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APPLICATIONS

ARKANSAS

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project:	Rural Water Extension
B. Name of Organization:	USDA, NRCS
C. Team Type:	RDT
D. State of Duty Station:	Arkansas
E. County of Duty Station:	Crittenden
F. Names of counties served	Crittenden
G. Congressional District:	1
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Mozell Williams
I. Address, phone & fax numbers:	250 Pine Street Robbins Memorial Building Marion, Arkansas 72364 Ph: 501-739-3618 FAX: 501-739-3827
J. Name of State Project Director:	Thomas Dominguez 700 West Capitol Rm 5404 Federal Building Little Rock, AR 72201
	Bruce Leggitt NBA Building 4000 McCain Blvd. North Little Rock, AR 72116
K.. Address, phone & fax numbers:	
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	0
M. Number of Members in RDT:	1

CRITTENDEN COUNTY RURAL WATER EXTENSION

During the first year of AmeriCorps \$90,000 was secured from the Arkansas State Legislature to extend rural water lines to thirty-five homeowners who were without drinking water. As of this print water lines have been extended to seven homes benefiting over 20 people. These families now have household water who before were hauling water for domestic use. AmeriCorps members have submitted thirty five applications to FMHA for financial assistance for household plumbing. Practically all of the homes without water do not have the plumbing even if water was made available to them.

The second year will consist primarily of extending water lines to the remaining households in Crittenden County who are without household water. It is hoped that the remaining 28 homes will have water on site by the end of 1996. If so over 150 individuals will benefit from the project. Members will be active identifying local plumbers or people with plumbing skills to aid in the plumbing of these homes. Members will also conduct a survey of the county to assure that all residencies without household water have been identified.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 10

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Rural Water Project (One participant - RDT)

SITE: Marion, Arkansas

SITE SUPERVISOR: Mozell Williams PHONE: (501) 739-3618 COUNTY: Crittendon

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Provide safe & dependable supply of drinking water to the socially disadvantaged & limited resource residents of Crittenden County Arkansas.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Extend rural water lines to those residents currently without household drinking water.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Safe & dependable supply of drinking water will be made available to at least 26 homes in Crittenden County currently without any form of household water.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

By the number of homes & families receiving a dependable supply of safe drinking water.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

By having water made available to at least 75% of the 26 identified households currently without running water in Crittenden County.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

180 people.

ARKANSAS

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project: Limited Resource Farmer Community Enhancement

B. Name of Organization: U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS

C. Team Type: RDT & PL&E

D. State of Duty Station: Arkansas

E. County of Duty Station: Monroe

F. Names of counties served: Monroe, Lee, Phillips, St. Francis, Woodruff, & Crittenden

G. Congressional District: 1

H. Name of Site Supervisor: Kenneth J. Lee

I: Address, phone & fax numbers: Rm 5404 Federal Bldg.
700 W. Capitol Ave
Little Rock, AR 72201-3225
Ph: 501-324-5418
FAX: 501-324-6138

J: Name of State Project Directors: Thomas Dominguez
700 West Capitol Rm 5404
Federal Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Bruce Leggitt

NBA Building
4000 McCain Blvd.
North Little Rock, AR 72116

K. Address, phone & fax numbers:

L. Number of Members in PL&E: 0

M. Number of Members in RDT: 1

Summary Page - Limited Resource Farmers

A) Exactly what specific accomplishments were achieved in the first half a year of the project in meeting the community service objectives and boosting the personal development of the members.

During the first year the following accomplishments were achieved:

1. Provided training (on a one-on-one basis) to farmers in figuring crop income and expenses.
2. Provided training to farmers on cash flow analysis.
3. Prepared information that compared the income of vegetables (peas) and traditional crops (soybeans).
4. Encouraged farmers to join vegetable coop.
5. Assisted project staff in training meetings for farmers.
6. Assisted vegetable coop with developing an annual cash flow projection.

To boost the personal development of the members, the following accomplishments were achieved:

1. A good understanding of operating loans and youth loans.
2. Active participation in training meetings.
3. Increased knowledge about vegetable production and economics on small farms.

B) The key elements of the program design for next year. Specifically describe each new service project to be performed by the members.

The key element of the program for next year is to identify small farmers who will incorporate alternative crops into their operation. Hopefully, the additions of alternative crops will help these farmers to successfully maintain their farms - many small farms are being lost due to unprofitableness.

As one of the new project services, the members will demonstrate sustainable vegetables production practices. Small farmers will be shown

how to reduce fertilizer needs and improve soil structure by using chicken
manure on their crops.

There will be a change in management. The members will be co-managed
by our 1890 Horticultural Assistant and the Small Farm Project Director.
The Project Director will provide training to

members in loan packaging and analysis of alternative crops while the
Horticultural Assistant will provide training to the members in vegetable
production.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 14

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** University of Arkansas at Pine
Socially Disadvantaged Farmers (One participant - RDT) Bluff, Arkansas
SITE SUPERVISOR: **PHONE:** () **COUNTY:**

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Identify new alternative crops suitable for the region. and to provide education and training to small farmers in completing loan applications, assisting in vegetable production, marketing, and traditional crop production.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

He/she will be involved primarily with educating small farmers about the profitability of vegetables and small fruits as related to small farms. Farmers will also be trained and assisted in completing loan applications for operating expenses and purchasing equipment. In addition, farmers will receive direct training and assistance in vegetable production, marketing and traditional crop production.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Socially disadvantaged and small farmers will use better management practices and incorporate vegetables into their operations. The addition of vegetables should help increase the profitability of these farms without requiring drastic changes in farm size or equipment enabling more small farmers to retain and maintain their farms.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

By tracking the number of landowners that add vegetables to their operation and/or improve their management skills. In addition, success stories will be noted and highlighted.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

By the number of farmers who are informed about alternative crops and improve management practices as a result of this project. Success will also be gauged by the number of farmers whose income increased after receiving assistance from the project.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

At least 25 individuals will be given direct assistance with either farm production practices or in completing operating loan applications.

ARKANSAS

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project: Holly Grove Housing
B. Name of Organization: USDA, NRCS
C. Team Type: RDT
D. State of Duty Station: Arkansas
E. County of Duty Station: Monroe
F. Names of counties served: Monroe, Prairie,
Phillips, Lonoke,
Pulaski, Hot Springs,
Saline, Garland, and
Faulkner
G. Congressional District: 1
H. Name of Site Supervisor: Mayor Lula Tyler
I. Address, phone & fax numbers: P.O. Box 430
Holly Grove, AR 72069
Ph: 501-462-3422
FAX: 501-462-3580
700 West Capitol Rm 5404
Federal Building
Little Rock, AR 72201
J. Name of State Project Directors: Thomas Dominguez
700 West Capitol Rm 5404
Federal Building
Little Rock, AR 72201
Bruce Leggitt
NBA Building
4000 McCain Blvd.
North Little Rock, AR 72116
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:
L. Number of Members in PL&E: 6
M. Number of Members in RDT: 3

HOLLY GROVE HOUSING PROJECT

AmeriCorps members have just completed appraisals of over forty residences in the Dials Creek floodplain within Holly Grove. Members have worked directly with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure guidelines were followed in the FEMA buyout. Members have provided data to local officials making it possible for the Governor to fund the Central Arkansas RC&D Council \$25,000 for the purpose of purchasing 7.5 acres of property within Holly Grove. The property will be used to construct housing for the displaced residents affected by the buyout. The housing will consist of 24 multi family units and eight single family units. FmHA has set aside emergency funds to construct the units.

This next year will consist of members coordinating with city and county officials to demolish the vacated structures, coordinating the relocation of residents out of the floodplain into the new housing, and aiding residents in making application to FMHA and HUD for housing loans. Members will also be responsible for developing plans for the use of property purchased in the buyout.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Holly Grove, Arkansas
Renovation Team(9 participants - 6 PL&E/3 RDT) and Helena, Arkansas
SITE SUPERVISOR: Mayor Lula Taylor **PHONE:** (501) 462-3422 **COUNTY:** Monroe

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Demolish and remove vacated structures, restoring
the wetlands within the 100 year floodplain of Dials Creek.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Demolition of the vacated structures on the floodplain. Loading debris for removal and making arrangements for removal.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

All lots purchased during the buyout will be cleaned of structures and debris and made ready for re-use.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

FEMA requires all vacated structures to be moved or demolished. RDT participants will submit plan for future use. PL&E participants are to destroy structures and clean lots of 42 vacated home sites. The areas will be made ready for subsequent use.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

100% of the 42 vacated lots must be free of all structures, brush and debris.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

324 residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 3

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Holly Grove, Arkansas
Renovation Team (9 participants - 6 PL&E/3 RDT) and Helena, Arkansas
SITE SUPERVISOR: Mayor Lula Taylor **PHONE:** (501) 462-3422 **COUNTY:** Monroe

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Reclaim deteriorated portions of historic cemetery in Helena, Arkansas.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Participants will work under guidance of Magnolia Memorial Cemetery Association to reclaim deteriorated portions of Magnolia Cemetery. Activities will include removal of brush and debris, re-erect tombstones, fill and sod eroded areas, construct V drains and construct hillside steps.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Stabilize subterranean erosion, improve surface drainage, improve aesthetic quality, allow for easier access to existing grave sites, expand the operational area of the cemetery, and allow access to the historical minority grave sites.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

By improving the aesthetic quality of Magnolia Cemetery to the adjoining confederate cemetery. To bring the Cemetery to a point where the Cemetery association can provide perpetual care.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

By restoring ten acres of the cemetery currently inaccessible to the public.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Over 4,000 minorities who visit or utilize the cemetery.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 4

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service SITE: Holly Grove, Arkansas
Renovation Team (9 participants - 6 PL&E/3 RDT) and Helena, Arkansas
SITE SUPERVISOR: Mayor Lula Taylor PHONE: (501) 462-3422 COUNTY: Monroe

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Restore hardwoods destroyed due to excessive flooding in Dials Creek floodplain

-
1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
Destroy noxious weeds and brush and plant to hardwoods with high tolerance to standing water.
 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
Restore 20 acres of Hardwoods destroyed by excessive flooding along Dials Creek and within its floodplain in Holly Grove.
 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
By restoring the environment on 20 acres of hardwoods to its original use.
 4. By what standard will you gauge success?
Complete success can only be obtained when 100% of the 20 acres is restored to its original use.
 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
640 people

ARKANSAS

TITLE PAGE:

- A. Title of Project: Environmentally Friendly Livestock Production & ALFDC's Pasture Based Swine Project
- B. Name of Organization: U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
- C. Team Type: RDT
- D. State of Duty Station: Arkansas
- E. County of Duty Station: Monroe
- F. Names of counties served: Monroe, Lee, Phillips, St. Francis, Woodruff
- G. Congressional District: 1
- H. Name of Site Supervisor: Kenneth J. Lee
- I. Address, phone & fax numbers: Rm 5404 Federal Bldg.
700 W. Capitol Ave
Little Rock, AR 72201-3225
Ph: 501-324-5418
FAX: 501-324-6138
- J. Name of State Project Directors: Thomas Dominguez
700 West Capitol Rm 5404
Federal Building
Little Rock, AR 72201
- Bruce Leggitt
NBA Building
4000 McCain Blvd.
North Little Rock, AR 72116
- K. Address, phone & fax numbers:
- L. Number of Members in PL&E: 8
- M. Number of Members in RDT: 2

Summary Page: Educating and Developing Small Communities, Farms and Businesses

A) The specific needs to be met, particularly as they relate to the Environment and Community Service.

This region suffers a deficiency of economic activity and consequently, employment opportunities. Furthermore, the community has little understanding of local and global environmental issues, lacks appreciation for the human health problems that result from environmental degradation, and does not sufficiently understand the role that agriculture plays in contributing to the environmental problems through conventional production methods.

The service activities of ALFDC's proposed Youth AmeriCorps project are designed to educate and train both the participants and the community. These projects will create a greater awareness of local environmental issues and demonstrate a variety of ways to identify issues and solve environmental problems. Direct needs will be met through providing more adequate housing, improving agricultural and environmental practices, and increasing the awareness and understanding of environmental issues as they relate to the development of small communities, farms, and businesses.

This will provide a unique opportunity for youth to be trained in sustainable farming practices, learn new business and leadership skills, and gain new insights into careers dealing with environment. Contributing valuable services to the community and the opportunity to work in these areas is of great significance to the youth involved. In communities where there is a lack of economic opportunities, there is a lack of vision and hope. Serving as AmeriCorps Members, these youth will have the chance to increase their vision and plans for their own futures, as well as envision the improvement and stimulation of their communities.

B). The key element of the program design. A description of the administering organization and identification of primary program partners.

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) is a public membership community service organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for limited resource and socially disadvantaged people of rural communities through land retention, family farm development, and land-based community development. Incorporated as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization in 1980, ALFDC represents a 42-county service area encompassing eastern and southern Arkansas, part of which has been designated as an Enterprise Community.

ALFDC is proposing a comprehensive approach to community issues through the development of Youth AmeriCorps, a multi-resource rural program. The purpose will be to enhance the quality of life for limited resource and socially disadvantaged people of rural communities by putting conservation on the land where our constituents live or own for the purpose of protecting natural resources and the people residing in the community.

The Youth AmeriCorps group will be trained to develop personal and career skills and to work in the focus areas designed to meet the needs of the rural community. Training for these tasks will take place through mentor farmers, classroom session, field trips, and group discussions. Engaging the participants and the targeted communities in these activities will enable project objectives to be accomplished.

Several partnerships will assist in the development of this project. Through the year each of these partners will be contributing in-kind services. The partners include the Arkansas Public School System, State Land Commission office, Arkansas State University, University Of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Rural Economic Community Development Service, Arkansas Forestry Commission, The Nature Conservancy, and The Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Summary Page

A) Exactly what specific accomplishments were achieved in the first half a year of the project in meeting the community service objectives and boosting the personal development of the members.

In meeting the community service objectives of this project, the Americorps Member has been involved in a number of ALFDC farm demonstrations. These include okra variety trials, chicken litter use as a nutrient for alternative crops, beneficial insects involving control of insects on cabbage crops, and development of small fruits as an alternative crop in the Delta. These demonstrations reached approximately 1500 people. The composition of the 1500 who participated in the demonstrations is approximately 30% limited resource farmers, 20% youth, and 50% agricultural service personnel, including USDA and University agents.

The Volunteer also participated in private farm demonstrations by helping farmers to set up demonstrations of sustainable agriculture and the reduced rate of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. With the demonstrations conducted on the private farms of 35 paraprofessional farmers, an additional 1000 people were exposed to and taught the benefits of these practices.

The Volunteer also participated in a 3-day short course on woodland timber stand improvement at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. The Volunteer has been able to apply this knowledge in training vocational agriculture students in forestry management, tree selection, and shiitake mushroom cultivation. Working with the youth is a further example of the accomplishments in reducing environmental hazards and promoting alternative agriculture enterprise opportunities, as well as advancing the Member's personal development.

B) The key elements of the program design for next year. Specifically describe each new service project to be performed by the Members.

Next year's program will include the member's participation in: 1) Environmentally friendly livestock production and ALFDC's pasture based swine project; 2) Construction and operation of a solar greenhouse; 3) Demonstration of renewable bio mass fuels using wood pellet stoves as an alternative woodland enterprise for sawmill operators; 4) Operation of a grain storage facility; and 5) Training youthful offenders in the Wilderness Institute.

Partnerships have been developed for each of these new projects. New partnering organizations include Winrock International, The Nature Conservancy, and DuPont Chemical Company.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 6

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Fargo Team (10 participants - 8PL&E/2RDT)

SITE: Arkansas Land & Farm
Development Corporation
(ALFDC) in Fargo, Arkansas
COUNTY: Monroe

SITE SUPERVISOR: Kenneth J. Lee

PHONE: (501) 324-5418

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Improve housing conditions for low income residents.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Renovate and upgrade over 25 houses providing homes for low income families and the homeless, provide maintenance repair to homes of low income residents.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Improvement of housing for 25 families.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

By the number of residents housed annually by the project.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

By compliance with county and city housing codes.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

25 families.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 7

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Fargo Team (10 participants -SPL&E) PFD

SITE: : Arkansas Land & Farm
Development Corp
(ALFDC) in Fargo, Arkansas
COUNTY: Monroe

SITE SUPERVISOR: Kenneth J. Lee

PHONE: (501) 324-5418

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: To provide a more diversified farming operation for
limited resource farmers

-
1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
Explore row crop production alternatives and environmentally friendly livestock production.
 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
Greater diversity of income sources for limited resource farmers.
 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
By 30% of limited resource farmers in the area diversifying into alternative farming.
 4. By what standard will you gauge success?
50% of limited resource farmers receive a cash income from alternatives farming.
 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
Over 400 limited resource farmers.

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

SITE: Arkansas

SITE SUPERVISOR: Kenneth Lee

COUNTY: Monroe

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Gather and process recyclable waste products.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Composting crop residue and manure utilizing sawdust from saw mill for mulching small tree orchards. Investigate business potential, i.e. wood pellet stoves and bio sod grass production.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Greater environmental awareness and new businesses being created from recycling waste.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

We will determine the impact by measuring the amount of recyclable waste produced.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

25-30 tons will be processed.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

90 families, which represent 270 people.

1. TITLE PAGE:

- A) Title of Project: Fuel Reduction Project
- B) Name of Organization: NRCS, High Sierra RC&D
- C) Team Type: RDT
- D) State of Duty Station of Americorps Members: CA
- E) County of Duty Station of Americorps Members: Placer, Nevada, and El Dorado counties
- F) Names of counties served by Members: Placer, Nevada, El Dorado, and Amador counties
- G) Congressional District of duty station of the Members: 4 and 2
- H) Name of Site Supervisor: Bob Roan
- I) Address, phone number, and fax number of site Supervisor:
251 Auburn Ravine Road, Auburn, CA 95603
Phone: (916)823-5687 Fax: (916)823-5504
- J) Name of state project manager: Manuel Roman
- K) Address, phone number, and fax number of state project manager:
2121-C 2nd Street, Davis, CA 95616; Phone: (916)757-8244
Fax No: (916)757-8381
- L) Number of Members in Public Lands & Environment Teams: 0
- M) Number of Members in Rural Development Teams: 5

SUMMARY PAGE:

HIGH SIERRA RC&D AMERICORPS CLUSTER - FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT

A) Three watershed ecosystem fuel reduction demonstration projects have been developed and implemented. Wildfire and fuel reduction training sessions for area schools were conducted. Resource maps were prepared for two selected watersheds; a third is in process. Provided assistance to local landowners during the January floods: Conducted damage survey reports and follow-up assistance to landowners in planning repairs to damaged farm lands and rural homes. Community information workshops were scheduled; information and agendas developed. Rural Development grant was submitted for one watershed.

B) Members will work directly with landowners on fuel reduction plans including educational activities incorporating environmental needs to protect property and natural resources. Members will assist landowners with methods and programs to implement the plans once formulated. An education and information program on fuel reduction needs will be provided in a 4 county area to inform local citizens of the need for and methods to handle excess natural fuels.

**FY-96 AmeriCorps Renewal
Auburn Cluster**

The Auburn Cluster is a rural development project. Our fuel reduction project impacts directly on two of the listed objectives: Water Quality/Watershed Protection and Community Development. We have requested six AmeriCorps members for the two objectives.

Objective: Water Quality/Watershed Protection

What is the work to be done? Fuel reduction plans will be developed with private land owners in identified watersheds. Along with planning, we will identify methods and programs to implement those plans.

What is the desired results? Key watersheds will have reduced natural fuel levels which will limit property and resource damage from wildfires. This will result in a healthy environment, clean water and protected natural resources.

How will you measure the quality and impact of the work? Implementation of the plans, as designed, will be the measure of quality. Impact will be the degree that we can limit the extent of damage due to wildfire.

What is the standard of success? The standard is to have eight communities (watersheds) with a fire safe and healthy environment.

How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work? Direct benefit to about 600 families. Indirect benefit will be the four counties because of reduced threat of wildfire.

How many members will work on this objective? Six members.

What is the cluster site for this group? Two members in each site, Grass Valley (Nevada County), Auburn (Placer County) and Placerville (El Dorado County).

Objective: Community Development

What is the work to be done? An education and information program on fuel reduction needs will be provided to the communities in the four county area.

What is the desired results? A better informed local citizenship on the need for and the methods to handle excess natural fuels.

How will you measure the quality and impact of the work? The measure of success is how many communities request assistance and begin work on developing fuel reduction plans. Quality will be measured by the amount of environmental considerations are placed in their plans.

What is the standard of success? Success will be to have five communities per county in the process of developing fuel reduction plans.

How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work? All residents of the four county area will receive these benefits.

How many members will work on this objective? Six members.

What is the cluster site for this group? Two members at each site Grass Valley, Auburn and Placerville.

TITLE PAGE

- A) Title of Project: Watershed Recovery - California NRCS
- B) Name of Organization: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- C) Team Type: Rural Development
- D) State of Duty of AmeriCorps Members: California
- E) County of Duty station of AmeriCorps Members: Sonoma, Mendocino
- F) Names of counties served by Members: Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake
- G) Congressional District of duty station of the Members: 1, 6
- H) Name of site supervisor: Lisa Woo Shanks
- I) Address, phone number and fax number of site supervisor: 1301 Redwood Way, Ste. 170, Petaluma, CA 94954; (707) 794-1242, (707) 794-7902
- J) Name of state project manager: Tim Cattron
- K) Address, phone number and fax number of state project manager: 2121-C 2nd St., Ste 102, Davis, CA 95616-5475; (916) 757-8300; (916) 757-8381
- L) Number of Members in Public Lands and Environment Teams: 0
- M) Number of members in Rural Development Teams: 5

SUMMARY PAGE

A) Specific accomplishments achieved in the first half a year of the project in meeting the community service objectives and boosting the personal development of the Members.

- * Met with 14 watershed community groups to discuss stewardship and management practices to reduce pollution to streams, and improve salmonid habitat.

- * Water quality fact sheets developed for dairymen to monitor creeks for pollutants. Trained 10 dairymen in the use of ammonia test kits. Successfully met with a number of agencies (Regional Water Quality Control Board, Department of Fish & Game) to discuss proper monitoring procedures, conditions, and regulations.

- * EWP work - Outreach and information dissemination for landowners in Big Sulphur Creek while assisting NRCS staff gather data and coordinate duties with other local, state, and federal agencies. Sandbagging efforts on levee along San Pablo Bay for farmer during flooding emergency.

- * Implementation of planting plan on ranchlands which includes over 700 plants consisting of 15 species in conjunction with a suburban elementary school.

- * Obtained funding from Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board in the amount of \$5,000 to fence off riparian corridors on two dairies.

- * Produced initial draft for hillside vineyard erosion control brochure.

B) The key elements of the program design for next year. Specifically describe new service project to be performed by the Members. Describe any major changes in management structure or partner organizations.

Key Elements: Pollution reduction focusing on a watershed basis. Watersheds include Stemple Creek, Petaluma River, Sonoma Creek, tributaries to the Russian River, and tributaries to Clear Lake.

New Service Projects: Petaluma River watershed and Sonoma Creek watershed targeted for watershed pollution reduction.

Major Changes: Develop partnership with Bureau of Land Management for AmeriCorps for cooperative efforts in watershed pollution control.

**AmeriCorps
FY-96 Renewal Application
Petaluma Cluster**

Objective 1: Emergency Flood Recovery Work

Work to be done: Survey property damage and provide technical assistance after flood events on the Russian River, its tributaries, and other north coast streams and rivers.

Desired result: Landowners will learn and implement measures to reduce sedimentation into important salmon spawning tributaries to recover from the floods and to protect from further damage due to flooding.

Measure quality and impact of work: 75% of contacts will make improvements to reduce sedimentation into creeks. Impact is significant because the Russian River is listed as an impaired waterbody by the State. Sedimentation is one of the problem areas.

Standard for success: 75% of landowners contacted will implement practices to reduce sedimentation.

Number of Individuals will benefit: 50

Number of members working on objective: 3

Cluster site: Petaluma

Objective 2: Conservation Measures

Work to be done: Training in Conservation Planning and Conservation Practices will be provided to private landowners in accordance with the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (Clean Water Act).

Desired result: Private landowners will complete a conservation plan, along with accompanying pollution reduction practices on their farms and ranches. Conservation practices will be applied.

Measure quality and impact of work: One 6-week course, and 1 short course will be held for ranchers and farmers in conservation planning. These will be done in cooperation with UC Cooperative Extension and other partner agencies.

Standard for success: 50 landowners will participate in training courses on conservation planning.

Number of Individuals will benefit: 400

Number of members working on objective: 5

Cluster site: Petaluma

Objective 3: Conservation Education

Work to be done: Assistance with Adopt-A-Watershed program (helping describe watershed processes on field trips for grades K-12). Assistance with schools working with endangered species habitat protection on a local watershed project. Provide training on significance and improvements to riparian habitat at sustainable agriculture workshops for ranchers, farmers and landowners.

Desired result: Children and adults will learn about watersheds and the importance of riparian areas.

Measure quality and impact of work: Work with 10 schools on Adopt-A-Watershed and Endangered Species habitat protection. Additional teachers will be recruited into the educational programs. Adults will become aware of, and participate in watershed stewardship efforts.

Standard for success: Additional teachers will implement the programs in their classrooms. Ranchers, farmers and landowners will become aware of watershed impacts and participate in watershed wide efforts, including protecting and improving riparian habitat.

Number of Individuals will benefit: 350

Number of members working on objective: 6

Cluster site: Petaluma

Objective 4: Salmon and Fishery Recovery

Work to be done: Stream inventory for critical salmonid habitat. Riparian habitat restoration on private lands.

Desired result: Inventory of salmonid habitat and problem areas that need restoration. Riparian habitat will be restored on private lands.

Measure quality and impact of work: Results will be shared with landowners, and they will allow habitat restoration on their property.

Standard for success: 50% of landowners contacted will allow restoration efforts on their property.

Number of Individuals will benefit: 50

Number of members working on objective: 65

Cluster site: Petaluma

Objective 5: Water Quality and Watershed Protection

Work to be done: Landowner outreach on the benefits of watershed stewardship. Training for dairy farmers in water quality monitoring will be provided. Agricultural land users will be helped to plan and install watershed protecting practices.

Desired result: New watershed stewardship groups will form and existing groups will strengthen. Dairy farmers will learn to test for polluted water on their dairy. Land users will learn to manage their property to protect watersheds from erosion and pollution.

Measure quality and impact of work: 2 new watershed groups will form; 4 existing watershed groups will become more active in riparian habitat restoration. 20 dairy farmers will be trained in water quality monitoring.

Standard for success: Watershed stewardship groups will become actively involved in restoration efforts. Dairy farmers will do water quality monitoring on their farms.

Number of Individuals will benefit: 220

Number of members working on objective: \$5

Cluster site: Petaluma

Objective 6: Community Development

Work to be done: Assist watershed stewardship groups in forming, and provide assistance to existing watershed groups.

Desired result: Watershed stewardship groups will be formed or strengthened consisting primarily of landowners.

Measure quality and impact of work: 4 new watershed stewardship groups will be formed. 2 existing watershed groups will be strengthened.

Standard for success: Watershed groups will indicate success of assistance at end of AmeriCorps term.

Number of Individuals will benefit: 500

Number of members working on objective: \$5

Cluster site: Petaluma

Redlands Rural Development Team
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Rural Development Team
California
San Bernardino County
San Bernardino and Riverside Counties
Congressional District: Jerry Lewis 40

James R. Earsom
25809 Business Center Dr.
Redlands, California 92374
(909) 799-7407 FAX: (909) 799-1438

Timothy D. Catron
2121-C 2nd St., Suite 102
Davis, California 95616-5475
(916) 757-8302 FAX: (916) 757-8382

No. in Public Lands and Environment Team: 0

No. in Rural Development Team: members; 5

The AmeriCorps members in the Redlands Field Office have made several accomplishments. The main accomplishments have been with the dairies. The Redlands Field Office had a backlog of approximately 30 dairies to be surveyed, which without the assistance of the AmeriCorps would not have been worked on. The AmeriCorps have surveyed, designed the plan, and presented the plan to the dairy owner for 7 dairies. Another accomplishment has been the implementation of pollution reduction programs such as the NPDS Stenciling Project and Managing Non Point Source Pollution for Water Quality. Both projects will help reduce damaging pollutants from our waters and soils. The personal development of the AmeriCorps members has also been improved. The Members have received training in several fields that have increased their awareness and knowledge. Several AmeriCorps have received CPR/First Aid Certification. All of them have learned surveying techniques, map reading, safety procedure, computer usage, irrigation systems, conservation planning and design among others.

The key elements for the incoming program will be conservation measures, conservation education, water quality and watershed protection, and community service. In conservation measures, the Members will plan, design, and install conservation practices. Conservation education will be given to schools, teachers, homeowners groups, and the general public. The AmeriCorps will plan, present, and install practices for water quality and watershed protection. Community service performed by the Members will benefit dairy owners, public and private land, schools, and the community as a whole. There will be no major changes in management structure or partner organizations.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE REDLANDS FIELD OFFICE

1. Conservation Measures
2. Conservation Education
3. Water Quality and Watershed Protection
4. Community Service

1. Conservation Measures

What is the work to be done?

Members will plan, design, and install conservation practices including waste management systems, irrigation systems, and erosion control structures.

What is the desired result?

Conservation practices installed that save water and reduce pollution

How will you measure the quality and the impact of the work?

Quality will be based on how well the NRCS standards are followed during installation and the landowners satisfaction.

What is the standard for success?

100% of the installations pass inspection and achieve purpose for which designed.
80% rated high quality by NRCS District Conservationist.

How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work?

30 farms or dairies plus several thousand down stream residents.

How many members will work on this objective?

~~Seven~~ AmeriCorps members will work on this objective.

What is the cluster site for this group?

The cluster sites will be the Redlands Field Office, the East Valley Resource Conservation District and the Inland Empire West Resource Conservation District.

2. Conservation Education

What is the work to be done?

Present conservation information to schools, teachers, homeowners groups, and the general public.

What is the desired result?

More people will become aware of the contribution that they can make to improve the environment.

How will you measure the quality and the impact of the work?

Use evaluation interviews or forms to rate success of presentations based on audience judgement.

What is the standard for success?

At least one known community environmental improvement made from each presentation such as a tree planting, cleanup project, mulching, wildlife enhancement, or erosion control project.

How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work?

Presentations will be made to 1,000 k-12 students, 5 landowner or other organized groups, and 2 workshops or environmental fair booths.

How many members will work on this objective?

Seven AmeriCorps members will work on the objective at different intervals and/or as a group.

What is the cluster site for this group?

The cluster sites will be the Redlands Field Office, East Valley Resource Conservation District, and the Inland Empire West Resource Conservation District.

3. Water Quality and Watershed Protection

What is the work to be done?

Plan, present, and install conservation measures that will restore and protect watersheds and reduce flooding.

What is the desired result?

Plans completed and presented to stakeholders resulting in practices applied. Watersheds protected and flooding reduced.

How will you measure the quality and the impact of the work?

Planning will be checked for compliance to NRCS guidelines and practice applications will be according to NRCS specifications. Landowner judgement will also be used as a measure.

What is the standard for success?

80% of practices recommended in watershed plans and presented to the public will be implemented. 100% will pass inspection by NRCS District Conservationist.

How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work?

7 dairies and several thousand down stream users. 25 mountain property owners.

How many members will work on this objective?

Seven AmeriCorps members as a group and/or on individual basis.

What is the cluster site for this group?

The cluster sites are the Redlands Field Office as the main site and two sub-sites which are the East Valley Resource Conservation District and the Inland Empire West Resource Conservation District.

4. Community Service

What is the work to be done?

The work that will be performed to the community will be surveys of various sites including dairies, public and private land; educational programs for students of various ages, irrigation plans for growers, and community activities as they become available.

What is the desired result?

Community improvement, reduction of pollution on the natural resources, assistance to individuals, and community awareness on conservation.

How will you measure the quality and the impact of the work?

Community and individuals response to the assistance, surveys, and number of conservation measures installed.

What is the standard for success?

80% of community environmental improvements will be judged high quality by NRCS District Conservationist.

How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work?

Two counties which include approximately 20 communities and several thousands of individuals.

How many members will work on this objective?

Seven AmeriCorps members either as a group or on an individual basis.

What is the cluster site for this group?

Cluster sites will include the Redlands Field Office as the main station and the East Valley Resource Conservation District and the Inland Empire West Resource Conservation District as the two substation.

Lancaster/Somis Rural Development Corps
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Rural Development Team
California

Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
All Congressional Districts in Los Angeles
and Ventura Counties

Team Supervised by Robert L. Dean
44811 N. Date Ave., Suite G
Lancaster, CA 93534
(805) 945-2604 FAX (805) 942-5503

Somis Site supervision by Stephen E. Jewett
3380 Somis Road
P.O. Box 260
Somis CA 93066
(805) 386-4489 FAX (805) 386-4890

State Project Manager is Timothy D. Catron
2121-C 2nd Street, Suite 102
Davis, CA 95616-5475
(916) 757-8302 FAX (916) 757-8382

Number in Public Lands and Environment Team: 0

Number in Rural Development Team: 5

The AmeriCorps members in the Lancaster/Somis cluster made achieved their goals to this time. Notable accomplishments are the various assistances given to those devastated by the Southern California fire storms followed by the recent rains. Members met with representatives of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, L.A. County Board of Supervisors, Eaton Canyon Recovery Alliance, City of Pasadena, Town of Altadena, Orange County, City of Laguna, Ventura County Fire Protection District, homeowners associations, and others to prepare mitigation plans to protect residents and their properties along the rural interface with the urban areas. Members then proceeded to provide assistance to residents to apply the measures called for in the mitigation plans. The measures called for mitigation plans developed in L.A. and Orange counties provide protection for some 6000 residents. The total area involved in these fires, and therefor covered by mitigation plans and technical advice are 92,382 acres. In addition, members prepared and distributed news releases, brochures, and booklets telling residents what they can do, and landscaping they can plant to offer a measure of protection from fire, flood, and the resulting damage in the future.

Each member has developed a plan for personal development. They have been offered CPR/First Aid training and each has learned to plan specific conservation measures to protect land and its resources and how to work with community residents to apply those plans. They have learned safety, emergency response to communities, map reading, computer use, design of public information material, fire and flood hazard mitigation practices, writing skills, engineering principals of mud flows, and windbreak design principals.

The key elements for the coming program will be to: complete individual visits and calls to residents to apply measures called for in the mitigation plans, establish vegetation and wind break trees in the Antelope Valley (Los Angeles County) to improve air quality and reduce soil erosion caused by wind, provide a quarterly newsletter to provide resource protection information and describe AmeriCorps members activities, and provide assistance to communities in Los Angeles and Ventura counties to reduce fire hazard by managing burnable materials residents properties. They will assist rural residents in these two counties to install measures to reduce soil erosion and repair erosion that has already taken place. Member education and team building will be emphasized. No major change in management structure or partners is planned at this time.

1. TITLE PAGE:

A Title of Project: Lancaster/Somis Rural
Development Corps

B Name of Organization: USDA, NRCS

C Team Type: RDT

D State of Duty Station: California

E County of Duty station: Los Angeles and Ventura

F Names of counties served: Los Angeles and Ventura

G Congressional District: All Congressional Districts in
Los Angeles and Ventura
Counties

H Name of site supervisor: Stephen E. Jewett

I Address, ph/FAX number: 3380 Somis Road, P.O. Box 260,
Somis, CA 93066,
Ph: (805)386-4489
FAX: (805)386-4890

J Name of state Project Dir.: Timothy D. Cattron

K Address, ph/FAX number: 2121-C 2nd Street, Suite 102
Davis, CA 95616
Ph: (916)757-8302
FAX: (916)757-8382

L Number of Members in PL&E: 0

M Number of Members in RDT: 5

**CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES**

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** California

SITE SUPERVISOR: Stephen E. Jewett

COUNTY:

NO OF MEMBERS: 5

CLUSTER: Lancaster

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: 1

-
- 1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?**
Work with Antelope Valley Homeowners Association by providing assistance in developing and putting in action a plan which will protect residents along with their personal properties from soil erosion due to high winds.
 - 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?**
The residents of Antelope Valley (in and around the Lancaster area) have a workable protection plan which meets the need of the community.
 - 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?**
Review developed plan, interview 10 home owners and tour area to determine the level of protection and satisfaction.
 - 4. By what standard will you gauge success?**
Customer satisfaction along with meeting the standards set by NRCS.
 - 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?**
200 participants directly. 75,000 individuals indirectly.
 - 6. How many members will work on this objective?**
Five
 - 7. What is the cluster site for this group?**
Lancaster

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service SITE: California

SITE SUPERVISOR: Stephen E. Jewett

COUNTY:

NO OF MEMBERS: 5

CLUSTER: Lancaster

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: 2

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Present conservation information to schools, teachers, homeowner groups, and the teneral public.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

More people will become aware of the contribution that they can make to improve the environment.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Use evaluation interviews or forms to rate success of presentations based on audience judgement.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

At least one known community environmental improvement made from each presentation such as a tree planting, cleanup project. mulching, wildlife enhancement, or erosion control project.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Presentations will be made to 2,000 K-12 students, 5 landowner or other organized groups and 2 workshops or environmental fair booths.

6. How many members will work on this objective?

Five

7. What is the cluster site for this group?

Lancaster/Somis

**CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES**

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** California

SITE SUPERVISOR: Stephen E. Jewett

COUNTY:

NO OF MEMBERS: 5

CLUSTER: Lancaster

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: 3

-
- 1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?**
Plan, present, and install conservation measures that will restore and protect watersheds and urban housing from flooding and debris flows caused from aftermath of wildfires.
 - 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?**
Plans completed and presented to stateholders resulting in practices applied. Watersheds protected and flooding reduced.
 - 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?**
Planning will be checked for compliance to NRCS guidelines and practice application will be according to NRCS specifications. Landowner judgement will also be used as a measure.
 - 4. By what standard will you gauge success?**
80% of practices recommended in watershed plans and presented to the public will be implemented. 100% will pass inspection by NRCS District Conservationist.
 - 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?**
200 participants directly. 75,000 individuals indirectly.
 - 6. How many members will work on this objective?**
Five
 - 7. What is the cluster site for this group?**
Lancaster/Somis

1. TITLE PAGE:

A) Title of Project:

Desert Soil Survey Acceleration/Chemehuevi Indian Tribe Outreach

B) Name of Organization:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

C) Team Type

Rural Development Team

D) State of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members:

California

E) County of Duty station of AmeriCorps Members:

San Bernardino County

F) Names of counties served by Members:

San Bernardino County

G) Congressional District of duty station of the Members:

40

H) Name of site supervisor:

Rick Aguayo

I) Address, phone number, and fax number of site supervisor:

USDA NRCS

18484 Hwy. 18, Ste. 195

Apple Valley, CA 92307

Phone (619) 242-2903

Fax (619) 242-0203

J) Name of state project manager:

Tim Cattron

K) Address, phone number, and fax number of state project manager:

USDA NRCS

2121-C 2nd Street, Ste. 102

Davis, CA 95616-5475

Phone (916) 757-8300

L) Number of Members in Public Lands and Environment Teams:

0

M) Number of Members in Rural Development Teams: 5

2. SUMMARY PAGE

- A) Exactly what specific accomplishments were achieved in the first half a year of the project in meeting the community service objectives and boosting the personal development of the Members.

Assistance has been provided directly or indirectly to the soil mapping of approximately 80,000 acres on 3 new soil survey sites. Vegetative data collection is in progress that will be used for the development of non-typical ecological site descriptions.

Community outreach activities related to the soil survey efforts are continuing. AmeriCorps Members have been working with school districts on educational materials related to soils. On specific activity, the "Soil Saver Club" program has enabled over 5,000 elementary students to actively participate in a hands on educational experience. Other outreach efforts on educating high school students, girl scouts, and teachers on soils and its importance to the environment has been provided by my AmeriCorps Members.

- B) The key elements of the program design for next year. Specifically describe each new service project to be performed by the Members. Describe any major changes in management structure or partner organizations.

CONSERVATION MEASURES:

Conservation measures application on the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation. Assistance will be provided to the Tribal staff in the establishment, management, and marketing of their planned agricultural program. The intent of this element is to provide assistance to enable the Tribal staff to continue this farming operation on their own.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Assistance will be provided to the Chemehuevi Indian Tribal planners in coordinating planning efforts; working with private contractors, and assisting them with grant application preparation. The Chemehuevi Tribe has many long term goals that have not been realized for more than 20 years due to many reasons. They are attempting to move forward with some of these goals, but will need some additional assistance. Assistance on the implementation of the Master Recreational Plan and establishment of the Native plant nursery is planned for this fiscal years program.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

18484 Hwy. 18, Ste. 195
Apple Valley, CA 92307
Phone (619) 242-2906
FAX (619) 242-0203

Subject: PGM-FY-96 Renewal Application
Summary for the Apple Valley FO

April 13, 1995

To: Tim Catron
Information Systems Director
Davis State Office

I. Objective 1: Emergency Flood Recovery Work (Not Applicable)

II. Objective 2: Conservation Measures

1. What is the work to be done?

Providing daily assistance to the Chemehuevi Indian Tribal staff in the establishment, management, and marketing, initially, of 100 acres of irrigated cropland.

Windbreak planting around cropland, community park area.

2. What is the desired result?

The desired result is to enable the Chemehuevi Indian Tribal staff to be able to manage and market the agricultural cropland on their own, and also to create employment opportunities for the youth.

3. How will you measure the quality and the impact of the work?

Besides the obvious, the establishment of agriculture on the reservation, an increase in job opportunities related to this agriculture program.

4. What is the Standard for Success?

Initially it will be the establishment of agriculture on the reservation, and windbreak plantings. The ultimate standard for success will be the ability of the Tribal staff to manage their farming operation and market their crops on their own.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work?

The Chemehuevi Indian Tribal affiliation is 604 with 132 members living on the reservation with the remaining 472 living off reservation.

6. How many members will work on this objective?

One (1) with a strong agronomic and farming background.



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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

7. What is the cluster site for this group?

Member will be part of the Apple Valley Field Office cluster group.

III. Objective 3: Conservation Education (Not Applicable)

IV. Objective 4: Salmon and Fishery Recovery (Not Applicable)

V. Objective 5: Water Quality & Watershed Protection (Not Applicable)

VI. Objective 6: Community Development

1. What is the work to be done?

Assist Chemehuevi Indian Tribal planners in coordinating planning efforts, working with private contractors, and assisting them with grant application preparation.

Assist Chemehuevi Indians with the implementation of the Master Recreational Plan that has been developed by the NRCS.

Assist establishment of native plant nursery that will be used to grow plants that were used by Tribal ancestors for food and medicinal purposes.

2. What is the desired result?

Establishment of native plant nursery, recreational improvement opportunities for adults and youth. Intangible results would be realized such as pride in achieving their long term goals. Community improvement and enhancement. Potential increase in employment opportunities for youth at the reservation.

Recreational improvements will enable reservation residents and visitors access to facilities that they do not currently have available to them.

Obtaining of grants to assist them financially to either begin or complete many of the projects planned, or provide funding for employment or training opportunities on the reservation.

3. How will you measure the quality and the impact of the work?

The quality and the impact of the work will be the obvious improvements that are constructed on the reservation and the response from the Tribal members.. Other intangible impacts will be the sense of community pride for their reservation and sense of accomplishment by Tribal residents.

4. What is the Standard for Success?

Establishment of native plant nursery.

