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COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 35

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Maine

SITE: Caribou,

Caribou Trails Coordinator (1 Member - RDT)

SITE SUPERVISOR:

PHONE: ()

COUNTY:

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Stimulate measures to be taken to keep
the AVR & B&A

trail environmentally sound.

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

Coordinate 5 environmental clean-up days, develop 3-5 displays, work with the Nature Conservancy, to manage beaver ponds and access to sensitive areas, put trash receptacles at all trailheads.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
Clean 72 miles of trails.

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

The amount of work that will be completed including bank seeding, obstruction removal, ditch repair, etc, along the AVR & B&A trails will be very beneficial in obtaining good water quality of the many streams & rivers that criss cross the AVR & B&A trails.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

If we achieve the aforementioned goals, we will have completed enhancing the environmental state of the 72 mile system; established a working relationship with the Nature conservancy; and improved water quality in adjacent rivers & streams.

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

Potentially 8,000 residents.

1. TITLE PAGE:

A) Title of Project: Southern Maryland Rural Development Team (Recycling Program)
B) Name of Organization: Natural Resources Conservation Service - Southern Maryland RC&D

C) Team Type: Rural Development

D) State of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Maryland

E) County of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Charles County

F) Names of counties served by Members: Charles County

G) Congressional District of duty station of the Members: 28

H) Name of site supervisor (at local or county level): Don White

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

Southern Maryland RC&D, Inc.

303 Post Office Road, Suite B4A

Waldorf, MD 20602

(301) 932-4638

FAX: (301) 932-4647

J) Name of state Project Directors: Linda Elben-Adams

K) Address, phone number, and fax number of State Project Director:

USDA, NRCS

339 Busch's Frontage Road, Suite 301

Annapolis, MD 21401-5534

(410) 757-0861

FAX: (410) 757-0687

L) Number of Members in Environmental Teams: 0

M) Number of Members in Rural Development Teams: 1

SOUTHERN MARYLAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM (RECYCLING PROGRAM)

One member will initiate a recycling program in St. Mary's County. The other two members will expand existing recycling programs in Calvert and Charles County. Their work will support AmeriCorps objectives in both Education and the Environment. Their activities will include of public outreach and school programs designed to increase environmental awareness and participation in recycling programs. Increasing recycling improved local water quality, saves energy, and helps conserve trees.

Southern Maryland RC&D's partners in the recycling project include the Public Works Departments in St. Mary's and Calvert Counties and the Department of Public Facilities in Charles County. They will provide office space, training, vehicles (or mileage allowance) and daily supervision for 3 members, one per county.

Mission:

To initiate a recycling program in St. Mary's County. To expand existing recycling programs in Calvert and Charles County, including adding more services and educational outreach programs to increase resident participation.

Objectives:

Initiate a recycling program in St. Mary's County and expand existing programs in Calvert and Charles County.

1. WHAT WORK WILL BE DONE? WHAT COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES WILL YOUR PARTICIPANTS ENGAGE IN?

- Research existing hazardous waste collection programs in other rural areas. Determine if they are appropriate and can be implemented successfully in Calvert and St. Mary's County. Charles County already has such a program.
- Identify potential recycling products such as wood mulch and compost and readily available markets for them in St. Mary's County.
- Research and match generators of recyclable waste with dealers or haulers of the material.
- Help develop a Calvert County policy to purchase recycled products. Current county procurement policy does not include such a provision.
- Make contacts with local businesses to expand business recycling programs in Charles and St. Mary's Counties. Initiate Business Recycler of the Week Program in St. Mary's.

2. WHAT IS THE HOPED FOR RESULT OF THE WORK/ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED ABOVE?

- Development of a county-supported recycling program in St. Mary's County
- Expanded programs in Charles and Calvert counties to collect and recycle additional materials.

3. HOW WILL YOU MEASURE THE QUALITY OF YOUR PRODUCT OR IMPACT OF YOUR SERVICE?

- Formal review of completed projects by professionals in the field.
- Performance evaluation by professional in the field and project partners.
- Customer surveys.
- Successful implementation or planned implementation of programs developed.
- Cost effectiveness of programs developed.

4. BY WHAT STANDARD WILL YOU GAUGE SUCCESS?

- Increase the recycling rate in each county by at least one percent. Recycling levels for each county are documented to the State of Maryland for reporting to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Initiation of curbside recycling services in St. Mary's County.

5. HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS WILL RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE WORK YOUR PARTICIPANTS PERFORM?

101,154 residents in Charles County; 75,974 in St. Mary's County; and 51,372 in Calvert County (1990 Census) will benefit economically from extending local landfills' life span.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE

GRANTEE: NRCS

SITE: Maryland, St. Mary's County

SITE SUPERVISOR: Don White

PHONE NO: (301) 921-4638

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Greatly expand recycling education in the county.

1. What work will be done?

Develop a recycling curriculum for elementary, middle and high school students.

Coordinate expanded public education program on recycling.

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

Development of a county-supported recycling program in St. Mary's County.

Increased citizen participation in the County's voluntary recycling programs.

3. How will you measure the quality of your work.

Formal Review of completed projects by professionals in the field.

Performance evaluation by professionals in the field and project partners.

Customer surveys.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Increase the recycling rate in the County by ten percent.

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

75,974 in St. Mary's County (1990 Census) will benefit economically from extending the life span of local landfills.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE

GRANTEE: NRCS

SITE: Maryland, Charles County

SITE SUPERVISOR: Don White

PHONE NO: (301) 921-4638

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Greatly expand recycling education in the county.

1. What work will be done?

Initiate Save Our Streams, Master Composter, and Adopt-a-Dump Programs.

Expand Adopt-a-County Road Program.

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

Expanded recycling program in the County.

Increased citizen participation in the County's voluntary recycling programs.

3. How will you measure the quality of your work.

. Formal Review of completed projects by professionals in the field.

Performance evaluation by professionals in the field and project partners.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Four community programs will be established.

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

101,154 residents in Charles County (1990 Census) will benefit economically from extending the life span of local landfills.

1. TITLE PAGE:

- A) Title of Project: Southern Maryland Rural Development Team (Museum Program)
- B) Name of Organization: Natural Resources Conservation Service - Southern Maryland RC&D
- C) Team Type: Rural Development
- D) State of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Maryland
- E) County of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Charles County
- F) Names of counties served by Members: Charles County
- G) Congressional District of duty station of the Members: 28
- H) Name of site supervisor (at local or county level): Don White
- I) Address, phone number, and fax number of site supervisor:
Southern Maryland RC&D, Inc.
303 Post Office Road, Suite B4A
Waldorf, MD 20602
(301) 932-4638
FAX: (301) 932-4647
- J) Name of state Project Directors: Linda Elben-Adams
- K) Address, phone number, and fax number of State Project Director:
USDA, NRCS
339 Busch's Frontage Road, Suite 301
Annapolis, MD 21401-5534
(410) 757-0861
FAX: (410) 757-0687
- L) Number of Members in Environmental Teams: 0
- M) Number of Members in Rural Development Teams: 2

SOUTHERN MARYLAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM (MUSEUM PROGRAM)

The museum program's purpose is to improve the operations, programs, and facilities of Charles County's small rural and minority museums. The museums include the Port Tobacco Courthouse and the American Indian Cultural Center. The improvements sought are: increased hours of operation, increased use of volunteers, improved interpretive exhibits and programs, repairs and selected restoration projects, coordination of interpretive programs between the museums, improved conservation practices, formalized collection policies, and updated brochures. This program support AmeriCorps goals in Education, Human Needs, and Environment. The activities of team members will help the museums educate more visitors and improve their educational programs. It responds to human needs by including minority-based museum so that their contribution to local history is not neglected as it has often been in the past. It support environmental goals in the area of cultural resources by helping the museums properly document, display and store their collections so they are conserved for future generations.

Southern Maryland RC&D's partners in the museum program include the Port Tobacco Restoration Society and American Indian Heritage Society which operate museums. The museums will provide office space for the team members. Technical support and training will be provided by the Southern Maryland Museum Association, Maryland Historic Trust Museum Assistance Program, Thomas Stone National Historic Site, General Smallwood State Historic Park, Charles County Tourism Office, the Accokeek Foundation, Jefferson-Patterson Park, Historic St. Mary's City, and the Frederick County, Maryland Office of Tourism.

Mission:

To improve the operations, programs, and facilities of Charles County's small museums so they can attract more visitors, tell the history of the area in a comprehensive, accurate and compelling way, and help the local tourism industry grow.

Objectives:

Coordinate museum improvements for 2 small Charles County museums, including improved interpretive exhibits, repairs and restoration projects, and formalized collection policies.

A. Needs to be met and appropriateness for national service.

Needs: Southern Maryland RC&D is assisting a Consortium of 7 small museums in Charles County to improve their services and facilities. The museums assisted in this proposal are the Port Tobacco Courthouse and the Piscataway Indian Museum. The goal is to make them viable contributors to local tourism efforts. One of Southern Maryland's great attractions is its history. The Charles County museums are unable to make much contribution to local tourism because of their limited resources. They must maintain and operate their facilities with volunteers. This greatly limits their hours of operation and public access. Most are open to visitors only a few hours on weekends May through September or by appointment. As a result, their ability to draw tourists is severely constrained.

The RC&D has provided funding searches, grantwriting and grant administration assistance to the museums who have organized themselves as a consortium. The RC&D submitted a successful \$3600 grant application to the Maryland Historic Trust to hire a professional museum consultant to develop a plan for the museums' improvement and cooperation. The consultant worked directly with representatives of each of the museums. These same representatives meet monthly and are working now to implement his recommendations. The primary goals they established were to increase the museums' hours of operation, the number of visitors and volunteers, and implement improvements. The Museum Consortium asked Southern Maryland RC&D to request AmeriCorps volunteers to fill these positions. Such positions are uniquely suited for AmeriCorps because there is no other readily available source to fund them. It is anticipated that after 1 to 2 years of such a program, the progress made by the museums can be used to successfully seek county government funding to continue the improvement program and limited staffing.

B) Design

Concept: Southern Maryland RC&D partners in this project have agreed to provide all office space and supplies. Technical support has been offered by staff of the Southern Maryland Museum Association, Maryland Historic Trust Museum Assistance Program, the Accokeek Foundation, Thomas Stone National Historic Site, and General Smallwood State Historic Park. Our museum improvement program is based on a successful program begun two years ago in Frederick County, Maryland. This model is suitable for replication in any area with several small and minority museums. Once the museums demonstrate their viability and contribution to the local economy, their chances of successfully pursuing foundation and/or county funding to continue their programs is greatly increased.

Service Activities

- Serve as staff at museums. Supervise museum during hours of operation and serve as docent.
- Recruit and train volunteers docents.
- Update brochures.
- Design and assemble simple exhibits.
- Carry out historical research to support exhibit text.

- Carry out repair and restoration activities under supervision.
- Coordinate meetings and activities of the Museum Consortium. Serve as primary Consortium staff.
- Plan special events to increase museum exposure and visitorship.
- Relation to Need: The activities outlined above directly produce the products to satisfy the identified recycling needs.

Participant Training and Support

Representatives of each museum will provide an orientation to their facility. The museums will each provide the building materials the team needs to construct improvements. George Dyson, a licensed civil engineer who has supervised restoration of many of these facilities will provide training and supervision of the team's restoration, repair, and building efforts. Joanna Roland of the Charles County Office of Tourism will provide training to the team in museum marketing, special event planning, and brochure development. Professional museum staff from State museums will provide specialized training in historic research, exhibit design and construction, and museum operations. Team members with advanced computer skills will be asked to provide training to the rest of the team. The NRCS Volunteer Program Coordinator will provide training in coordinating volunteer programs.

Participant Placement and Supervision

After an initial orientation for the team at each museum, participants will be paired with a facility by consensus of the Museum Consortium and the team members. Each participant will have primary responsibility for improvements at a specific museum. But they will work at each of the museums as warranted by special events and improvement projects. The team will maintain their own daily schedules consistent with advertised museum hours of operation, project needs and Consortium decisions. The Consortium will provide overall direction of the AmeriCorps team activities. The Consortium will continue to meet monthly as it has for almost two years. The AmeriCorps team members will attend these meetings and provide staff assistance at them as requested by their assigned museum.

1. WHAT WORK WILL BE DONE? WHAT COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES WILL YOUR PARTICIPANTS ENGAGE IN?

- Design and assemble simple exhibits.
- Carry out repair and restoration activities under supervision.

2. WHAT IS THE HOPED FOR RESULT OF THE WORK/ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED ABOVE?

Improvement of Charles County museum facilities and exhibits.

3. HOW WILL YOU MEASURE THE QUALITY OF YOUR PRODUCT OR IMPACT OF YOUR SERVICE?

- Formal review of completed projects by professionals in the field.
- Performance evaluation by professional in the field and project partners.
- Customer surveys.
- Successful implementation or planned implementation of programs developed.
- Cost effectiveness of programs developed.

4. BY WHAT STANDARD WILL YOU GAUGE SUCCESS?

- Create 3 new exhibits or substantially revise 3 existing exhibit areas.
- Carry out 3 simple repair and/or restoration activities projects.

5. HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS WILL RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE WORK YOUR PARTICIPANTS PERFORM?

- About 101,154 Charles County residents (1990 Census) who will benefit economically from increased tourism in their area. It is estimated that each additional tourism dollar spent will have a multiplier effect in the local economy of \$6.
- 761 residents who are Native Americans (mostly Piscataway) would benefit from improved facilities preserving and outlining their contributions to local history.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE

SITE: Maryland, Charles County

PHONE NO: (301) 921-4638

#1 GRANTEE: NRCS

SITE SUPERVISOR: Don White

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Coordinate museum improvements for 2 small Charles County museums including increased hours of operation, increased use of volunteers, updated brochures, and improved interpretive programs, coordination of interpretive programs between the museums, improved conservation practices, and formalized collection policies.

1. What work will be done?

Serve as staff at museums. Supervise museum during hours of operation and serve as docents.

Recruit and train volunteer docents.

Update brochures.

Carry out historical research to support exhibit text.

Coordinate meetings and activities of the Museum Consortium and serve as Consortium staff.

Plan special events to increase museum exposure and visitorship.

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

Improvement of Charles County museum facilities and programs.

Increased hours of operation.

Increased visitor traffic and tourist industry revenues.

3. How will you measure the quality of your work?

Formal Review of completed projects by professionals in the field.

Performance evaluation by professionals in the field and project partners.

Customer surveys.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Increase aggregate hours of operation of museums by 15 percent.

Increase visitor traffic by 15 percent. (1000 annually)

Recruit 45 new volunteers.

Update brochures for 2 museums.

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

About 1000 additional museum visitors and 300 county residents who serve on the museum's governing boards and/or serve as volunteers at the museums.

101,154 Charles County residents (1990 census) who will benefit economically from increased tourism in their area.

761 Native Americans will benefit from improved outlining their contributions to local history.

1. TITLE PAGE:

A) Title of Project: Southern Maryland Rural Development Team (Recycling Program)

B) Name of Organization: Natural Resources Conservation Service - Southern Maryland RC&D

C) Team Type: Rural Development

D) State of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Maryland

E) County of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Calvert County

F) Names of counties served by Members: Calvert County

G) Congressional District of duty station of the Members: 28

H) Name of site supervisor (at local or county level): Don White

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

Southern Maryland RC&D, Inc.

303 Post Office Road, Suite B4A

Waldorf, MD 20602

(301) 932-4638

FAX: (301) 932-4647

J) Name of state Project Directors: Linda Elben-Adams

K) Address, phone number, and fax number of State Project Director:

USDA, NRCS

339 Busch's Frontage Road, Suite 301

Annapolis, MD 21401-5534

(410) 757-0861

FAX: (410) 757-0687

L) Number of Members in Environmental Teams: 0

M) Number of Members in Rural Development Teams: 1

1. TITLE PAGE:

- A) Title of Project: Southern Maryland Rural Development Team (Recycling Program)
- B) Name of Organization: Natural Resources Conservation Service - Southern Maryland RC&D
- C) Team Type: Rural Development
- D) State of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Maryland
- E) County of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Charles County
- F) Names of counties served by Members: Charles County
- G) Congressional District of duty station of the Members: 28
- H) Name of site supervisor (at local or county level): Don White
- I) Address, phone number, and fax number of site supervisor:
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- J) Name of state Project Directors: Linda Elben-Adams
- K) Address, phone number, and fax number of State Project Director:
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Annapolis, MD 21401-5534
(410) 757-0861
FAX: (410) 757-0687
- L) Number of Members in Environmental Teams: 0
- M) Number of Members in Rural Development Teams: 1

SOUTHERN MARYLAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM (RECYCLING PROGRAM)

One member will initiate a recycling program in St. Mary's County. The other two members will expand existing recycling programs in Calvert and Charles County. Their work will support AmeriCorps objectives in both Education and the Environment. Their activities will include of public outreach and school programs designed to increase environmental awareness and participation in recycling programs. Increasing recycling improved local water quality, saves energy, and helps conserve trees.

Southern Maryland RC&D's partners in the recycling project include the Public Works Departments in St. Mary's and Calvert Counties and the Department of Public Facilities in Charles County. They will provide office space, training, vehicles (or mileage allowance) and daily supervision for 3 members, one per county.

Mission:

To initiate a recycling program in St. Mary's County. To expand existing recycling programs in Calvert and Charles County, including adding more services and educational outreach programs to increase resident participation.

Objectives:

Initiate a recycling program in St. Mary's County and expand existing programs in Calvert and Charles County.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE

GRANTEE: NRCS

SITE: Maryland, Calvert County

SITE SUPERVISOR: Don White

PHONE NO: (301) 921-4638

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Greatly expand recycling education in the county.

1. What work will be done?

Develop a recycling curriculum for elementary, middle and high school students.

Coordinate expanded public education program on recycling.

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

Expanded recycling program in Calvert County.

Increased citizen participation in the County's voluntary recycling programs.

3. How will you measure the quality of your work?

Formal review of completed projects by professionals in the field.

Performance evaluation by professionals in the field and project partners.

Customer surveys.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

reducing solid waste by 370 tons per year.

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

51,372 residents of Calvert County (1990 Census) will benefit economically from extending the life span of local landfills.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE

GRANTEE: NRCS

SITE: Maryland, Charles County

SITE SUPERVISOR: Don White

PHONE NO: (301) 921-4638

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Greatly expand recycling education in the county.

1. What work will be done?

Initiate Save Our Streams, Master Composter, and Adopt-a-Dump Programs.

Expand Adopt-a-County Road Program.

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

Expanded recycling program in the County.

Increased citizen participation in the County's voluntary recycling programs.

3. How will you measure the quality of your work.

. Formal Review of completed projects by professionals in the field.

Performance evaluation by professionals in the field and project partners.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Four community programs will be established.

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

101,154 residents in Charles County (1990 Census) will benefit economically from extending the life span of local landfills.

1. TITLE PAGE:

- A) Title of Project: Urban Ecosystem Restoration
- B) Name of Organization: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- C) Team Type: Combined
- D) State of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: District of Columbia
- E) County of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Not applicable
- F) Names of counties served by Members: District of Columbia; Montgomery, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, St. Mary's, Charles, Calvert, Queen Anne's, Kent, Talbot, and Worcester counties, Maryland
- G) Congressional District of duty station of the Members: DC
- H) Name of site supervisor (at local or county level): To be Appointed by State Conservationist
- I) Address, phone number, and fax number of site supervisor:
901 Newton Street, N.E..
Washington, DC 20017
(202) 274-6914
FAX: (202) 274-6930
- J) Name of state Project Directors: Linda Elben-Adams
- K) Address, phone number, and fax number of State Project Director:
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339 Busch's Frontage Road, Suite 301
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(410) 757-0861
FAX: (410) 757-0687
- L) Number of Members in Environmental Teams: 6
- M) Number of Members in Rural Development Teams: 1

1. TITLE PAGE:

- A) Title of Project: Environmental Education and Community Outreach
- B) Name of Organization: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- C) Team Type: Combined
- D) State of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Maryland
- E) County of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Prince George's
- F) Names of counties served by Members: Prince George's Charles, St. Mary's, Calvert, Montgomery, Anne Arundel, Queen Anne's, Kent, Talbot, Worcester counties, Maryland; and the District of Columbia
- G) Congressional District of duty station of the Members: 5
- H) Name of site supervisor (at local or county level): To be Appointed by State Conservationist
- I) Address, phone number, and fax number of site supervisor:
National Plant Materials Center
9100 Soil Conservation Road
Bldg. 509, BARC-East
(301) 504-8175
FAX: ((301) 504-8741
- J) Name of state Project Directors: Linda Elben-Adams
- K) Address, phone number, and fax number of State Project Director:
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339 Busch's Frontage Road, Suite 301
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(410) 757-0861
FAX: (410) 757-0687
- L) Number of Members in Environmental Teams: 6
- M) Number of Members in Rural Development Teams: 1

SUMMARY PAGE

- Four erosion control structures were constructed on public land in Charles County, Maryland, in conjunction with the Izaak Walton League.
- Assisted Southern Maryland Izaak Walton League members in staking out and clearing a future handicapped accessible trail through a portion of the Zekiah Swamp in Waldorf, Maryland. Implemented erosion control techniques at several problem sites.
- Assisted NRCS engineers and hydrologist with land survey and data analysis for the Emergency Flood Plan of the Gilbert Run Watershed in Southern Maryland. Worked with NRCS hydrologist to breakdown survey results. Copied data and plotted cross-section results for use in floodplain survey report.
- Conducted a stream survey analysis to help community improve health of our streams in conjunction with Coordinator for Watershed Protection.
- Restored access to several trails and incorporated water bars into trails to minimize erosion at the William F. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center in Prince George's County. Construction of a campfire site and wildlife feeding station.
- Planned and constructed an outdoor education trail for school use through a wooded wetland area at North Forestville Elementary School in Prince George's County.
- Painted D.C. recreation and Parks (DCRP) locker and shower room at the Natatorium swimming facility.
- Built a 45 foot boardwalk and 10 park picnic tables at National Park Service's Greenbelt Park.
- Constructed housing for endangered bird species at Department of Interior, Patuxent Wildlife Center at Greenbelt.
- Assisted at homeless shelter for women in Hughesville, Maryland. As a result, one member was asked to serve as a mentor at the shelter.
- Worked in greenhouse at Beltsville National Plant Materials Center potting plants and completing field work in preparation for a mentoring project utilizing plant materials.
- Assisted with NPMC landscaping at Center. Activity served as teambuilding training as well as basic tool safety training.
- Completed clean-up at Lake Artemesia and landscape improvements and conducted site assessment.
- Attended Save Our Streams workshops on stream monitoring.
- Developed letters and sent them out to area businesses and schools requesting their participation and support for a community clean-up day Banneker Park in cooperation with Adopt-a-Park.
- Completed site assessment at Ft. Lincoln park and began work.
- Completed site assessment of Bald Eagle Recreation facility and began painting.
- Built 30 bluebird nesting boxes to be placed at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Area schools will maintain and monitor the boxes.
- Wildflower seeds planted in greenhouse at PMC to be used at community clean-up days.

- Developed and conducted several environmental awareness workshops on soil erosion, tree planting, and other natural resources for students at North Forestville Elementary.
- Began planning reestablishment of Crider Memorial Gardens, a display of native plants recommended by NRCS. Research on NRCS plant releases and native conservation plants in use today and utilization of this information in the landscape design is planned to encompass five different conservation functions. Proposal is being drafted to receive funding.
- Assisted NRCS Plant Material Center staff with several hundred native plantings for the revegetation of construction sites in Shenandoah National Park.
- Erected kestrel and screech owl boxes at Cheltenham Natural Area, Clinton Park.
- Improvement and maintenance of trail systems at the Patuxent National Wildlife Center.

B) Utilizing experiences from the 1995 project, USDA will administer a 7 member team with 1 Rural Development Corps member as Crew Leader at 2 locations, Washington, D.C., and Beltsville, Maryland (14 members total). The teams will interact during joint training and projects throughout the year.

Technical assistance and administrative support will be provided and supervised by Dr. Jeri Berc, State Conservationist for Maryland and the District of Columbia. Project directors will be selected by Dr. Berc immediately following acceptance of the proposal to allow consistency and continuity throughout the project. Crew leaders will be recruited before crew members to allow crew leader participation in the recruitment and selection process. This will also ensure crew leader orientation and training prior to orientation of crew members.

Our primary partners will remain the Prince George's Soil Conservation District and the District of Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District. They will continue to provide access to their existing partnerships with other governmental agencies, Boards of Education and non-profit organizations.

Key elements include the variety of experiences and exposures members will receive while serving the public in the environmental field. The team will learn to work together while coming from diverse backgrounds. Members will receive hands-on environmental training to cultivate a self-help ethic and an insight into accomplishing objectives with limited resources. In addition, the team will utilize problem-solving processes to "get things done."

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE #1 - WASHINGTON, D.C./MARYLAND
GRANTEE: NRCS SITE: WASHINGTON, D.C.
SITE SUPERVISOR: To be appointed by Maryland State Conservationist

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To renovate and enhance recreation centers and parks in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

1. What work will be done? Renovate public recreation centers and parks with practices such as pruning, landscaping, mulching, clean-up, carpentry, painting, tree planting, and others. Assist local residents in community gardening through composting projects, clean-up days, and planting projects. Develop partnerships with communities and/or local businesses for the Adopt-a-Park Program and to hold clean-up days with volunteers.
2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above? Four recreational centers and/or parks will be renovated. Three clean-up days will occur in partnership with local community and/or local businesses.
3. How will you measure the quality of your work? The quality will be measured and assured by federal, state or city agency controlling land by review and inspection. Evaluation forms will be filled out by people in the community.
4. By what standard will you gauge success? 250 volunteers will be utilized. Maintenance of 75 percent of the renovated recreation centers and parks will be adopted by local community groups and/or local businesses.
5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work of your Members? An estimated 10,000 individuals will benefit from recreation centers and parks renovated by participants efforts.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE #2 - WASHINGTON, D.C./MARYLAND
GRANTEE: NRCS SITE: WASHINGTON, D.C.
SITE SUPERVISOR: To be appointed by Maryland State Conservationist

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To plan and implement environmental projects that help preserve and maintain natural resources serving the residents of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

1. What work will be done? Identifying water quality, fish habitat, streambank erosion and drainage problems through public information surveys. Conduct stream clean-up days in partnership with community volunteers, youth groups, and local businesses. Tree planting along riparian zone of streams and throughout the watersheds. Identify, collect, and grow plant materials for use in bio-engineering projects. Use bio-engineering techniques for addressing identified streambank erosion problems and wetland restoration.
2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
Reduction of streambank erosion.
3. How will you measure the quality of your work? The quality will be measured by NRCS standards and specifications and other professional experts. Evaluation forms will be filled out by people in the community.
4. By what standard will you gauge success? The projects targeted in sub-watersheds result in 15 storm drains stenciled, 1500 linear feet of stream clean-up resulting in soil loss by 200 tons, and 3 acres of trees planted.
5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work of your Members? An estimated 2,000 individuals will benefit from environmental projects installed by participants efforts.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE #3 - WASHINGTON, D.C./MARYLAND
GRANTEE: NRCS SITE: WASHINGTON, D.C.
SITE SUPERVISOR: To be appointed by Maryland State Conservationist

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To develop and construct or enhance environmental resources to be used by the public for environmental education and community outreach.

1. What work will be done? Establish 2 and improve 5 outdoor education facilities in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Participate in teachers' workshops to share ideas and be exposed to environmental education. Provide technical assistance to schools such as site surveys, landscape practices, and hands-on educational activities with students.
2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above? Education/interest generated by nearby residents in the importance of local natural resources. Increased use of the sites. The constructed or enhanced site will be utilized as part of an educational package for teaching.
3. How will you measure the quality of your work? Site inspections of outdoor education facilities and teacher evaluations
4. By what standard will you gauge success? Increased number and quality of environmental education facilities. Establish 2 and improve 5 outdoor education facilities
70 % of teacher evaluations have positive response to improved facilities.
5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work of your Members? The population of the community served 6,000 students, their parents, teachers, and local residents.

1. TITLE PAGE:

A) Title of Project: Southern Maryland Rural Development Team (Forest Conservation Program)

B) Name of Organization: Natural Resources Conservation Service - Southern Maryland RC&D

C) Team Type: Rural Development

D) State of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Maryland

E) County of Duty Station of AmeriCorps Members: Charles County

F) Names of counties served by Members: Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's Counties

G) Congressional District of duty station of the Members: 28

H) Name of site supervisor (at local or county level): Don White

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

Southern Maryland RC&D, Inc.

303 Post Office Road, Suite B4A

Waldorf, MD 20602

(301) 932-4638

FAX: (301) 932-4647

J) Name of state Project Directors: Linda Elben-Adams

K) Address, phone number, and fax number of State Project Director:

USDA, NRCS

339 Busch's Frontage Road, Suite 301

Annapolis, MD 21401-5534

(410) 757-0861

FAX: (410) 757-0687

L) Number of Members in Environmental Teams: 0

M) Number of Members in Rural Development Teams: 1

SOUTHERN MARYLAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM (FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM)

The team member will carry out a broad array of conservation activities that no one in the region is currently undertaking. The forest conservation program will support AmeriCorps objectives in Education and the Environment. Activities will largely consist of public outreach designed to recruit and train volunteers and increase landowner and public agency participation in existing conservation and tree planting programs. It will also promote the use of the forest conservation Project Learning Tree curricula in local schools.

Southern Maryland RC&D's partnership in the forest conservation program include the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Forests Association (a group of forest landowners, mill operators, and loggers), Tree Farm Committee, 3 County Forestry Boards, the Cooperative Extension Service and Eastern Shore RC&D. They will provide training, program support, and direction to the team members. Southern Maryland RC&D will provide office space, supplies and daily supervision. The Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide a vehicle.

Mission:

To initiate a forest conservation program in Southern Maryland to carry out conservation projects that existing public and private foresters are unable to carry out.

Objective:

Initiate a tree and shore grass planting program on public lands in Southern Maryland utilizing existing resources and programs currently underutilized in the region.

1. WHAT WORK WILL BE DONE? WHAT COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES WILL YOUR PARTICIPANTS ENGAGE IN?

- Initiate a volunteer tree planting program on public land in Southern Maryland, coordinating efforts with a broad array of local, state and federal agencies, businesses and private foresters.
- Research the numerous existing tree planting resources and programs. Organize them into a user-guide to include tree vendors, grants, subsidies, potential partner organizations, similar programs, etc.
- Initiate program to plant shore grasses on public lands to reduce shore erosion and increase wetland habitat.
- Promote tree and shore grass plantings to citizen groups (e.g., Kiwanis, Garden Clubs, Moose Lodges, Boy Scouts, churches, etc.). Organize plantings. Evaluate sites, select species, and obtain planting stock. Train volunteers in proper planting and care.
- Carry out trail and wildlife habitat improvements on state forests.

2. WHAT IS THE HOPED FOR RESULT OF THE WORK/ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED ABOVE?

- User-guide for tree planting programs.
- Develop volunteer resources for 500 volunteer hours of tree and shore grass planting.
- tree or shore grass plantings on public lands.

- Complete 2 improvement projects on state forests.

3. HOW WILL YOU MEASURE THE QUALITY OF YOUR PRODUCT OR IMPACT OF YOUR SERVICE?

- Performance evaluation by professional in the field and project partners.
- Planting survival rates.
- Evaluations of the effectiveness of projects in accomplishing goals.
- Customer surveys.
- Cost effectiveness of programs developed.

4. BY WHAT STANDARD WILL YOU GAUGE SUCCESS?

- Utilized 500 volunteer hours.
- Complete 2 improvement projects on state forests.
- 80% survival rate for plantings
- 90% of customers satisfied

5. HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS WILL RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE WORK YOUR PARTICIPANTS PERFORM?

- Five public agencies. Individuals benefiting will depend on jurisdictions participating.
- Residents of that jurisdiction would benefit from low cost improvements to public resources and improved water quality from erosion reduction adjacent to water bodies. Improvements at local state forests will benefit the approximately 2000 visitors they receive annually.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE #1

GRANTEE: NRCS

SITE: Maryland, Charles County

SITE SUPERVISOR: Don White

PHONE NO: (301) 921-4638

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Establish program to plant forest buffers in Southern Maryland. Initiate a broad forest conservation program in the region using existing resources and programs.

1. What work will be done?

- Initiate program to promote the planting of forest buffers in riparian areas. Meet with federal and state agencies to learn about incentive programs and application process. Promote buffer plantings at landowners functions (e.g., farm tours, Extension outings, dinners, Farm Bureau meetings and mailings, Co-Op newsletters, etc.). Provide direction technical assistance to interested landowners in site evaluation, species selection, buffer design, application submittals, seedling orders and delivery, planting supervision, etc.
- Serve as RC&D liaison with the Maryland Forests Association (a private industry group of woodland landowners, private foresters, wood industries, and loggers), Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) foresters, local Forestry Boards,

Tree Farm Committee, Extension Foresters, and the Maryland Eastern Shore RC&D Forester to develop and carry out a forest conservation program in Southern Maryland.

- Coordinate a region-wide Forestry Seminar for woodland landowners to improve their management and conservation skills.
- Organize and schedule training sessions of the new statewide Master Logger Program in Southern Maryland. Promote individual workshops to loggers. Track and maintain attendance records. Visit program participants in field for follow-up assistance and evaluation. Promote program to landowners, MFA, mill owners, loggers, and landowners.
- Initiate outreach program to reach forest landowners who do not have forest management plans and refer them to public and private foresters.
- Initiate Project Learning Tree Program for local schools.
- Initiate outreach program to involve more landowners in gypsy moth inventory program.

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

- Increased use of best management practices by landowners and loggers.
- Increased participation in gypsy moth inventories by landowners and in Project Learning Tree by schools.

3. How will you measure the quality of your work?

- Formal Review of completed projects by professionals in the field.
- Performance evaluation by professionals in the field and project partners.
- Customer surveys.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

- Planting of 5 buffer areas.
- Completion of 2 Master Logger workshops in the region.
- Initiation of one new RC&D project developed by AmeriCorps volunteer in consultation with program partners.
- Attendance of at least 50 forest landowners at forestry seminar.
- Referral of 5 landowners without forest management plans to local foresters.
- Additional 5 landowners assisting with gypsy moth inventories.
- Additional 3 schools using Project Learning Tree materials.

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

- 50+ landowners attending forestry seminar.
- 100+ loggers in the region who will be able to participate in the statewide Master Logger Program.
- 200+ members of the Maryland Forest Association, 15 members of the 3 local Forestry boards, and 50+ members of the local Tree Farm committee who will benefit from having an AmeriCorps forester available to carry out conservation programs with them. All of these organizations are volunteer groups with no staffs of their own.

- Approximately 4500 forest landowners in region benefiting from more effective gypsy moth control.
- 100 additional benefiting from Project Learning Tree curricula.

AmeriCorps II - Rural Development for Eastern Massachusetts

Project title: West Wareham Programs

Organizations:

For Water Quality Improvement: Plymouth County Conservation District, Cape Cod
Cranberry Growers' Association, NRCS.

For Environmental Education: NRCS, Elementary and Secondary Schools throughout Eastern
Mass.

Team Types: Rural Development Corps.

State: Massachusetts

County: Plymouth

Counties Served: Plymouth, Bristol, Norfolk, Suffolk

Congressional District: 5th Massachusetts

Site Supervisors:

For Environmental Education: James T. Turenne, USDA NRCS, 15 Cranberry Highway,
West Wareham, MA 02576. Tel: (508) 295-1867; Fax: (508) 291-2368.

For Cranberry Bog Water Quality: Leonard Reno, USDA NRCS, 15 Cranberry Highway,
West Wareham, MA 02576. Tel: (508) 295-7962; Fax: (508) 291-2368.

State Project Director: Marc A. MacQueen, USDA NRCS, 15 Cranberry Highway, West Wareham,
MA 02576. Tel:(508) 295-1481, Fax: (508) 292-2368.

2 Rural Development Team members at this site, working on two projects.

Project Summary: Cranberry Bog Water Quality Improvement.

Whereas most field crops need about one acre-foot of water per acre of crop during the growing season, much of which is supplied by rainfall, growers use (but do not consume) 6-10 acre-feet of water per acre of cranberries. Much of this water is used for frost irrigation, harvest flood and winter flood. Growers are therefore also vitally interested in storing and re-using water wherever possible.

Commercial cranberry culture requires significant use of biocides for plant and insect pest control. Because bogs are located in wetlands, and surrounded by a network of ditches, canals and reservoirs, growers must use chemicals very carefully to avoid water pollution.

This program would provide growers with technical assistance for inventorying bogs and water management systems, developing conservation plans, and assisting landowners to implement planned water quality Best Management Practices. The program supplements assistance to growers already available from the NRCS and the Plymouth County Conservation District. These programs, although very effective, can only meet a small part of the demand for services. As the public becomes more aware of potential problem associated with use of agricultural chemicals, they demand increased compliance and consistency with environmental regulations for agriculture. This program will help insure that cranberry growers can receive the technical help they need to remain in operation. This will promote an industry that generates \$360 million annually.

Key Elements of Program Design:

1. Assist 80 landowners, managing 2,000 acres, to inventory and assess water management programs.
2. Inform farmers on water quality issues, and on ways to solve agricultural nonpoint source problems.

3. Hold workshops for all cranberry growers.
4. Assist 20 farmers to install water quality Best Management Practices .

Administering Organization: The NRCS Office in West Wareham, MA will administer this project.

Mission: To assist cranberry growers to protect and manage water resources.

Annual Objectives:

Assist landowners to prepare conservation plans for cranberry bogs.

Assist landowners to implement planned water quality management practices.

Conduct workshops to inform growers on water quality issues and ways to solve agricultural nonpoint source problems.

Needs to be Met and Appropriateness for National Service:

Protecting water quality is in everyone's interest. Doing so while assisting an agricultural industry to remain viable promotes the economy of southeastern Massachusetts, diversifies land use, and helps retain a prominent part of the region's identity and attraction for tourists. Cranberry growing is vital to the region; protection of natural resources is also essential. This program will significantly increase the capacity of existing programs to help cranberry growers meet their own and society's needs.

Process:

1. Inventory bog cultural practices and water management with growers.
2. Assist growers to develop conservation plans to achieve their goals in a technically sound manner.
3. Survey and design cranberry bog Best Management Practices.
4. Hold workshops to inform other growers.

B. DESIGN.

Concept: Working with Conservation Districts and Growers' Associations, we will provide technical assistance to help cranberry growers protect the environment while remaining economically viable.

Service Activities:

Visit landowners to assess goals and their operations.

Develop technically sound alternatives for achieving goals.

Survey, design and lay out Best Management Practices.

Hold workshops to educate other cranberry growers.

Relation to Need: Citizens, growers and state agencies are vitally interested in protecting water quality. Existing programs, run by NRCS and others, can only reach about 5 % of the growers needing assistance annually. Further, conservation planning requirements for all farmers, but especially those as water-dependent as cranberry growers, are becoming more complex. This slows the assistance process further. AmeriCorps will expand NRCS ability to work with growers significantly.

Participant Training and Support: The AmeriCorps member will receive all necessary training, administrative and other support from NRCS staff.

Placement and Supervision: The participant will work in the NRCS office in West Wareham, Mass.

What is the work to be done?

Assist landowners in the preparation of conservation plans for cranberry bogs.

Assist landowners in implementing planned water quality Best Management Practices.

Educate and inform farmers on water quality issues and methods to solve agricultural nonpoint source problems.

Cons. District and Grower Association will hold workshops on specific water quality BMPs.

What is the desired result?

Help maintain and restore an important resource base.

Improved water quality and quantity.

Increased landowner and farmer awareness of the importance of resource conservation.

How will quality or impact be measured?

Technical guidance will come from NRCS specifications and the NRCS Technical Guide.

Inspection and construction according to NRCS standards and specifications.

What is the standard for success?

90% of requests for services are completed and conservation plans implemented.

40 plans for installing water quality BMPs are completed.

20 water quality measures are implemented on individual properties.

How many individuals will benefit from this work?

40 individual growers will benefit from conservation planning.

20 individual growers will benefit from application of conservation practices.

Over 500 cranberry growers will benefit from workshops and educational forums.

An estimated 2,000 watershed residents will benefit from the water quality protection that occurs when water quality BMPs are installed.

How many members will work on this objective?

1 Rural Development Corps (RDC) member.

What is the cluster site for this individual?

West Wareham, MA

Project Summary: Environmental Education, West Wareham, MA

People know very little about soil. We depend on it for food and fiber, we pump water out of it; we dispose of our wastes in it, we erect structures on it, and for most of us it's dirt - a messy, inconvenient substance that we spend a lot of time ignoring or sweeping out. This project has two parts: 1.) to enlighten students about soils and soil science, and help them understand soils; 2) to help local decision-makers use Cooperative Soil Survey information better in making land-use decisions.

The AmeriCorps volunteer will produce soils exhibits for use in elementary and secondary schools. (S)he will also help train local teams of high school students in soils information as part of Envirothon competitions. The individual will gather local information in two communities to prepare "Soils Potential" reports. These will help the community decision-makers to use soils information as an appropriate planning tool.

Key Elements of Program Design:

1. Design and help construct a "Soils Tunnel". This exhibit gives students a worm's-eye view the soil. We have had one in the past; it was tremendously popular, and in constant demand with area schools.
2. Tour 50 elementary schools with the Soils Tunnel.
3. Train Envirothon teams at 5 high schools to recognize and interpret soils characteristics,.
4. Gather data on septic system failure, and other information, to assist in the preparation of Soils Potential Reports for two communities.
5. Prepare other displays and present soil science and geology information to elementary and secondary schools.

Administering Organization: NRCS, West Wareham Office.

Mission: To educate students and local decision-makers on soil characteristics, and on ways to use soils information to improve land-use and land management decisions.

Annual Objectives:

Prepare and exhibit displays at schools throughout the region.

Gather data to help make Soil Surveys more relevant for local communities.

Train students for Envirothon competitions.

Needs to be Met and Appropriateness for National Service:

Education on soils and soils management is an essential component of environmental education.

