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**Individual Site Application #16
Environment Team
Portland, Oregon**

SUMMARY

Twenty participants will work in teams of two on this project which will include work on the Columbia Slough, an important waterway in Portland.

The Columbia Slough is an 18-mile long waterway which is a remnant of the historic Columbia River flood plain and wetlands. The slough begins in the headwaters of Fairview Creek in Gresham which travels north to Fairview Lake and then through agricultural and urban land uses before emptying into the Willamette River. The Slough has been designated "water quality limited" meaning that its water quality does not meet state water quality standards. Point source and nonpoint source pollution have caused these degraded conditions and resulting loss of beneficial uses in many streams within the urban area. AmeriCorps participants will be trained in habitat restoration and natural resource management skills while working to restore a portion of the Columbia Slough at the Whitaker Pond. Water quality/watershed issues are complex and of increasing concern to the public in the Portland Metropolitan area. Increasing growth and development pressures are impacting on agriculture, recreation, wildlife, along with protection of river corridors for flood control and water quality. In addition, citizens value rivers, streams, and natural areas for the sense of place, livability and enjoyment of the region they provide. Watershed resources management plays a role in these issues and serves as the interconnecting link between local residents' expectations and impacts on the natural landscape.

This proposal represents a unique collaboration between agencies: the Metropolitan

Service District (Metro), the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Community Assistance Office, Portland State University, Portland Public Schools and the City of Portland (Bureaus of Environmental Services. and Parks and Recreation). In addition to these project sponsors, a number of support agencies including youth organizations and conservation groups will provide important technical and community support for the proposed projects. Each of the sponsoring agencies have joined forces in this program to focus on two critical issues within this community: the challenges of preserving and restoring vital natural resources in the urban area and the crisis facing our endangered urban youth. Together these agencies bring a continuity of commitment and experience with youth and conservation work which provides a strong and diversified base of support to assure success.

NEEDS TO BE MET

During the last few years numerous studies and media articles have generated awareness about polluted streams in the region, noting that increasing urbanization and poor land management threatens the water quality of surface and ground water throughout the metropolitan area. Groundwater has been contaminated in different locations and groundwater shortages are of a growing concern to industry as well as rural and urban residents in the area. In all cases, water quality problems do not stay within political or jurisdictional boundaries. Coordinated efforts among a coalition of agencies, organizations, industry and citizen groups will be required to address issues on bioregional or basin-wide basis for the approximately 120 water basins and sub-basins in the region.

This proposal is a timely response to the convergence of a number of natural resource management factors 1992 Area Wide Water Quality Report, Metropolitan Service District

focuses on the impact of increasing population, development and urban density in the region and the importance of balancing the need for growth management and protection of the natural environment.

Process to identify needs:

During the summer and early fall of 1993, representatives from the SCS and SWCD in the region met with individuals from several agencies, governmental units, and citizens from throughout the region to discuss the environmental needs of the region and the role of SWCDs in addressing these needs. An agreement was reached to develop a proposal for a cooperative program to address these concerns and to submit this proposal for the location of a Community Assistance Office in the Portland area. As a result of these meetings, a consensus was formed on water quality and watershed issues in the region as a common priority environmental concern.

The Community Assistance Program Office is a recently formed cooperative approach to sharing new program and technical resources between the SCS and the four SWCD's covering the three counties with the active participation of the partner agencies of Metro and the City of Portland. A priority for the member SWCD's of this new Program Office is the development of opportunities for inner city youth to participate in important urban conservation efforts. This collaboration is considered the most cost effective way to address pressing urban conservation issues and youth opportunity needs.

Oregon's child poverty rate has increased by 26.7% in the last decade; only eleven other states exceeded Oregon in the percentage increase in childhood poverty during this period. Many complex, inter-connected problems such as malnutrition, poor health care,

homelessness, drug abuse, crime and violence, dysfunctional families, and school dropout are the tragic consequences of poverty.

A special problem for Portland, and a major factor endangering children and youth, is the rapid increase in gang activity. Police cases involving gang activity have risen from almost none in 1986 to over 3,000 in 1992. Gang violence devastates neighborhoods with robberies, assaults, drive-by murders, and drug sales. Drug selling by out-of-state gang members, largely from California, is increasing. Black gangs in Portland were involved in 142 known shootings, 426 assaults, and 171 robberies in 1991. Vietnamese, Chinese, and other Asian gangs have grown in power and violence, with police reporting 346 gang related incidents in 1991, including 102 acts of violence. White supremacy gangs are increasing in Portland and last year were involved in 47 assaults, 104 acts of intimidation or harassment, and one homicide. This proposed program will establish important new opportunities for youth and young adults within the most poverty impacted areas.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Whitaker Ponds/Columbia Slough Pilot Project addresses the natural resource restoration needs of the Columbia Slough in North Portland and education and skill-building needs of inner city youth. This pilot project will be implemented in partnership with the Whitaker School site on the Columbia Slough with young adults, between the ages of 17 and 24 over a two year period. The work sites offers the unique opportunity for restoration and training, as well as improving water quality and habitat along the Columbia Slough. Each participant in the program will be provided with highly supported and supervised work experience.

The project is intended to be a pilot for the development of a new curriculum and certificate program in urban natural resource management and stream restoration. This curriculum will be developed through the collaborative efforts of Portland State University and Portland Public Schools. The certificate program is envisioned to be an end use degree which qualifies participants for the emerging career and job opportunities within this region. The certificate can also be used as a prerequisite qualification to a further degree in higher education.

Participants for the two projects will be trained through a combination of staff and faculty resources from the sponsoring agencies. The Portland Parks Bureau and Metro will provide orientation and field training for participants performing conservation work and supervising youth work crews in the natural resources areas targeted by this project. Through direct involvement, Portland State faculty will provide employability and skill training as well as educational support for participants in the program. This will provide an opportunity for the participants who are not in college to gain access to higher education and for those in college to sustain and enhance their education.

Participants will be placed in projects as determined by a planning committee comprised of representatives from the sponsoring agencies. These placements will be consistent with the priorities established within Metro's Green Spaces program and the City of Portland's Natural Resource Management Areas. Supervision of participants will be provided by Portland Park Bureau and Metro staff which provide management services to the project areas. In addition, the proposed budget funds two crew supervisor positions to provide in-the-field supervision for the Whitaker Ponds/Columbia Slough Pilot Project.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGY:

The Soil Conservation Service will carry out necessary recruitment activities with the area high schools and colleges in the Portland Metro area. The Soil Conservation Service will also seek participants through state and local job service centers. Recruitment fliers and local news media efforts will also be used. We will recruit a diverse socio-economic mix of participants, including high school drop outs, high school graduates, students who have attended college and those who have graduated.

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

Participants will have the opportunity to be certified for stream restoration work. Participants will benefit through a wide range of training both formal and informal. participants will benefit from working with a group and will learn various skills that will help throughout their life in working with a group and will various skills that will help throughout their life in working and communicating with other people. They will also learn various life skills; the importance of accepting responsibilities, such as taking care of equipment, practicing safety regulations, and working with team members. They will learn discipline in reporting to work on time each day, accepting supervision and following directions. Problem solving skills will also be developed both for on the job and personal encounters.

INTERNAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

Throughout the duration of the initiative, SCS will continually evaluate activities, techniques and progress to ensure that resources are used effectively, work schedule is

maintained, productivity is maintained, and work is being performed on authorized projects. Benchmarks will be established for the Columbia Slough project to ensure that it stays on track.

INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONNEL INFORMATION:

The Soil Conservation Service will have the lead responsibility for this project. Robert Graham is the State Conservationist for Oregon. His staff includes a range of technical experts and administrative personnel to handle the management of this work.

They are working in partnership with the Portland Metro, recently consolidated with the Multnomah County Parks Department. Metro will provide on-site supervision, training and project funding through their Green Spaces program. In addition, the City of Portland Parks and Recreation and the Bureau of Environmental Services will provide staff for field supervision to the work crews.

**CERTIFICATION
SIGNATURE**

Note: This form must be signed and included in the application.

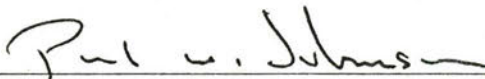
Before You Start. Before completing certification, please read Certification Instructions, page 30.