Completion of a portion of the Master Recreational Plan

- a. Sodding of baseball field
- b. Automated irrigation system for baseball field
- c. Soccer field with irrigation system
- d. Initiate plans and develop funding strategies for planned community swimming pool and gymnasium.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work?

The Chemehuevi Indian Tribal affiliation is 604 with 132 members living on the reservation with the remaining 472 living off reservation.

6. How many members will work on this objective?

One (1) with a strong background in regional/area planning with grant writing capabilities.

7. What is the cluster site for this group?

Member will be part of the Apple Valley Field Office cluster group.

VII. Objective 7: Soil/Vegetative Resource Inventories

1. What is the work to be done?

Accelerate collection and input of soils data to be digitized on approximately 400,000 acres of land.

Develop digitized maps (3), one per reservation of baseline vegetation data to be used for ecological site descriptions.

Distribute available soils data and digitized soils maps and inform base planners on how to use data.

Assist surrounding communities with the expansion of soil survey activities to areas currently lacking soils data. Approximately 8 million acres will need soil survey data to assist land use planners, environmentalist, ranchers, and farmers to better utilize and protect the natural resources. In order to expand the soil survey activities, members will coordinate meetings with other federal, state, and local government agencies on the status of ongoing soil survey activities and the need for this soils data for their lands.

2. What is the desired result?

Improved resource planning which will enable base planners and others to protect and/or conserve the endangered species while allowing the military to continue with their military training exercises.

Acceleration of resource data to planners, community leaders, environmentalists and individuals both on and off the base.

Reduction of land use planning conflicts resulting from a better understanding of the natural resources, enabling environmental planners and military decision makers to make land use decisions that are more compatible with the training activities and the needs of the environment.

3. How will you measure the quality and the impact of the work?

Quality of digitized maps will be compared to original source materials.

Quality of soils and vegetative data collected will be reviewed by technical specialist for accuracy and completeness.

Community impact will be measured through discussions, and direct interaction with base planners acting as the primary measuring tools.

4. What is the Standard for Success?

Digitizing efforts will follow NRCS standards and specifications in addition to the standards.

Data gathering for soils and vegetation will follow NRCS standards and specifications.

Five (5) presentations or displays at each soil survey site area which will expand the community awareness of the benefits and uses of existing soil surveys and current surveys in progress.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work?

The 3 military reservations are used extensively for desert military training or for testing of new aircraft. Indirectly, the entire nation will benefit from the services provided by the AmeriCorps Program. The acceleration of the availability of soils and vegetation data will enable base decision makers to develop plans that will protect or conserve areas for endangered species and still allow them to continue their military training that is necessary for national security. Individuals directly benefiting from this program will be the environmental planners, engineers, and ecologists on each of the bases.

6. How many members will work on this objective?

Six (6) members, with 2 members being assigned to each of the 3 military reservations.

7. What is the cluster site for this group?

Members will be part of the Apple Valley Field Office cluster group.

Rick Aguayo
District Conservationist
Apple Valley Field Office

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project:	Water Conservation Initiative
B. Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	RDT
D. State of Duty Station:	Florida
E. County of Duty Station:	Duval
F. Names of counties served (Up to 15)	Duval
G. Congressional District:	3rd, 4th & 6th
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Allen Moore
I. Address, phone & fax numbers:	5542 Dunn Ave. Jacksonville, FL 32118 Ph: (904) 232-2871 FAX: (904) 765-7172
J. Name of St Project Director:	Jerry Joiner
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:	Federal Bldg, Room 243, 401 S.E. 1st Ave Gainesville, FL 32601 Ph: (904) 338-9506 FAX: (904) 338-9574
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	0
M. Number of Members in RDT:	5

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name

The AmeriCorps Water Conservation Initiative in Duval County, Florida.

Location

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Jacksonville Field Office in Duval County, Florida.

Natural Resources Conservation Service 5542 Dunn Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Needs to be Met

The needs to be met relate to protecting the natural environment. Specifically, this project will help protect the drinking water supplies in Duval County upon which approximately 800,000 people rely.

Key Elements of Design

The project will enroll five full time Rural Development Corps participants who will serve with the Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL). Duval currently has no MIL team. While performing MIL tasks, the participants will inform residents about the Home Fuel Oil Recovery Program.

Administering organization and Primary Partners

The administering organization is the NRCS. The primary partner is the DSWCD. Additional partners consist of the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Mission

The project mission is to conserve and protect the drinking water supply of Duval County. It will do this by recruiting and training the participants to educate residents about landscape water conservation and threats to groundwater quality from abandoned home fuel oil tanks.

Annual Objectives

- 1.) Recruit a diverse workforce.
- 2.) Train participants in water conservation issues.
- 3.) Conduct public information activities on landscape irrigation and the home fuel oil recovery program.
- 4.) Conduct on-site MIL evaluations.

Budget

All operating costs such as training, transportation, equipment, supplies, and office space will be provided by the partner agencies. The estimated value of this contribution is \$47,450 per year.

PROJECT SETTING

Location

The AmeriCorps project will serve Duval County, which is located on the Northeast coast of Florida and has a total area of 774 square miles.

Economic Profile

Duval County youth are confronted with a poverty level of 9.8 percent. They are also subject to a per capita income of \$19,011, which is relatively low when considering that Duval County is a major transportation center and the headquarters for large corporations. With few opportunities for technical training, Duval County's youth have limited access to employment in the surrounding industries. As a result, many young people edge ever closer to the poverty level. Foreseeing a dismal future for themselves and their communities, they often resort to desperate measures, such as crime. This may be one reason why Duval County has an exceptionally high rate of both violent and nonviolent crime. The existence of an AmeriCorps project will assist those young adults who yearn for something better.

Hydrology

Groundwater accounts for 99 percent of total freshwater withdrawals in Duval County, while the remaining 1 percent is derived from surface water sources. The Floridan aquifer system underlies all of Florida, and parts of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. In Duval County the Floridan aquifer system is the principal water supply source and supplies 91 percent of the total groundwater withdrawals. Duval County is comprised of poorly drained soils, which are impermeable and subsequently allow no recharge to the Floridan aquifer. Unfortunately, the existence of impermeable soils does not prevent the aquifer from being contaminated by industrial discharges, landfill leachates, and fuel spills.

Population Growth & Water Demands

Duval County's current population is approximately 700,000, and is the 7th most populous of 67 counties in Florida. Duval County's population is projected to increase by 19 percent to over 800,000 by the year 2010.

Currently, total freshwater withdrawals to serve Duval County average 156 million gallons per day (MGD). The tremendous population growth in Duval County will result in a 221 MGD of freshwater withdrawals by the year 2010. Huge water withdrawals in Duval County already result in temporary water restrictions, and in some instances render privately owned wells inoperable for several days, because of the decline in groundwater levels.

Irrigation Water Use

Irrigation water use consists of four categories: agriculture, commercial landscaping, residential landscaping, and golf courses. Agricultural use includes water used to irrigate all crops, nurseries, and improved pasture. Irrigation accounts for approximately 30 percent of the total freshwater withdrawals. Figure 1 illustrates the exorbitant amount of water that is utilized for irrigation purposes. The proportion of water used for irrigation is unnecessarily high and is mainly a result of improper landscape irrigation.

WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY PROBLEMS

Introduction

Population increases are affecting the quantity and quality of ground and surface waters in Duval County. Increasing groundwater withdrawals are hastening the intrusion of saltwater into the freshwater zones of the Floridan aquifer. Increasing groundwater withdrawals are also reducing the flow from springs, which sustain the St. Johns River. The potential for contamination of the Floridan aquifer from abandoned home fuel oil tanks continues to threaten drinking water sources.

Saltwater Intrusion

Population growth in Duval County is causing increased water withdrawals from the Floridan aquifer, which subsequently is causing a decline in the water levels of the Upper Floridan aquifer. In recent years the water level surface has been steadily declining at a rate of about one-third to three-fourths foot per year. This is directly attributed to increased pumping in Duval County. Water level declines of more 20 to 40 feet have occurred in Duval County as a result of increased pumping. This is accelerating the intrusion of saltwater in the freshwater zones of the Floridan aquifer. The incidence of saltwater intrusion is expected to continually increase as population growth causes greater withdrawals on groundwater resources. This is important because recharge to the aquifer from precipitation is negligible in Northeast Florida.

Irrigation Runoff

Improper irrigation practices in urban and agricultural sectors are prevalent in Northeast Florida. The use of pesticides and fertilizers in combination with irrigation systems on crops and landscapes result in nutrient laden runoff, which endanger fragile ecosystems and ever decreasing potable water supplies.

St. Johns River

Pollutants such as nutrients, pesticides, toxins, and bacteria occur in continually increasing amounts in the St. Johns River and surrounding tributaries. Increasing groundwater withdrawals threaten to decrease spring discharges into the St. Johns River, which may consequently diminish the river's flow. This will exacerbate existing water quantity and quality problems.

Contamination

The advanced deterioration of home fuel oil tanks pose a considerable threat to the Floridan aquifer. Tens of thousands of abandoned underground oil tanks remain filled or partially filled with oil in Duval County. The risk of aquifer contamination is alarming because just one gallon of oil can contaminate one million gallons of water. If the oil is not removed, ground and surface water contamination will inevitably occur as the tanks deteriorate and oil leaks into the soil.

PROCESS

Identification

Several agencies and groups in Florida have been cooperating to solve the problems described above. The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), as well as the other four water management districts in Florida are all developing water supply plans which are intended to set a framework around water use decisions in order to ensure an adequate supply of water while maintaining the functions of natural systems and the overall quality of water resources. All of these plans contain water conservation elements.

Important tools to help achieve water conservation objectives are Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs). MILs conduct on-site evaluations of irrigation system efficiency and make improvement recommendations to the irrigation system operator. MILs have proven to be a popular and effective means of achieving water conservation in urban and agricultural settings. Currently there are nine MILs operating in Florida and several more have been proposed. All government agencies in Florida are facing severe

budgetary restrictions making it difficult to fully fund new initiatives such as MILS. Therefore, almost all MILS are funded by partnerships of sponsoring organizations.

The partnership members are continually searching for additional partners and recognize that the AmeriCorps Program may offer an opportunity to expand the partnership and build a more diverse base of support for water conservation in Florida. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Duval Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD), and the SJRWMD are currently cooperating to establish an MIL in Duval County.

Concern for water quantity is compounded by efforts to sustain water quality in Duval County. The DSWCD has received a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to establish a Home Fuel Oil Recovery Program (HFORP), which will provide a valuable service for communities by recovering and recycling home fuel oil from abandoned underground or above ground tanks. This service will directly contribute to the protection of ground and surface water sources in Duval County.

Establishment of Specific objectives

The interagency planning process established the following objectives:

1. Educate residents and businesses about water use and environmental impacts in the Northeast Florida ecosystem.
2. Provide an on-site irrigation system evaluation service which gives detailed specific instructions on how the individual can help protect the environment by conserving water.
3. Inform residents about the risks to groundwater from abandoned home fuel oil tanks and how the HFORP can prevent groundwater contamination.
4. Develop a cadre of young Floridians with an understanding of the complex Northeast Florida ecosystem.
5. Nurture the environmental, service, learning and work ethics of the participants by providing them with a meaningful and challenging way to contribute to society.

Benefits

The Rural Development corps participants will receive an educational stipend, which will be provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The participants will work 1,812 hours for \$12,000 and have 9 holidays with 40 hours of personal leave each year when in service. The living allowance, FICA, health insurance, child care, and support costs will be funded by the NRCS National Office.

The participants will develop valuable working skills which can be used throughout their lives. These include public speaking, ability to collect and analyze data, teamwork, writing, organizing, and professional work ethics. In addition they will gain exposure to the landscape irrigation industry and knowledge of the environmental issues facing Florida.

Likewise the community benefits through the reduced threat of water shortage and contamination. The community will become educated in wise use of landscape irrigation practices and the potential risks from abandoned home fuel oil tanks.

DESIGN

Structure

This AmeriCorps project will consist of five full time Rural Development Corps participants who will serve as apprentice MIL technicians on the proposed DSWCD MIL. While performing MIL tasks, the participants will inform residents about the HFORP. A majority of the MIL evaluations will be conducted on urban irrigation systems.

The DSWCD currently has two employees. The employees will serve as the mentors for the AmeriCorps participants. After the training period, the five Rural Development Corps participants, in two teams of two, will conduct irrigation system evaluations and provide information about the HFORP to landowners. The membership on the MIL team will rotate among all five participants. This will allow for one person to work in the office to input and evaluate data.

Specific Activities

The Rural Development Corps team will undertake the following activities in order to achieve the established objectives.

1) Receive on-the-job training from the mentors about water usage and environmental impacts in Northeast Florida. This will include working with the DSWCD MIL team in action as well as a basic orientation to the groundwater hydrology and environmental issues in Northeast Florida.

2) Provide information to the public about MILs and the availability of the HFORP by staffing information booths at street fairs and malls, making presentations at elementary schools and homeowners association meetings as well as other community events.

3) Conduct field evaluations of urban irrigation systems. The evaluations consist of the following steps:

- a) Visual inspection of system
- b) Pressure variation check
- c) Flow variation check
- d) Distribution uniformity check
- e) Landscape evaluation
- f) Make recommendations for irrigation system improvement

Location

The headquarters for the MIL will be the Jacksonville Field office of the NRCS. The address is:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
5542 Dunn Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32118

Partnerships

The proposed MIL will be funded by a partnership of sponsoring organizations including the SJRWMD, the DSWCD and the NRCS. The partners are actively seeking additional partners such as private water purveyors and municipalities. Currently, the-FDEP is a partner in the HFORP. The existence of an AmeriCorps project in

the county will allow the partners to further leverage their funds and facilitate inclusion of additional partners.

Evaluation and Monitoring

The evaluation and monitoring of the MIL component of this project will be done according to the criteria of the NRCS Progress Reporting System and the Automated Data System for Water Quality. The evaluation of the progress and performance of the Rural Development Corps participants will be done using a performance appraisal and employee development system similar to the one used by the NRCS.

Typical Week

Approximately one day per week will be spent in a staff meeting or training session. The staff meeting will deal with organizational details. The training session will deal with the following:

- 1) Technical issues involved with MIL evaluations and the HFORP (including on-the-job training in the field).
- 2) Broader "context" issues to provide the participants with a more complete understanding of the environmental issues facing Northeast Florida.
- 3) Social issues in order to foster civic values.

The rest of the week will be spent performing duties such as informing residents about the HFORP, educating landowners about water conservation, conducting MIL evaluations, and providing follow up assistance.

Training Plan

An ad hoc committee is currently developing a statewide training plan for all MIL operators. It will be completed before any AmeriCorps participants are hired. The training plan will address the technical aspects of conducting a MIL evaluation such as checking water pressure, water distribution uniformity, collecting, and evaluating data and making recommendations. Participants will receive orientation about the HFORP from district staff in order to properly inform residents.

Recruitment, Placement, and Supervision

Because of the necessity to collect and evaluate numerical data, and the intense interaction with the public, Rural Development Corps participants are needed to ensure the success of this AmeriCorps project.

The NRCS District Conservationist will get the word out by conducting a wide-spread media campaign. In addition the District Conservationist will network with leaders from the various communities in Northeast Florida. This will include elected officials, clergy, social service providers, academic advisors and others. This project will be open to applicants to the national AmeriCorps pool of applicants. The NRCS District Conservationist will be responsible for the selection of the Rural Development Corps participants for this project.

All participants will be at the same level with regard to salary, benefits and responsibility. The existing MIL operators will be mentors and provide much of the on-the-job training. The District Conservationist will provide official supervision.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 6

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

SITE: Duvall County, Florida

Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE SUPERVISOR: Allen Moore

PHONE: (904) 232-2871

COUNTY: Duvall

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct public information activities on landscape.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Staff information booths at fairs and make presentations to schools and homeowners associations.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Promote a community awareness about the extreme environmental risks, such as saltwater intrusion, associated with tremendous demands on the Floridan aquifer & other drinking water resources.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

By the number of events attended and the number of requests for assistance. Also, an informal census taken at functions, a poll will be given by Members to participants.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Presentations will be made at 24 events. 50 requests will be made for assistance.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

10,000 county residents

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 7

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

SITE: Duval County, Florida

Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE SUPERVISOR: Allen Moore

PHONE: (904) 232-2871

COUNTY: Duvall

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct on-site MIL evaluations.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Conduct field evaluations and evaluations on urban irrigation systems and prepare reports for the irrigation users on the MIL recommendations.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Users learn efficient operation of their irrigation systems and save millions of gallons of water per year.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

By measuring the actual water savings per year; NRCS will calculate the AWS.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

54 million gallons will be saved per year.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

2,100 people

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 8

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE: Duvall County, Florida

SITE SUPERVISOR: Allen Moore

PHONE: (904) 232-2871

COUNTY: Duvall

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Assist the Duval Soil & Water Conservation District (DSWCD) with their Home Fuel Oil Recovery Program (HFORP) by conducting public information activities.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Conduct public information activities on the HFORP, make presentations to schools and homeowners association and other community events. Development and distribution of pamphlets & displays.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Residents will be more knowledgeable regarding the risks of home fuel oil tank deterioration.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

By tabulating the number of residents that have taken advantage of this DSWC service and by the gallons of home fuel oil that has been retrieved as a result of the HFORP. The goal is 48,000 gallons per year.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Noting the number of interested customers who request the HFORP services.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Will inform hundreds of residents about the HFORP and thereby involving the community in protection of their water resources. Potential 10,000 county residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 9

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

SITE: Duvall County, Florida

Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE SUPERVISOR: Allen Moore

PHONE: (904) 232-2871

COUNTY: Duvall

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct on-site nutrient management assessment.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Assess the fertilizer usage of urban landscape managers by interviewing them. They will help develop plans to properly utilize nutrients.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

A reduced risk of ground and surface water contamination from nutrient runoff from overuse of fertilizer.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

By assessment of the amount of fertilizer used before plan development and after plan development.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

NRCS Technical Guide and 5% reduction in fertilizer use.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Approximately 2,100 people

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project:	Water Conservation Initiative
B. Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	RDT
D. State of Duty Station:	Florida
E. County of Duty Station:	Dade
F. Names of counties served (Up to 15)	Dade
G. Congressional District:	17th & 23rd
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Doug Ulmer
I. Address, phone & fax numbers:	15600 SW 288th St. Suite 402 Homestead, FL 33033 Ph: (305) 242-1218 FAX: (305) 242-1292
J. Name of St Project Director:	Jerry Joiner
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:	Federal Bldg, Room 248, 401 S.E. 1st Ave Gainesville, FL 32601 Ph: (904) 338-9506 FAX: (904) 338-9574
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	0
M. Number of Members in RDT:	5

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name

The AmeriCorps Water Conservation Initiative in Dade County, Florida.

Location

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Homestead Field Office in Dade County, Florida.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
15600 SW 288th St., S-402
Homestead, FL 33033

Needs To Be Met

The needs to be met relate to conserving and protecting the natural environment. Specifically, this project will help protect the drinking water supplies in Dade County upon which 1.9 million people rely.

Key Elements of Design

The project will enroll five full time Rural Development Corps participants who will serve with the Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL). Once trained, the new Americorps team will serve as an Urban team. Currently, the MIL technicians work only on agriculture land.

Administering Organization and Primary Partners

The administering organization is the NRCS. The primary partner is the SDSWCD. The South Florida Water Management District is an additional partner.

Mission

The project mission is to conserve and protect the drinking water supply of Dade County, Florida. To help accomplish this, five full time Rural Development Corps participants will serve as assistants to the South Dade MIL and to other SDSWCD projects.

Annual Objectives

- 1) Recruit a diverse workforce.
- 2) Train participants in water conservation issues.
- 3) Conduct public information activities on landscape irrigation.
- 4) Conduct on-site landscape irrigation system evaluations, assist the SDSWCD in their composting project and other projects.

Budget

All operating costs such as training, transportation, equipment, supplies and office space will be provided by the administering organization or through additional grant funds from partner agencies. Estimated value of these contributions is \$38,000 per year.

PROJECT SETTING

Location

The AmeriCorps project will serve Dade County, which is located on the Southeast coast of Florida.

Dade County is the third largest county in the state and has a total area of 1,945 square miles.

Economic Profile

Dade County is a land of extremes. Intermingled throughout areas of tremendous wealth are areas of tremendous poverty. These socioeconomic contrasts lead to tension and conflict. South Florida, especially Dade County, is known for the viciousness of criminal attacks, especially by youths, who lash out because they foresee a bleak future for themselves and their community.

Attempting to understand the actions of the despairing youth is not difficult when considering that Dade County has an unemployment rate of 7.7 percent, which is compounded by a 14.2 percent poverty level. The existence of an AmeriCorps project will assist young adults to create a better life for themselves.

Groundwater Resources

Dade County is underlain by two major aquifer systems: the Biscayne and the Floridan.

Because the deeper Floridan aquifer in this area, contains nonpotable water due to a high dissolved mineral content, the Biscayne aquifer is the principal water-bearing aquifer for Dade County as well as the entire Southeast coast of Florida. The Biscayne aquifer varies in thickness from 40 to 150 feet. It occurs at or near the land surface in some places and is located under urbanized areas of Dade County. It is comprised of numerous limestone cavities, and is estimated to yield up to 7,000 gallons per minute from large public supply wells. Because the Biscayne aquifer is considered to be one of the most permeable aquifers in the world and extremely vulnerable to contamination, and it is the sole source of drinking water for more than 4 million people in Southeast Florida, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated it as a "sole-source aquifer" under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-523). Unfortunately, the Biscayne aquifer has been directly contaminated in some places by industrial discharges, landfill leachates, and fuel spills.

Hydrology

Rainfall patterns in this region are highly seasonal and average 54 inches annually. Approximately 65 percent of the annual rainfall amount occurs during the wet season (June through October) when demands are moderate. Only 35 percent occurs during the dry season (November through May) when demands are largest due to the influx of tourists and winter residents.

Because of the variability in rainfall, there is a need for large water storage reservoirs in this area. These reservoirs are called Water Conservation Areas, which are an integral part of the Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF), the regional water management system. The C&SF Project was originally designed to provide drainage for agricultural and urban development, flood protection, and water supply. During recent droughts the system has not been able to meet existing urban and agricultural demands, resulting in water shortages. The C&SF water management system is also used to recharge coastal aquifers by regulating the flow of water in canals during periods of low

rainfall and drought. Flow infiltrates back and forth between canals to the aquifer, depending upon water levels.

Population Growth & Water Demands

Dade County is the most populous county in the state having over 1.9 million residents and is projected to increase 21 percent to over 2.3 million by the year 2010.

The present total demand for all freshwater uses in Dade County is approximately 579.1 million gallons per day (MGD) and is projected to increase to 796 MGD by the year 2010.

Irrigation Water Use

Irrigation water use consists of four categories: agriculture, commercial landscaping, residential landscaping, and golf courses. Agricultural use includes water used to irrigate all crops, nurseries, improved pasture, and livestock watering. Irrigation accounts for approximately 40 percent of the total freshwater withdrawals. Figure 1 illustrates the exorbitant amount of water that is utilized for irrigation purposes. The proportion of water used for irrigation is unnecessarily high and is mainly a result of improper irrigation.

WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY PROBLEMS

Introduction

The consequences of a century of development confront Dade County. Pavement covers land that once soaked rain into aquifers, and during the winter months when water supplies are falling, millions of tourists arrive. Current water demands place a tremendous strain on ecosystems and exacerbates existing water quality problems. The unique hydrologic features in this area; which consist of a thin soil layer, high water table, and porous limestone coupled with rapid population growth; contribute to a high incidence of groundwater contamination. As the struggle for water continues, fragile ecosystems; including the Biscayne Bay, confront a dismal future. Water that used to flow freely toward such ecosystems is now channeled to urban areas for water supply purposes and for the prevention of saltwater intrusion into wellfields and canals.

Irrigation Runoff

Improper irrigation practices in urban and agricultural sectors effect water quality in this region. The use of pesticides and fertilizers in combination with irrigation systems on crops and landscapes result in nutrient laden runoff, which endanger fragile ecosystems and ever decreasing potable water supplies.

Biscayne Bay

The entire ecosystem in Dade County has been drastically altered to allow humans to control the flow of water south to the populated areas. As the region's farms and cities expand, the flow of water increases toward populated areas, while it trickles into fragile ecosystems in ever decreasing, ever more polluted amounts. The Biscayne Bay is significantly affected by canal discharges from the Miami River, which is contaminated by nutrients, pesticides, coliform bacteria, and has one of the highest metals enrichments in the state of Florida. Pollutants such as these flow into Biscayne Bay and consequently threaten the natural habitat.

Saltwater Intrusion

Landward intrusion of seawater has been, and continues to be, the primary threat to public drinking water supplies to coastal Dade County. Increasing pumping of the Biscayne aquifer and recent drought conditions have accentuated this problem. Increasing chloride concentrations, which predict the encroachment of saltwater in wells, are commonplace in this area. Once saltwater invades freshwater supply wells, drinking water becomes nonpotable and virtually useless.

Saltwater intrusion occurs when the increased drainage from canals lowers inland ground water levels and reduces the flow of freshwater to the sea, allowing an inland movement of seawater into the aquifer system. This inland movement of saline water occurs in two basic forms: (1) lateral migration of saltwater into the aquifer, and (2) landward movement of saltwater in canals during periods when the freshwater discharge is insufficient to restrict saltwater encroachment. Due to its greater density, saline water that migrates into inland areas along canals leaks downward into underlying fresh groundwater.

Control structures were constructed in all major canals to regulate inland water levels in hopes to retard saltwater intrusion. Despite such measures, increasing pumping due to the rising water demands is causing the progression of saltwater intrusion.

Increased population growth in coastal areas led to the construction of wellfields near the coast, which has also contributed to the saltwater intrusion problem by further lowering water levels locally.

PROCESS

Identification

Several agencies and groups in Florida have been cooperating solve the problems described above. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), as well as the other four water management districts in Florida is developing water supply plans which are intended to set a framework around water use decisions in order to ensure an adequate supply of water while maintaining the functions of natural systems and the overall quality of water resources. All of these plans contain water conservation elements.

Important tools to help achieve water conservation objectives are Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs). MILs conduct on-site evaluations of irrigation system efficiency and make improvement recommendations to the irrigation system operator. MILs have proven to be a popular and effective means of achieving water conservation in urban and agricultural settings. Currently there are nine MILs operating in the SFWMD and several more have been proposed. All government agencies in Florida are facing severe budgetary restrictions making it difficult to fully fund new initiatives such as MILs. Therefore, almost all MILs are funded by a partnership of sponsoring organizations.

The partnership members are continually searching for additional partners and recognize that the AmeriCorps Program may offer an opportunity to expand the partnership and build a more diverse base of support for water conservation in Florida.

Establishment of Specific Objectives

The interagency planning process established the following objectives:

- * Educate residents and businesses about water use and environmental impacts in the South Florida ecosystem.

- * Provide an on-site irrigation system evaluation service which gives detailed specific instructions on how an individual can help protect the environment by conserving water.

* Facilitate a composting project involving yard and food waste and promote other projects as assigned, such as the South Florida Urban Community Assistance Program, Rails to Trails, landfill beautification, wetland restoration, and recycling projects.

* Develop a cadre of young Floridians with an understanding of the complex South Florida ecosystem.

* Nurture the environmental, service, learning and work ethics of the participants by providing them with a meaningful and challenging way to contribute to society.

Benefits

The Rural Development Corps participants will receive an educational stipend, which will be provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The participants will work 1,812 hours for \$12,000 and have 9 holidays with 40 hours of personal leave each year when in service. The living allowance, FICA, health insurance, child care, and support costs will be funded by the NRCS National Office.

The Rural Development Corps participants will develop valuable working skills which can be used throughout their lives. These include public speaking, ability to analyze data, teamwork, writing, organizing, and professional work ethics. In addition they will gain exposure to the landscape irrigation industry and knowledge of the environmental issues facing Florida.

Likewise, the community benefits through the reduced threat of water shortage and contamination. The community will become educated in wise use of landscape irrigation practices.

DESIGN

Structure

This AmeriCorps project will consist of five full time Rural Development Corps participants who will serve as apprentice MIL technicians on the existing South Dade Soil and Water

Conservation District (SDSWCD) MIL. The existing MIL conducts about 25 percent of its evaluations on urban irrigation systems. The addition of the apprentices will allow the MIL to place additional emphasis on urban water conservation.

The existing MIL currently has two operators. These operators will serve as the mentors for the AmeriCorps participants. After the training period, the five Rural Development Corps participants, in two teams of two, will conduct the irrigation system evaluations. The membership on the MIL team will rotate among all five participants. This will allow for one person to work in the office to input and evaluate data.

Other activities that participants might undertake are assisting the SDSWCD in other projects such as the South Florida Urban Community Assistance Program, Rail to Trails development, recycling projects, landfill beautification, wetland restoration and other projects as required. Training and supervision for each of these special projects would be provided by the SDSWCD.

Service Activities

The Rural Development Corps team will undertake the following activities in order to achieve the established objectives.

- 1) Receive on-the-job training from the mentors about water usage and environmental impacts in South Florida. This will include observing the existing MIL team in action as well as an orientation to the groundwater hydrology and environmental issues in South Florida.
- 2) Provide information to the public by staffing information booths at street fairs and malls, making presentations at elementary schools and homeowners association meetings as well as other community events.
- 3) Conduct field evaluations of urban irrigation systems. These evaluations consist of the following steps:
 - a) Visual inspection of the system
 - b) Pressure variation check
 - c) Flow variation check
 - d) Distribution uniformity check
 - e) Landscape evaluation
 - f) Make recommendations
- 4) Receive specialized training for participation in other special projects as needed by the SDSWCD.

Location

The headquarters for the AmeriCorps project MIL will be the Homestead Field Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The address is:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
15600 S.W. 288th Street Suite 402
Homestead, FL 33033-1239

Partnerships

The existing South Dade MIL is funded by a partnership of sponsoring organizations including the SFWMD, the SDSWCD and the NRCS. These partners are actively seeking additional partners such as private water purveyors and municipalities. The existence of an AmeriCorps project in the county will allow the partners to further leverage their funds and facilitate inclusion of additional partners.

Evaluation and Monitoring

The evaluation and monitoring of the MIL component of this project will be done according to the criteria of the NRCS Progress Reporting System and the Automated Data System for Water Quality. The evaluation of the progress and performance of the AmeriCorps participants will be done using a performance appraisal and employee development system similar to the one used by the NRCS.

Typical week

Approximately one day per week will be spent in a staff meeting or training session. The staff meeting will deal with organizational details. The training session will deal with the following:

1. Technical issues involved with MIL evaluations (including on the-job-training in the field).
3. Broader "context" issues to provide the participants with a more complete understanding of the environmental issues facing South Florida.
3. Social issues in order to foster civic values.

The rest of the week will be spent performing duties such as educating residents about water conservation, conducting MIL evaluations and providing follow up assistance.

Training Plan

An ad hoc committee is currently developing a statewide training plan for all AmeriCorps MIL operators. It will be completed before any AmeriCorps participants are hired. The training plan will address the technical aspects of conducting a MIL evaluation such as checking water pressure, water distribution uniformity,

collecting, and evaluating data and making recommendations.

Recruitment, Placement and Supervision

Because of the necessity to collect and evaluate numerical data,, and the intense interaction with the public, Rural Development Corps participants are needed to ensure the success of this AmeriCorps project.

The District Conservationist will get the word out by conducting a wide spread media campaign. In addition, the District Conservationist will network with leaders from the various communities in South Florida. This will include elected officials, clergy, social service providers, academic advisors and others. This project will be open to applicants to a local AmeriCorps pool of applicants.

All participants will be at the same level with regard to salary, benefits, and responsibility. The existing MIL operators will be mentors and provide much of the on-the-job training. The District Conservationist will provide official supervision.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Dade County, Florida
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE SUPERVISOR: Doug Ulmer **PHONE:** (305) 242-1218 **COUNTY:** Dade

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct public information activities on landscape irrigation.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
Staff information booths at fairs and make presentations to schools and homeowners associations.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
Promote a community awareness about the extreme environmental risks, such as saltwater intrusion, associated with tremendous demands on the Biscayne aquifer & other drinking water resources.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
By the number of events attended and the number of requests for assistance. Also, an informal census taken at functions, a poll will be given by Members to participants.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
Presentations will be made at 24 events. 50 people will request assistance.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
10,000 County residents

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Dade County, Florida
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE SUPERVISOR: Doug Ulmer **PHONE:** (305) 242-1218 **COUNTY:** Dade

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct on-site landscape irrigation system evaluations.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Conduct field evaluations and evaluations on urban irrigation systems and prepare reports for the irrigation users on the MIL recommendations.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Users learn efficient operation of their irrigation systems and save millions of gallons of water per year.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

By measuring the actual water savings per year (AWS). NRCS will calculate the AWS.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

54 million gallons of water will be saved per year.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

2,100 people

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 3

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service SITE: Dade County, Florida
SITE SUPERVISOR: Doug Ulmer PHONE: (305) 242-1218 COUNTY: Dade

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Assist the SDSWCD in their composting project and other projects.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Members will collect, transport, process, package compost materials and market the compost products.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Reduce the amount of organic wastes going to landfills by 100,000 square feet & reduce the usage of fertilizer products by 50,000 pounds.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Members will develop procedures to estimate the amount of waste that has been diverted from landfills and the amount of fertilizer replaced.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

By the amount of landfill space preserved and the amount of commercial fertilizer used.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Over 1,000 customers.

No. 6091

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 4

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE: Dade County, Florida

SITE SUPERVISOR: Doug Ulmer

PHONE: (305) 242-1218

COUNTY: Dade

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Assist the SDSWCD in the Rails to Trails project.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Will convert defunct railroad beds to bicycle trails; they will dispose of litter and clear undergrowth.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Provide a recreational source for neighboring communities and promote community spirit.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Comparison to other rails to trails projects, the amount of trails prepared and by the number of users. The goal is 35 trails of over 100 miles.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

By tracking the number of users.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Eight hundred people.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 5

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE: Dade County, Florida

SITE SUPERVISOR: Doug Ulmer

PHONE: (305) 242-1218

COUNTY: Dade

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct on-site nutrient management assessments.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Conduct assessments of fertilizer usage through interviews, assist landowners to develop a plan to properly utilize nutrients and emphasizing the use of compost.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

A reduced risk of ground and surface water contamination from nutrient runoff from overuse of fertilizer.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

By assessment of the amount of fertilizer used before plan development and after plan development.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

NRCS Technical Guide and a 5% reduction of fertilizer use.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Approximately 2,100 people.

GEORGIA

TITLE PAGE

A. Title of Project :	Urban Conservation Program
B. Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	RDT
D. State of Duty Station:	Georgia
E. County of Duty Station:	Cobb
F. Names of counties served	Cobb, Fulton, Clayton, Gwinnett, DeKalb, Rockdale, Henry, Walton
G. Congressional District:	3, 4, 5, 6, 7,, & 10
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Cindy L. Haygood
I. Address, phone & fax numbers:	1738 County Farm Road, Suite 275 Marietta, GA 30060-4012 Ph: (404) 528-2218 FAX: (404) 528-2212
J. Name of St Project Director:	James Ford
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:	355 E. Hancock Avenue Athens, GA 30601-2769 Ph: (706) 546-2272 FAX: (706) 546-2145
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	0
M. Number of Members in RDT:	10

GEORGIA

SUMMARY PAGE

Exactly what specific accomplishments were achieved in the first half year of the project in meeting the community service objectives and boosting the personal development of the Members?

Members have been given individual project responsibilities throughout the second quarter. This has allowed them to develop greater leadership and planning abilities. The community service objectives are being met through small team approach as well as the entire team.

Water quality is the first of our community service objectives. Two corps members monitor thirty locations each month within the Big Creek watershed. This information is entered into a computer and sent to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources annually. All of the storm drains in the city of have been stenciled. Three inner city parks have been cleaned. As a result of these clean-ups, ten dump truck loads of trash were carried away, three waterbars were installed, 1/2 acre was seeded (inside an inner city common area). Approximately 600 feet of nature trails have been installed at three different locations. Streambank stabilization work has been done on the Chattahoochee River - approximately 500 square feet. The team learned first hand about bioengineering techniques.

Conservation Education was the second of our community service objectives. Participants coordinated 12 sponsors for "fall into recycling" activities this year. They assisted with the Christmas tree recycling programs in Dekalb County. Five dump truck loads of mulch were distributed to county parks as a result. AmeriCorps members assisted with creating fliers, organizing individual events, handing out seedlings, buttons, instructions, and environmental literature. (Forty thousand trees were chipped in Dekalb as a result!) An environmental education library has been initiated. Videos, tapes, cassettes, recycling and litter brochures, flyers, books, magazines, and journals will be available for "checkout". The plan is to have "pick-up" environmental tips in libraries, banks, grocery stores, and other public places. Educational programs have been done at fifteen schools and daycare centers. Fifteen inner city groups have been assisted with gardens. Ten schools have been assisted. Approximately 100 students have been taught about composting and urban gardening.

Plant materials is our final community service objective. The construction of the greenhouse is complete. The 5,000 square feet of nursery area has been tilled and raked clean to provide suitable nursery area for the PMC. The nature trail has been cleaned of undesirable species and mulched. All plant materials on campus have been located on a preliminary map and assigned numbers for logging.

B. The key elements of the program design for next year. Specifically describe each new service project performed by the members. Describe any major changes in management structure or partner organizations.

The second year of AmeriCorps will be handled somewhat differently than this year. The first year has been a learning experience and through this, it has been discovered that the members function much better throughout the field offices and a smaller team will be needed as a result. They will be able to benefit by working directly with the field office staffs and can be more closely supervised as well. Ten AmeriCorps positions will be needed (instead of the twenty needed last year). These positions should be Rural

Development Team positions. More experienced personnel are needed to perform more technical activities. The AmeriCorps members will work through the NRCS field offices and provide technical services through the Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Water quality monitoring and stream stabilization (using bioengineering techniques), environmental education, and plant materials will be our key objectives. These objectives will be met through field office organized activities as well as some team activities. The concept of using "sponsors" will not be pursued next year. The work that will be accomplished will be both rural and urban in nature -- generally meeting the natural resource needs of the counties involved. The work will be more technical in nature: involving planning as well as implementation. The need for more experienced, dependable persons is important.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Atlanta, Georgia
Urban Conservation Program (10 Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Cindy Haygood **PHONE:** (404) 528-2218 **COUNTY:** Cobb

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Operate the Satellite Plant Materials Center established
year one.

-
1. **What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?**
Grow and propagate plant materials. Approximately 25,000-35,000 plants will be grown. Plants will be planted by AmeriCorps members along with volunteers.
 2. **What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?**
To have plants available for the Atlanta Olympics.
 3. **How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?**
Will be measured by the staff agronomist and the State Plant material specialist.
 4. **By what standard will you gauge success?**
80% of plants live.
 5. **How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?**
Thousands.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Urban Conservation Program (10 Members - RDT)

SITE: Atlanta, Georgia

SITE SUPERVISOR: Cindy Haygood
PHONE: ()

PHONE: (404) 528-2218

COUNTY: Cobb **SITE SUPERVISOR:**

COUNTY:

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Educate the public on conserving and managing natural resources.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Teach at least 50 school programs, install outdoor classrooms

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Increased awareness of natural resources.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

50% acceptance by schools and quizzes given to students to determine if the information was understood (75% of quizzes will reflect comprehension).

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

NRCS Field Office Technical Guide for installation of outdoor classrooms and satisfaction by teachers on curriculum.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

At least 1,000 students.

IDAHO HOME*A*SYST PROJECT

A Homestead Assessment System for Environmental and Drinking
Water Protection

AmeriCorps FY 96 Project Application
USDA-NRCS
Idaho

SUMMARY

AmeriCorps Participants will assist with the implementation of the Idaho Home*A*Syst environmental and drinking water protection program. Participants from diverse backgrounds will be important, as will the ability of participants to work with individuals from diverse background. The National Farm*A*Syst program and the Idaho Home*A*Syst program provide an organized process for working directly with local residents and communities to providing education, pollution-risk assessments, and recommendations.

Specific needs to be met include: 1) receiving educational training and associated skills on the Home*A*Syst Program and the specifics of the pollution-risk assessment as well as providing educational opportunities for local citizens enabling them to better understand their impacts on the environment and their drinking water; 2) increased assistance to citizens within local communities, especially low-income, elderly or disabled citizens, and available assistance programs identified to provide financial or technical support; 3) protection of domestic drinking water supplies by assessing pollution-risk as they relate to activities within and around individual home sites and correcting at risk activities or conditions; 4) eliminating environmental hazards by educating the public, evaluating pollution-risk, and correcting at risk activities or conditions.

An Idaho a Home*A*Syst planning committee was formed in 1993 and is key to the site design as well as the overall success of the project. The committee includes representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Idaho Department of Agriculture, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare-Division of Environmental Quality, Idaho Health Districts, University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service, Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, Consolidated Farm-n Services Agency and Idaho Soil Conservation Commission.

An EPA 319 grant proposal was submitted and approved for FY 1995 funding to complete a number of task, but most importantly to hire a full-time project specialist for two years. This position is currently being filled and will be housed at the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Office. This will hopefully encourage a better acceptance of the program within local Soil Conservation Districts and communities than might

otherwise occur if the position were housed under a state or federal agency.

Participants will be located in local Natural Resources Conservation Service/Soil Conservation District water quality project offices and will work with existing information & education specialist. The participants will be supervised and administered by project NRCS and District personnel, with overall supervision coming directly from the Home*A*Syst Project Specialist. The Home*A*Syst Planning Committee will provide assistance where necessary.

By completing the Home*A*Syst process the participant will provide a direct service to those individuals they are able to work with and likewise to the community as a whole. Quantifiable services will include the completed assessment, program evaluations forms, and recommendations for correcting at risk activities.

The number of AmeriCorps participants requested is up to 20 (see attachment #1). Twenty of the forty water quality projects are jointly located in one office. Each position is for the most part independent of the other, therefore any number less than 20 will accomplish individual project goals.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Idaho Home*A*Syst Mission Statement

To protect and enhance Idaho's environment and drinking water sources by providing rural home owners with assistance in conducting voluntary pollution-risk assessments.

Annual Objectives

Increase public awareness of the availability of an environmental/water quality, voluntary assessment tool called Home*A*Syst.

Increase the knowledge and awareness of rural citizens and communities on activities that impact the environment and water quality.

Assist rural citizens and communities with voluntary assessments.

Assist rural citizen and communities in implement management practices that will benefit the environment, water quality, and public health.

NARRATIVE

Needs to be Met

Assist with the implementation of the Idaho Home*A*Syst environmental and drinking water protection program.

To protect rural America's water, Farm*A*Syst (Farmstead Assessment System) has been established as a national cooperative program. This program has been proven to be instrumental in bringing about a greater awareness of environmental concerns while providing a mechanism for protecting rural America's drinking water with a voluntary homestead pollution risk assessment. Idaho has modified appropriate materials, is currently in the process of hiring a Home*A*Syst Project Specialist and now faces the task of implementing the program across the state in local communities needing assistance.

Idaho currently has 38 State Agricultural Water Quality Projects, 1 USDA Hydrologic Area Project and 1 USDA Demonstration Project. These projects are located in rural agricultural areas with identified water quality problems. The objective of these project is to install water quality protection practices. Project resources provide the ability to demonstrate, promote, and install BMP'S, however, no provisions exist for working one-on-one with community and rural citizens for protection of individual drinking water systems.

Needs

The AmeriCorps Program would provide rural communities with a greater ability to implement the Home*A*Syst program by sponsoring an individual within the local community that can

reach and work directly with individual citizens needing assistance.

Education: The relationship of this AmeriCorps Project to the educational priority area is two-fold. 1) AmeriCorps participants would receive educational training on the Home*A*Syst Program and the specifics of the pollution-risk assessment. 2) AmeriCorps participants would then be able to provide educational opportunities for local citizens enabling them to better understand how activities around their home can impact the environment as well as their immediate source(s) of drinking water.

Human Needs: Human needs will be met by providing assistance to citizens within local communities, especially low-income, elderly or disabled citizens. In addition, once pollution-risk assessments are completed, available assistance programs may be identified to provide financial or technical support to correct any critical problems.

Public Safety: Protection of domestic drinking water supplies is the primary goal of the Home*A*Syst program. By assessing pollution-risk as they relate to activities within and around individual home sites and correcting at risk activities or conditions via best management practices or recommended modification, domestic drinking water supplies will be protected.

Environment: Environmental hazards will be eliminated by educating the public, evaluating pollution-risk, and correcting at risk activities or conditions via best management practices or recommended modification.

Process

Environmental and wellhead protection programs have been around for a long time. The National Farm*A*Syst program and the Idaho Home*A*Syst program provide an organized process for working directly with residents and communities to providing education, pollution-risk assessments, and recommendations.

The National Program Staff located in Madison, Wisconsin provide support to individual states. In Idaho a Home*A*Syst planning committee was formed in 1993. This committee still exist and will continue to exist throughout the life of this project. The

committee includes representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District, Idaho Department of Agriculture, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare-Division of Environmental Quality, Idaho Health Districts, University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service, Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, Consolidated Farm Services Agency and Soil Conservation Commission.

An EPA 319 grant proposal was submitted and approved for FY 1995 funding to complete a number of task, but most importantly to hire a full-time project specialist for two years. This position is currently being filled and will be housed at the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Office. This will hopefully encourage a better acceptance of the program within local Soil Conservation Districts and communities than might otherwise occur if the position were housed under a state or federal agency. The project specialist will receive direction from the Executive Director and the Home*A*Syst Planning Committee via monthly meeting.

AmeriCorps Participants will receive training and support directly from the Project Specialist and will receive additional support from the Home*A*Syst Planning Committee as well as the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Executive Director and Board of Directors. Participants will be located in local Natural Resources Conservation Service/Soil Conservation District water quality project offices and will work with existing information & education specialist.

Design

The Home*A*Syst Program has been established to provide rural home owners with assistance in conducting voluntary pollution-risk assessments related to activities within and around their home, for the protection of the environment and their domestic drinking water supply. The Home*A*Syst program consist of a series of 11 fact sheets and 13 worksheets designed to help residents assess how effectively their homestead practices protect the environment and their drinking, water.

One of the project task identified and funded under the EPA 319 grant is to develop and conduct a state-wide measurement plan

that will be used to evaluate activity and outcome objectives for implementation of the Home*A*Syst Program. Completed evaluation worksheets and action plans will provide a direct measure of project results. In addition, a brief questionnaire will be developed to track pre- and post-evaluation results providing information on social attitudes and changes following project implementation.

Concept

The Home*A*Syst Program has been established to provide rural home owners with assistance in conducting voluntary pollution-risk assessments related to activities within and around their home, for the protection of the environment and their domestic drinking water supply.

AmeriCorps Participants will receive training and support directly from the Project Specialist and will receive additional support from the Home*A*Syst Planning Committee as well as the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Executive Director and Board of Directors. Participants will be located in local Natural Resources Conservation Service/Soil Conservation District water quality project offices and will work with existing information & education specialist.

Implementation Strategies and Delivery Options:

Implement statewide to assist farmsteads and rural home owners to protect the environment and drinking water quality.

Delivery Options may include but are not limited to:

- One-on-one assistance on the farm.
- Group assessments with educational and technical assistance.
- Group orientation with follow-up.
- One-on-one assistance.
- Incorporation into other education programs.
- Self-assessments.

Delivery Team Members may include but are not limited to:

- AmeriCorps participants
- County health departments.
- County planning and zoning departments.

Extension service.
State Agricultural Agency.
Natural Resources Conservation Service.
Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
Private sector (farm cooperatives, crop consultants,
petroleum representatives)
Water User Groups
Youth groups (4-H, FFA)
Trained volunteers
Vocational agriculture consultants (youth and adult)
Environmental groups
Producer associations
Lenders

Delivery may be incorporated into other educational programs including but not limited to:

USDA water quality demonstration and hydrologic unit projects.
State watershed projects.
State Agricultural Water Quality Projects (SAWQP).
Municipal wellhead protection efforts, Wellhead Protection Program (DEQ).
Idaho Ground Protection Plan implementation components
Drinking water education programs.
Water User Group educational programs.
Agricultural Industry and Commodity Group educational programs.
Environmental Consulting educational programs.
Whole farm assessments.
NRCS conservation planning.
IDA and UL-CES pesticide applicator training programs.
IDA Waste Pesticide Disposal Program.
Homemaker or family living education programs.
Adult education farm management training programs.
Club activity or program promotion by trained volunteers from youth groups, community service organizations, farm organizations, and environmental groups.
Youth farm management education programs
Program sponsorship by lending institutions and/or agribusiness's.
Programs targeted at nonfarmers

Service Activities

AmeriCorps Participants will assist with and conduct pollution-risk assessments using some or all of the Home*A*Syst work/fact sheets developed for Idaho. The first 11 work/fact sheets include: #1 Drinking Water Well Condition; #2 Pesticide Storage and Handling; #3 Fertilizer Storage and Handling; #4 Petroleum Products Storage; #5 Hazardous Waste Management; #6 Household Wastewater Treatment; #7 Livestock Waste Storage; #8 Livestock Yards Management; #9 Silage Storage; #10 Milking Center Wastewater Treatment; and #11 Lawn and Garden Management. The final worksheets include: #11 Site Evaluation Worksheet; and Overall Summary Evaluation.

By completing the Home*A*Syst process the participant will provide a direct service to those individuals they are able to work with and likewise to the community as a whole. Demonstrateable services will include the completed assessment, program evaluations forms, and recommendations for correcting at risk activities.

A typical week for an AmeriCorps Participant would be to assist local home owners in conducting and completing 2-5 Home*A*Syst evaluations. In order to accomplish this successfully the participant would have received adequate training prior to completing any evaluations. The participant would contact each home owner in advance and arrange a site visit. During the site visit the participant would spend a few minutes introducing themselves, giving some background on their position and involvement, as well as some specifics about the Home*A*Syst Program. They would then ask some questions about the individuals home site and the type of management practices conducted. From this information they would then be able to determine which work/fact sheets would need to be discussed and completed. Once these sheets were completed the participant would assist the owner in completing the Site Evaluation Worksheet and the Overall Summary Evaluation. These worksheets will enable the participant to assess those activities or conditions on the home owners immediate setting that may negatively impact the environment or their drinking water, while pointing out best management practices or recommended modifications to correct these at-risk activities or conditions. The participant would make note of the worksheets that were completed and any recommendations that were made. Since the Home*A*Syst program is confidential the participant would leave

the completed worksheets with the home owner along with a project evaluation form to be completed by the home owner and returned to the Home*A*Syst project office. The participant would thank the home owner for their participation and would return to the local conservation office. Any evaluations and recommendations would be summarized in a general form to track participant as well as project accomplishments.

Relation to need

The service activities provide direct information to local residents, assistance in completing a voluntary pollution-risk assessment, recommendations for correcting any identified problems. The participants activities will help protect and enhance Idaho's environment and drinking water sources.

Participant training and support

Training workshops will be developed to provide participants with the background necessary to adequately perform the job responsibilities. State specialist that worked on the Farm*A*Syst modifications in Idaho will be utilized as trainers to transfer as much of their individual expertise as possible to participants. Actual field exercises will be used to provide hands-on training.

Participants will also have an invaluable opportunity to interact with different project personnel to gain additional training and experience on other aspects of water quality and environmental protection. It is optimistic that once the program has been established, local communities will provide a means for continuation.

With the knowledge gained from training and practical experience, the participant will have the background necessary to continue their education and/or move directly into the work force.

Participant placement and supervision

AmeriCorps participants will be trained in small groups. They may work in teams initially, but will eventually work individually. Local groups of participants will come together at a minimum of once a month to discuss and share their experiences (problems and successes). The Home*A*Syst Project Specialist and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Water Quality

Specialist will work with local project offices to orient them and prepare them for the AmeriCorps participant. The participant will be supervised by project NRCS and District personnel, with overall supervision coming directly from the Home*A*Syst Project Specialist. The Home*A*Syst Planning Committee will provide assistance where necessary.

Attachment #1

State Water Quality Project	SCD	SCS Contact	SCD Contact
Cedar Draw	Balanced Rock	Kevin Davidson	Zena Cook
E. Upper Deep Creek	Balanced Rock	Kevin Davidson	Zena Cook
W. Upper Deep Creek	Balanced Rock	Kevin Davidson	Zena Cook
Mission Sheep	Benewah	Mike Combs	Arlene Grose
Upper Hangman Creek	Benewah	Mike Combs	Arlene Grose
Tensed/Lolo Creek	Benewah	Mike Combs	Arlene Grose
Plummer Creek	Benewah	Mike Combs	Arlene Grose
Arkansas Basin	Portneuf	Ron Davidson	Amyllen Bodily
Lone Creek	Portneuf	Ron Davidson	Amyllen Bodily
Upper Rapid Creek	Portneuf	Ron Davidson	Amyllen Bodily
Badger Creek	Eastside	Dennis Hadley	Marny Nelson
Meadow Creek	Eastside	Dennis Hadley	Marny Nelson
Antelope Creek	EastSide	Dennis Hadley	Marny Nelson
Tex Creek	Eastside	Dennis Hadley	Marny Nelson
Conway Gulch	Canyon	John Gleim	Debbie Comfort
Sand Hollow West	Canyon	John Gleim	Debbie Comfort
S.F. Palouse River	Latah	Ken Kouska	Nancy Weatherstone
Aspendale/Potlatch	Latah	Ken Kouska	Nancy Weatherstone
Lenville	Latah	Ken Kouska	Nancy Weatherstone
Wide Hollow	Oneida	John Bechtold	Linda Daniels
Dairy Creek	Oneida	John Bechtold	Linda Daniels
Daniels	Oneida	John Bechtold	Linda Daniels
N.E. Worley	Kootenal/Shos.	David Brown	Patricia Farrar
Lake Creek	Kootenai/Shos.	David Brown	Patricia Farrar
Bancroft	Caribou	Tim Schroeder	Larry Lewis
Upper Portneuf	Caribou	Tim Schroeder	Larry Lewis
Bedrock Creek	Clearwater	Bruce Hanson	Mike Hoffman
Lolo/Fords Creek	Clearwater	Brtice Hanson	Mike Hoffman
Upper Conant Creek	Yellowstone	Ken Beckmann	Mark Hogen
Squirrel Creek	Yellowstone	Ken Beckmann	Mark Hogen
Pine Creek	Nez Perce	Frank Gariglio	Barry Holben
Vinyard Creek	Northside	Tom Burnhai-n	Rob Rogerson
Lapwal	Lewis	Rob Fredrickson	Chuck Pentzer
Mission Creek	Lewis	Rob Fredrickson	Chuck Pentzer
Crane Creek	Weiser River	Toi-n Yaiikey	Aleta Si-nith
Boulder Creek	Valley	Randy Phelan	Daryl Gallup
Teton River	Teton	Steve Ray	Darwin Josephson
Lower Payette River	Payette	Mike Raymond	Nancy Hutchinson
USDA Water Quality Projects			
Snake River DEMO	Cassia Minidoka	Jeff Bohr	Dyane Rigas
Payette River HUA	Payette Canyon Washington Adai-ns	Tii-n Stack	Nancy Hutchinson

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Idaho
Home*A*Syst (15 FT Members & 5PT Members - RDT)

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Increase public awarness of the availability of an environmental/water qualilty, voluntary assessment tool called Home*A*Syst.

-
1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
 4. By what standard will you gauge success?
 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Idaho
Home*A*Syst (15 FT Members & 5PT Members - RDT)

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Increase the knowledge and awareness of rural citizens
and communities on activities that impact the environment
and water quality.

(NOTE: Seems very similar to objective one. Please be sure we can differentiate.)

-
1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
 4. By what standard will you gauge success?
 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 3

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Home*A*Syst (15 FT Members & 5PT Members - RDT)

SITE: Idaho

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Assist Rural citizens and communities with voluntary assessments.

-
1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
 4. By what standard will you gauge success?
 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Idaho
Home*A*Syst (15 FT Members & 5PT Members - RDT)

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Assist rural citizens and communities in implementing management practices that will benefit the environment, water quality, and public health.

-
1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
 4. By what standard will you gauge success?
 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Idaho
Home*A*Syst (15 FT Members & 5PT Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Lee Brooks **PHONE:** (208) 334-1601 **COUNTY:** Ada

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Increase public awareness of the availability of an environmental/water quality, voluntary assessment tool called Home*A*Syst.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Through one-on-one and/or group visits with individual homeowners located in 35 operational water quality projects, members will work with NRCS and Conservation District I&E personnel to familiarize local participants with Home*A*Syst program, review fact sheets and worksheets and assist homeowners in performing site specific evaluations to identify water quality conditions and at risk situations.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

90% of all farmers within the 35 operational watershed project areas will be aware of the availability of the Home*A*Syst program.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

80% of the farmers located in the 35 operational watershed project areas will indicate in the planned follow-up evaluation that they were satisfied with the quality of the service provided and that they had a very good understanding of the Home*A*Syst program.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

50% of the farmers who have been exposed to the Home*A*Syst program will volunteer to complete the necessary worksheets.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Approximately 900 farms, involving about 1800 people, will be made aware of the Home*A*Syst program.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Idaho
Home*A*Syst (15 FT Members & 5PT Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Lee Brooks **PHONE:** (208) 334-1601 **COUNTY:** Ada

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Increase the knowledge and awareness of rural citizens and communities on activities that impact the environment and water quality.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Provide assistance to the landowners in conducting the voluntary risk assessments related to activities within and around their homes. Review a series of fact sheets and worksheets designed to help residents assess how effectively their homestead practices protect the environment and the drinking water.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

90% of the landowners who participate in the voluntary program will have better understanding of what activities impact the environment and water quality.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

80% of the farmers located in the 35 operational watershed project areas will indicate in the planned follow-up evaluate that they were satisfied with the quality of the service provided and that they have learned to identify farmstead practices or activities that are potentially damaging to the environment.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

50% of the participants will request assistance in discussing or designing solutions to the problems that are identified as they complete the risk analysis worksheets and assessments.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Approximately 700 farms, involving about 1400 people, will be more knowledgeable about activities that harm the environment and/or water quality.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 3

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Idaho

Home*A*Syst (15 FT Members & 5PT Members - RDT)

SITE SUPERVISOR: Lee Brooks **PHONE:** (208) 334-1601 **COUNTY:** Ada

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Assist Rural citizens and communities in implementing management practices that will benefit the environment, water quality, and public health.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Provide assistance to the landowners in conducting the voluntary risk assessments related to activities within and around their homes. Review a series of fact sheets and worksheets designed to help residents assess how effectively their homestead practices protect the environment and the drinking water. Assist residents in identifying proper corrective actions to minimize at risk situations.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

20% of residents who identify at risk situations will install corrective measures or take corrective actions.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Of the estimated 50% of the farmers located in the 35 operational watershed project areas where potential problems exist, 90% will indicate in the planned follow-up evaluation that they were satisfied with the quality of the service provided and that they have learned to identify corrective farmstead practices or activities that area potentially beneficial to the environment and to water quality.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

A statewide measurement plan will be developed that will be used to evaluate activity and outcomes objectives for implementing the program. Completed evaluation worksheets and action plans will provide a direct measure of project results.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Approximately 90-100 farms, involving 200 people, will be involved in installing corrective actions on their residences. These people, as well as surrounding residents within and downstream of the watersheds, will all benefit as a result of improved water quality.

TITLE PAGE:

Title of Project:	East St. Louis & Metro-East Environmental Project
B: Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	PL&E
D. State of Duty Station:	Illinois
E. County of Duty Station:	St. Clair
F. Names of counties served: (Up to 15)	Madison and St.Clair
G. Congressional District:	12
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Rufus Williams
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	601 James R. Thompson Blvd, East St. Louis IL 62201 Ph: (618) 271-9540 FAX: (618) 271-9737
J: Name of St. Project Director:	Gary Parker
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:	1902 Fox Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 Ph: (217) 398-5271 FAX: (217) 398-5310
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	20
M. Number of Members in RDT:	0

East St. Louis & Metro-East SUMMARY PAGE:

Exactly what specific accomplishments were achieved in the first half year of the project in meeting the community service objectives and boosting the personal development of the Members?

The East St. Louis Environmental Project of AmeriCorps has made the following progress during the Second Quarter:

10 of the 15 community garden sites have been prepared for planting.

75% of the 20 lots have been cleared of all minor debris and are ready for heavy equipment.

11 AmeriCorps Members attended Master Gardening Training.

Members planted 100% of National Tree Trust trees (57) on the SCC campus.

Members conducted joint gardener training with Operation New Spirit staff.

Members conducted educational program with local elementary school.

Members have started hundreds of plants in SCC greenhouse and have transferred them to Jones Park Greenhouse for use by community groups.

Members have completed 50% of East St. Louis Senior High School greenhouse renovation.

Member teams have prepared 20% of flower beds on the SCC campus.

Members received chain saw training.

Member has scheduled community garden training session for first week in April.

Member team put together seed packets for community gardens.

Member has started preparing site signs.

Team has established a demonstration garden on the SCC campus using biodynamic gardening techniques.

Team has completed 75% of the work to renovate the landscape at the Dunbar Elementary School

The project has made giant strides in the areas of community service, community development, and member growth. Aside from the basic training necessary to complete the projects, members have been provided training in

sexual harassment, civil rights, and chain saw usage. Members have assisted Operation New Spirit in getting local community gardeners prepared to begin spring planting, worked with a group of elderly citizens from Granite City to prepare for spring plantings, met with citizens about gardens and lots, and share their views about service and their committees with guests and other residents. Members have met with all the local mayors, several local ministers, the chamber of commerce, and residents concerning heavy equipment needs and assistance with lot renovation.

B. The key elements of the program design for next year. Specifically describe each new service project performed by the members. Describe any major changes in management structure or partner organizations.

We will continue to work on community beautification through lot renovations, maintenance of lots and gardens and maintenance of landscape work started on the State Community College Campus. We plan to expand the project into Urban Forestry, career awareness and public parks rehabilitation.

Also, we plan to provide environmental/education training to 5 community/neighborhood groups and 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from the Lovejoy and East St. Louis schools.

The principal local partner on this project is State Community College. NRCS currently has a cooperative agreement with the college. Under this agreement, NRCS is providing the College \$70,000, and the college is providing the day-to-day site management. In FY 96, NRCS will provide the day-to-day site management. The principal partner will be the State Community College, but there will be no exchange of funds

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
East St. Louis Environmental Project (20 Members)

SITE: East St. Louis Illinois

SITE SUPERVISOR: Rufus Williams

PHONE: (618) 271-9540

COUNTY: St. Clair

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Restore 10 abandoned lots in residential settings & establish 5 community gardens.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
Clean up and restore abandoned urban lots.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
To have an immediate impact on public safety, health and aesthetics of the community.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
A plan for each site will be developed and a final assessment of the restoration conducted by the needs team.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
10 lots will be restored and 5 community gardens will be established.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
200-300

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service SITE: East St. Louis, IL
East St. Louis Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)

SITE SUPERVISOR: Rufus Williams PHONE: (618) 271-9540 COUNTY: St. Clair

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Provide environmental/educational training for 5 community groups and 6th, 7th & 8th grade students.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
To provide training and motivation to community groups and students on the restored lots, gardens and at the community college.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
Involve the community in maintenance and public safety and to teach youth about career opportunities.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
A needs assessment will be done and training plans developed. An assessment will be conducted after each training project.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
Training will be completed for 5 community groups and students from 2 schools.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
50-100

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 3

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** East St. Louis, Illinois
East St. Louis Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Rufus Williams **PHONE:** (618) 271-9540 **COUNTY:** St. Clair

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Improve the condition & public use of 10 of the city parks.

1. **What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?**

To determine needs and improve the conditions of city parks.

2. **What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?**

To improve the conditions and the public usage of parks.

3. **How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?**

The needs team will set minimum standards needs will be assessed, plans developed and a final assessment will be conducted.

4. **By what standard will you gauge success?**

The 10 parks will be 100% restored or renovated and pass the minimal standards set by the needs team.

5. **How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?**

30,000 - 40,000 potential residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 5

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service SITE: East St. Louis, IL
East St. Louis Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Rufus Williams PHONE: (618) 271-9540 COUNTY: St. Clair

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Install 2 timber bridges.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

To install timber bridges as demonstration projects.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Access from previous transfer to community college, increase student safety, demonstrate resource utilization for infrastructure replacement, stimulate economic development.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Final inspection meets FS standards.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

2 bridges completed and certified by engineers.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

over 1,000 students and citizens.

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project:	Chicago Environmental Action Project
B. Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	PL&E
D. State of Duty Station:	Illinois
E. County of Duty Station:	Cook
F. Names of counties served: (Up to 15)	Cook, Lake, Dupage, and Will
G. Congressional District:	1
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Carzella Pritchett
I. Address, phone & fax numbers:	4434 S Lake Park, Chicago, IL 60653 Ph: (312) 373-9956 FAX: (312) 373-9960
J. Name of St. Project Director:	Gary Parker
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:	1902 Fox Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 Ph: (217) 398-5271 FAX: (217) 398-5310
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	20
M. Number of Members in RDT:	0

ILLINOIS

Chicago Environmental Action Project

SUMMARY PAGE:

A. Exactly what specific accomplishments were achieved in the first half year of the project in meeting the community service objectives and boosting the personal development of the Members?

Major accomplishments towards member objectives is the successful establishment of primary liaison roles for the team leaders and other members. The number of partners that we work with is large and a team leader or member has the responsibility to be the liaison between USDA/AmeriCorps and each partner.

AmeriCorps members have provided over 6,200 hours of urban greening and environmental improvement. Plantings were completed at four community sites including two youth centers, a church and a community center. Members assisted with plant production at three conservatories and a nursery.

Members assisted with 136 hours of construction of Habitat for Humanity and the rehabilitation of 30 apartments at Lathrop. AmeriCorps members exceeded their plans to provide environmental education to 2,670 public school students at eight schools and provided tutoring at two main school sites. Members recruited 120 volunteers to plan and create urban green safety sites. The AmeriCorps members are serving as liaisons with community groups and learning how to organize to solve community problems.

The Kennicott Park Facility has been designated by the Mayor's office as one of six Youth and Family Centers in Chicago. This partnership has become an opportunity to dovetail into this new city program.

The growth in individuals and community pride is the most gratifying reward of this program. Some of our team members have already found career opportunities directly related to our work.

Additional accomplishments are detailed in the AmeriCorps USDA, Chicago Environmental Action Notebook of Accomplishments under separate cover.

B. The key elements of the program design for next year. Specifically describe each new service project performed by the members. Describe any major changes in management structure or partner organizations.

We will continue to assist existing community organizations such as the Chicago Youth Centers, Schools, community groups such as Neighbors Against Gang Violence, grass roots Advisory Councils and government agencies such as the Chicago Park District.

Continue urban greening and gardening, structural environmental improvements and educational objectives at three Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Home Sites and two neighborhood areas of Little Valley and the Kennicott Park area. The number and location of additional sites have not been determined at this time, but our proposed impacts are:

1. Creation of about 90 to 100 acres of new or revitalized green space in and adjacent to partner neighborhoods.
2. Remodel and improve at least 1 building (low-rise 4 stories) at 3 CHA Home Sites (about 56 apartments made habitable).
3. Creation of at least 1 new community center in Little Village and assist with improvements at Kennicott Park facility in Kenwood-Oakland Community.
4. Provide environmental education, and general science and mathematics tutoring to about 20,000 students

In the first year we have reached out to as many partners as possible. We intend to evaluate our efforts to determine the most productive partners to work with in the future. Our focus will be greater community empowerment activities for long-term objectives to create, improve and maintain green spaces. This empowerment will involve students as well as community members and will hopefully increase our impact and improve our efficiency.

We will assist the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) to train and assist residents with improvements, weatherization and maintenance of apartments. Hopefully, this will lead to self reliance for minor repairs and upkeep on apartments by residents in cooperation with CHA.

Assist students and teachers to plan and build an environmental education site near the schools in their community. This will include help in procuring physical elements and the labor to construct the education site.

There will be no major changes in the management structure or partner organizations at this operating site.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Chicago, IL
Chicago Environmental Project (20 Participants - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Carzella Pritchett **PHONE:** (312) 373-9956 **COUNTY:** Cook

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct workshops for community control & utilization of vacant lots for green space

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Conduct community natural resource training sessions for redevelopment of green sites (15 total sessions). Includes existing natural resource courses in a customized curriculum to meet the needs of specific communities. Members along with invited experts from partner agencies will conduct the workshops. Existing course resources: master gardeners, tree keepers, NRCS training, and others. This activity is a subset of objective 1

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

To develop local expertise among community residents to establish & maintain urban green space. Also to increase AmeriCorps' impact on the community. This includes maintenance of 90 to 100 acres of new greenspace in our direct program objective and hopefully additional new acres by the community.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Feedback from the community & display of motivation to implement action plans.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Development of natural resource curriculums for each of the 5 communities. The completion of at least two primary courses & one hands-on training for at least one green site per community.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Direct involvement - 200 natural resource volunteers (this doesn't include public school students, see objective 4.) Indirect impacts - approximately 20,000-30,000 residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 3

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Chicago Illinois
Chicago Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Carzella Pritchett **PHONE:** (312) 373-9956 **COUNTY:** Cook

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Establish in-city plant materials sources as temporary use and ecological revitalization of vacant lots.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

The creation of a minimum of five small city nursery sites on green sites. Members will help in the procurement of nursery stock, transplanting, and maintenance. We will also provide assistance in plans for community marketing of plant materials for private lands.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Development of five local community owned nurseries to provide business opportunities and a source for plant materials that have survived the city environment. A parallel benefit is the soil improvements caused by planting, transplanting, and maintenance activities. Private lands will benefit from local source of plant materials.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Feedback from the community.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

A minimum of one nursery site per community (5 nursery sites total).

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Direct involvement - 200 natural resource leaders volunteers; indirect impacts - approximately 20,000 - 30,000 residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 4

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Chicago, IL
Chicago Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Carzella Pritchett **PHONE:** (312) 373-9956 **COUNTY:** Cook

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Provide environmental education, including hands-on activities, to primary and secondary school students.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Provide environmental education to public school students from existing programs (2 sessions/25 students/20 classes/20 schools) in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy, the Chicago Academy of Sciences & others. Also student service competition (projected participation: 5 classes/20 schools) helping with community gardening/greening and service tied to objectives 1,2, & 3. (Criteria will be developed to rate service.)

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Awareness & understanding of basic environmental principles & the importance of conservation & improvement of degraded "natural" environments. Increased student service activities to support the community.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Feedback from student & teacher surveys. Student & teacher involvement in community organized efforts to develop & maintain green sites.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

A minimum of two structured school activities for five high schools & their feeder elementary schools in the communities (20 schools total). Service activities from 2 classes in each of these schools.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Direct involvement - service activities: 5,000 students & 160 teachers.
Direct involvement - a minimum of two training sessions: an additional 15,000 students.
Indirect involvement - approximately 20,000 - 30,000 residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 5

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Chicago Illinois
Chicago Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Carzella Pritchett **PHONE:** (312) 373-9956 **COUNTY:** Cook

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Encourage & assist schools with creation of outdoor environmental education classrooms.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Help teachers & students to plan & build an environmental education site near the schools in their community. This includes help with materials and labor. This will be the reward for the service competition among hopefully 5 classes/20 schools. Only one class/school can win, therefore 20 educational sites will be developed assuming participation from each school.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

This is planned as a reward to teachers & students that become involved in community service. This will hopefully teach students the value of community service & redevelopment of natural resources to improve the quality of life in the city.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Feedback from the teachers & students.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Level of involvement in this objective. We hope for 5 classes/school (20 schools). A minimum level of success will be 50% of the schools we work with (10 school outdoor educational sites.)

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Direct - 5,000 students & 160 teachers. Indirect - 20,000 - 30,000 residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 6

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

SITE: Chicago, IL

Chicago Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)

SITE SUPERVISOR: Carzella Pritchett

PHONE: (312) 373-9956

COUNTY: Cook

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Work with the Chicago Housing Authority to train & assist residents with improvements, weatherization, and maintenance.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Additional remodeling & major structural repairs to apartments. Training & follow-up with new residents to maintain & repair their new homes. Provide basic remodeling training to residents as assisted with CHA.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Self reliance for minor repairs & upkeep on apartments by residents in cooperation with CHA.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Feedback from resident surveys & level of interest in training.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Remodeling of 50 apartments and major structural repairs to 6 apartments. One workshop held in three CHA home sites.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Direct involvement - 100 residents; indirect - app. 5,000 to 10,000 residents.