Such work helps insure that decision-makers carry out their work from a better base of knowledge.

Educating students in soils and geology may help insure that tomorrow's leaders are more interested in basic resource information, and are able to interpret their world more knowledgeably.

Process:

1. Build soils and geology exhibits.
2. Bring them to schools and make presentations on soils and geology to students.
3. Train high school students in recognizing soils characteristics.
4. Visit town halls, Public Works Departments, other local offices to gather the data needed to make the Soil Survey relevant to local needs.

B. DESIGN.

Concept: Educating students on soils and geology will improve tomorrow's environmental and land-use decisions. Producing Soils Potentials Studies for communities will help insure that soils information is factored into current land-use decisions.

Service Activities:

1. Build soils and geology exhibits.
2. Bring them to schools and make presentations on soils and geology to students.
3. Train high school students in recognizing soils characteristics.
4. Visit town halls, Public Works Departments, other local offices to gather the data needed to make the Soil Survey relevant to local needs.

Relation to Need: Schools throughout the region are constantly asking technical specialists from NRCS to conduct classes, workshops, exhibits, field trips, and other educational programs. The NRCS Office prepared a "Soils Tunnel" in 1993. It is in constant demand, but soils staff cannot spare the time to visit schools with it. They must spend all their time mapping soils.

There are approximately 160 communities in the Eastern Mass. region. Developers and town officials are interested in using NRCS Soil Surveys for help in making decisions. However, Soil Survey interpretations present information on degree of limitation for certain uses, such as on-site sewage disposal, but do not discuss how to overcome limitations. Soil Potentials studies would inform decision-makers on site characteristics and on how to deal with them economically and effectively.

Participant Training and Support: This will come from Field Office, Soil Survey Office, and State Office technical specialists.

Participant Placement and Supervision: The participant will work out of the West Wareham NRCS Office, under supervision of James T. Turenne, Party Leader, Plymouth County Soil Survey, with the assistance of other soil scientists.

Project Objective: Educate students, and provide better tools to local decision-makers.

What is the work to be done?

Tour 50 elementary schools with the Soil Tunnel.

Gather data to write Soils Potentials reports for two communities in Plymouth County.

Train Envirothon Teams at five high schools to recognize and interpret soil characteristics.

Present soil science and geology information to elementary and secondary schools.

What is the desired result?

Increased public awareness of the role of soils in human life, and better appreciation of how to manage soils to retain their productivity and benefits.

Better use of published Soil Surveys to site on-site sewage disposal systems.

How will quality or impact be measured?

For use of the Soil Tunnel, by pre-and-post-exposure surveys.

For Soils Potentials studies, incorporation into town permitting processes.

Improved team results in Envirothon competitions.

What is the standard of success?

30% improvement in test scores for students exposed to the Soil Tunnel.

Authorization by two local communities to use innovative/alternative septic system designs in critical areas.

How many individuals will benefit from this work?

2,000 students exposed to the Soil Tunnel, and to soil science and geology presentations.

Local officials and residents of two communities.

How many members will work on this objective?

1 Rural Development Corps (RDC) Member.

What is the cluster site for this individual?

West Wareham, MA

Project Summary

According to the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries, 200 fishways enable runs of anadromous species, including alewife, blueback herring and American Shad to reach natal spawning grounds in over 100 coastal Massachusetts streams. However, to reach spawning areas, fish must negotiate road culverts and other obstructions, as well as fish ladders.

Fish ladders are designed with fish in mind, to provide adequate passage. Culverts may also have been designed to allow fish passage, but as development occurs, roads settle, water withdrawals change, etc. fish can become stranded on either side of the culvert, as they come in to spawn in Spring, or leave for the ocean later in the year.

Coastal Issues: Fish populations in many streams in Massachusetts have dwindled, at least in part because of migration barriers. The project includes barrier analysis of culverts, checks of fish ladders to determine maintenance needs, and work with residents, local officials, town Public Works Departments and state agencies to develop priorities for remediation. Culvert inventories will take place in late summer-early fall to document challenges to juvenile herring as they swim downstream. Fish ladder inventories will take place during the spring migration of adult herring to verify where flow or passage problems exist.

Inland Issues: Rivers are used as dumps. The Mass. Division of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement (FWELE) has documented hundreds of miles of inland stream reaches that have lost fish populations because of pipes and other obstructions, debris, and nonpoint source problems associated with adjacent land use. This project would enable local officials and state agencies to document obstructions, prepare remedial strategies and begin carrying them out.

Key Elements of Program Design:

The fish habitat improvement project will be based on needs expressed by state fish and wildlife management agencies, with support from watershed management associations and other nonprofit groups.

We will support their interest with:

Local outreach and education to choose candidate stream systems.

Assessment of habitat and water quality impairments under guidance of experts.

Coordination to involve local volunteers in data gathering process.

Gather information on adjacent land uses, watershed conditions, etc.

Conduct fish censuses during appropriate seasons; inventory obstructions in late summer.

Document impairments, etc. on standard forms.

Inform residents and agencies of findings.

Work with officials and citizens to set priorities for remedial work and generate alternatives.

Gain agreement on Operation and Maintenance Plans for stream improvements.

Do preliminary designs and cost estimates; assist with locating funds for implementation.

Assist with layout of chosen alternatives.

Administering Organization:

The NRCS Office in Barnstable would administer this project. Primary program partners are the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries, the Mass. Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement, and Trout Unlimited. All are recognized technical experts; the state agencies listed also have statewide regulatory responsibility for fisheries management.

Mission:

Through inventories led by competent authorities, and assistance in design and layout of remedial measures, AmeriCorps efforts will help maintain or increase the acreage of ponds and lakes, and miles of rivers and streams available for fish spawning. This will increase the biodiversity of eastern Massachusetts and increase economic and recreational opportunity for the region's residents.

Annual Objectives:

1. Inventory and improve fish ladders in 30 coastal communities.

Action Items:

Evaluate fish ladders and culverts in coastal streams.

Assist community groups to determine priorities, and clean out debris.

Do community outreach to help citizens' groups manage fish ladders.

2. Inventory and improve anadromous fish runs in 30 coastal communities.

Action Items:

Assess streams to locate all obstructions to fish passage, and determine potential for improvement.

Coordinate volunteers and local officials to redesign or remove obstructions.

Develop low-flow augmentation programs to insure adequate summer water for fish runs.

3. Inventory and improve riparian corridors on inland streams.

Action Items:

Assess streams to locate all obstructions (culverts, downed trees, etc.) to fish passage, and determine potential for improvement.

Coordinate volunteers and local officials to redesign or remove obstructions.

Work with local and state officials to design fish and wildlife habitat improvement BMPs.

Assist in layout of improvement projects.

A. Needs to be met and Appropriateness for National Service

Improvement in fish and wildlife diversity with greater fish access to historic spawning areas.

Increased local awareness and ability to manage fisheries resources and habitats effectively.

Economic improvement through increased tourism.

Greater "Coastal Ethic" as citizens recognize the benefits of linkage to water quality improvement.

These projects will help maintain fish and wildlife populations that are regionally important.

Greater diversity of fish and wildlife promotes economic growth, through tourism and associated industries. It also strengthens the links between man and the other inhabitants of the planet.

Process:

1. Train AmeriCorps members and local volunteers to gather information on stream conditions, fish populations, hydrology and hydraulics and other facets of the data-gathering process.
2. Work with sponsors to set priorities for action based on severity of problems, likelihood of population increase if streams are improved, and local willingness to maintain improvements.

B. DESIGN.

Concept: Working from current data on needs, problems, loss of fish habitat, reduced population size, etc. gathered by state agencies and nonprofit groups such as Trout Unlimited, a Rural Development AmeriCorps Team would assist agencies to gather the detailed information needed to draw up plans and priorities for remedial work.

Service Activities:

With state agencies, inventory physical, hydrologic and biological conditions in streams.

Conduct education and outreach.

Conduct engineering surveys to determine possibilities and costs for remedial work.

Write reports summarizing findings.

Train local volunteers to assist in inventories and cleanup work.

Relation to Need:

Because of budget cuts and other agency mandates, these inventories and remedial work would either not occur, or would take several years longer without support from AmeriCorps Team members.

Participant training and support:

Participants will receive close training and supervision from state agencies and NRCS technical staffs in all aspects of the work.

Participant Placement and Supervision:

Participants will have either a college diploma in biology or natural resources management, or significant practical experience in an appropriate field. They will work out of the Barnstable, MA NRCS Field Office, under administrative supervision of the District Conservationist and technical supervision of state natural resource agency specialists. NRCS and other agency specialists will provide training, and will insure that all work conforms to standard protocols.

Project Objectives:

Improvement in fish and wildlife diversity with greater fish access to historic spawning areas.

Increased local awareness and ability to manage fisheries resources and habitats effectively.

Greater "Coastal Ethic" as citizens recognize the benefits of linkage to water quality improvement.

All three objectives will be served through the following set of activities.

What is the work to be done?

1. Inventory and improve fish ladders in 30 coastal communities.

- Evaluate fish ladders and clean out debris.
- Develop short and long term maintenance plans.
- Do community outreach to help citizens' groups manage fish ladders.

2. Inventory and improve anadromous fish runs in 30 coastal communities.

- Assess streams to locate all obstructions (culverts, downed trees, etc.) to fish passage, and determine potential for improvement.
- Coordinate volunteers and local officials to redesign or remove obstructions.
- Develop low-flow augmentation programs to insure adequate summer water for fish runs.

3. Inventory and improve riparian corridors in streams away from the coast.

- Assess streams to locate all obstructions (culverts, downed trees, etc.) to fish passage, and determine potential for improvement.
- Coordinate volunteers and local officials to redesign or remove obstructions.
- Work with local and state officials to design fish and wildlife habitat improvement BMPs.
- Assist in layout of improvement projects.

What is the desired result?

- Insure unobstructed fish access from the ocean to historic spawning grounds.
- Increase herring populations by providing increased spawning acreage.
- Determine ways to improve fish and wildlife habitat on inland streams, and install BMPs.

How will quality or impact be measured?

- Pre-and-Post sampling of the number of fish getting through ladders in a given time.
- Observation of herring in areas where they had not been observed in recent years.
- Observation or capture of fish in previously unavailable areas.
- Miles of stream made accessible will be measured.

What is the standard for success?

- An increase of at least 5 acres of spawning areas opened per river or stream.
- Installation of at least 5 fish habitat improvement projects.
- All habitat improvement projects must meet NRCS and state agency technical standards.
- An increase of 10 miles of stream made accessible.

How many individuals will benefit from this work?

- 150,000 residents will be able to visit improved fish runs.
- 40,000 tourists will include visits to herring runs as tourist attractions.
- 10,000 fishermen and other residents will benefit from greater biodiversity.

How many members will work on this objective?

2 Rural Development Corps (RDC) members.

What is the cluster site for this group?

Barnstable, MA

AmeriCorps II - Rural Development for Eastern Massachusetts

Project Title: Westford Programs

Organizations:

For Water Quality Improvement: Charles River Watershed Association, Merrimack River Watershed Association, Mass. Department of Environmental Protection, Mass. Division of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement, local officials and citizen groups, USDA NRCS.

For Improved Public Access: Merrimack River Watershed Association, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, Mass. Division of Conservation Services, local communities, Mass. Division of Forests and Parks, local officials and citizen groups, USDA NRCS.

Team Types: Rural Development Corps.

State: Massachusetts

County: Middlesex

Counties Served: Middlesex, Essex and Plymouth

Congressional District: 4th Massachusetts

Site Supervisor: Daniel Lenthall, USDA NRCS, 319 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886-4104. Tel: (508) 692-1904; Fax: (508) 392-1305

State Project Director: Marc A. MacQueen, USDA NRCS, 15 Cranberry Highway, West Wareham, MA 02576. Tel: (508) 295-1481; Fax: (508) 291-2368

6 Rural Development Team members at this site, working on 3 projects.

Project Summary: Water Quality Improvement Team.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has begun a River Basin Planning Program that looks at all activities in a watershed: water withdrawals, discharges, local land uses, zoning and land use regulation, nonpoint source pollution, etc. before issuing or renewing permits for water-dependent concerns. They are involving citizens and local officials in watershed planning, and attempting to write watershed management plans that build on local consensus.

One of the strongest ways to involve citizens and local officials, build consensus, and gather sound technical information on water quality, nonpoint source issues, and land uses is through citizen-based water quality monitoring. Watershed Associations are effective at raising local interest and involving citizens in deciding the future of “their” rivers and streams, but they can only do so much with available staff. This project would provide one more person each to the Charles River and Merrimack River Watershed Associations to expand their efforts in water quality monitoring and citizen involvement.

We would work on smaller (5,000 - 20,000 acre) sub-basins, because that size is manageable, citizens can readily develop and maintain a strong identification with the resource, and local action can make a change. As watershed size increases, it becomes more difficult to discern improvement in water quality because the effect of individual actions is lost among all the other sources affecting water quality. Success in this project will give local residents and officials, as well as regulatory agencies, better information on water quality and trends, a consistent set of monitoring stations and protocols, to help standardize information, improved water quality as debris and other water quality contaminants are removed or reduced, greater identity with natural resources and our responsibility for their stewardship, and greater recreational use of the rivers.

Key Elements of Program Design:

1. Use existing structures (Watershed Associations, citizens' groups, Adopt-a-Stream, etc.) to start or maintain water quality monitoring programs.
2. Establish permanent water quality monitoring stations and consistent sampling programs, and train volunteers to gather data. Test water at local Board of Health testing facilities, water treatment plants, etc.
3. Gather information, inform interested parties, and begin work on watershed management plans.

Administering Organization:

The NRCS office in Westford, MA would administer this project. Primary partners are the Mass. Division of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement, Watershed Associations, other non-profit organizations, local officials and residents.

Mission:

AmeriCorps will assist residents and officials to gather information on watershed conditions, determine what land uses influence water quality in river systems, and prepare locally-supported watershed plans that address those issues.

Annual Objectives:

1. Define sub-basins that have impairments, but can be cleaned up.

Action Items:

Execute cooperative agreements with the Merrimack River and Charles River Watershed Associations.

Delineate sub-basins in the Charles and Merrimack River basins.

Work with DFWELE and watershed associations to generate community and volunteer support for watershed monitoring.

2. Train volunteers, gather data and record information.

Action Items:

Establish permanent water quality monitoring stations, and a technically-acceptable sampling program.

Coordinate a data-gathering program that includes mapping of natural resource information and land use, as well as water quality information.

Enter information into a mapping system, such as GIS, to permit resource analysis.

3. Start the watershed planning process.

Action Items:

Identify major landowners and relevant interests, and elicit their goals, needs and constraints.

Establish a forum to determine common goals ("We all live downstream.").

Identify sources of assistance to meet goals.

A. Needs to be met and Appropriateness for National Service.

Local empowerment and greater ability to prepare locally-supported watershed management plans.

Development of a resource planning process that is based on sound technical information and fully considers affected parties' interests.

Strong assistance to the State's Watershed Planning and Management Process.

Since the Clean Water Act of 1972, federal and state governments have been striving to improve water quality through legislative mandates, with a top-down approach. They have met with great success in cleaning up pipes, discharges and other point sources of pollution. They have been less successful with nonpoint source work, because it is so pervasive, we are all contributing, and few are willing to pay for cleanup, or change their behavior, unless other responsible parties also contribute their share toward

remediation. This project gathers sound information and involves all relevant segments of the public in cleaning up their own resources.

Process:

1. Encourage individuals to take responsibility for their local natural resources.
2. Train them to gather technically-defensible information in a systematic manner.
3. Work with all interested parties to set common goals for water quality.
4. Assist interested parties to write and begin implementing their own watershed management plans.

B. DESIGN.

Concept: Work with community groups, watershed associations and state agencies to gather information on water quality and stream conditions, clean up whatever problems can be readily done, develop watershed local-supported watershed management plans, and begin implementation.

Service Activities:

Define sub-watersheds, determine what information exists, and work with local groups to decide what information will be gathered.

Conduct education and outreach, train individuals in riparian assessments. Get technical specialists to train volunteers in physical and biological monitoring methods.

Assist citizen groups to map data and prepare overlays for comparison, determination of sensitive resource areas, potential conflicts, and priorities for resource protection and management.

Look for ways to support implementation of plan decisions with funding and technical support.

Relation to Need:

Citizens, watershed associations and state agencies are vitally interested in improving water quality. Existing programs, notably those run by the state, regulate how resources will be managed, and pay greatest attention to large-scale users of water, such as factories and industrial plants, but have neither the time nor the history to work with a broad spectrum of local interests to develop resource management plans. Typically, citizens feel that government will interfere with their lives; this program will enable them to make locally-relevant decisions about the resources in their own back yards.

Participant Training and Support:

Participants will receive close training and support from NRCS technical staff, state agencies and watershed associations. They will work very closely with individual watershed association offices. The associations are willing to provide travel funds, desk and computer space, etc.

Participant Placement and Supervision:

Participants will have a college diploma in natural resources management, or significant practical experience in an appropriate field. They will divide their time between the NRCS Field Office in Westford and the offices of the Watershed Associations with which they will be paired. Administrative supervision will come from the District Conservationist; technical supervision will come from qualified specialists.

Project Objective:

Water quality improvement through implementation of locally-based watershed management plans.

What is the work to be done?

Work with two Watershed Associations to establish citizen water quality monitoring programs.

Define 10 sub-basins of 5,000 - 10,000 acres that have impairments, but can be cleaned up.

Work with state agencies to inform local volunteers on what they can do, and conduct stream

assessments through the Adopt-a-Stream program.

Establish permanent water quality monitoring stations, and a sampling program that can be done according to a schedule, regardless of weather conditions.

Train volunteer groups to gather water samples and get competent technical analysis.

Provide to state regulatory agencies for their records, as a basis for remedial action.

Gather information on sub-basin land uses.

Begin work with watershed land users and interests on nonpoint source management plans.

What is the desired result?

Better information on nonpoint source problems as a basis for developing nonpoint source management plans for the sub-basins.

Establishment of technically sound monitoring stations and sampling protocols, in concurrence with state regulatory agencies.

Improved water quality as debris and other water contaminants are removed or reduced.

Greater citizen involvement in watershed planning, decision-making, and improvement.

Greater recreational use of the river.

How will quality or impact be measured?

Significant improvement in the amount and detail of water quality information for sub-basins.

Acceptance of locally-generated information by regulatory agencies.

Increase in the number of stream clean-up events.

Willingness of local citizens and town boards to act together to remedy nonpoint problems.

Officials and watershed groups agree on priorities for pipes and other sources to clean up.

Greater publicity about the river and its values.

What is the standard of success?

Volunteer groups agree to keep 2 identified stream reaches in each sub-basin clean.

At least 5 water quality impairments are eliminated or significantly improved.

At least 2 river recreation events per sub-basin annually.

At least 6 news stories on the value and uses of each sub-basin annually.

How many individuals will benefit from this work?

40,000 watershed or sub-basin residents who will increase their involvement with the rivers.

How many members will work on this objective?

2 Rural Development Corps (RDC) members.

What is the cluster site for this group?

Westford, MA

Project Summary: Improved Access to and Use of Public Lands.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has the sixth largest public land system in the nation. It is interested in working closely with communities to identify and protect significant parcels of open space. To take advantage of this program, towns must prepare Open Space Master Plans. These require some expertise, and direct assistance. Because of fiscal problems, many small communities no longer employ town planners. Regional Planning Agencies can assist towns, but they have also lost staff and the funds needed to provide direct assistance. That loss makes it harder to write the Open Space Plans. We would assist 10 coastal and estuarine communities to write their Open Space Plans. These towns have the greatest pressure on their resources, both from development and tourism, and the least ability to plan for anticipated change.

AmeriCorps members would assist local citizens and officials to assess their resources, determine local goals and initiate the land acquisition process. In addition, we would assist communities to develop management plans for public lands.

Key Elements of Program Design:

1. Work with community officials, Regional Planning Agencies and state agencies to assess land uses, critical resources, and likely impacts of development.
2. Do education and outreach to elicit community needs and interests.
3. Help communities complete Open Space Plans and move toward land acquisition.

Administering Organization:

The NRCS Office in Westford, MA will administer this project. Primary partners are the local communities, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission and Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, and the Mass Division of Conservation Services.

Mission:

AmeriCorps members will assist local communities to develop Open Space Master Plans that reflect the character the town wishes to maintain, involve the community in making their own decisions about the future, and permit them to use state and other funds to protect critical natural resources through various forms of acquisition or control.

Annual Objectives:

1. Inventory and assess natural resources and human action.

Action Items:

Help the community to develop a Steering Committee that represents divergent interests.

Get preliminary funding for purchase of maps, data entry into GIS system, etc.

Develop teams of volunteers to assess resources, historic trends, town regulations, etc.

2. Develop local consensus for Open Space Plan Goals.

Action Items:

Education and outreach to keep the local citizenry informed and involved.

Public meetings to develop a consensus on town goals for open space management.

3. Assist in land acquisition programs and development of management plans for open space parcels.

Action Items:

Help Steering Committee to determine mechanisms needed to buy or control parcels.

Help develop management plans for specific parcels, as requested by the town.