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☐ Certification: Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters.
☐ Certification: Drug-Free Workplace
☐ Certification: Lobbying Activities

Organization Name: USDA - Soil Conservation Service - Oregon

Project Name: Mid-Columbia Slough Restoration

**Name and Title
of Authorized Representative:** Paul W. Johnson, Chief, Soil Conservation Service

Signature: 

Date: April 29, 1994

**ASSURANCES
SIGNATURE**

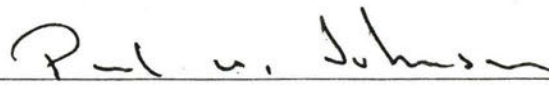
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Signature: 

Date: April 29, 1994

Individual Site Application #16
Public Lands and Environment Team
Southern California, San Bernardino National Forest

SUMMARY

The Southern California program will consist of two residential crews and three non-residential crews, as well as six individuals each week assigned to camp responsibilities (on a rotating schedule). The program will hire 66 participants by October 1, 1994, increase the program to 100 participants on October 1, 1995, and expand to 200 participants on October 1, 1996. Through partnerships with local, state and Federal agencies, as well as corporate partnerships, the program will increase in size while at the same time become less dependent upon funding from national sources (Corporation for National and Community Service).

Participants will work in teams of ten with a crew leader, rehabilitating trails in wilderness areas, improving Desert Tortoise and Big Horn Sheep habitat, enhancing fisheries, completing fuel and vegetation removal or conversion projects, rehabilitating campgrounds, and building interpretative sites. Some AmeriCorps/USDA participants will serve on environmental education teams that will visit schools to provide programs to students. More than 2,000 classrooms in urban and rural communities will be visited in the first year alone. The San Bernardino Mountains have over 100 summer youth camps, which will also receive education opportunities.

AmeriCorps/USDA participants will provide visitors to the 20-acre Children's Forest, within the San Bernardino National Forest, with universally accessible interpretation and education opportunities. Education programs will focus on hands-on learning of forest ecology and ecosystem management for youth locally, nationally, and internationally. The recent expansion of the Children's Forest project area will provide many educational opportunities for AmeriCorps

participants as they work on trails and interpretative sites within the forest.

NEEDS TO BE MET

The Southern California area in this proposal covers eight California Congressional Districts. The natural resources, forest and desert, have been impacted by recreational users. Recreational sites are in need of rehabilitation and improvement. There currently exists a backlog of work that could keep a 200-person program busy for the next five to ten years.

In addition, three military bases have been closed in this area. Coupled with these closures, the not-so-long-ago Los Angeles riots, the recent wildfires, floods, and the January earthquake, have had a drastic effect on the local economic and employment situation. Within the boundaries of the San Bernardino National Forest are over 40,000 full-time year-round residents. Small cities are within the forest boundaries. Larger cities exist adjacent to the forest boundaries.

Trail work is needed to prevent erosion, and provide for hiker safety. Campgrounds need rehabilitation so that they may stay open to accommodate the heavy visitor use. Day use areas need parking barriers to prevent damage to the natural vegetation, new signs to assist and educate visitors, and short hiking trails with environmental education messages to allow better harmony between forest users and forest dwellers, such as wildlife and vegetation.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Working in conjunction with the San Bernardino National Forest staff is the USDA Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management - California Desert District, and Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Monuments of the National Park Service. California State Parks, San Bernardino County Parks and Recreation, and San Bernardino City Parks are also strong supporters of a local AmeriCorps Program. Combined, the above agencies manage over 33 million acres of public lands in Southern California.

AmeriCorps/USDA participants will receive quality educational experiences and opportunities while serving on the Public Lands and Environment Team. While the program will provide initial orientation and training prior to service work being performed, specific training will be required throughout the program to meet project needs. Interpersonal skills will be enhanced through additional training, including teamwork, leadership, and communication. Each participant will receive over 300 hours of formal classroom instruction while in the program.

The San Bernardino National Forest enjoys an established track record of excellent support, service, and safety in the management of natural resource crews. With one of the largest wild-land fire management organizations in the nation, it looks forward to taking on the challenge of an AmeriCorps/USDA program. The San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor will manage the day-to-day activities of the Southern California Public Lands and Environment Team.

Environmental education in urban Southern California schools will be an important component of the program. Teams will be educated to provide environmental education to over 2,000 classrooms during the first year of the program. Local camp-based programs will also be available to local summer camp participants to learn about their environment first-hand.

The following agencies and groups are working cooperatively on the Southern California Public Lands and Environment Team:

BDF: San Bernardino National Forest, USDA

SCS: Soil Conservation Service, USDA (San Bernardino/Riverside Counties)

JTP: Joshua Tree National Monument, USDI

DVP: Death Valley National Monument, USDI

CDC: California Desert District, BLM, USDI

SNF: Sierra National Forest, USDA

SQF: Sequoia National Forest, USDA

OTH: Other, including California State Parks, San Bernardino County and
City Parks, and other locations.

The projects anticipated are as follows:

Campgrounds:	Major overhaul and rehabilitation. There is a backlog of recreational infrastructure work needed.
Trails:	Over 1,000 miles of trails that are in constant need of rehabilitation including retread, erosion control, and re-routing. Eight affected wilderness areas and more anticipated if the California Wilderness Bill (Desert Act) passes.
Interpretive Areas, Trailheads, & Signs:	Sign shop crew is necessary to provide directional, safety, and informational signs for trails, facilities, and travel ways. Trailheads and public parking areas need rehabilitation and construction.
Erosion Control & Watershed Maintenance:	Erosion control and stream and fisheries enhancement projects are available. Numerous watershed protection projects are in need of maintenance and new projects are ready for implementation. Many of the projects include the protection of watersheds from wildfire.
Hazard Reduction & Fire Protection:	Hazard reduction projects for fire protection are ongoing in Southern California. Crews trained in these projects will also be available for fire suppression activities.
Public Education:	One team will be devoted to public education in the areas of environmental awareness, Smokey Bear fire prevention activities, Hug-A-Tree, etc. The San Bernardino Mountains have over 100 summer youth camps, and the surrounding communities and the Los Angeles Basin contain thousands of classrooms in need of such programs.
Ecosystem Management Projects:	All agencies have numerous projects available to enhance ecosystem management including: stream bed and bank stabilization, forest health, tree planting (urban and rural), gabion baskets, and wildlife habitat improvement.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

Program recruitment will be primarily through the National AmeriCorps office, California college and university job placement centers, high schools throughout California, and through public information in the Southern California media market.

The recruitment of both program staff and leadership as well as participants will ensure a maximum ethnic, racial, physical abilities, gender, age, sexual orientation, cultural and socio-economic diversity representative of Southern California. At least 20 percent of the applicants will be selected from the national recruitment system. Presentations will be made at locations throughout California. The public affairs staff at the San Bernardino National Forest will assist in AmeriCorps awareness within the Southern California media market. Recruitment will begin before the Forest receives notification that the program is approved and funded.

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

Educational opportunities will be available to all participants. Those participants who have not graduated from high school, will be encouraged to do so and will be provided every opportunity to earn their GED while in the program.

Those high school graduates who are enrolled in the program will be encouraged to attend some college courses at a local junior or community college, or university. The AmeriCorps program will flex work schedules to meet the educational desires of the participants. The residential camp would like to enter into an agreement with a local educational facility to develop a learning center at the camp that is available to program participants as well as community citizens.

INTERNAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES

The success of the program will be evaluated on specific program objectives. Each program objective will be evaluated in quantitative and qualitative terms based on pre-determined

criteria.

An annual written report of the program operations will be available no later than September 30 of each year for the previous 12 month period. This report will include evaluations from staff and participants, examining camp and agency relations, health and safety matters, food service, physical facilities, education, work projects, and a summary of the amount of participant time spent on each project and evening programs.

A procedure for tracking participants after they leave the program will be developed.

INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONNEL INFORMATION

The AmeriCorps/USDA Southern California program will be operated by the San Bernardino National Forest and the San Bernardino National Forest Association. Employees will be employed by either the Forest Service or the Forest Association. This collaboration between a Federal agency and a not-for-profit organization will provide opportunities for expertise in specialized areas, as well as do business in a manner different than would normally be expected.

Crew leaders will all be Forest Service employees who have years of on-the-ground work project experience. Assistant crew leaders will eventually consist of former AmeriCorps participants.

The program will require that a project specialist be available for each project, from the project sponsor. The project sponsor will provide most tools and all supplies to complete their project. For example, the supplies and material costs to overhaul a campground will be at the agency's expense. The program will provide the labor.

The Camp Director will work for the San Bernardino National Forest Human Resource/Youth Employment Coordinator, who reports directly to the Forest Supervisor. The Camp Director sits on the San Bernardino National Forest Association as a non-voting member,

advising the association of AmeriCorps matters. The Camp Director sits on the AmeriCorps Board of Directors which consist of local agency representatives (USFS, BLM, SCS, NPS) to provide overall program support and coordination.

The Administrative Officer oversees individual personnel actions and payroll. Purchasing activities will be approved by this individual as well as management of the camp records system, employees health and benefits, and cost accountability.

The Residential Program Manager has responsibility for the non-work activities of the participants. These include food and housing, safety and security, recreational and educational activities, and participant personal needs.

The Residential Manager will supervise the Residential Living Assistants as well as the Food Service Manager.

The Public and Community Service Program Manager oversees all activities where participants are earning wage and educational stipends. Overall project scheduling, training, participant safety, and coordination with project sponsors is handled by this person.

Team Supervisors are responsible for the community service work projects. Each supervisor will be responsible for the day-to-day supervision and leadership of up to 12 participants.

The Training and Safety Officer will manage the in-camp participants, as well as supervise and coordinate the mandatory training program that each participant will receive prior to being placed on a community service team. Specialized training, such as chainsaw use, or firefighting will be provided by subject matter specialists from the participating agencies.

Initially, the Environmental Education Program Manager will be provided to the camp from the community and participant agencies. This position will eventually be a part of the camp

organization. This person will supervise and coordinate the internal and external environmental education program.

An application, interview and evaluation process will be developed for all prospective staff. All staff will receive ongoing training and education while employed in the program.

Individual Site Application # 17
Public Lands and the Environment
California, Six Rivers National Forest

SUMMARY

The Six Rivers National Forest in partnership with other resource management agencies, the California Conservation Corps, College of the Redwoods, and Humboldt State University propose to establish a USDA Americorps program under the authority of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 to: provide 20 high quality opportunities for young women and men to serve the critical environmental needs of Northwestern California; an area impacted by changes in federal policy, by the dramatic decline in wildlife and fisheries resources including the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet, and the presence of numerous stocks of salmon and steelhead that are at-risk of extinction including the Coho Salmon. Build on the existing accredited curricula developed by resource agencies, corps, and higher education to establish a model Natural Resources Training Institute which will provide learning opportunities integrated with service projects for a diverse group of young adults recruited both locally and from throughout the network of corps in California's urban and rural areas. Provide resources to assist in implementing a coordinated ecosystem management plan for one of the most spectacular contiguous natural recreation areas in the country encompassing the Smith River National Recreation Area, Redwood National Park, and the parks of California's North Coast Redwoods District. These agencies along with the California Department of Fish and Game are seeking support through their respective titles of the National Service Act to establish a truly coordinated resource management program.

NEEDS TO BE MET

Several wildlife species are endangered and in need of habitat restoration and protection. This will ensure future generations the pleasures of fishing, bird watching, and other recreational pursuits.

One of the greatest threats to forests in addition to improper utilization is fire. Americorps participants will reduce fire hazards through education of the public, management of fuels, and safe practices.

Watershed protection will aid in the preservation of clean water for human and wildlife survival, prevent erosion, and help to control flooding.

Public park facilities are becoming aged and in need of restoration and upgrading to meet today's demands by an ever increasing number of visitors. Parks are also need to be more accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

Changing economic conditions requires new and creative approaches for the communities to recover from the loss of traditional income from logging and fishing. AmeriCorps participants will aid in the economic diversification effort.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Projects will occur in two major geographic areas encompassed by the Smith River National Recreation Area and the Lower Trinity Recreation Unit. Project effort in these two areas will focus on the following:

- protect and restore endangered stocks and species through resource assessment and analysis, erosion control mapping, watershed/landscape-based habitat restoration, maintenance

and rehabilitation of road systems, rehabilitating wildfire areas, conducting prescribed burns;

- transition and revitalize the local, formerly timber-based, community economy by developing recreational facilities (camping, boating and fishing access, trail, etc.) restoring fisheries, assisting with the implementation of new forestry practices within the Smith River National Recreation Area, providing interpretive service;

- provide for public safety through fire hazard reduction/fuels management projects, and wild-land fire fighting. Project, location and time-allocation of the 14-crew based and 6 individually-placed Americorps participants will be assigned as shown in the table below.

It is the intent of Six Rivers National Forest to start with 20 residential Americorps positions with work projects focused within the Smith River National Recreation Area. We are hoping to expand in subsequent years with positions placed for work in the Lower Trinity Ranger unit.

The 20 Americorps participants will be based at the National Park Service's Requa Maintenance Facility at the mouth of Klamath River. This facility has fully operational housing, food service, warehouse, shop, classroom, and office facilities. In addition, AmeriCorps members will have full access to the education and participant support services provided at this facility to members of the California Conservation Corps.

