.

4) What standard will you gauge success?

All families within the floodplain relocated to affordable housing.

Active community groups participating in local actions which affect their lives.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OK

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Organize community centered activities in Lake Providence and conduct or arrange 50 environmental education presentations for grades K-12, resulting in increased knowledge by participants as measured by pre- and post- program interviews.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Create interpretive signs and programs.

Conduct needs assessment for educational and environmental programs in community centers.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Develop at least three meaningful partnerships with non-traditional communities.

Arrange or conduct 50 environmental education programs in these centers for both children and adults.

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

Participation in planning of these events by 15 community volunteers.

Environmental education participants increase their awareness of natural resources by 50% based on pre and post test scores.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

At least one of the events will become annual, and the community centers will assume full responsibility to continue programs without further assistance.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Facilitate creation of tourism opportunities through festivals, and enhancement of local festivals, resulting in a 25% increase of the attendees coming from outside the Parish.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS:

+++++

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will utilize existing research and develop community support to reactivate Tourism Commission.

Member will act as primary planner for tourism events and local festivals.

2) What is hoped for result of the activities described above?

Increase tourism while maintaining the rural character of the area.

Increase festival attendance by 25% which will expand existing tourism efforts to a regional level.

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

Implementation of two events which draw at least 25% non-local people to attend festivals as measured by survey of tourists.

Participation in planning of these events by at least two other regional tourism organizations.

4) What standard will you gauge success?

The development of a Regional Tourism Commission. Local persons become active in tourism planning.

Local festivals will become self-supporting through increases in visitation.

25% increase in festival visitation as seen through sign-ins, and log of calls received by the Chamber of Commerce about tourism opportunities.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To provide transfer recycling technology from existing rural and urban projects resulting in a recycling program starting which would employ 25 disabled workers from local institutions.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1) What work will be done? What service will your members engage in?

Member will complete evaluation of existing recycling projects in Mississippi such as the Franklin county project which employs residents of a state institution to sort, process, and insure quality control of aluminum cans, glass and paper.

Through contacts with similiar projects, member will identify markets for aluminum cans, glass and paper in the Delta region.

Member will coordinate training of workers who are disabled with the local institution.

Member will carry out educational plan developed in FY95 to which will increase the number of households participating in recycling.

2) What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Creation of a non-profit business which will recycle 50% of the waste stream currently going into local landfills.

Citizen awareness of recycling and work done by mentally disabled adults.

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

Materials sorted by disabled adults will be randomly checked by the member for quality.

The quality of the material will allow resale to companies which process recycled aluminum, glass and paper.

Residents of the institution will be interviewed on job satisfaction.

Landfill records will be examined before and after project for reduction in waste stream.

For Profit

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

Employment of 25 disabled adults to sort materials

Reduction of 15% of materials going to local landfills.

Employment satisfaction of at least 50% of the employed institution residents.

5) How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work you members perform?

Residents of the institution who are able to provide meaningful work and attain job satisfaction.

Local county governments will benefit because less waste will go to landfills, thus reducing waste handling and disposal costs.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To promote environmental education in three county school systems by organizing activities and also to promote conservation education to the public through awareness such as presentations and workshops. Member will conduct or arrange 150 environmental education presentations for grades K-12, resulting in increased knowledge by students and citizens as measured by a 50% increase in scores, teacher evaluations and an enrollment of 1000 students.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Provide the school systems of Bolivar, Washington, and Sunflower counties with a full-time Environmental Educator. These counties are classified as 100% rural with 50% of the population living at or below the poverty level. The member's work within these counties is how they will conduct natural resource education programs.

Member will develop instructional units to be used in correlation with materials available through the school systems, and modify agency materials to reflect the local population and local natural resources.

Member will facilitate the formation of partnerships, cooperation and workshops with local agencies such as Mississippi Forestry Commission, USDA Forest Service, NRCS, Mississippi Board of Education, and other local groups.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

150 presentations in environmental education through a comprehensive menu of primary, middle, secondary and teacher support.

Environmental education materials developed and made available to the county school systems through the AmeriCorps member.

Partnerships with agencies will give school systems the ability to provide additional educational opportunities to their students.

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

Improvement of scores on the pre- and post- tests on the environmental education curriculum.

Continued requests for copies of educational materials produced by the member.

Increased participation in all aspects of the environmental education program.

region 8

Woodland Community Land Trust
Rt 1 Box 136-A
Clairfield TN 37715-9601
(615) 784-5304

Post-It [®] brand fax transmittal memo 7871		# of pages	1
To	Katherine Gibney	From	Liz Furst
Co.	USDA	Co.	WCLT
Dept.		Phone #	615-784-5304
Fax #	302-720-4614	Fax #	615-784-8235

AMERICORPS EQUIPMENT LIST

Mileage	\$ 2000.00
FAX machine	300.00
Copy machine	1000.00
Modem	100.00
First Aid kit	10.00

To be provided by Woodland Community Land Trust

Subtotal \$ 3410.00

Loggers tape	82.00
Leather tape holster	6.00
Diameter tape (3)	105.00
Fiber glass tape(200)	63.00
Clinometer (3)	255.00
Clipboards (3)	50.00
Chalk tree marker	11.00
Marking chalk	3.00
Flags-blue(200)	13.00
Flagging-pink glo	7.00
Flagging-blue glo	13.00
Square Prism(10factor English	42.00
Tree/log scale stick	11.00
Pro Work vest	50.00
Safety crusier's vest(2)	50.00
Increment borer	147.00
Mattock head (2)	22.00
Mattock handle (2)	19.00
Aluminum tags	17.00
KBC Bar (3)	74.00
Compass-silva ranger	40.00
Clinometer cover (3)	30.00
Spring joint log ruler	25.00
Tally books (2)	56.00
Tally book sheets	4.00
Soil test kit	50.00
Hard hats (3)	30.00

Subtotal \$ 1275.00

Postage/Handling	50.00
Assorted office supplies	265.00

Subtotal \$ 315.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$ 5000.00

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION