FOIA Number: 2013-0661-F
(3)

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Americorps

Series/Staff Member: General Files

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 24227

FolderID:

Folder Title:
USDA [Department of Agriculture]/AmeriCorps - Clinton Library Copies - 1995 Application (for FY 96) to the Corporation for National Service 4 [2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	66	1	5	3

AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT
USDA, FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHERN REGION

REQUEST FOR FY 1996

MISSISSIPPI DELTA AND APPALACHIA REGIONS

Start date August 1, 1995 and ending in June 1996

Requesting 17 Members (full-time)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS:

Arkansas=1,2,4
Georgia=3,7,9,10,11
Kentucky=5
Louisiana=4,5,6
Mississippi=2
North Carolina=11
Tennessee=2
Virginia=9

Alan E. Pigg
Regional Rural Community Assistance Program Manager
USDA, Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry
1720 Peachtree RD. NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30367-9102
404-347-7486
FAX 404-347-2776
A.PIGG:R08A

OVERALL RDT PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

This proposal is for continuing 17 of the 40 AmeriCorps Rural Development Team members in the Southern Region (R8) of the USDA Forest Service from FY 1995 into FY 1996. The criteria for selecting these positions were: (1) the need to continue a critical project; (2) ability to overmatch the costs of the program; (3) commitment of the community; and, (4) commitment and staffing of Forest Service offices to administer this program. Site locations are listed in Appendix I. These 17 positions are needed to continue the work objectives that were started in rural communities. In the original R8 proposal sent to Washington in April, 1993, one of the primary needs identified by rural community leaders was to find a way to create job opportunities for youth from these communities. Our program has addressed this critical "brain drain" issue by recruiting qualified persons from local areas, who are striving to create meaningful employment opportunities for themselves and other persons in their communities.

The first year of this program has been very successful, but these members are needed to finish on-going projects in order for them to be successful. These members have spent considerable amounts of time and energy building concensus and leadership in the communities to develop the initial phases of these projects, and many of these projects will not be completed without the AmeriCorps members assistance. These professional positions have started some very visible work such as finding uses for recycled wastes going to landfills, grant writing, community planning, economic development, conservation education workshops and field days, tourism development and other projects. Each individual project objective is enclosed in Appendix II.

In many rural communities in the south, it takes time to be accepted by the local culture. Members have established communications and a working relationship with local community leaders to help solve local problems such as persistant poverty, lack of job opportunities for young people, and to improve the overall quality of life in rural America. A real trust has been built over the last year between the members, the communities, and the U.S.D.A. offices and personnel involved.

Implementation of these projects is underway and these projects need the continuity of these members continued participation. For example, Wythe County, Virginia, has developed a portable logging bridge project which just received funding through the WIT program. Local partnerships were enhanced, yet the community is depending on the AmeriCorps member to finish the project. Another example is the Kentucky Highland Empowerment Zone where the AmeriCorps Economic Development Specialist is leading the efforts for this strategic plan. Each of these 17 positions have a different objective and on-going projects, and each one requires continued participation to make the project a success. A listing of the Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities are in Appendix III. The highlighted ones are within proposed Forest Service RDT sites.

A. Work or service to be done-

Specific work plans have been developed for each member to accomplish specific community service such as providing input to community plans, recreational plans, assessments and outreach efforts to the communities. Some have a

specific park or recreational areas that are their responsibility to develop strategic plans and oversee their implementation. Others have done research to find sources of funding for community projects such as wood waste recyling, tourism brochures and others. Most of the work involves writing technical reports and letters, networking with local officials and citizens, grantwriting and community outreach.

B. Results of the service and work to be done-

Each community will have a plan of action that addresses their particular situation or they will have progressed farther toward achieving their desired goals by the assistance given to them by the AmeriCorps members. In almost every community, these members are assisting communities that lack the technical and financial resources to accomplish what the the members are providing. Also, these problems and projects the members are working on are challenging and have not been previously addressed by the community. They are "plowing new ground" in most cases so many of their results may not be realized for years to come. Rural economic development is a difficult task to accomplish, and the solutions will not appear overnight.

By providing training opportunities and through the members' own networking, we anticipate 50% of these members to obtain permanent employment in their local communities following their service.

C. Quality measurement-

Monitoring and evaluation of each members work, as it relates to the approved plan of work for that person, will be done by the immediate supervisor and regional coordinator quarterly and as needed.

Additionally, any projects which require specific technical expertise will be reviewed by the appropriate officials or agencies. For example, a licensed professional engineer will be approving all Timber Bridge plans developed by the AmeriCorps member.

D. Measuring success-

Success of the project will be measured by the accomplishment of the tasks and projects assigned to each member. Most of the tasks and projects however are very difficult to achieve and even the failures can be credited with lessons learned and evaluated as to how to improve the program. For example, reduction of solid wastes going into landfills may be attained by formation of a recylables marketing business. If the member can not get a business to start up, but has developed a feasible marketing plan for the products, the project is closer to success than it was.

Additionally, from a Regional perspective, implementation of the AmeriCorps program meet the Forest Service Chief's 6 point working agenda outlined in "A Strategic Plan for the 90's: Working Together for Rural America". These 6 points are emphasized as crucial to the Forest Service's success in carrying

out its mission through conservation leadership in the 1990's. These points are:

1. Partnerships
2. Customer Satisfaction (the communities are the customers)
3. Building Strong Grassroots Support
4. Rounding Out Forest Service Programs
5. Workforce Diversity
6. Innovative/Creative, People-Oriented Forest Service Culture

E. Individuals benefiting-

As stated above, citizens of rural communities are our customers. Rural community development benefits those persons living within the area plus those receiving the services provided. If a rural community in Louisiana develops a tourism brochure, hundreds of persons will use this brochure to guide them to visit the attractions, vendors will benefit as they sell products, restaurants benefit, gas stations, etc. If a member assists in the planning and installation of dry fire hydrants in the Mississippi Delta, homeowners, businesses and visitors will benefit both directly and indirectly from improved fire protection and lower insurance rates. In other words, the specific number of individuals benefiting from rural development projects can vary significantly but generally the whole community benefits.

Individual members benefit through exposure to training and career opportunities. By providing service each member has the opportunity to develop their professional skills while giving back to their community and their country.

Each proposed site objective is explained in detail in Appendix II.

SUMMARY

Forest Service Rural Development members will work in remote rural communities on difficult, unsolved and many times persistant economic problems. Each member will develop a specific work plan with outcomes and directions to follow, but only in concert with the community leaders. Supervision will be by a USDA employee of the Forest Service or Natural Resources Conservation Service either at the site or within a short driving distance. The main objective for each member is to assist in solving local identified community problems.

As in fiscal year 1995, the Forest Service will work the AmeriCorps Rural Development as a TEAM USDA effort with our partners in the Natural Resource Conservation Service (old SCS) through the Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D). These were highly successful and 12 of the 17 requested positions will be working closely with the NRCS RC&D Coordinators in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Virginia. All of the proposed site locations have verbal commitments of donated office space, phones, vehicles, and administration.

One member will be continuing the work with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina on a community park while another member will be continuing to assist in developing tourism business opportunities under the direct supervison of a Forest Service District Ranger in Virginia. Another member will also be directly supervised by the Forest Service and will continue the work involved with many partners to market rural communities for the 1996 Olympics which will impact counties and communities in north Georgia. The member in Kentucky will also be working in the Enterprize Community of McCreary Co. (19) in an area of the Appalachian mountains which is also known for poverty (See Appendix III). The members in Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana will be located in the Mississippi Delta region in which is designated an Empowerment Zone (2) and Enterprize Communities (3,6,8,20,& 30). This is an area historically known for problems of persistant poverty where 32% of the African American population currently lives in poverty.

The significant part of this proposal is that only $15,000 per member will come from Forest Service budgets to pay member stipend, insurance and child care, while the remaining administration, operations, and staffing costs will be donated through other sources. This shows the real commitment and need for these rural development members.

COLLABORATION-

Rural development is not possible without collaboration with local residents, local government, organizations, businesses, state and federal government and universities. Success of each of the 17 position objectives and results will depend on the collaborative efforts of various people. The following is a listing of the major parties that will be involved in the implementation of the rural development objectives in Fiscal Year 1996.

Mississippi Delta

Arkansas:	NRCS, City of Holly Grove, Ozark Foothills RC&D, Central Arkansas RC&D, East Ark RC&D, FEMA, REDC.
Louisiana:	NRCS, City of Winnsboro, City of Winfield, NE Delta RC&D, LA Tourism Bureau.
Mississippi	NRCS, NW MS RC&D, Forest Service Research Station, Stoneville.

Appalachia

Georgia	Olympic Organizing Committee, rural community leaders in North Georgia
Tennessee	NRCS, TVA, City of Rutledge, Clinch Powell RC&D area, EPA
N. Carolina	Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, NCDOT, Parks and Recreation, National Park Service.
Kentucky	McCreary County, Owsley County, Jackson County, Clay County, Leslie County leaders, WORK, Appalachian Crafts-feed the children.
Virginia	Coal Fields Authority Tourism, National Park Service, NRCS, VDOT, New River Highlands RC&D.

At each of the 17 sites, in-kind services are being donated such as office space, vehicles, supervision and administration.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY-

The AmeriCorps Rural Development compliments the on-going efforts of the Forest Service's Rural Community Assistance Program (RCA). Through the RCA program the Forest Service, in cooperation with other federal and state agencies, assists rural communities in organization, planning and implementation of economic development efforts. Each of the proposed sites for the AmeriCorps members has Forest Service employees or Natural Resource Conservation Service partners working on rural development efforts with communities. The Forest Service has proven in other human resource programs such as Job Corps, YACC, and AmeriCorps that successful implementation and wise use of human and fiscal resources benefit the public. The AmeriCorps members for 1996 will fill a real need in the communities they will be assisting.

INNOVATION AND REPLICABILITY-

In 1995, the Forest Service AmeriCorps members were very successful in developing innovative ideas and approaches to assisting rural communities. The main problem and need of most economically disadvantaged rural communities is the lack of leadership, technical knowledge and person power to implement improvements or solve problems. Some examples are as follows:

AMERICORPS OLYMPICS ASSISTANCE

Atlanta - AmeriCorps is bringing Olympics to more places in Georgia than Atlanta. It is opening a door of opportunity for small rural communities to take advantage of the tourism boom about to explode in Georgia. AmeriCorps member, Will Harrell, is developing a Recreation Opportunity Guide which will give tourists information about those known rural communities in Georgia. These communities are forgotten by travelers due to lack of knowledge and economic prosperity. Harrell is developing one page information guides about each of these sites located in or near the Chattahoochie and Oconee National Forests. Distribution of the activity guides will be through Olympic information sites and tourist information bureaus. AmeriCorps is providing the manpower to develop a stronger tourism base in these areas which are economically disadvantaged. The revenue created by increased tourism will be of benefit to the communities and residents.

-xxx-

AMERICORPS GARBAGE BUSTERS

Rutledge, TN - A second grade solid waste curriculum has been developed and implemented in the five counties served by the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council. AmeriCorps member, Sarah Buchanan, developed the program as part of the Environmental Education program offered by the RC&D. Students involved in the program participate in five hands-on lessons about litter, recycling and green shopping. Participants turn their classroom into a park where they meet the animals that live there and give them names. Another lesson introduces the students to "Travis Tree" a character who takes the students through the basics of paper making and recycling. Students then tell a story of the different things that Travis is recycled into. This program has been tentatively awarded an EPA Environmental Education Grant for 1996. The response to the program has been overwhelming. Students and teachers are eager for the weekly lessons.

-xxx-

AMERICORPS EARTH DAY

RUTLEDGE, TN - Earth Day is celebrating it's 25th birthday this year and Grainger County is having a party. AmeriCorps member, Liz Upchurch, has received a grant from the East Tennessee Foundation to sponsor an Earth Day Festival in the county. The festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, in Rutledge. The event will focus on solid waste disposal and reduction. Counties in Tennessee must reduce solid waste landfill intake by 25 percent by January 1, 1996. Booths at the festival will include information on the new recycling program in Grainger County, this will include a display of products

made from recycled materials and an explanation of what is and is not recyclable. A display on the differences between a sanitary landfill and the traditional landfill will be present to educate the public about the changes made in solid waste management practices. Activities for children include a display of Earth Day art done in the schools. Other activities will include face painting, tye-dying and an Easter globe hunt. Entertainment for the whole family will involve environmental singing and storytelling by Georgie. The center attraction for the event will be a three-foot diameter Earth made completely from recycled materials. Also present at the event will be Garbage Buster, the mascot for the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council's second grade solid waste education curriculum. Garbage Buster is a giant trash can who teaches young people about the effects of litter and the importance of recycling.

-xxx-

AMERICORPS TOURISM LOUISIANA

Winnfield, LA - AmeriCorps is hard at work in Winn Parish, Louisiana. Development of a tourism program to boost the economy are underway. Member, Alicia Trissler, has been working on developing a plan to replace timber sale revenue with tourism revenue. The first step in Trissler's plan has been to help the Winnfield museum upgrade the computer system and recommend changes in the museum by-laws. These revisions will make the museum eligible to apply for certification by the American Association of Museums. In conjunction with the museum project, Trissler has developed a brochure depicting area sites, activities and festivals. This brochure will be distributed to Welcome Centers, tourism agencies and other appropriate agencies. The local school board is also benefiting from the AmeriCorps program. Trissler has helped the board develop a folkart education program. Area folk artists will come into the schools and teach their craft to students. These students will be learning the art of basket weaving, quilting, tatting lace and many other disappearing craft traditions. A permanent display of the artists crafts will be a part of the Winnfield Museum. The AmeriCorps program of Winn Parish is offering the county technical support in developing a new economic base. The loss of income from timber sales has had an overwhelming affect on the citizens of the parish. The work Trissler is doing on developing a tourism market in the area will be the foundation for a new era in Winn Parish.

-xxx-

AMERICORPS - UNICOI TOURISM

TN - Tourism in Unicoi County is being given a facelift. AmeriCorps member, Billie Barlow, has drafted an attractions map for the county to use in planning a tourism campaign. The county has been making efforts to develop this map for several months, but had been unable to locate anyone with the skills and time to devote to the project. The Appalachian-Northeast Resource Conservation and Development Council took on the project and turned it over to Barlow. AmeriCorps was good for the county," Barlow stated, "since they had difficulty in finding someone to work on the project." Several months were spent collecting data on areas of interest to tourists. This data was used to

develop the draft map which includes information on historic sites, recreation area, shopping and crafts. The map will be used by the county tourism committee to establish the goals of the tourism objective for the county. The county must now decide what they want to gain from tourism, how the plan should develop, what they do and do not want to happen. "The map can be extended into articles and brochures on specific attractions or topics as tourism grows in the area," Barlow stated, as a goal for the future. After final approval from the tourism committee the map will be printed and distributed statewide.

-xxx-

DETAILED RECRUITMENT PLAN-

Since all of these members are already in place and will be continuing their second year with the AmeriCorps program, recruitment and start-up efforts will be minimal. Currently these positions have a diversity of genders, race and educational backgrounds and age. Currently the diversity of the projected group is 10 females and 7 males with 6 minorities.

If any of those members for the designated positions do not wish to participate, recruitment will be first with those other members (1994-1995 RDT group). If vacant positions are still not filled, other USDA agencies will be notified to offer an opportunity to those they could not place for the second year. If this still does not fill the vacancies, the recruitment will follow-up with those who applied last year and were not selected. The total that applied in 1994 were approximately 700.

Training will also be minimal and directed to specific technical needs of individual members with the extension of current members. For example, those working on tourism projects, will attend workshops and conferences on tourism techniques. We anticipate that most of these members will have already completed basic training such as defensive driving, sexual harrassment, emergency first aid, and other courses.

Currently, each of the 17 positons requested for rural development AmeriCorps have extremely qualified, diverse members in place. The recruitment process will be as follows:

1. July 1, 1995	Notification to current members that the position will be filled. Also notify other agency members and those who applied last year but were not selected.
2. July 2, 1995	Send out applications and position objectives.
3. July 17, 1995	Select the top 3-5 candidates by panel review.
4. July 24, 1995	Supervisor and/or Forest Coordinator interview in person, the candidates.
5. July 25, 1995	Select member for positon.
6. July 28, 1995	Notify Regional Office of the selection.
7. August 1, 1995	Enroll members.

First priority will be for those members who are already in the position who re-apply and have had fully successful performance. This will allow continuity

and minimize the need for retraining, orientation to the community, relocation and start-up of the work to be done.

DETAILED WORKPLAN AND MILESTONE SCHEDULE-

Focus will be on completion of the previous years tasks and critical work projects. Projects where grant funds have been awarded to communities will be the first priority to make sure the projects are started and implemented as planned. Each of the 17 rural development positions will have a detailed work plan developed in conjunction with the local community leaders based on their current needs and priorities. This will be the developed the first week the members are in service. Each member's supervisor will work with the member and the community leaders to develop a concensus of the tasks and time frames for each project. Along with this workplan will be funding needed, cooperation needed, and resources required. It is very important to have community leader ownership in this process and not advisable to develop a detailed work plan without them or identification of their needs.
The outline for this workplan will address:

1. Definition of task
2. Start date
3. Completion date
4. Resources needed
5. Partners/other people involved
6. Outcome expected

This workplan will be the basis for performance reviews and monitoring of progress by supervisors.

APPENDIX I

AMERICORPS: AL DEVELOPMENT
SOUTHERN REGION (R8)

Site Locations:
In the Southern Region (R8), two major geographical areas have been defined for USDA AmeriCorps Rural Development; Appalachia and Mississippi Delta. AmeriCorps:Rural Development involves a total of 8 States and 8 National Forests in the Region.

APPALACHIAN REGION

State	National Forest Coordinator	National Forest	Number of Members
TN	Lewis Kearney	Cherokee	4
NC	Fred Foster	NFs in NC	1
VA	Paul Paradzinski	Jefferson	2
KY	Rex Mann	Daniel Boone	2
GA	Luana Kitchens	Chattahoochee/Oconee	1
			10

Position Number	City, State	County	Position	Supervisor
TN-1	Rutledge, TN	Grainger	Environmental Educ.	Lindy Turner, NRCS
TN-3	"	"	Solid-Waste Spec.	" "
TN-4	Johnson City,TN	Washington	Conservation Educ. Coor.	Roy Settle, NRCS
TN-2	"	"	Community Devel./Tourism Spec.	"
NC-1	Cherokee, NC	Swain	Parks & Rec. Planner	J.C. Smith, FS
VA-1	Wythville, VA	Wythe	Forest Engineer	Gary Boring, NRCS
VA-4	Wise, VA	Wise	Rural Tourism Development	Raoul Gagne, FS
KY-1	Big Creek, KY	Clay	Sustainable Economic Development	Dennis Daniel, FS
KY-2	Whitley City	McCreary	Sustainable Economic Development	Bill Brumm, FS
GA-1	Gainesville, GA	Hall	Rural Olympics Tourism	Mitch Cohen, FS

MISSISSIPPI DELTA

State	National Forest Coordinator	National Forest	Number of Members
MS	John Stanturf	FS Research and Development	2
AR	Gail Wainscott	Ozark St. Francis	3
LA	Alan Dorian	Kisatchie	2
			7

Position

Number	City, State	County	Position	Supervisor
MS-7	Stoneville, MS	Washington	Comm. Recycling Coord.	Clarence Finley, NRCS
MS-9	Stoneville, MS	Washington	Conservation Educator	Clarence Finley, NRCS
LA-2	Winnboro, LA	Richland	Tourism Spec/Comm. Devel.	Donna Remides, NRCS
LA-4	Winfield, LA	Winn	Tourism Specialist	Alan Dorian, FS
AR-1	Little Rock, AR	Pulaski	Nat. Res. Envir. Specialist	Bruce Leggit, NRCS
AR-3	Batesville, AR	Independence	Alternative Wood Products	Doug Butts, NRCS
AR-5	Holly Grove, AR	Lee	Housing Relocation Coor.	Bruce Leggitt, NRCS

APPENDIX II

Grantee Department of Agriculture Site Rural Development GA-1
Rural Olympic Tourism Gainesville, GA

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To enhance the local economy for disadvantaged rural communities through increased visitation and spending by tourists attending the 1996 Olympic Games. To enhance the local economy and the quality of life in rural communities through increased environmental education awareness and training. To enhance the local economy and the quality of life in rural communities by outreach efforts to students considering natural resource career opportunities.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS:

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

The AmeriCorps member has developed a Recreation Opportunity Guide for the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests and surrounding communities. This guide highlights communities located near National Forest recreation areas (Gainesville, Suches, Dahlonega, Helen, Greensboro, Greshamville, Madison, Athens, Eatonton, Monticello, Blue Ridge, Morgantown, Calhoun, LaFayette, Villanow, Hiawassee, Blairsville, Young Harris, Chatsworth, Eton, Cleveland, Toccoa, Turnerville and Robertstown) and promotes visitation to rural areas which are less well known. The majority of these locations are situated in or near economically disadvantaged, rural communities. This guide is 75% complete and will be circulated to all federal offices and Olympic tourism centers.

The AmeriCorps member has collected resource information for the development of the "America's Great Outdoors" video which emphasizes National Forest destinations on a nation-wide basis.

The AmeriCorps member has presented an average of one environmental education program a week in many of the rural, economically disadvantaged counties, including Blairsville, Lula, Dahlonega, Oakwood, Cleveland, Flowery Branch, Cornelia and Gainsville.

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

With the increased visitation expected as a result of the Olympic Games in 1996, the tourist guide will provide a valuable service in directing our customers to previously unknown and undervisited areas. Tourist dollars are generally spent in the local communities for gas, recreational supplies, food, and hotel/motel accommodations. Although it's difficult to predict accurately the number of visitors the Olympics will bring to National Forest destinations, customer surveys from past Olympic events have shown a dramatic increase.

The video is designed to pull in international visitors who may not have considered North Georgia as a recreation destination. Again, many of the recreation areas which will be highlighted in this video are the ones located in or near the economically disadvantaged communities. Increased visitation will bring added dollars to the local communities.

The environmental education programs achieve two objectives. They enhance the quality of life in these communities by providing critical technical information which will enhance recycling programs, assist in implementing natural resource conservation practices to decrease erosion, decrease the incidence of wildfires, and increase reforestation efforts. Both students and young adults become aware of career opportunities in the natural resource arena.

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

The products listed will be reviewed and approved before they are desseminated. Environmental education programs will be reviewed before they are given for completeness and quality.

Visitation by international visitors during the 1996 Olympic Games will be monitored using guest registers at local attractions and motels.

4) What standard will you gauge success?

Increased visitor use to recreational areas and local tourism attractions.

Increased income to rural communities providing services during the 1996 Olympics.

Olympic officials estimate an increase of 120% in visitation to Georgia in 1996.

Educational programs will reach 2500 students in rural Georgia.

Grantee Department of Agriculture Site Rural Development KY-1
Sustainable Economic Development Big Creek, KY

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

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

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will work directly with local business leaders to inventory existing resources, identify sustainable economic development opportunities, conduct feasibility studies, and provide technical assistance to small businesses to develop business plans.

Issues of environmental concern will be analyzed with any related new business venture.

Completion of infrastructure database and analysis of rural community needs in Owsley, Clay and Jackson counties. Jackson county is identified as an Enterprize Community.

Coordination of citizen groups regarding environmental impacts of new natural resource based business ventures.

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

Increasing opportunities for local employment and income by creating natural resource based small businesses.

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

Development of sound business plans which will enable local citizens to obtain financial backing for their ventures.

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

Natural Resource professionals will review all environmental impact analysis of small business ventures.

Local business leaders will be interviewed following completion of project.

Loans and other funding will be obtained for 25% of the business plans developed.

264

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

Development of at least 2 sound business plans that will enable local citizens to establish sustainable, natural resource based businesses employing at least five locally trained people.

Grantee Department of Agriculture Site Rural Development KY-2
Sustainable Economic Development Whitley City, KY

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

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

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Work will continue on the Downtown Stearns Revitalization Project. The member will act as the project manager, overseeing the completion of contract work on the renovation of the warehouse building. Upon completion of this project the warehouse will be used as a business incubator for retail, market and exhibit space.

Placement of the five McCreary County Welcome signs. These signs have been funded by a $12,000 AmeriCorps grant.

Final editing of the McCreary County brochure and video will be completed. These will be used to promote and publicize the county for industrial development.

A Community Cultural Assessment will be conducted. This survey will be used as a base for grant funding.

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

An increase in tourism and requests for information from businesses seeking to locate in the area due to the refurbishing of the downtown area.

Economic development of the Warehouse incubator to become self-sustaining by leasing space to local businesses and individuals.

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

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

Optimum use of the Warehouse by businesses and individuals leasing space.

Landscaping and signs designating the Warehouse as a restored landmark.

Survey results compiled and catalogued so as to be of greatest benefit.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

The Warehouse renovation will benefit commerce in the downtown area. Business owners and employees working in the building will be directly impacted by the renovation project.

Tourists visiting the area will be able to use the brochures when making travel and sightseeing plans.

Industries interested in locating factories in the county will be able to utilize the video and brochures to establish if the area can meet the companies needs.

E64

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Park and Recreation Planner

Site Rural Development NC-1
Cherokee, NC

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

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

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

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

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

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

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

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

Organized development of recreational parks in the community.

Involvement by tribe members to develop and implement the plan.

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

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

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

Recreational improvements will be made on the Cherokee Reservation.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

Construction of recreational sites will begin.

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

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

Grantee Department of Agriculture — Site Rural Development — TN-1
Environmental Education — Rutledge, TN

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

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

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Envirothon will have participation from every eligible school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Increased usage of materials in the Environmental Resource Center.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

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

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

An Envirothon team from every eligible high school.

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

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

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

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Community Development and
Tourism Specialist

Site Rural Development TN-2
Johnson City, TN

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To plan and develop strategies for community development and tourism activities in a minimum of five communities. One project will benefit residents in all six counties of the region. These projects will be based on information gathered from area needs assessments. Emphasis will be placed on sustainable economic development, alternative agriculture, ecotourism, and cultural tourism. Success will be based on new opportunities in tourism, community involvement, and economic development for rural citizens.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

ENVIROTHON - All phases of coordination and development.

CRANBERRY RESTORATION IN SHADY VALLEY - Conducted research and wrote grant proposal for economic revitalization funds from the Forest Service. In FY96, member will assist with the development, writing, editing, and layout of materials, publications, and a video documentary of the restoration project and the annual Cranberry Festival, held each October. Member will also assist with the development of progress reports and a manual for growing cranberries in the area, based on the results of the Ruritan Club's research and experience.

UNICOI COUNTY ATTRACTIONS LOCATOR MAP - Member has completed research and has written an initial draft of the map, including descriptions of scenic and recreational area, campgrounds, whitewater rafting, historic sites, fishing, farm products, and craft and antique outlets. The printed maps are to be completed by October, 1995. Additional materials, such as brochures and feature articles will be completed in 1996.

"HIDDEN HEROINES" ORAL HISTORY PROJECT - Member will complete 8 oral histories of Unicoi County women. This is a regional cultural arts project covering eight counties. Volunteers interview, record, and transcribe these oral histories.

REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING EDUCATION - Groundwork for this effort has been laid through partnership building and information gathering in FY95. Objectives for FY96 include: coordination of a teacher inservice workshop for 200 teachers with emphasis on solid waste and recycling; development of promotion strategy, workshops and handbook for training local businesses and industries in waste reduction (210 businesses); research and development of a recycled paper products guide for regional businesses.

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

By building on last years' successes, we will continue to increase participation in Envirothon in FY96. Because of groundwork laid this year, promotion and coordination of the event will require less effort and time next year.

The purpose of the cranberry restoration project is to stimulate economic development through tourism and educate the public about possible alternative agricultural applications. The members will assist the Shady Valley Ruritan Club restore a native cranberry bog on an area of donated land, try various management techniques to achieve a viable crop, and utilize the bog for demonstration and education for inclusion in the community's annual Cranberry Festival.

The printed Attractions Locator Map will be a primary tool to promote tourism and will be placed on literature racks statewide and in bordering states. Additional materials, such as brochures and feature articles will be completed and disseminated through state tourism agencies.

One of the end results of the "Hidden Heroines" interviews will be a play, to be written by nationally known playwright Jo Carson. Local presentation of this drama will be a great asset for tourism in the region. This is a community project which brings together partners from 8 counties to achieve a common goal. Histories gathered from Unicoi County women will contribute to archival information that will increase knowledge of a National Forest dependent community, land use trends, regional peoples at the turn of the century, and women as a minority group.

The Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Education efforts will result in an increased awareness of the need for solid waste reduction and consequent action among all ages and sectors of the population in 6 counties.

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

ENVIROTHON -
- Results in a regional winner who competes in the state contest, with the opportunity to advance to the national level.
- Participating students are encouraged in the learning process, and they get the opportunity for hands-on application of their knowledge.
- A Career Fair the the Envirothon introduces students and teachers to natural resource professions.
- Students and teacher/advisors fill out evaluations of the event.

Rural Community Assistance Monitoring and Evaluation will be conducted to evaluate the quality of the Cranberry Restoration project. Partnerships with the Ruritan Club, Cranberry Festival committee, Forest Service, and technical experts in cranberry culture have developed through this project.

The Unicoi County Attractions Locator Map drafts are helping the tourism committee clarify the county's tourism assets. Contacts made during research helped to educate community leaders about the tourism initiative. Partnerships with community members, the committee, a land-use consultant, and the Forest Service have developed. The quality of the map and other materials will be evaluated by the tourism committee and a consultant. The map clearly shows the National Forest as an asset to the tourism industry and to desired sustainable development which is encouraging cooperation between the Forest Service and this community, where approximately half of the land area is federally owned.

The quality of the "Hidden Heroines" project with be evaluated by ETSU professor at the Center for Appalachian Studies.

The quality of the Solid Waste Education efforts will be reflected by positive responses from teachers and local businesses. Teachers will evaluate the teacher inservice workshops.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

This year there has been an increase in participation in the regional Envirothon (5 additional county schools) due to promotional efforts. An exhibit was taken to 11 schools, and teachers were visited reagarding participation in Envirothon. Results of increased participation include:
- Teachers and school administrators have increased emphasis on natural resources and ecology in this curricula, evidenced by the use of natural resource agency study materials and proposed course additions.

The effectiveness of the Cranberry Restoration project will be shown by an increase in visitors to the Cranberry Festival and Naturalist Rally. Visitors will spend more time in the county and the commerical potential for growing cranberries will be heightened.

The effectiveness of the Attractions Locator Map and other materials will be validated by an increase in visitors to the area.

Success of the "Hidden Heroines" project will be determined by the quality of and interest in the resulting play, increased interest in the cultural history of the region and consequent increase in visitation.

Meeting the goal of training 200 teachers through the inservice workshops and 210 local businesses through workshops and the pre-cycling handbook will be a measure of success.

Grantee Department of Agriculture — Site Rural Development — TN-3
Solid Waste Specialist — Rutledge, TN

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

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

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

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

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

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

A. EPA Solid Waste grant for $40,000. Implement pioneering consumer source reduction education campaign to ultimately help our five counties reach the mandated 25% reduction in solid waste going to landfills. This will also help local store buyers to make better solid waste conscience product buying decisions.

B. Farmers Home grant for $68,060. Provide technical assistance and training to local county government, city government, and local business/industry to implement source reduction techniques and to train solid waste workers to sort, process, store, and maintain high quality recyclables to ensure marketability through outside organizations such as RMCET. This will help reduce the total amount of solid waste going to landfills.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Funding will be secured for the 1996 Earth Day Festival.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

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

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

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

Household Hazardous Waste Collection attendance will increase by 10%.

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

Grantee Department of Agriculture Site Rural Development TN-4
Conservation Education Coord. Johnson City, TN

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To promote conservation education in local schools by organizing activities and also to promote conservation education to the public through awareness such as presentations and workshops.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

The AmeriCorps member will be responsible for the coordination and planning of the conservation camp for 4th graders. A total of 17 stations will be available at the camp with topics including environmental issues and conserving natural resources. An educational packet will also be developed to hand out to each participating student and teacher. A grant approved by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for $5,000 will fund the printing of these packets, t-shirts for the participants, and other needed materials.

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

A new event is planned in conjunction with the Household Hazardous Waste Collection - A Pesticide Container Recycling project. This will benefit farmers in NE Tennessee. A display has been constructed and a brochure will be developed to provide technical details on pesticide container recycling. This will be the first regional pesticide recycling effort in the area.

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

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

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

The Pesticide Container Recycling effort will provide a free and safe way for farmers to have toxic plastic pesticide containers recycled, reducing adverse impacts to the environment.

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

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

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

The Pesticide Container recycling will be measured by the number of farmers participating and how many containers are brought for recycling.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

Out of a possible 1050 students, 775 students have signed up to participate in the Conservation Camp (73%). This is an exceptional number for the first time this effort has been undertaken in this area.

The 2nd Household Hazardous Waste collections will be successful if more than 25% of the households participate. As more people participate, awareness of the event is raised. The first collection included 1298 households. We anticipate 1622 households participating in FY96.

The first regional Pesticide Container recycling will be a success if 20 local farmers bring containers to be recycled.

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Forest Engineer
(Wood in Transportation)

Site Rural Development VA-1
Wytheville, VA

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To identify demonstration sites and demonstrate modern timber bridge technology which will result in improved infrastructure and increase water quality in Southwestern Virginia. Modify standard dry fire hydrant designs for conditions in Southwestern Virginia resulting in improved rural fire protection.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

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

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

Assist sponsors by writing grant proposals to secure funding to construct demonstration timber bridges.

Implement Wood in Transportation "portable logging bridge" project funded in FY95 ($17,500).

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

Provide technical assistance in bridge installation.

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

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

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

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

The member has successfully written a proposal to fund the "portable logging bridge" and we anticipate another successful grant proposal to secure cost share assistance for another bridge site in FY96.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

County officials and engineers will become familiar with the modern timber bridges and will apply for at least 2 more W.I.T. grants to promote the application of this technology.

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

Counties will seek funding and install dry fire hydrants.

Grantee Department of Agriculture Site Rural Development VA-4
Rural Tourism Development Specialist Wise, VA

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

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

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

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

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

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

Develop local area festivals and events. Development will include:

a. Organizing a committee to establish a festival or field day for areas which currently do not have one.

b. Locate an area large enough to accommodate the expected attendance. Secure needed amenities such as food vendors, portable restrooms and tents.

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

Supplementing the economic base of the area with outside revenue.

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

New business and employment opportunities for residents.

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

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

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

Improvement of area attractions made possible by the increased revenue.

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

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

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

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

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

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

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

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Environmental Specialist

Site Rural Development AR-1
North Little Rock, AR

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

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

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

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

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

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

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Alternative Wood Products

Site Rural Development AR-3
Batesville, AR

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

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

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will identify potential wood products markets and needed technologies.

Member will solicit participation from existing wood products manufacturers to promote partnerships between government agencies and to introduce the concept of integrated manufacturing. The concept of integrated manufacturing was introduced in Arkansas by Winrock International through a Forest Service grant. This will enable existing wood products manufacturers to be trained in value-added technologies

Member will research potential markets for wood energy pellets made from sawdust, a by-product of manufacturing.

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

The value of locally produced wood products will increase and production by local wood products manufacturers will increase, enabling them to hire and train at least five new workers.

By finding commercial markets for wood pellets, pollution problems associated with small wood manufacturing will be reduced by 50%.

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

Participating wood products manufacturers will be surveyed before and after project regarding the value their product(s).

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

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

Increase of 25% in the value of wood products.

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

Grantee Department of Agriculture — Site Rural Development AR-5
Housing Relocation Coordinator — Holly Grove, AR

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS:

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS:

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

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

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

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

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

2) What is hoped for result of the activies decribed above?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4) What standard will you gauge success?

All families within the floodplain relocated to affordable housing.

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

Grantee Department of Agriculture Site Rural Development LA-2
Tourism Specialist/Community Planner Winnsboro, LA

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Facilitate creation of tourism opportunities through festivals and other events resulting in 50% of the attendees coming from outside the parish (currently 20% come from outside the parish)

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Market research and development to identify potential tourists.

Develop partnerships with regional tourism groups.

Assist in planning tourism events and local festivals.

Create interpretive signs and programs.

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

Increase tourism markets while maintaining the rural character of the area.

Develop at least three meaningful tourism partnerships.

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

Implementation of at least two events which draw at least 50% non-local people to attend as measured by survey of tourists.

Participation in planning of these events by other tourism groups in the state.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

At least one of the events will become annual.

Increase of out of parish visitation to 100 persons.

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Tourism specialist

Site Rural Development LA-4
Winnfield, LA

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Facilitate creation of tourism opportunities through festivals, publication and enhancement of the local museum, resulting in a 50% increase of the attendees coming from outside the Parish.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS:

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will complete market research and develop community support to reactivate Winn Parish Tourism Commission.

Member will act as primary planner for tourism events and local festivals, specifically special "Museum Days", the Winnfield Forestry Festival, and Piney Hills Black Heritage Weekend.

Develop tourism brochure for Winn Parish, emphasizing cultural heritage, recreation and sustainable ecology.

Increase professionalism of existing local History/Forestry/Political Museum by revising by-laws, exhibits and programs.

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

Increase tourism while maintaining the rural character of the area.

Recieve accredidation from the American Association of Museums for the local museum.

Increase museum attendance by 15% which will permit broader exhibits and program offerings to the visitor.

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

Implementation of two events which draw at least 50% non-local people to attend as meacured by survey of tourists.

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

Return of at least 10% of the forms included with the museum brochure. These forms allow visitors to provide feed back on the quality of the exhibits and their experience.

4) What standard will you guage success?

The return of the Winn Parish Tourism Commission to a functioning level. Local persons become active in tourism planning.

The museum will become self-supporting through increases in visitation.

Number of positive responses to the tourism brochure.

The museum will become accredited, thereby increasing the museum's "profile" within central Louisianna.

Increased spending at local merchants as seen in 1996 Parish and municipal fiscal records.

25% increase in Museum visitation as seen through sign-ins.

Correlation of the number of people visiting sites noted in the brochure (as seen by brochure responses) after visiting the Museum.

Log of calls received by the Chamber of Commerce about tourism opportunities.

Grantee Department of Agriculture — Site Rural Development — MS-7
Community Recycling Coordinator — Stoneville, MS

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

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

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Residents of the institution will be interviewed on job satisfaction.

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

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

Employment of 25 disabled adults to sort materials

Reduction of 15% of materials going to local landfills.

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

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

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

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

Grantee Department of Agriculture Site Rural Development MS-9
Environmental Education Stoneville, MS

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

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

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Increased participation in all aspects of the environmental education program.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

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

Teacher evaluations rating all activities as appropriate and increase of 10% in participation of local schools in environmental education programs.
A 50% increase in usage of the Environmental Resource Center.

Teachers will be asked for feed back about the program such as how could it better serve the educational needs of the students. Approximately 80% of these students have an African-American heritage, and the member will be modifying traditional environmental educational materials to enhance their effectiveness with this population group.

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

Teachers and administrators in 3 county school systems will have environmental education materials available to them, and the member will assist in teacher training.

Approximately 1000 K-12 grade students will benefit from the opportunity to learn about their environment, and to have contact with natural resource professionals regarding career opportunities.

APPENDIX III

EMPOWERMENT ZONES AND ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES

The Rural Empowerment Zones announced were:

1. Kentucky Highlands (Clinton, Jackson and Wayne counties);

2. Mid-Delta in Mississippi (Bolivar, Sunflower, Leflore, Washington, Humphries, and Holmes counties); and

3. Rio Grande Valley in Texas (Starr, Cameron, Midalgo, and Wallacy counties).

The Rural Enterprise Communities named were:

1. Chambers County in Alabama;

2. Greene and Sumter Counties in Alabama;

3. Mississippi County in Arkansas;

4. Imperial County in California;

5. Jackson County in Florida;

6. Macon Ridge in Louisiana (Catahoula, Concordia, Franklin, Morehouse, Tensas parishes);

7. Lake County in Michigan;

8. North Delta area in Mississippi (Panola, Quitman and Tallahatchie counties);

9. City of East Prairie and Mississippi County in Missouri;

10. Mora County in New Mexico

11. Halifax, Edgecombe, and Wilson Counties in North Carolina;

12. Greater Portsmouth in Ohio (Scioto county);

13. City of Lock Haven in Pennsylvania;

14. Beadle and Spink Counties in South Dakota;

15. Fayette and Haywood Counties in Virginia;

16. Accomack and Northampton Counties in Virginia;

17. Central Appalachia in West Virginia (Roane, Braxton, Clay, Nicholas, Fayette counties);

18. McDowell County in West Virginia;

19. Scott Co. Tennessee and McCreary Co. Kentucky

20. Northeast Louisiana Delta in Louisiana (Madison parish);

21. Robeson County in North Carolina;

22. Yakima County in Washington;

23. Williamsburg and Florence Counties in South Carolina;

24. Josephine County in Oregon;

25. McCurtain and Choctaw Counties in Oklahoma;

26. Crisp and Dooly Counties in Georgia;

27. Central Savannah River Area in Georgia (Burke, Hancock, Jefferson, McDuffie, Taliaferro, Warren counties);

28. City of Watsonville in California;

29. Arizona Border Region of Arizona (Cochise, Yuma and Santa Cruz counties); and

30. **Eastern Arkansas in Arkansas (Cross, Lee and St. Francis counties).**

FIELD REPORT - AMERICORPS
FY 1996 PROPOSAL

I. COVER PAGE

Project Title: **STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACTIVE RURAL COMMUNITIES FOUR CORNERS USDA AMERICORPS PARTNERSHIP**

Address/Location: San Juan/Rio Grande National Forest
701 Camino Del Rio
Durango,CO 81301

Congressional District of all project sites:
Colorado-- 3rd District, Scott McInnis
New Mexico-- 3rd District, Bill Richardson
Utah-- 3rd District, Bill Orton
Arizona--6th District, Karen English

This is a RURAL project.

Projects are being implemented in New Mexico designated Enterprise Community counties of Rio Arriba, Taos and planned in Mora County. Projects are being implemented in Colorado designated Enterprise Community counties of Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan Counties.

The project area includes areas of high poverty and above average unemployment in each of the four states.

Project start date: October 1, 1995.

Project completion date: September 30, 1996

Full time Members: 8 *(We would consider a total of 12 members if an additional 4 positions and corresponding funding become available.)

Part time Members: 0

Name of persons submitting proposal:

PAUL PECK, 41595 E. Hwy 160, Mancos, CO 81328, DG:R02F13D05A,
Phone 970-533-7716, FAX 970-533-7869,

BOB DETTMANN, Rocky Mountain Region, PO Box 25127, Lakewwod, CO 80225
Phone 303-275-5741, FAX 303-275-5754, DG:R02A

WES HARVEY, Intermountain Region, 801-625-5259

LARRY ROYBAL, Southwest Region, 505-988-6940

FOUR CORNERS PROJECT BACKGROUND

This is an AmeriCorps Rural Development Team proposal for the FY 1996 Four Corners USDA AmeriCorps Partnership. The Four Corners USDA AmeriCorps Partnership is a Team USDA program including US Forest Service, RC&D Councils and Farmers Home Administration supporting a 34 member program working in the communities and with the tribes of the Four Corners area.

The proposal is submitted for continuation of a minimum 8 member Forest Service participation in the Four Corners AmeriCorps Partnership. **Please note that our partners prefer that the Forest Service participation remain closer to the current 12 member level.** We would consider up to 4 more Members, if the positions and corresponding funding become available.

The Four Corners is defined in this proposal as the lands within the boundaries of the four RC&D Councils that share a common boundary at the Four Corners Monument. Included within this area are the lands or influence of the San Juan-Rio Grande, Manti-La Sal, Carson, Cibola, Santa Fe, Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

The area's unique ecological, social and economic diversity is the source of its greatest challenges and strengths. Along side some of the Nations worst areas of persistent poverty and unemployment is higher than average economic growth and immigration driven by a high quality of life. This wide range of distress and transition has brought together federal, state, tribal and local entities with overlapping jurisdictions, sharing a common vision for economic diversification and ecological sustainability.

The Four Corner's AmeriCorps program is a working partnership between state and federal agencies, local communities and tribes, profit and non profits implementing locally driven development strategies and public land collaborative planning models. The Forest Service goal in participating in the Four Corners AmeriCorps Partnership is to significantly contribute to the well being of Four Corners communities through the "Course to the Future" and its primary outcomes of healthy ecosystems, vital communities and an effective organization.

These outcomes are mutually compatible with the outcomes of our partners in the Four Corners region and builds on existing, successful and sustainable collaborations.

Continuation of an eight (8) member program into fiscal year 1996 is an essential part of this effort.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE FOUR CORNERS AMERICORP PROGRAM.

Objectives for the Four Corners AmeriCorps program are driven by mutually compatible outcomes identified by the communities, tribes and the state federal, profit and nonprofits who've collaborated to take action.

Broad outcomes identified by communities and tribes include:

Creating jobs
Increasing family incomes
Increasing community revenues
Enhancing quality of life
Preserve cultural heritage

The AmeriCorps Members, their projects, and actions working for the Four Corner communities and tribes are the linking pin between these community outcomes and Forest Service Course to the Future's desired outcomes of:

Healthy ecosystems
Vital communities
Effective organization

The following is a quote from a local community leader given to an AmeriCorps member engaged in a community development project which demonstrates this linking pin effect.

> "Vision means wanting to have something that holds our young people here. It means to have a sustainable living that supports a family and includes what to do to maintain those lifestyles that we define for this region. Vision also involves attracting the types of industry that allows people to survive. It entails jobs, but more specifically, the kinds of jobs that this region can sustain."
>
> -Maimie Lynch-
> Pagosa Springs, Colorado

That, in a nutshell, is our objective.

The FY 96 Projects and Objective Statements contribute to goals identified by the communities in the 1993 TEAM USDA SPARC's initiative. SPARCS stands for Strengthening Partnerships in Active Rural CommunitieS. The SPARCS goals include:

1. Provide assistance in community capacity building, leadership development, Action Team planning and Action Plan implementation. Building relationships between communities, Tribes, government agencies, Non-profit groups and others to network information and to collaberatively problem solve and implement strategies to achieve desired outcomes.

2. Develop a Four Corners shared data base of social, economic and ecological information.

3. Provide technical assistance to the Four Corners Heritage Council and to the tribes and communities for heritage tourism, eco-tourism and tribal tourism projects.

4. Provide technical and financial assistance to business expansion and retention projects, value added business projects and sustainability analysis.

5. Provide technical assistance to infrastructure development and improvement projects.

II. SPECIFIC PROJECT OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS

Specific projects are listed on the following pages.

Grantee-Department of Agriculture Site-Four Corners RDT, Coyote, NM

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Clean, efficient and safe fresh water delivery sytem for the community of Vallecitos, New Mexico.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

This is a continuation of a 1995 AmeriCorp project. Vallecitos is an isolated Hispanic community surrounded by the Carson National Forest in northern New Mexico. The community is plagued by high unemployment and illeteracy rates. The water supply is from the Vallecitos River, which is contaminated by fecal coliform, bacteria, and livestock waste. For the last several years, the community relied on the National Guard to truck in potable water.

In 1995, the AmeriCorp Member has worked in cooperation with the Carson National Forest, the State of New Mexico, and the Vallecitos Mutual Domestic Water Association(VMDWA) to secure an $18,640 grant for an engineering and geohydrological study. The community and the partners want to continue the project in 1996.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1) **What work will be done? What activities will Members engage in?**

Continue to work with the cooperators and the community to provide progress reports and to facilitate completion of the project in 1996.

The AmeriCorp Member will provide technical information about infrastructure development to the community; co-author engineering contracts; provide technical information to the community about funding assistance from State, Federal, and private sources; assist in filling out applications; help those in the community, who are illiterate, to understand the contract terms and clauses; write grant proposals to obtain funding to complete the project; and aid the VMDWA in informing the community about the project and water system.

2) **What are the hoped-for results of the activities described above?**

Water system that provides clean drinking water for the Vallecito community.

Formation of a successful Community Action Team and community leadership.

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

The location of a new fresh water well, the acquisition of a holding tank, construction of a delivery system and the location of the funding to carry out the project.

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

   The availability of safe drinking water to the village of Vallecitos will indicate the success of the project.

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

   The 100 people that populate the community will have safe drinking water.

Grantee-Department of Agriculture Site-Four Corners RDT, -Coyote NM

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To provide business development information and assistance to cooperatives and small developing businesses using local forest products in rural Mora County, New Mexico. To identify potential funding sources for business start ups like Mora Horticultural and Plants Products. To promote sustainable employment, operating with environmentally sound practices and utilizing the local natural resources.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT

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

   The AmeriCorps member will work with the local governments, businesses and non profit organizations to identify potential business using forest products. The member will provide technical business development information, locate funding sources, grant writing, assist in writing small business plans, and coordinate with the US Forest Service for permit information and acquisition, to gather or harvest forest products.

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

   The development of a small business that will become self-sustaining within 3 years and will employ 10-12 persons.

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

   Successful establishment of a small business development plan and location of start-up funds to acquire tools and equipment.

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

   The employment of 12 individuals.

5. **How many individuals will recieve the benefit of the work your members perform?**

   12 employed individuals and their families, for a potential total of 60 people.

Grantee-Department of Agriculture Site-Four Corners RDT, Several Locations

Monticello,	UT	Target 3 Communities
Price,	UT	Target 2 Communities
Mancos,	CO	Target 3 Communities
Durango,	CO	Target 2 Communities
Coyote,	NM	Target 4 Communities
Holbrook,	AZ	Target 3 Communities

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

Increase number of citzens involved as communtiy leaders, increase the number of Communities with Action Teams and Action Plans, plus increase the capacity of Communitites to resolve problems and implement Action Plans. This objective is focused on small, many times unincorporated, communities scattered all over the Four Corners area.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

This is a continuation of several 1995 AmeriCorp efforts. Many communities in the Four Corners are small and geographically isolated. Many, particularly the Hispanic and Indian communities, are either unincorporated or lack established community leaders. Other communities, who are experiencing rapid growth due to a population influx, do not have the skills to deal with the rapid change. AmeriCorp Members have been the impetus to get community citizens together to work on a common goal. It is critical that the AmeriCorp efforts continue in 1996.

The 1996 project is Four Corners wide and would be based out of the specific AmeriCorp Member locations listed above. The number of communities targeted is listed next to each Member location. Members will also share their skills across state boundaries as needed.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

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

   Organize and facilitate community meetings.

   Assist with leadership training and community capacity building--leadership skills, communications skills, group dynamics, visioning and strategic planning skills, project planning skills, and grant writing skills.

   Assist communities in developing Community Action Teams and Community Action Plans.

   Assist communities to implement Action Plan projects.

Assist with entrepreneur training and development--marketing skills, writing business plans, business finance skills, and customer relation skills.

Include High School, Trade School, and College students in the above processes. Integrate participation into their curriculums.

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

Active leadership, individuals and groups, in 17 communities of the Four Corners area. Capacity in the communities to deal with community problems and priorities.

Ongoing training and leadership development of school students. They actively participate in community projects.

17 Community Action Plans that address long term needs and desired future conditions, plus contribute to community stability.

Positive action on the highest priority project from each Action Plan.

Community access to private, state, and federal assistance for infrastructure improvement, business development, and educational improvement.

Business growth and new business starts.

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

Number of community leaders that develop, the number of community action plans developed, and number of projects that get underway.

Number of communities that improve their social and cultural status as measured by quality of life surveys.

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

New leadership develops in the communities. And existing leaders further develop their skills.

Community Action Teams and Action Plans are developed.

Projects are accomplished in the communities.

The quality of life survey will show that 50% of the communities have improved their quality of life rating.

New or expanded businesses.

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

20,000 residents in and around the involved communities.

Grantee-Department of Agriculture Site-Four Corners RDT, Mancos, CO

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Develop an economic model of the regional economy that assists western Colorado communities, Economic Development Councils, lending institutions, plus local, state and federal agencies develop and evaluate economic diversification plans and policies

PROJECT BACKGROUND

This is a continuation of a 1995 AmeriCorp project involving several partners--Ft.Lewis College, State Economist, Colorado State University, Economic Development Districts, Counties, and Indian Nations. The partners want to finish the project in 1996. This project is already receiving attention for possible adoption in other parts of the country.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

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

-Finish identifying all base, indirect, and induced industry in the region. (Started in 1995.)

-Finish collecting ES202 data from the State on all SIC codes represented and compare with local data. (Started in 1995.)

-Finish conducting on-site surveys, outreach to local businesses. (Started in 1995.)

-Analyze and synthesize information into reports on each sector for presentation to economic development agencies, local financial institutions, and community working groups.

-Develop an economic input/output model for use by those involved in community, land use, or land management planning.

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

-Retention of local businesses and job.

-Expansion of local businesses and jobs where they fit with a diverse, sustainable economy.

-An economic input/output model available for local and regional decision-making.

-A vibrant, diverse, self sustaining local economy that results in part from the information available in the model.

-Local decision-makers know the economic diversity of the area economy, and the important sectors driving the economy.

-Local decision-makers know the input/output interrelationships of local economic sectors, including dependency upon public and land related activities.

-Economic dependency and diversity material available to Economic Development Councils, governments, and financial institutions for use in policy and economic analysis and a wide range of community development initiatives.

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

-Amount of use that the information and the model get by local decision-makers.

-Feedback from the above users.

-Model adopted by other communities, development councils, and government agencies in other parts of the country.

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

The model itself will not directly create new jobs--that is the responsibility of the business sector. The model will facilitate quality integrated decisions that promote job retention, business expansion, and new business starts. The model will have a positive impact on decision-making and problem solving in communities and land management planning processes. Information in the model shows local decision-makers the condition of the economy, where things need to change, what is at risk, and how to move to a desired future condition.

-A vibrant, diverse, self sustaining local economy that results in part from the information available in the model.

-Retention of local businesses and jobs as an indirect result of local decision-makers using information in the model.

-Expansion of local businesses and jobs where they fit with a diverse, sustainable economy. New jobs are an indirect result of local decision-makers using information in the model.

-Model is adopted and used elsewhere in the State and Nation.

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

-Immediate benefit to the entire population of the two Indian Nations and five Counties in southwestern Colorado, population 80,000. (Indian Nations: Ute Mountain, Ute and Southern Ute. Counties: Dolores, La Plata, Archuleta, Montezuma, and San Juan.)

-Long term benefit to another 120,000+ residents of the Four corners area, including five additional Indian Nations. This benefit will accrue as we continue to move toward a Four Corners regional economy.

-The 1,000,000+ tourists to this area will benefit due to stable economy, stable communities, and healthy ecosystems, which contribute to a high quality tourist experience and quality infrastructure.

-As the model is adopted elsewhere, the number of individuals that benefit will grow exponentially.

Grantee-Department of Agriculture Site-Four Corners RDT, Durango, CO

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Develop a integrated, comprehensive social data base for southwest Colorado. Synthesize and disseminate social trend information to municipalities, Counties, State, and Federal agencies, and to individuals involved in management planning and policy formation. Assist in integrating community planning with Federal and State public land management planning.

PROJECT BACKGROUND
This is a continuation of a 1995 AmeriCorp project involving several partners--Indian Nations, Cities, Counties, State agencies, Colleges, Economic Development Districts, and several non profits. The partners want to finish this project in 1996. This project is already being looked at by other Counties, Federal agencies, and citizens groups for implementation in other parts of the country.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

1) **What work will be done? What activities will Members engage in?**

-Assemble data from existing community profiles, studies, and planning efforts for southwest Colorado, regarding community status, community desired future conditions, and regional trends.

-Conduct follow-up interviews as needed with citizens, community officials, and leaders.

-Synthesize, interpret, and integrate diverse data elements into the comprehensive data base.

-Prepare summary reports of relevant community information, study group processes, and interviews which will describe preferred community future conditions and regional trends.

-Disseminate social trend information to municipalities, Counties, State, and Federal agencies, and to individuals involved in management planning and policy formation.

2) **What are the hoped-for results of the activities described above?**

-Comprehensive, integrated social data base for southwest Colorado which is available for local and regional decision making.

-Expansion of local businesses and jobs where they fit with a diverse, sustainable economy and maintain local customs and cultural diversity.

-A vibrant, diverse, self sustaining local economy that results in part from the information available in the database.

-All agencies and entities involved in planning efforts will cooperatively maintain the data base and use it as a common source for social information.

-Capitalize on all previous studies and planning efforts and integrate pertinent social information into ongoing and future planning efforts. Specifically utilize this information in Countywide land use planning efforts just starting in Montezuma and La Plata Counties, the State of Colorado's Smart Growth planning efforts, and the upcoming revisions of the Land and Resource Management Plans for both the Forest Service and the BLM.