Needs to be Met and Appropriateness for National Service:

Preservation or management of critical natural resource areas.

Education of local citizens to develop a cadre of informed stewards.

Development of land use plans that will help coastal and estuarine communities deal with ever-increasing development pressures.

This project is appropriate for National Service because it helps the oldest and most settled region of the country to preserve and manage a heritage that benefits the entire nation. It gives communities that are beset with pressing issues an opportunity to plan for future generations, while allowing for current economic opportunity and growth.

Process:

1. Develop a network of citizens and local officials to gather information on local needs and resources.
2. Enter all data into a common database, and use it for outreach and education to all segments of the community.
3. Help the community to achieve consensus on open space goals and document it in an Open Space Plan.
4. Once the plan is written, help prepare for the acquisition of parcels, and assist in preparing management plans for new and existing parcels.

B. DESIGN.

Concept: Assist communities with no planning staff to develop an Open Space Master Plan, and use that to acquire and manage parcels of land for current and future public benefit.

Service Activities:

Assist with outreach and education.

Help develop a local cadre of volunteers to gather information and lead the planning process.

Help document information and record it in GIS, on maps, etc.

Attend meetings to help community focus on its goals.

Provide technical assistance, and help look for funds to acquire, manage or improve properties.

Relation to Need: The state makes funds available for purchase of land because it wishes to insure that Massachusetts' critical resources are protected, and will be available for future generations.

Preparation of Open Space Master Plans is essential to that effort. Communities that have difficulty funding essential services, such as fire and police, are unable to justify the expense and effort needed to prepare Open Space Plans. Our assistance, in cooperation with Regional Planning Agencies, will permit towns to take advantage of funds for land acquisition and management that they would otherwise be unable to use.

Participant Training and Support: AmeriCorps members will receive close training and support from NRCS technical staff, state agencies and regional planning agencies (RPAs). RPAs are willing to provide desk and computer space, travel funds and telephones.

Participant Placement and Supervision. Participants will have a college diploma in municipal planning, natural resource management or a related field. They will work in RPA and NRCS offices. Administrative supervision will come from the NRCS District Conservationist in Westford, Mass.

Project Objective: Protection of critical natural and historic resources through development of Open Space Master Plans and purchase or other control of critical properties.

What is the work to be done?

Assist Steering Committees in 10 coastal and estuarine communities with populations under 10,000 to inventory, assess and map land use, wetlands and water bodies, critical fish and

wildlife habitat, recreation land, public open space, soils, hydrology, special areas (dunes, salt ponds, other noteworthy parcels), etc. in preparation for writing Open Space Plans.

Enter information into a Geographic Information System and a Global Positioning System.

Assist Steering Committee to work with residents and municipal officials to determine Open Space Plan goals.

Determine land ownership, easement and permits needed, etc. for acquisition of parcels.

Assist in preparing management plans for specific open space parcels in each community.

What is the desired result?

Improved local awareness of the value of open space parcels to improve "quality of life".

Comprehensive, geographically accurate database of land use and critical resources.

Improved local willingness to purchase land for various public benefits.

How will quality or impact be measured?

According to Commonwealth of Massachusetts criteria for development of Open Space Plans.

What is the standard of success?

Acceptance of the Open Space Plan by the Commonwealth.

Disbursement of State funds for acquisition of at least 1 parcel per community.

Action by citizens and nonprofit organizations to clean up or improve 3 parcels per town.

How many individuals will benefit from this work?

Estimated 50,000 residents of the communities chosen.

Another estimated 75,000 tourists who visit the coastal and estuarine communities.

How many members will work on this objective?

2 Rural Development Corps (RDC) Members.

What is the cluster site for these individuals?

Westford, MA

Project Summary: Improved Use of and Access to Public Lands - Trail Systems.

There are two components to this project: assisting nonprofit groups to develop and expand the regional Rails-to-Trails system and developing or improving trails on public lands. Among nonprofit groups, the **Rails-to-Trails** system converts abandoned railroad beds to greenways and trails serving pedestrians and bicyclists. The **Merrimack River Trail** is part of a regional trail system linking the New Hampshire Heritage Trail and Massachusetts' Bay Circuit Trail, which runs from New Hampshire to Rhode Island. The **Mass. Department of Forests and Parks**, which owns thousands of acres of state park land, wishes to expand its trail network in special areas. One site is the Harold Parker State Forest, in which 7 ponds are linked by a largely unimproved trail system. The state wishes to develop an interpretive trail that would explain the site's history, natural features and value to visitors.

AmeriCorps members would assist nonprofit groups and the Department of Forests and Parks to design and lay out trails, research historical and biological information, prepare interpretive exhibits and signs, research easements and land ownership to assist in land acquisition, etc.

Key Elements of Program Design:

1. Research and inventory of routes and their historical and natural values.
2. Assistance in site design, layout and development.
3. Development of exhibits, interpretive sites, signs and trail guides.
4. Education and outreach.

Administering Organization: The NRCS Office in Westford, Mass. will administer this project. Partners include the Mass. Dep't. of Forests and Parks, the Bay Circuit Program, the Merrimack River Watershed Council, and Rails-to-Trails. They will provide technical assistance.

Mission: To expand existing public trail systems, link significant parcels of open space, and help interpret the region's resources and features for visitors.

Annual Objectives:

1. Research historic uses and influences, and natural features of proposed trail systems.
2. Inventory, design and lay out trail systems.
3. Assist with efforts to fund improvements.
4. Assist with building interpretive exhibits, other education and outreach.

Needs to be Met and Appropriateness for National Service:

Expanding recreational opportunity, informing the public on natural and historic features of their environment, and linking significant parcels of open space.

Because of funding constraints, this project will make a critical difference in improving access to public lands and in informing the public about its heritage. Trail layout and installation allows project sponsors to see where their coverage is complete, and where gaps in the trail system exist. This program can help nonprofit groups develop the rationale and documentation needed to assist them in acquiring parcels that will complete trail circuits.

Process:

1. Research proposed parcels, rights-of-way, easements, etc. for Rails-to-Trails and Bay Circuit acquisition.
2. Research human and natural history of state park lands.
3. Develop plans for parcel or trail development.
4. Help sponsors apply for funds for improvement or acquisition.
5. Develop interpretive exhibits, and inform the public through newsletters.

B. DESIGN.

Concept: Assist state agencies and private nonprofit corporations to develop and improve trail systems for public use.

Service Activities:

Research ownership, human and natural history of proposed parcels.

Inventory and assess trail sites for design problems and other issues.

Lay out sites, build interpretive exhibits and help prepare trail guides.

Help write proposals for funding trail development.

Assist in making presentations to funders, current landowners and other interested parties.

Help prepare quarterly newsletters.

Relation to Need: The proposed activities fully support development of trail systems. The tasks we would carry out through AmeriCorps are central to effective development and public use of trails.

Participant Training and Support: AmeriCorps members will receive technical training and support from the state agencies and nonprofit groups listed, as well as from NRCS engineers and soil conservationists.

Participant Placement and Supervision: Participants working on trails in State Parks, and in the Merrimack River Trail, will report to those sites for the duration of the project. Those working on Rails-to-trails will work out of the Westford NRCS Office.

Project Objective: To develop or improve trail systems for public use, and link open space parcels.

What is the work to be done?

Design trail systems in State Parks, and along abandoned railroad beds.

Research historic uses and influences on land in trail systems.

Inventory proposed trails for features, potential problems, etc.

Work with project sponsors to develop remedial plans.

Assist with efforts to gain funding.

Develop and publish interpretive information for trails.

Design and work with crews to install trail markers, signs for noteworthy sites, etc.

Publish a quarterly newsletter.

What is the desired result?

Greater appreciation of the historic, scenic, natural and other values of the trail systems.

Increased use of trails.

Local willingness by citizen's groups and trail users to maintain or improve existing trails.

Local commitment to purchase or get easements for parcels that will link trail segments.

How will quality or impact be measured?

Surveys and counts of users before and after installation of improvements.

Visual surveys of trail conditions by park staff.

Measurement of the volume of trash picked up before and after information campaigns.

What is the standard of success?

15% increase in the number of user visits annually, as determined by counts or sign-in sheets.

At least 5 news stories and other publicity or education events for new Rails to Trails.

Installation of at least two trail markers, signs or interpretive sites per mile of trail.

How many individuals will benefit from this work?

3,000 park and Rails-to-Trails users will benefit.

How many members will work on this objective?

2 Rural Development Corps (RDC) Members.

What is the cluster site for this individual?

Westford, MA

AmeriCorps II - Rural Development for Eastern Massachusetts

A Title of Project: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement

B Name of Organization: USDA, NRCS, Mass.
Division of Marine Fisheries;
Mass. Department of Fisheries,
Wildlife and Environmental Law
Enforcement; Trout Unlimited

C Team Type: RDT

D State of Duty Station: Massachusetts

E County of Duty station: Barnstable

F Names of counties served: Barnstable, Plymouth, Bristol,
Norfolk, Middlesex and Essex

G Congressional District: 10th Massachusetts

H Name of site supervisor: Donald Liptack

I Address, ph/FAX number: Flint Rock Road, P.O. Box 709,
Barnstable, MA 02630-0709
Ph: (508)362-9332
FAX: (508)362-9510

J Name of state Project Dir.: Marc A. MacQueen

K Address, ph/FAX number: 15 Cranberry Highway
West Wareham, MA 02576
Ph: (508)295-1481
FAX: (508)291-2368

L Number of Members in PL&E: 0

M Number of Members in RDT: 2

Note: Will cluster with West Wareham

MICHIGAN - Farm*A*Syst

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project:	Farm*A*Syst
B. Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	RDT
D. State of Duty Station:	Michigan
E. County of Duty Station:	Allegan
F. Names of counties served	Allegan, Van Buren
G. Congressional District:	2
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	William Semeyn
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	545 Jenner Dr. Rm 1 Allegan, MI 49010-1596 Ph: (616) 673-8903 FAX: (616) 673-9671
E. County of Duty Station:	Calhoun
F. Names of counties served	Calhoun, Hillsdale, Eaton
G. Congressional District:	7
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Daniel Kesserling
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	18625 Centennial Road Marshall, MI 49068-9360 Ph: (616) 781-4264 FAX: (616) 781-3199
E. County of Duty Station:	Ingham
F. Names of counties served	Ingham, Eaton, Livingston
G. Congressional District:	8
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Jack Knorek
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	121 East maple St., P.O. Box 319 Mason, MI 48854-1655 Ph: (517) 676-7207 FAX: (517) 676-7230
E. County of Duty Station:	Ionia
F. Names of counties served	Ionia, Montcalm
G. Congressional District:	3
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	James Scott
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	1966 S. State Road Ionia, MI 48846-2132 Ph: (616) 527-2620

FAX: (616) 527-9055

E. County of Duty Station: Jackson
F. Names of counties served: Jackson, Clinton, Shiawassee
G. Congressional District: 7
H. Name of Site Supervisor: Julius Pigott
I: Address, phone & fax numbers: 211 West Ganson St.
Jackson, MI 49201-1216
Ph: (517) 784-2800
FAX: (517) 784-9119

E. County of Duty Station: Kalamazoo
F. Names of counties served: Kalamazoo, Barry
G. Congressional District: 6
H. Name of Site Supervisor: George Heffner
I: Address, phone & fax numbers: 1911 W. Centro Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49002-4772
Ph: (616) 327-0696
FAX: (616) 327-2274

E. County of Duty Station: Kent
F. Names of counties served: Kent
G. Congressional District: 3
H. Name of Site Supervisor: Steve Utic
I: Address, phone & fax numbers: 260 Eagle Park Dr. Suite 101-B
Grand Rapids, MI 49505-4569
Ph: (616) 940-9917
FAX: (616) 940-3123

E. County of Duty Station: Leelanau
F. Names of counties served: Leelanau, Benzie, Grand Traverse
G. Congressional District: 1
H. Name of Site Supervisor: Bernard Long
I: Address, phone & fax numbers: 208 W. Main St. P.O Box 205
Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
Ph: (616) 256-9783
FAX: (616) 256-7851

E. County of Duty Station: Lenawee
F. Names of counties served: Lenawee
G. Congressional District: 7
H. Name of Site Supervisor: Brian Ehlert
I: Address, phone & fax numbers: Suite 2020, 1040 South Winter St.
Adrian, MI 49221-3867
Ph: (517) 264-5300

FAX: (517) 264-5217

E. County of Duty Station:	Newaygo
F. Names of counties served	Newaygo
G. Congressional District:	2
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Roger Peacock
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	817 South Stewart Ave. Fremont, MI 49684-4772 Ph: (616) 924-2060 FAX: (616) 946-6840
E. County of Duty Station:	Sanilac
F. Names of counties served	Sanilac, Lapeer, St. Clair
G. Congressional District:	5
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	David Newkirk
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	75 Dawson St. Sandusky, MI 48471-1062 Ph: (810) 648-2116 Fax: (810) 648-4670
E. County of Duty Station:	Washtenaw
F. Names of counties served	Washtenaw, Monroe
G. Congressional District:	8
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Steven Olds
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	7203 Jackson Rd Ann Arbor, MI 48103-9506 Ph: (616) 761-6722 FAX: (616) 662-1686
E. County of Duty Station:	Ingham
F. Names of counties served	Ingham
G. Congressional District:	8
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Alan Herceg
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	3191 Logan Valley Rd Traverse City, MI 49684-4772 Ph: (616) 946-6811 FAX: (616) 946-4410
E. County of Duty Station:	Ingham
F. Names of counties served	Ingham
G. Congressional District:	8
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Harold Rouget
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	11 Agriculture Hall Michigan State University East Lansing, MI 48824

Ph: (517) 355-0177

FAX: (517) 353-4995

J: Name of St Project Director: Alan Herceg

K. Address, phone & fax numbers: 3191 Logan Valley Rd
Traverse City, MI 49684-4772

Ph: (616) 946-6811

FAX: (616) 946-4410

L. Number of Members in PL&E: 0

M. Number of Members in RDT: 15

MICHIGAN - Farm*A*Syst

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?

During the first six months of the USDA/AmeriCorps Farm*A*Syst project, steady progress was made toward achieving our goal of assisting with one thousand farmstead assessments. As of April 1st, four hundred thirty-eight assessments have been completed. Considering that the first month of the program was devoted to developing marketing plans and training, this puts us right on schedule. USDA AmeriCorps Members have received training in various areas for their personal development. They have completed first Aid/CPR, Leadership, Farm*A*Syst, Farm*A*Syst follow-up, Groundwater Principles, TQM, Program Evaluation, Effective Presentation, Partnership Development, and on-the-job training.

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.

he key elements of design for next year will remain the same as last year. The USDA AmeriCorps Members will be located at NRCS and MSU Extension offices in 12 locations throughout the state. At these locations they will receive support for Farm*A*Syst from field staff. They will work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture PA 247 grantees in developing and assisting the Groundwater Stewardship Teams. They will receive support, assistance and training from the cluster leaders and will meet in 3 cluster groups on a regular basis.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Farm*A*Syst (20 Members - RDT)

SITE: Michigan

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Reduce risks to ground water from agricultural sources by changing farm practices after conducting risk assessments.

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

Do Farm*A*Syst evaluations, provide one-on-one assistance, develop and implement a marketing effort to create interest in the evaluation process, direct Farm*A*Syst participants to technical & financial assistance.

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

1,000 farms completed evaluation; 50% of farmers in watershed will have received information; requests for evaluations, farm families have a better understanding of Groundwater Protection Practices around the farm.

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

500 farms have altered at least one practice to reduce pollution, 90% of work sheets properly completed; 90% of recipients have indicated satisfaction with the service.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Using a follow-up evaluation, 75% of the farmers know about Farm*A*Syst & 10% would like to do the outline; of the original 1,000 farms, 500 are intending to apply a practice the next year, a service evaluation form will be completed by each family.

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

1,000 farm families will receive direct assistance, 10% will be limited resource farmers, 75% of farm families will have heard of program.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Farm*A*Syst (20 Members - RDT)

SITE: Michigan

SITE SUPERVISOR:

PHONE: ()

COUNTY:

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Engage and empower local citizens to become active in groundwater protection programs in their community.

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

Establishment of local Groundwater Stewardship Teams which will mirror the makeup of the civilian labor force in Michigan.

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

A sense of self help and self determination for groundwater protection by rural communities will be developed.

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

AmeriCorps member work force will be measured against the Michigan work force. Members of the Groundwater Stewardship Team will include industry, agriculture, local, state, and federal governments, rural residents, environmental groups, educational institutions and non-profit groups.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Twelve local committees will be running independently on an on-going basis, and will become the focal point for all groundwater activities in the community.

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

The entire state of Michigan will benefit from the active protection of the state's groundwater resources.

MINNESOTA

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project: Agassiz Recreational Trail
B. Name of Organization: U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type: RDT
D. State of Duty Station: Minnesota
E. County of Duty Station: Norman
F. Names of counties served: Clay, Norman, Polk & Red Lake
G. Congressional District: 7
H. Name of Site Supervisor: Al Gustafson
I. Address, ph/fax numbers: Pembina Trail RC&D
2605 Wheat Drive
Red Lakes Falls, MN 56750
Ph: (218) 253-2646
FAX: (218) 253-4112
J. Name of St Project Dir: Michael M. Price
K. Address, ph/fax numbers: NRCS
600 Farm Credit Service Bldg
375 Jackson St.
St. Paul, MN 55101
Ph: (612) 290-3677
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L. Number of Members in PL&E: 0
M. Number of Members in RDT: 2

SUMMARY PAGE - AGASSIZ RECREATIONAL TRAIL

A. Accomplishments

- completed development of the Agassiz Recreational Trail (ART) brochure and distributed 1,000 brochures in the ART area;
- developed fact sheet about trails project;
- arranged trails ground-breaking ceremony, including sponsors, speakers, and media coverage;
- completed logo development to use on trails promotional materials;
- completed service objectives which resulted in a cluster city cleanup and served as judges at the Norman County East Science Fair, grades kindergarten through 6th grade;
- participated in a leadership/teambuilding Ropes Adventure Course - designed to help overcome fears, develop trust, and emphasized good working relationships;
- developed habitat for animals at the Agassiz Wildlife Refuge;
- helped the Thief River Falls snowdrifters Snowmobile Club set up for the Iron Man 250 snowmobile race;
- staffed AmeriCorps booths at the Red River Valley Winter Show, the Small Grain Institute and the Sugar Beet Institute (these three major winter shows attract nearly 60,000 people annually);
- completed a tourism brochure for Mahnomen County, an ART county in the ART project;
- Preparing events for the national Trails Day on June 3, 1995.

B. Objectives for FY 96:

The project will include five major objectives:

Continue the promotion of A.R.T.

The AmeriCorps will use the media to keep the public informed about A.R.T. and the activities taking place on A.R.T. Updating the ART videos and brochures (may be produce some seasonal videos or brochures) will be part of this objective.

Coordinate activities for A.R.T.

Snowmobile races, dogsled races, bicycle races, horse races, marathons, etc. will be organized for the trail. Horse and wagon tours can be another activity to organize. Nature walks and other educational activities will also be on the agenda.

Coordinate efforts to expand A.R.T. east and west.

An effort to connect A.R.T. with surrounding communities like Ada and Mahanomen, MN will increase the possibility of greater economic development.

Continue to help communities in A.R.T. region promote tourism, promote community development and ascertain funds for development projects.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service SITE: Twin Valley, Minnesota
Agassiz Recreation Trail (2 Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Al Gustafson PHONE: (218) 253-2646 COUNTY: Norman

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Continue the promotion of the Agassiz Recreation Trail (ART)

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

Designing & securing funding for rest areas along the Agassiz Recreational Trail. The rest areas will include trash receptacles, picnic areas, and possibly restrooms.

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

To increase usage of the Agassiz Recreational Trail.

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

Will be reviewed by Agassiz Recreational Trails Joint Powers Board/NRCS information specialist.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

By the completion of the rest areas located along the trail.

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

2,000 in a four county area.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service SITE: Twin Valley, Minnesota
 Agassiz Recreation Trail(2 Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Al Gustafson PHONE: (218) 253-2646 COUNTY: Norman

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Coordinate activities for ART

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

The creation of nature rides for senior citizens, Head Start participants, and other specific groups along the Agassiz Recreational Trail.

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

To help the communities around the trail feel that the trail is a significant part of their community and the benefits tat the trail brings are more than economic.

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

Will be reviewed by ARTJPB/NRCS information specialists.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

By the number of participants in the trail rides.

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

2,000 people will receive the benefit of the work.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 3

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service SITE: Twin Valley, Minnesota
Agassiz Recreation Trail (2 Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Al Gustafson PHONE: (218) 253-2646 COUNTY: Norman

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Coordinate efforts to expand ART east & west.

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

Helping to develop the East Agassiz Conservation Park. The park will be used for outdoor classes and serve as a demonstration area to promote soil and water conservation.

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

Increased awareness of wildlife on the Agassiz Recreational Trail. Also to make students and citizens aware of the need for resource conservation.

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

Will be reviewed by SWCD/NRCS information specialist.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Success will be measured by the completion of the East Agassiz Conservation Park and by the participation of area students and citizens in the outdoor classroom.

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

2,000 people in the 4 county area.