-Planners and decision-makers gain a more in-depth understanding of local social trends, helping them to better apply desired outcomes to land management and land use planning.

-Establish a model for which other communities and agencies may incorporate in their own community-public land partnerships and public involvement programs.

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

-Periodic evaluation and feedback from Partners, such as Ft. Lewis College-Office of Community Services, County Planning Boards, and City Planners, Indian Nation Planning Departments, Sociologists, and Sociology Professors.

-Followup interviews and sensing with individuals in the various communities.

-Amount of use that the data and model get.

4) **By what standards will you gauge success?**

-Retention of traditional ways of livelihood, family cultures, and lifestyles that result in retention of local businesses and jobs.

-Expansion of local businesses and jobs where they fit with a diverse, sustainable economy and that enhance local customs and cultural diversity.

-The database itself will not directly improve the lives of the residents. However, use of the information in it will facilitate quality integrated decisions that retain cultures, traditions, lifestyles that are tied to local jobs, businesses, economic stability and cultural diversity. This is very important and beneficial to local residents because they will have the ability to pass on these things to their families and to future generations.

-A vibrant, diverse, self sustaining local economy that results in part from the information available in the database.

-Communities, municipalities, and public land agencies use the information to facilitate public involvement in community and land planning initiatives.

-Demonstrate more effective collaboration and problem solving in community-public lands partnerships.

-Above users cooperatively share information, plus maintain and update the data as needed. They continue to use it as a common source of social information.

-Adoption of the model by other communities and agencies in the State or nation.

-Retention of local businesses and jobs as an indirect result of local decision-makers using information on the model.

-Expansion of local businesses and jobs where they fit with a diverse, sustainable economy. New jobs are an indirect result of local decision-makers using information in the model.

-Model is adopted and used elsewhere in the State and Nation.

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

-Entire population of the two Indian Nations and the five Counties in southwest Colorado. Population 80,000.

-Other communities in the Four Corners area with similar social and economic situations and trends. There are and additional 120,000+ residents of the Four Corners area, including more Indian Nations.

-Through linkage with upcoming planning efforts listed above, this project can benefit people all over Colorado and anyone involved or interested in public land management in southwest Colorado.

-As the model is adopted elsewhere, the number of individuals that benefit will grow exponentially.

Grantee-Department of Agriculture Site-Four Corners RDT, Mancos, CO

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To identify potential "new" or "value added" forest products, test their feasibility, and develop several of them into marketable products.

PROJECT BACKGROUND
This is a continuation of a 1995 AmeriCorp project. A coalition of businesses, government agencies and non-profit organizations, with help of AmeriCorp Members will hold a Four Corners Forest Products Conference in 1995. The conference ties together sustainable ecosystem, sustainable industry and sustainable community concepts. AmeriCorps members will assist in implementation of the action items from the conference that will include identifying, testing, and developing potential new or value added forest porducts.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT

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

   Conduct a series of brainstorming sessions or think tank seminars to identify at least 100 potential new or valued added products. Develop an "Imagination Contest" that involves school students in the brainstorming process.

   Work with a team from wood product manufacturers, retail stores, entreprenuers, schools, and other creative persons to select at least 10 of these new product ideas for feasibility testing.

   Assist in the feasibility testing. Involve students in the testing process.

   Assist with providing technical business development information, locating funding sources, writing grants, and writing small business plans needed for further product development.

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

   Feasibility testing of at least 10 potential new or value added products.

   Following feasibility testing, at least 4 new or value added products will be designated as marketable.

   The development of at least two new local businesses that will become self-sustaining within 3 years and will employ 10-20 persons.

   Utilizing the creativity and energy of students, thus nurturing their entrepreneur skills and fostering interest in a related career field.

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

   By monitoring the number of products tested and developed. New product development will include strategies for testing new product feasibility, marketability, and quality.

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

   The development of 4 new products, the increased usage of materials not usually recycled, community satisfaction and economic improvement.

   Successful establishment of new businesses.

   Increased employment.

   Interest in related career fields by students.

5. **How many individuals will recieve the benefit of the work your members perform?**

   10-30 newly employed individuals and their families.

   Several hundred students, 50 other think tank participants, manufacturers.

Grantee-Department of Agriculture Site-Four Corners RDT, Mancos, CO

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To develop a Technology Transfer and Demonstration Center for forest products industries. The Center will network the latest research and development information from Forest Products Labs, Universities, and industry; house the latest equipment and computer technology used for wood working and manufacturing; and make the technology and equipment available for local entrepreneurs to develop and market new products.

PROJECT BACKGROUND
This is a continuation of a 1995 AmeriCorp project. A coalition of businesses, government agencies and non-profit organizations, with help of AmeriCorp Members, will hold a Four Corners Forest Products Conference in 1995. The conference ties together sustainable ecosystem, sustainable industry and sustainable community concepts. AmeriCorps members will assist in implementation of the action items from the conference that will include establishing a Technology Transfer and Demonstration Center.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT

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

   Establish a Four Corners electronic bulletin board for sharing latest wood products and technology information.

   Establish electronic links with Forest Product Labs, Universities, Technical Schools, and industry sources for same information.

   Establish computer access for local forest product industries and entrepreneurs to interface with the bulletin board, via their own computers or via a computer available to the public(such as in libraries.)

   Assist the coalition of industry, governments, schools, and non-profits in setting up the Demonstration Center.

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

   An electronic network with access to the latest research and development information about new products or equipment for all 50+ communities, all 5 Indian Nations, all forest product industries, and local entrpreneurs.

   A strategy to get the Demonstration Center on line and accomplish several steps of implementing the strategy.

   A Demonstration Center that provides access to expensive state of the art equipment, so that entrepreneurs can test new products without prohibitive up-front equipment expense.

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

   The quality of the electronic network will be reflected in how much use it gets from area businesses, schools, and entrepreneurs.

   The quality of the Demonstration Center strategy will be reflected in how easily and quickly it is implemented.

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

   Local entrepreneurs or businesses will reference the bulletin board frequently. In the first year at least 10 items of information will be used by businesses in the area.

   Bulletin board information will spawn 5 new product ideas or improvement of 5 current products.

   The Demonstration Center is well along the way to implementation with a high degree of cooperation and partnerships.

   Several entrepreneurs are ready to test their ideas at the Demonstration Center.

5. **How many individuals will recieve the benefit of the work your members perform?**

   50 communities, 5 Indian Nations, with a total population of 200,000.

   Estimate 100 businesses and entrepreneurs who would use the Demonstration Center.

Grantee-Department of Agriculture Site-Four Corners RDT, Dolores, CO

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Have Four Corners tourism information in electronic format, acessible via internet, and available to home computer users, the travel industry, motels, and visitor centers.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT

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

   Compile all tourism information sources.

   Assist each entity with scanning their information into electronic environment.

   Edit information into common sharable format.

   Incorporate the information into a high quality, user friendly, visually attractive, and interactive software program.

   Develop link to Internet server and electronic bulletin board.

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

   Increased tourism revenues due to marketing via Internet.

   Higher quality tourist experience. Tourists can plan a well rounded quality experience before they even leave home.

   More convenient trip planning for tourists and the travel industry. Tourists can plan their trips from home and travel agents will have additional information for their clients. Reservations could be made electronically.

   All tourism information will be in a common sharable format. Everyone would have access to the same information.

   More efficient maintenance of the data and information for all parties. Need for printed brochures and associated costs would go down.

   Environmental education tool. Environmental education and land ethic principles can be woven into the tourism information, thus drastically multiplying the audience and exposure to that information.

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

   Quality will be measured by the number of people who use the information. Number of users is monitored electronically for Internet uses and also at visitor centers.

Feedback from tourism industry will also give an indication of quality.

Feedback from the users themselves.

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

7% increase in revenues for the tourism businesses, due to:

- Expanded domestic marketing efforts. Electronic format exponentially increases the number of marketing outlets--every computer in homes, libraries, visitor centers, travel agencies, government offices, etc. Focus is not to increase the number of domestic tourists, but to increase their average length of stay and improve the quality of their tourist experience. They can, in advance, schedule more activities in one area. Net result is that they will spend additional dollars in the Four Corners area. Expect a 5% increase in tourism revenues.

- Expanded foreign marketing efforts. Internet provides worldwide marketing of tourism information. Expect a 10% increase in foreign tourists related revenues.

Expansion of tourism businesses. Expect two new businesses in the area that deal with complete trip packages. They plan and organize will rounded tourist experiences including transportation, sightseeing, lodging, restaurants, interpreters, shopping, etc.

Increased sensitivity to land stewardship as a result of the environmental education information that is included.

Decrease in need for expensive printed material.

5. **How many individuals will recieve the benefit of the work your members perform?**

1,000,000+ visitors to the Four Corners area.

Estimated 15,000,000 Internet users.

Travel and tourism industry in the Four Corners area.

III. **SUMMARY PAGE**

The Four Corners AmeriCorp program will assist communities, local governments, Indian Nations, non-profits, and other partners to implement their projects which improve community infrastructure, improve quality of life, diversify the economic base, expand or develop new businesses, create new jobs, plus develop local leadership and capacity to solve problems. Inherent in these projects is accomplishing them in an environmentally sensitive manner, so that the projects enhance and foster healthy ecosystems and sustainable communitites.

In a typical week, AmeriCorp Members will provide a wide variety of services and skills. These will include providing professional and technical expertise

relating to the SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES listed in Section II, researching technical information, summarizing and reporting the findings, organizing communtity leadership training, working with community action groups, and other partners on specific projects, planning and organizing projects, reasearching funding sources for projects, writing grants or other funding applications, working with school students to incorporate them into the projects or to give environmental education programs, giving talks and presenting information to various groups, researching information and communicating via internet and local bulletin boards, gathering economic and social data, plus much more.

A diverse work force will be recruited for this program. The Four Corners is a very diverse mix of Hispanic, Indian, and white peoples. Part of the recruitment will be focus on college students from the area. Another part of the recruitment will focus on providing a rich mix of other cultures and nationalities. Recruitment will take place at each university, college and trade school in the four states, the 1890 schools, the CNCS Recruitment list, and the USDA recruitment list. See RECRUITMENT PLAN in Section VII for further detail.

The Four Corners program has numerous partners that are listed in Section IV--COLLABORATION. The program does not have any 3rd party recipients.

IV. COLLABORATION

Partner Name	Type	Contribution
Rio Arriba County,NM	County Government	Clerical, Heavy Equip. Salaries, Labor, Administration
Jemez Mountain Schools	Public Education	Technical Support, Clerical, Office Supplies, Salaries Training
Village of Cuba, NM	Local Government	Clerical, Administrative, Labor
Sandoval County, NM	County Government	Heavy Equiptment, Labor:
Marshall McCuen	Charitable Foundation	Cash and Technical Support
Vallecitos Cooperative	Unincorporated Village	Administrative, Clerical Labor
Costilla Arts and Craft Guils	Non Profit	Administrative, Office Space
Taos County Economic Development Council	County	Technical, Administrative Financial Management

Max and Anna Levinson	Foundation	Cash
Northern New Mexico Community College	State Education	Business Planning and Development Consultation
Farmers Home Admin.	Federal	Cash to build a Waste Water Treatment Plant
Hub RC&D	Federal-local	Tech asst. projects
Little Colorado RC&D	Federal-local	Tech Asst, supervision,
AZ Dept of Commerce	State	Tech asst. training,
Navajo Tribe	Tribe	Direction, guidance, skills
Zuni Pueblo	Tribe	Direction, guidance, skills
AZ Org. of Native American Tourism	Non profit	Guidance, skills
Castleland RC&D	Federal-local	Training, supervision, administration
Utah Assc of Govt's	Non-profit	Technical assistance,
Utah Coop Ext Service	Fed-State	Technical asst. skills
Utah State Parks Dept	State	Projects, skills
4 Utah Counties	local	Projects, skills, guidance
Monticello, Utah	local govt	Office space, supplies
Moab, Utah	local govt	supplies, projects, supv
San Juan Voc Tech	State Education	Training, skills, equip
USDI Nat'l Park Service	Federal	Training, supplies
Southern Ute Tribe	Tribe	Training, supplies
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Tribe	Training, supplies
San Juan NF Assoc.	Non Profit	Training, facilitation,
PAW-Physically Challenged Access	Non Profit	Training, materials,
Fort Lewis College	State Education	Training, facilitation, telecommunications
CO City Governments 11	Local	Training, supplies

CO Counties	5	County	Vehicle, time, training
San Juan RC&D		Federal	Telecommunications grant writing,
San Juan Forum		Non Profit	Facilitation, grant writing,
R9 Econ. Dev. Dist		State	Facilitation, grants, office
Colo. State FS		State	Training, supplies
Rural Video Access		Non Profit	Cash, training, video equipment,
Rural Elect Coop's		Business	Cashs,
CO Local Chambers-7		Non profit	Funds, manpower, supplies
SW Colo. Travel Reg		Non profit	Cash, grant writing, facilitation, training
Colo. Dept of Local Affairs		State	Business Dev. training, grants, manpower

V. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The USDA Forest Service and the NRCS RC&D's will administer the program. These agencies along with the various partners have the capacity to complete the projects. Since these are local community projects, the AmeriCorp Members will be helping the communities complete with a lot of local ownership and support. A significant portion of the capacity to complete the projects comes from the communitities and partners, and it is there.

Both agencies have strong skills in the rural development, community development, planning, organizing, training, and collaberative work projects. Key personnel in the agencies are: Bob Dettmann, Larry Roybal, Wes Harvey, Gary Schiff, Steve Kluge, Paul Peck, Jim Powers, Kresha Eastman, Gary Jennings, Merlin Berg, and Leon Martinez.

This is a continuation of an existing AmeriCorp project that has proven very successful and very important to the communities and partners in this area. The Agencies and partners have demonstrated their capacity to complete projects.

VI. INNOVATION AND REPLICABILITY

Several of the projects are innovative beacuse they help develop local leadership instead of relying on the government to solve problems. People get involved in collaberatively working on their problems, issues and projects. These porjects also involves school students in the many of the projects to tap into their creative ideas and to get them involved in testing and

implementing them. This develops and trains a new generation of leaders while getting them invovled with the current leaders. Makes youth part of the solution. Also will be a good stimulator for youth to choose careers. Uses telecommunications technology to implement and enhance several of the projects. Several projects invlove considerable cooperation across administrative boundaries, such as the Byway Management Plans and community leaderhip and capacity building efforts.

Replicability--all the projects are replicable. Several are designed to serve as models for adoption elsewhere.

Based on the anticipated success of these projects, they will sustain long term involvement by attracting other funding sources and eventually becoming self sustaining by leading to new business ventures that will continue the projects.

VII. DETAILED RECRUITMENT PLAN

Recruitment and hiring for the 1996 Four Corners program will be handled by an interagency USDA Team.

First priority for filling 1996 positions will be current AmeriCorp Members on the Four Corners team who want to continue, who have performed satisfactorily, and who have the skills needed for the 1996 positions.

For remaining positions, we will recruit from the following sources which will insure a list of candidates that represent a diverse cross section of the public.

Northern Arizona University	University of Arizona
Arizona State University	Grand Canyon College
University of Utah	Utah State University
SE Utah Community College	Navajo Community College
SW Indian Technical Institute	University of New Mexico
New Mexico State Univeristy	San Juan College
Ft. Lewis College	Adams State College
University of Colorado	Colorado State University
Pueblo Community College	Mesa State College
CNCS Recruitment Pool	USDA Recruitment Pool
USDA 1890 Schools	Local residents

Contacts will be made with the schools, prior to dismissal this spring. A protocol will be established with each school for recruiting this summer, once the program is approved for 1996. Schools will gather names, plus summer addresses and phone numbers for interested students.

Once the program is approved for 1996, the interagency USDA Team will notify all schools and interested students. Applications will be sent to those who wish to apply. The Team will also screen the CNCS and USDA application pools for interested candidates. They will be notified.

The interagency team will set up an 800 number and one office for all phone calls and applications.

The interagency Team will screen all applications and rank the top five candidates for each position.

Personal interviews and reference checks will be done prior to final selection. A diverse mix of cultures and nationalities will be a high priority in the final selections.

Tentative Recruitment Schedule

4/95 - 5/95	Contacts with all universities, colleges, and trade schools prior to spring dismissal about potential program in 1996. Establish protocol for recruiting in summer.
5/30/95	CNCS notifies Department of approved projects.
6/95	Screen current Members for continuation into 1996.
7/95- 9/95	Recruitment period for postions available.
9/95	Finalize recruitment and hiring.
10/1/95	Orientation and startup

VIII. DETAILED WORKPLAN AND MILESTONE SCHEDULE

General and Ongoing Activities Schedule

9/1 - 10/1/95	Specialists plan, set expected outcomes, structure and monitor each project.
10/1 - 10/15/95	Orientation to Four Corners Program, including communiation skills, safety, AmeriCorp overview, Swearing In, etc. Pre-project meetings with specialists to discuss goals and expected outcomes. Training plans established. Opportunities will be provided to members to network and participate in professional community development organizations, State Rural Development Council meetings and localized workshops organized by Four Corners USDA partnership. Specialists help train Members for each project. Training continues as needed during the year for each project.
Ongoing	Periodic review all activities, check focus on mission and objectives, check achievement of expected results, and re-direct activities as necessary.
Ongoing	Monitoring of training plans and what the Members learn.

12/95, 3/96, 6/96	Quarterly Reports
8/96	Conduct an Interagency-Community Program Review to answer the question - are we "getting things done...".
9/96	Final Report

Specific Workplan and Milestone Schedules

Specific Workplan and Milestone Schedules are listed for individual projects on the following pages.

DETAILED WORKPLAN AND MILESTONE SCHEDULE

COYOTE NM, VALLECITOS WATER PROJECT

This is a continuatin of an AmeriCorps project started in 1995. Funding has been provided for an engineering and hydrology study.

10/95	Provide information to the public regarding the progress of the program.
10/95-1/96	Provide direction in formation of a Community Action team, and community leadership.
	Give training in leadership skills, available funding, grant writing etc. as needed.
12-95-2/96	Obtain funding and partners to complete the project.
	Assist in writing engineering contracts.
	Assist in filling out applications, and helping the applicants understand the terms and clauses.
	Assist in the acquisition of a holding tank, construction of a delivery system to each family, and location of a new fresh water well.

DETAILED WORKPLAN AND MILESTONE SCHEDULE

MANCOS: FOREST PRODUCTS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND DEMONSTRATION CENTER

10/95	Establish an electronic bulletin board for sharing latest information on new products, and equipment technology.
10/95-ongoing	Collect information on latest wood products technology information.
	Input the collected information
	Advertise the network to colleges, universities, technical schools, and industry centers.
11/95-1/96	Establish computer access for local industries to bulletin board.
12/95	Preliminary planning for Demonstration Center
1/96-9/96	Provide assistance in setting up the demonstration center, securing funding, partners, and necessary agreements.
3/96	Check with local entreprenuers and merchants to affirm their usage of the network

DETAILED WORKPLAN AND MILESTONE SCHEDULE

DOLORES, RECREATION INFORMATION TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INTERNET

10/95	Use the media to raise level of awareness of project.
10/95-12/96	Compile all tourism information sources.
	Training focused on scanning, and use of electronic devises.
1/96-3/96	Development of high quality, user friendly, attractive and interactive software program.
4/96	Internet hookup to recreation information.
6/96-9/96	On-going update of material.

DETAILED WORKPLAN AND MILESTONE SCHEDULE

DURANGO, VALUE ADDED FOREST PRODUCTS AND RECYCLING

9/95: Four Corners Forest Product Conference

10/95-1/96	Research and investigate garbology. Conduct conservation programs in schools and organizations.
11/95-1/96	Conduct time, motion and cost study
	Contact potential team members to identify products to be developed from waste,
1/96-3/96	Secure funding and partners for the job.
2/96-6/96	Conduct feasibility testing.
	Encourage and assist in student recycling program.
5/96-8/96	Approach potential entrepreuners with the testing results, information gathered and encourage their participation.
	Assist in the establishment of at least one product or new business venture.
9/96	Hold a general forum for students on recycling, careers, etc. including awards for work done.
12-96	Milestone: one new business employing 3-10 persons and a land fill decreased in volume by 50%.

DETAILED WORKPLAN AND MILESTONE SCHDULE

MANCOS, VALUED ADDED FOREST PRODUCTS

9/95-3/96	Media coverage to announce brain storming sessions
	Visits to schools to invite students to participate in brainstorming - devise an Imagination Contest.
	Form a team of wood product manufacturers, entreprenuers, etc. and assist in the selection of products to be tested.
	Secure funding and partners for this process.
	Assist with feasibilty testing
	Arrange awards for the students, certificates for those participating and media coverage.
3/96-6/96	Provide training in small business development, grant writing, funding sources, and planning for development.
	Assist in developing 2 new businesses

DETAILED WORKPLAN AND MILESTONE SCHEDULE

COYOTE: MORA COUNTY,NM FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT

10/95-1/96	Visitations to small businesses and non profit organizations with information re forest products and their uses. Recruit and determine needs regarding grant writing, assistance with planning, etc. Plan and set up training schedule.
1/96-4/96	Training focused on business education, grant writing, funding sources, USDA permits for gathering and harvesting of forest products.
4/96-9/96	Give continued support and assistance for any small business starting up that will be using forest products.
9/96	One business will be developed and working and will be employing at least 4 people.
12/99	One business will be self sustaining and employing 12 persons.

DETAILED WORKPLAN AND MILESTONE SCHEDULE

6 LOCATIONS, COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, ACTION TEAMS, ACTION PLANS

10/95-1/96	Organize and facilitate community meetings in 6 areas of the Four Corners, by meeting with leaders of communities and offering assistance.
	Encourage participation in the meetings by offering a selection of skills trainings.
12/95-6/96	Hold classes in each area on subjects necessary to reinforce community action and leadership skills.
12/95-6/96	Reinforce the training by helping communities to develop Community Action Teams who will in turn develop their own Action Plans.
	Once Action plans are in order, assist in the funding through partnerships, grant writing skills and project planning skills.
Ongoing	Assist in the implementation of the Action Plan projects.
	Reinforce teams throughout the year with ongoing training and positive assistance.
	Involve school students in community projects. Invite them to Action Team meetings and allow them to participate.
	Provide training and leadership development of students.
	Develop a mentoring program with adults and students in each of the Four Corners communities. Students to be included in the Action teams' planning sessions.

FY 1996
NORTHEASTERN AREA ECONOMIC ACTION PROGRAM
AMERICORPS CONTINUATION PROPOSAL

USDA Forest Service, S&PF
180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505

Primary Congressional District: WV Congressional District 1

Additional Congressional Districts: WV 2,3
MN 1,2,7,8,

Project: Rural

CNCS Priority Areas: High Poverty Area, EZ/EC(WV)

Project Start Date: September 12, 1995

Project Completion: September 12, 1996

Americorp Members: 11 Full Time Members

Submitted By:

Northeastern Area S&PF
5 Radnor Corporate Center STE 200
Radnor, PA 19087-8775
Phone: 610-975-4103
FAX: 610-975-4200

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES--WEST VIRGINIA

Introduction

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

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

Background

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

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

Activities Planned for FY 1996

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

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

- Using this customer driven approach, the Member will:

  a) Conduct **at least** 8 training seminars designed to address needs as identified in the survey above. These seminars will be conducted in locations throughout the state

  b) Ensure that **at least** 50 of the participants in a) above have access to the types of computer capabilities they indicate as desirable. Expectations will be determined by requesting seminar participants to indicate their expectations prior to attending. Expectations will be quantified and measured at end. 50 participants will rate "expectations met or exceeded".

  c) Keep community based organizations aware of relevant hardware/software developments. Send a "Technical Bulletin" detailing this information to a minimum of **100 organizations on a quarterly basis**

  d) Identify sources of rural development information specific to natural resource based development. Have this information electronically accessible. On-line access to **at least** 5 of these information sources will be developed during the year of service.

  e) Provide **at least** 125 help desk service calls.

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

Expected Results of Activities

- Community based organizations will have enhanced access to information, thus providing them the opportunity to make more informed decisions, communicate with other professional more freely, and sustain higher levels of productivity.

- Rural communities and organizations, those who have the most difficulty staying abreast of changing hardware and software technologies, will have continuing access to information and technical support.

Measurements of Quality/Success

- Pre and post tests of computer literacy for communities served.

- The number of help desk inquiries and how frequency changes with time.

- The <u>degree and extent</u> to which rural communities use electronic information. Pre, Post tests.

- Evaluations done by users intended to measure value of information and quality of service.

Number of Individuals Served

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

Long Term Prospects

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

Partners

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

WV Project 2-Forest Products Conservation and Recycling.
Wood Technology Center, Elkins, WV. 1 AmeriCorps Member

Background

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

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

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

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

Activities Planned For FY 1996

- Assist in the development of 8 different training curriculums

- Assist in 25 training sessions

- Continue efforts to ensure that workers are aware of training opportunities available at the Wood Technology Center.

- Assist new staff members in keeping abreast of technologies that reduce waste, increase efficiency. Aid in assuring that the Wood Technology Center retains it's ability to integrate these technologies into their programs.

Expected Results of Activities

- Natural resources and energy are conserved

- 400 workers are trained in value added processing techniques.

- 50 workers obtain jobs as a result of training at the Wood Technology Center.

Measurements of Quality/Success

- Pre and post training surveys of ability in training topic

- Estimates from employers on efficiency, resource conservation, costs savings, value added production

Number of Individuals Served

- 400 workers directly

Long Term Prospects

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

Partners

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

WV Project 3--Community Development Specialist (1 Member).
Resource Conservation and Technology Specialist (1 Member).
West Virginia Division of Forestry.

Background

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

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

Activities for FY 1996

Activities planned for FY 1996 include:

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

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

Expected Results of Activities

- Activities of Conservation Education Specialist will result in 5 **communities and/or businesses** implementing conservation and recycling strategies learned. **Will result in 5% decrease in resource use for cooperators.**

- Improved opportunities for communities to engage in sustainable, natural resource based economic development.

- Activities of the Community Development Specialist will result in 5 **projects focusing on conservation and recycling being funded.**

- 30 **jobs will be created**

Measurements of Quality/Success

- Expected results (above) achieved

- 1,500 **people** receive information on the benefits of conservation and recycling

- Evaluations done by communities served by Community Development Specialist & Education Specialist

Number of Individuals Served

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

Long Term Prospects

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

Partners

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

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES--MINNESOTA

Introduction

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

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

Background

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

1) The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) of the USDA is being phased out. If no alternative agricultural crop is found, farmers that have been paid to keep their lands out of production will likely return to farming. The likely result will be a surplus of farm goods with resulting depressed prices for all. These two RC&D's have been active in promoting the concept of planting former CRP lands to hybrid poplar. Often called "fiber farms," fiber produced can be used for the production of bio-energy or for paper.

2) Woody Riparian Buffers. A failure of farmers and other landowners to leave buffers along streams has resulted in soil erosion and water quality problems throughout the Minnesota River Valley. Wes Min and Prairie Country RC&D's have been engaged in working with local residents to encourage the planting of hybrid poplar to reduce erosion and provide income for land that would otherwise be fallow.

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

Activities for FY 1996

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

Activities for '96 will include:

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

- Meetings and negotiations with fiber purchasers.

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

Expected Results of Activities

- Farmers expected to leave the CRP program will become "fiber farmers."

- 10 local jobs will be created.

- The feasability of a locally produced, alternative fuel will be demonstrated to 300 farmers.

- Other consumers of fiber (primarily paper companies) will be able to obtain fiber at competitive prices. The BIOMASS produced from the 5,000 acres will be purchased by paper companies and electric utilities.

- The possible negative impact of CRP farmers returning to agriculture and depressing prices will be avoided.

- 10 seminars will be given describing Best Management Practices resulting in 60 woodlot owners having increased knowledge of sound management techniques. Erosion will be reduced by 10%. 5 new markets for locally produced markets will be developed resulting in a 5% increase in small landowner revenues derived from their forests.

Measurements of Quality/Success

- The number of acres planted to hybrid poplar.

- Number and volume of poplar purchasing agreements in place.

- Increased knowledge of Best Management Practices (pre/post seminar surveys).

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

Number of Individuals Served

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

Long Term Prospects

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

Partners

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

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

Background

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

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

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

1) Working with the University of Wisconsin at Lacrosse, the Member is active in assessing the needs of potential users of the FRC residential facilities.

2) Developed a multi-media presentation to inform communities and organizations about the FRC and its' plans for expansion.

3) Conducted presentations and other community outreach activities.

4) Developed educational programming suitable for a "new mix" of clientele. Classes held on a variety of forest management and rural development topics. 600 attendees

5) Assisted in the Shitake and Hedgerow Projects. 10 educational programs presented to 150 people.

6) Initiated a Regional Rural Tourism Initiative. Developed a conference to be held April 5, 1995 entitled "Quality Service Development: Growth & Tourism". Attendees expected to come from a three state area. 200 attendees expected. Attendees will also discuss the most appropriate mechanism to promote regional collaboration of tourism development.

7) Played the lead role in establishing a collaborative relationship between community development organizations, community leaders, and local tourism businesses.

Activities For FY 1996

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

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

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

1) Work closely with regional tourism groups, the Minnesota Extension Service, community leaders, elected representatives, and others to **coordinate the creation of a regional tourism plan focused on balancing the needs of rural communities to promote tourism while, maintaining a "rural lifestyle" acceptable to its' residents.**

2) Conduct **three regional conferences** examining how other communities have achieved a balance between development and quality of life issues. **Expected attendance is 200.**

3) With the Minnesota Cooperative Extension Service, create a summary of technical and financial resources for communities interested in tourism development. **Produce and distribute 3000 copies.**

4) **Conduct eight regional seminars** for local governments, Chambers of Commerce, local leaders, and entrepreneurs on marketing research methodologies which can be employed to identify suitable target markets. **Total attendees = 225**

5) Coordinate planning and assist in implementation of **3 grant writing seminars** which will focus on enabling communities to obtain resources necessary to conduct tourism development activities. **Expected attendees = 100**

Expected Results of Activities

Rural Tourism Development Specialist (1 Member)

- **3,525 community leaders and/or organizations** will have information and techniques necessary for the sustainable development of Minnesota's tourism.

- **At least 10 communities** will receive financial resources sufficient to implement community based tourism development projects.

- Improved understanding for states residents on linkage between environmental protection, economic development, quality of life.

- **30 tourism related jobs created**

- Alternative recreational opportunities are highlighted and made part of the states' "package" of available recreational activities.

- Provide opportunity for urban residents to understand rural way of life and to have a "back to nature" experience.

- Instill an enhanced appreciation for nature and an environmental ethic.

- Improved coordination and cooperation between tourism development groups in the region.

Rural Economic Development Specialist (1 Member)

- 750 seminar attendees will learn of new rural economic development strategies.

- Will assist at least 50 of seminar attendees identify public/private technical and financial assistance necessary in order to implement rural economic development projects.

- The above activities will result in 35 full or part-time jobs created.

- Communities will experience a 10% increase in tourism volume.

Measurements of Quality/Success

- Pre & Post presentation surveys to determine understanding and willingness to try some of opportunities/techniques shown.

- Users of FRC will be polled to determine how they learned about the facility.

- Extent to which regional tourism development groups collaborate.

- Extent to which recreational opportunities in the area are made known to previously unserved markets. Measured by surveys conducted at local tourism establishments. Goal = 10% increase in business.

- 15 rural development projects (other than tourism) are implemented.

- 10 rural tourism development projects are initiated and 30 jobs created.

- 15 communities develop market research and development plans.

Number of Individuals Served

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

Long Term Prospects

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

Partners

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

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

a) Resources. Members are determining the situation regarding the availability of resources (natural, capital, financial).

b) Capability. Answering the question of whether there is sufficient knowledge, skills, and technology available in the area to address problems relating to sustainability (sometimes referred to as community capacity for change).

c) Institutions. According to Lundgren (Univ. of Mn.) appropriate institutions must exist to authorize, legitimize, and support activity. Lack of appropriate institutions, failure of institutions to meet their stated missions, or a lack of political support from them is likely to lead to failure. Members are currently identifying sources of technical/financial assistance, state and federal agencies that play (or can play) a role in sustainable development, foundations, environmental groups, community leaders, and other necessary "players".

d) Incentives. Members are determining what incentives (financial or non-financial) currently exist for engaging in sustainable development activities.

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

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

I) Asked to describe how the current situation could be improved in order to encourage sustainable development. Describe how the desired situation would work, what it would be responsible for, who it would report to, etc. This describes the DESIRED STATE.

II) Responsible for then assessing how existing foundations, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, industry groups, regional organizations, communities, individuals, and others can, with existing programs and resources, better coordinate their activities to eliminate duplication of efforts and bring economies of scale in order to meet goals described in 1 above.

III) Requested to identify "gaps" between the ideal state described in 1 above and what is possible with a coordination of efforts (as described in 2 above). For those gaps identified, make recommendations on how those organizations named in 2 above can bring about change to close the gaps or mitigate existing conditions. Depending on the results of the analyses above, the Central Minnesota Initiative Fund alone may potentially invest millions of dollars in the next few years in sustainable development projects in the area it serves. Thus, the relatively small investment of money made by AmeriCorps and the technical expertise added by the Forest Service will yield substantial returns to local communities. Worst case, project dollars from all sources will far exceed the minimal investments.

Activities for FY 1996

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

Activities that will be conducted at a minimum include:

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

Specific activities will include:

1) **Education**. Working with local governments and community leaders, conduct 10 seminars to explain what sustainable development is and how its' implemented.

2) **Develop Consensus**. Issues involved in sustainable development are complex and controversial. In order for activity to occur, there must be an agreement on what the problems are and how to attack them. This will be done for all groups in 1 above.

3) **Assemble Resources**. Each sustainable development project is different. It is expected that 20 projects will result from 1,2 above. In cooperation with agencies/organizations in II above, bring the proper mix of technical and financial resources into the project. Once resources have been assembled, this Member would "pass off" the projects to b,c,d below.

b) **Organizational Coordination**. It is anticipated that step II,3 above will result in many opportunities for inter and intra organizational coordination and cooperation in order to bring about conditions favorable for sustainable development. Experience has shown that it is difficult for a mix of agencies/organizations/local communities to stay focused and coordinated unless someone takes on the responsibility of managing the (in close partnership with those assigned by the community to take an active role). For the 20 projects above, this Member will:

i. Ensure that there is agreement on that dimensions and nature of the problem to be solved and that a method for attacking them has been developed.

ii. Ensure that adequate technical and financial resources are available to complete the project.

iii. Keep project teams focused and coordinated.

iv. Resolve conflicts.

v. Ensure that project team members and communities are kept informed of progress.

vi. Ensure that implementation and closure is achieved.

c) **Financial Assistance**. Based on preliminary results, access to capital appears to be a significant barrier to those communities wishing to engage in sustainable development projects. Although the Central Minnesota Initiative Fund has agreed to play a major role in providing project dollars, it will be necessary to develop other resources in order to cover items not within CMIF's purview and to **avoid fostering a dependent relationship with one organization**. Working with communities and a,b above, the Financial Assistance Specialist will assist in the development of 25 proposals to develop necessary financial assistance for communities.

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

Expected results of activities.

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

a) 3 projects to reduce organics in landfills. Minnesota, like many states, is moving to prohibit any organic materials such as yard waste, construction residues and demolition, pallets, food wastes, etc., from being disposed of in landfills. Communities have no low cost ways of disposing of these organics. Communities can cooperate in the development of composting facilities which can convert these materials to useable topsoil. 10 jobs.

b) **4 projects to improve access to information technology. These projects include:**

i. **Electronic communications capability with other specialists in various fields and other agencies/ organizations. (40 organizations)**

ii. **Electronic access to remote databases (10 organizations)**

iii. Electronic bulletin board for the sharing of activities, training, opportunities, and events relevant to community development personnel. (50 organizations)

iv. Mapping and Geographic Information Systems. Community sized systems. (25 organizations)

c) **4 special forest products.** Home craftsmen and others can supplement their incomes by growing, making, or gathering a variety of products that come from the forests. Such products include florals, boughs, ginseng, medicinals, mushrooms. (7 organizations)

d) Coping With Regulations. (5 projects). Communities and organizations are subject to a plethora of regulations from the local, state, and federal levels. Despite recent efforts by Congress, society requires regulations in order to govern acceptable behaviors. Communities and organizations can, in cooperation with regulators, develop more efficient processes for the dissemination of information and processing applications. (150 organizations).

e) Attracting and keeping "enviro-friendly" businesses. (4 projects). In order for communities to either attract or retain "enviro-friendly" businesses, it is necessary for them to understand what such businesses are looking for and to try and make sure it exists. If such conditions already exist, these benefits must be made known to prospective businesses. Projects include:

i. What do "eco" businesses look for? (training)

ii. Community based lending programs. Starting and operating.

iii. Skilled Workers (training).

iv. Getting the word out, marketing your town (training).

v. Encouraging Cooperatives (training and technical assistance).

Total communities/organizations impacted by (e) is 250

Broad Community Benefits

- Partnerships are formed. Cooperative and unified efforts between governments, business, nonprofit organizations, citizens, and others to address issues of interdependence.

- Businesses engage in additional production of value-added secondary forest products. Additional jobs and income for rural communities are created. **5% increase for participating businesses.**

- 10 "Eco-friendly" businesses are attracted to the area or retained.

- Communities/organizations have greater access to information in order to make better informed decisions.

- Environmental problems, such as disposal issues and landfills are addressed. Goal 5% reduction in waste stream.

- Greater acceptance of sustainable development as an economic development "tool" at the institutional level.

- Communities better able to serve their constituents due to productivity and access to information.

- 10% reduction in fines or other penalties for failure to comply with environmental regulations.

- More highly trained workforce that is competitive in the global economy.

Measurements of Quality/Success

- 75% of communities/organizations involved in information technology rate skills as "significantly improved."

- For reduction of organics in landfills projects, 10 jobs are created and waste stream is reduced by 5%.

- 10 "Eco-Friendly" businesses are attracted or retained.

- 10% reduction in fines or other penalties due to regulation enforcement.

- For community and organizations, pre and post meeting surveys will be conducted to gauge their understanding and support of issues relating to sustainable development. A database will be maintained of those community members who indicate an active interest in remaining informed and engaged in matters relating to sustainable development.

- Partnerships that are a result of this effort will be documented. Significant achievements/successes that occur will be documented.

- The value of special forest products produced will be documented by surveying craftsmen.

- Indicators of increased acceptance at the institutional level such as letters of support from agency heads, regulations passed, policies favorable to sustainable development, etc., will be documented.

Number of Individuals Served

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

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

Long Term Prospects

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

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

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

Organizational Capacity:

The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area Economic Action Programs has been in operation in excess of 5 years. In that time our organization has received various awards and recognition for the innovative approaches applied toward promoting the concept of natural resource based sustainable development. Our staff has expertise in a variety of fields including the biological sciences, engineering, business, forestry, economics, and information management systems.

The capabilities of each of our Cooperating organizations varies. They have been selected, in part, because of the leadership role they play in their communities. As you will note, all of our projects include a long list of partners that work in concert with cooperating organizations and the Forest Service. They have been selected for their specialized expertise and the resources that they can apply to the project.

Recruitment Plan:

Objective: To recruit a diverse group of highly qualified individuals to assist rural communities in Minnesota and West Virginia. These individuals will be college students at the senior level or higher, or recent graduates of 4-year colleges or graduate schools.

Job Descriptions:

Business Development Specialists
Marketing Specialists
Computer Specialists
Travel/Tourism Specialists
Industrial Engineers/Wood Processing Specialists
Environmental Engineers
Civil Engineers (Bridges)
Industrial Education Specialists
Operations Management Specialists
Aquaculturist/Fisheries Biologists
Community Planners
Sociologists
Journalism/English majors

Locations:

Minnesota: 07 positions
Appalachia: West Virginia: 04 positions

Methods:

Mail

Background information and applications will be mailed to career counseling staff at the fifty-four (54) 4-year universities and colleges in Minnesota and West Virginia. The same information will be mailed to all Forest Service recruitment representatives at 1890 Colleges.

Personal Contacts

Personal contacts will be made with Department heads at colleges and universities in both states which have forestry-related curriculums.

Press Releases

A press release patterned after the standard AmeriCorps release will be sent to key news media in Minnesota, West Virginia, and surrounding states. The release will announce the AmeriCorps program and specific Forest Service efforts in the two states. The AmeriCorps 1-800 number will be listed, as well as a local contact and phone number.

Public Service Announcements

Radio and television will be contacted regarding a public service announcement on the AmeriCorps program. A request will be made to have daily air time between August 1 and September 15.

Timetable

By August 8: Will have contacted financial aid counselors and minority recruitment personnel at local universities and colleges, student deans, job placement coordinators, and other university or college organizations or officials who may have knowledge of suitable candidates. In order to meet established minority recruitment goals, universities or colleges with high numbers of minority students will be contacted first.

By August 11: Will meet with state and local officials representing the disabled to discuss elements of the AmeriCorps program.

By August 11: Will have PSA's running statewide on radio and television to present information on the AmeriCorps program.

By August 15: Will obtain lists of local residents interested in the program who have called into the USDA and Corporation for National and Community Service 800 lines.

August 26: Last day to receive applications. Select finalists for interviews. Will interview twice as many applicants as there are slots in the program.

September 2: Selections are finalized. Local office calls all of those selected and as many of those not selected as possible. National office sends letters from Secretary Espy to all those who were and were not selected.

Detailed Workplan and Milestone Schedule:

It is not possible to provide a detailed workplan and milestone schedule at this time. Like the EZ/EC process recently completed by the USDA (which also emphasized sustainable development as a goal), it is first necessary to get communities together to define precisely their problems and opportunities. A significant amount of our AmeriCorps efforts for FY '95 has been on defining the scope of the problems, opportunities, and barriers to achieving sustainable development. Based on the extensive amount of work within communities throughout West Virginia and Minnesota, we have been able to "form up" projects that seem to address the problems, opportunities, and barriers that have been communicated to us by a broad cross section of the communities served.

Many of the projects we are undertaking in partnership with communities, like many of those in the EZ/EC process, involve multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary problems and opportunities. Like the EZ/EC process, we must now engage communities in a detailed discussion on exactly what they want to do and exactly how they wish to achieve it. Detailed workplans and milestones are not possible at this time. They will be developed though interchange with the communities since they are the ones most appropriate to plan their futures. The Rural Development Team can provide them with the technical expertise and financial resources to plan their own futures.

We are not requesting a special dispensation of the rules. The precedent for this approach is the EZ/EC process, a process well grounded in the theories of community development and the realities of implementing complex, multi-dimensional projects.

FY 1996
NORTHEASTERN AREA ECONOMIC ACTION PROGRAM
AMERICORPS CONTINUATION PROPOSAL

USDA Forest Service, S&PF
180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505

Primary Congressional District: WV Congressional District 1

Additional Congressional Districts: WV 2,3
MN 1,2,7,8

Project: Rural

CNCS Priority Areas: High Poverty Area, EZ/EC(WV)

Project Start Date: September 12, 1995

Project Completion: September 12, 1996

AmeriCorp Members: Eleven Full Time Members

Submitted By:

Michael T. Rains, Area Director
Northeastern Area S&PF
5 Radnor Corporate Center, Ste. 200
Radnor, PA 19087-8775
Phone: 610-975-4103
FAX: 610-975-4200

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES--WEST VIRGINIA

Introduction

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

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

Background

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

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

Activities Planned for FY 1996

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

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

- Using this customer driven approach, the Member will:

  a) Conduct **at least eight** training seminars designed to address needs as identified in the survey above. These seminars will be conducted in locations throughout the state

  b) Ensure that **at least 50** of the participants in a) above have access to the types of computer capabilities they indicate as desirable. Expectations will be determined by requesting seminar participants to indicate their expectations prior to attending. Expectations will be quantified and measured at end. Fifty participants will rate "expectations met or exceeded."

  c) Keep community based organizations aware of relevant hardware/software developments. Send a "Technical Bulletin" detailing this information to a minimum of **100 organizations on a quarterly basis**.

  d) Identify sources of rural development information specific to natural resource based development. Have this information electronically accessible. On-line access to **at least five** of these information sources will be developed during the year of service.

  e) Provide **at least 125** help desk service calls.

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

Expected Results of Activities

- Community based organizations will have enhanced access to information, thus providing them the opportunity to make more informed decisions, communicate with other professionals more freely, and sustain higher levels of productivity.

- Rural communities and organizations, those who have the most difficulty staying abreast of changing hardware and software technologies, will have continuing access to information and technical support.

Measurements of Quality/Success

- Pre and post tests of computer literacy for communities served.

- The number of help desk inquiries and how frequency changes with time.

- The <u>degree and extent</u> to which rural communities use electronic information. Pre, post tests.

- Evaluations done by users intended to measure value of information and quality of service.

Number of Individuals Served

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

Long Term Prospects

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

Partners

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

WV Project 2--Forest Products Conservation and Recycling.
Wood Technology Center, Elkins, WV. 1 AmeriCorps Member

Background

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

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

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

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

Activities Planned For FY 1996

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

Expected Results of Activities

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

Measurements of Quality/Success

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

Number of Individuals Served

- 400 workers directly

Long Term Prospects

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

Partners

West Virginia Division of Forestry
West Virginia Rural Development Council
Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
Appalachian Hardwood Center
Randolph County Economic Development Authority

WV Project 3--Community Development Specialist (1 Member).
Resource Conservation and Technology Specialist (1 Member).
West Virginia Division of Forestry.

Background

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

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

Activities for FY 1996

Activities planned for FY 1996 include:

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

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

Expected Results of Activities

- Activities of Conservation Education Specialist will result in **five communities and/or businesses** implementing conservation and recycling strategies learned. **Will result in 5% decrease in resource use for cooperators.**

- Improved opportunities for communities to engage in sustainable, natural resource based economic development.

- Activities of the Community Development Specialist will result in **five projects focusing on conservation and recycling being funded.**

- **30 jobs will be created**

Measurements of Quality/Success

- Expected results (above) achieved

- 1,500 people receive information on the benefits of conservation and recycling

- Evaluations done by communities served by Community Development Specialist and Education Specialist

Number of Individuals Served

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

Long Term Prospects

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

Partners

Appalachian Hardwood Center
West Virginia Rural Development Council
Governors Office, West Virginia
West Virginia Department of Economic Development
USDA Rural Economic and Community Development
Economic Development Administration, US Department of Commerce

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES--MINNESOTA

Introduction

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

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

Background

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

1) The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) of the USDA is being phased out. If no alternative agricultural crop is found, farmers that have been paid to keep their lands out of production will likely return to farming. The likely result will be a surplus of farm goods with resulting depressed prices for all. These two RC&D's have been active in promoting the concept of planting former CRP lands to hybrid poplar. Often called "fiber farms", fiber produced can be used for the production of bio-energy or for paper.

2) Woody Riparian Buffers. A failure of farmers and other landowners to leave buffers along streams has resulted in soil erosion and water quality problems throughout the Minnesota River Valley. Wes Min and Prairie Country RC&D's have been engaged in working with local residents to encourage the planting of hybrid poplar to reduce erosion and provide income for land that would otherwise be fallow.

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

Activities for FY 1996

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

Activities for '96 will include:

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

- Meetings and negotiations with fiber purchasers.

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

Expected Results of Activities

- Farmers expected to leave the CRP program will become "fiber farmers."

- Ten local jobs will be created.

- The feasibility of a locally produced, alternative fuel will be demonstrated to 300 farmers.

- Other consumers of fiber (primarily paper companies) will be able to obtain fiber at competitive prices. The BIOMASS produced from the 5,000 acres will be purchased by paper companies and electric utilities.

- The possible negative impact of CRP farmers returning to agriculture and depressing prices will be avoided.

- Ten seminars will be given describing Best Management Practices resulting in 60 woodlot owners having increased knowledge of sound management techniques. Erosion will be reduced by 10%. Five new markets for locally produced markets will be developed resulting in a 5% increase in small landowner revenues derived from their forests.

Measurements of Quality/Success

- The number of acres planted to hybrid poplar.

- Number and volume of poplar purchasing agreements in place.

- Increased knowledge of Best Management Practices (pre/post seminar surveys).

- Attendees at information/persuasion sessions on the benefits of hybrid poplar express an increased understanding of the concept and a willingness to consider planting (post meeting surveys).

Number of Individuals Served

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

Long Term Prospects

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

Partners

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

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

Background

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

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

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

1) Working with the University of Wisconsin at Lacrosse, the Member is active in assessing the needs of potential users of the FRC residential facilities.

2) Developed a multi-media presentation to inform communities and organizations about the FRC and its plans for expansion.

3) Conducted presentations and other community outreach activities.

4) Developed educational programming suitable for a "new mix" of clientele. Classes held on a variety of forest management and rural development topics. 600 attendees.

5) Assisted in the Shitake and Hedgerow Projects. Ten educational programs presented to 150 people.

6) Initiated a Regional Rural Tourism Initiative. Developed a conference to be held April 5, 1995, entitled "Quality Service Development: Growth & Tourism." Attendees expected to come from a three state area. 200 attendees expected. Attendees will also discuss the most appropriate mechanism to promote regional collaboration of tourism development.

7) Played the lead role in establishing a collaborative relationship between community development organizations, community leaders, and local tourism businesses.

Activities For FY 1996

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

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

As a result of the AmeriCorps Members' activities this fall at FRC, several rural tourism coalitions in Southern Minnesota are beginning to discuss working collaboratively to diversify their economies through tourism development. The Mississippi Valley Partners coalition located along the Mississippi River; the Bluff Country and Trail Towns and other smaller groups encompass seven counties in Southern Minnesota. These organizations have a membership of over 300 rural entrepreneurs who live in communities of less than 5000 people, many with less than 500. Significant historic, cultural, and environmental attractions exist

in the area and local entrepreneurs recognize a need to "package" these attractions as a destination. The relatively close proximity to major urban centers such as Minneapolis, Chicago, Madison, and Des Moines presents significant market opportunities. This **Rural Tourism Specialist** would:

1) Work closely with regional tourism groups, the Minnesota Extension Service, community leaders, elected representatives, and others to **coordinate the creation of a regional tourism plan focused on balancing the needs of rural communities to promote tourism while, maintaining a "rural lifestyle" acceptable to its residents.**

2) Conduct **three regional conferences** examining how other communities have achieved a balance between development and quality of life issues. **Expected attendance is 200.**

3) With the Minnesota Cooperative Extension Service, create a summary of technical and financial resources for communities interested in tourism development. **Produce and distribute 3000 copies.**

4) **Conduct eight regional seminars** for local governments, Chambers of Commerce, local leaders, and entrepreneurs on marketing research methodologies which can be employed to identify suitable target markets. **Total attendees = 225**

5) Coordinate planning and assist in implementation of **three grant writing seminars** which will focus on enabling communities to obtain resources necessary to conduct tourism development activities. **Expected attendees = 100**

Expected Results of Activities

Rural Tourism Development Specialist (1 Member)

- **3,525 community leaders and/or organizations** will have information and techniques necessary for the sustainable development of Minnesota's tourism.

- **At least 10 communities** will receive financial resources sufficient to implement community based tourism development projects.

- Improved understanding for states residents on linkage between environmental protection, economic development, quality of life.

- **30 tourism related jobs created**

- Alternative recreational opportunities are highlighted and made part of the states' "package" of available recreational activities.

- Provide opportunity for urban residents to understand rural way of life and to have a "back to nature" experience.

- Instill an enhanced appreciation for nature and an environmental ethic.

- Improved coordination and cooperation between tourism development groups in the region.

Rural Economic Development Specialist (1 Member)

- **750 seminar attendees** will learn of new rural economic development strategies.

- Will **assist at least 50 of seminar attendees identify public/private technical and financial assistance** necessary in order to implement rural economic development projects.

- The above activities will result in **35 full or part-time jobs created.**

- **Communities will experience a 10% increase in tourism volume.**

Measurements of Quality/Success

- Pre & Post presentation surveys to determine understanding and willingness to try some of opportunities/techniques shown.

- Users of FRC will be polled to determine how they learned about the facility.

- Extent to which regional tourism development groups collaborate.

- Extent to which recreational opportunities in the area are made known to previously unserved markets. Measured by surveys conducted at local tourism establishments. **Goal = 10% increase in business.**

- **15 rural development projects** (other than tourism) **are implemented.**

- **10 rural tourism development projects are initiated and 30 jobs created.**

- **15 communities develop market research and development plans.**

Number of Individuals Served

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

Long Term Prospects

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

Partners

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

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

a) Resources. Members are determining the situation regarding the availability of resources (natural, capital, financial).

b) Capability. Answering the question of whether there is sufficient knowledge, skills, and technology available in the area to address problems relating to sustainability (sometimes referred to as community capacity for change).

c) Institutions. According to Lundgren (University of Minnesota) appropriate institutions must exist to authorize, legitimize, and support activity. Lack of appropriate institutions, failure of institutions to meet their stated missions, or a lack of political support from them is likely to lead to failure. Members are currently identifying sources of technical/financial assistance, state and federal agencies that play (or can play) a role in sustainable development, foundations, environmental groups, community leaders, and other necessary "players."

d) Incentives. Members are determining what incentives (financial or non-financial) currently exist for engaging in sustainable development activities.

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

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

I) Asked to describe how the current situation could be improved in order to encourage sustainable development. Describe how the desired situation would work, what it would be responsible for, who it would report to, etc. This describes the DESIRED STATE.

II) Responsible for then assessing how existing foundations, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, industry groups, regional organizations, communities, individuals, and others can, with existing programs and resources, better coordinate their activities to eliminate duplication of efforts and bring economies of scale in order to meet goals described in 1 above.

III) Requested to identify "gaps" between the ideal state described in 1 above and what is possible with a coordination of efforts (as described in 2 above). For those gaps identified, make recommendations on how those organizations named in 2 above can bring about change to close the gaps or mitigate existing conditions. Depending on the results of the analysis above, the Central Minnesota Initiative Fund alone may potentially invest millions of dollars in the next few years in sustainable development projects in the area it serves. Thus, the relatively small investment of money made by AmeriCorps and the technical expertise added by the Forest Service will yield substantial returns to local communities. Worst case, project dollars from all sources will far exceed the minimal investments.

Activities for FY 1996

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

Activities that will be conducted at a minimum include:

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

   Specific activities will include:

   1) **Education.** Working with local governments and community leaders, conduct 10 **seminars** to explain **what sustainable development is** and how its implemented.

   2) **Develop Consensus.** Issues involved in sustainable development are complex and controversial. In order for activity to occur, there must be an agreement on what the problems are and how to attack them. This will be done for all groups in 1 above.

   3) **Assemble Resources.** Each sustainable development project is different. **It is expected that 20 projects will result from 1, 2 above.** In cooperation with agencies/organizations in II above, bring the proper mix of technical and financial resources into the project. Once resources have been assembled, this Member would "pass off" the projects to b, c, d below.

b) Organizational Coordination. It is anticipated that step II, 3 above will result in many opportunities for inter and intra organizational coordination and cooperation in order to bring about conditions favorable for sustainable development. Experience has shown that it is difficult for a mix of agencies/organizations/local communities to stay focused and coordinated unless someone takes on the responsibility of managing the process (in close partnership with those assigned by the community to take an active role). **For the 20 projects above,** this Member will:

   i. Ensure that there is agreement on that dimensions and nature of the problem to be solved and that a method for attacking them has been developed.

   ii. Ensure that adequate technical and financial resources are available to complete the project.

   iii. Keep project teams focused and coordinated.

   iv. Resolve conflicts.

v. Ensure that project team members and communities are kept informed of progress.

vi. Ensure that implementation and closure is achieved.

c) **Financial Assistance**. Based on preliminary results, access to capital appears to be a significant barrier to those communities wishing to engage in sustainable development projects. Although the Central Minnesota Initiative Fund (CMIF) has agreed to play a major role in providing project dollars, it will be necessary to develop other resources in order to cover items not within CMIF's purview and to **avoid fostering a dependent relationship with one organization**. Working with communities and a,b above, the Financial Assistance Specialist will assist in the development of 25 proposals to develop necessary financial assistance for communities.

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

Expected results of activities.

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

a) Three projects to reduce organics in landfills. Minnesota, like many states, is moving to prohibit any organic materials such as yard waste, construction residues and demolition, pallets, food wastes, etc., from being disposed of in landfills. Communities have no low cost ways of disposing of these organics. Communities can cooperate in the development of composting facilities which can convert these materials to useable topsoil. 10 jobs.

b) Four projects to improve access to information technology. These projects include:

i. **Electronic communications capability with other specialists in various fields and other agencies/organizations. (40 organizations)**

ii. **Electronic access to remote databases (10 organizations)**

iii. **Electronic bulletin board for the sharing of activities, training, opportunities, and events relevant to community development personnel. (50 organizations).**