A second year expansion crew will be housed at the Forest Service's residential work facility at Sawyer on the Trinity River. Americorps members will work from spike camp during the summer and early fall months.

Six Rivers National Forest AmeriCorps Program
Breakdown of Service Hours by Task and by Location

Project	Location	% of Total Participant Hours	Total Participant Hours
Resource assessment & analysis, erosion control mapping, assisting with implementation of new forestry	Smith River Nat'l Rec. Area (NRA)	17%	5780
	Lower Trinity Recreation Unit	4%	1360
Project prescription, design, preparation of NEPA documents	Smith River NRA	7%	2380
	Lower Trinity Recreation Unit	4%	1360
Development of recreational facilities, providing interpretive education	Smith River NRA	17%	5780
Public safety; fire hazard reduction, fuels management, wild-land fire fighting	Smith River NRA	5%	1700
Watershed/landscape habitat restoration, maintenance & rehab of road systems, rehab of wildlife areas, restoring fisheries	Smith River NRA	32%	10880
	Lower Trinity Recreation Unit	14%	4760
	TOTAL	100%	34000

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

AmeriCorps members will be recruited from throughout the network of corps (14 base centers and 30 satellites of the state corps and 11 local, urban, non-profit corps) located throughout California. Recruitment will also take place at area and state-wide high schools, colleges and universities, and through use of public media. A percentage of positions (perhaps 10%) can be reserved for nationally recruited placements. The Americorps positions, especially the 8 individual placements, are viewed as advanced opportunities for corps members. Statewide recruitment will be conducted by existing CCC staff. The participants will reflect the socio-economic diversity of the area.

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS

In addition to the salary paid, all participants who successfully complete 1700 hours of service will earn the educational award from the National Service Corporation. The value of that award is \$4,725.00 payable to an institution of higher education, including accredited vocational schools.

Participants will gain an appreciation for the environment, learn job/work related skills, and develop interpersonal and leadership skills.

The proposed orientation, training, and education program for participants represents many years of development between human resource staff from the Forest Service, educators from the College of the Redwoods, and corps member development staff from the CCC's Del Norte Center (based in Klamath).

The heart of the program is the Natural Resources Technician certification program

The curriculum is designed to support the service projects and the development of

participants in the following areas:

- Applied Natural Resources Technology: job specific skills training, e.g. fish habitat restoration, erosion control, construction;
- Adult basic education: with environmental literacy as the central learning context, curriculum will include remedial basic academic skills, GED preparation, and high school diploma attainment when appropriate;
- Citizenship education: goals include developing citizenship and environmental stewardship, democratic governance, critical thinking skills, leadership development, and supporting the function of a participant governing board.

Participants who complete this program will represent a diverse and competent hiring pool for employers including the Forest Service.

Participants will begin their tenure with a 104-hour orientation consisting of the CCC's 80-hour COMET program including academic assessment, first aid, CPR, team-building, tool use and safety, journal writing, career development, conservation awareness, drug and alcohol education, and the USFS 24-hour employee orientation program.

Existing participant support services including an on-site counselor who provides individual and group counseling and the Employee Assistance Program provided by Occupational Health Services will be made available to Americorps members.

Existing CCC resources will assist Americorps members in post program placement to post secondary education, employment, CCC opportunity programs such as the Backcountry Trails Project, Placer Energy Center, Helitak program, National and International Exchanges, or to corp in their hometown to complete their term of service.

INTERNAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Participants will be provided with performance evaluations on a monthly basis. These evaluations will include education and training achievements. Individual goal setting and planning will be conducted simultaneously with performance evaluations. Work production and work hours will be continuously monitored and documented. A year end summary report will be produced and will include information on service provided and input through surveys and topical narratives. Evaluation tools for the program and performance areas listed above presently exist.

INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONNEL INFORMATION

Six Rivers National Forest and the other primary sponsoring agencies bring over 16 years of experience in operating productive youth service programs. Systems and infrastructure are in place for recruitment, participant support, residential programming, and to provide the experienced supervision and leadership to form productive teams of young adult women and men from a full diversity of backgrounds. Sponsoring agencies have a long-history of collaborative project development and implementation such as the Coastal and Coast-to-Crest trails and numerous watershed and fisheries restoration projects. Collaborative decision-making bodies such as the Joint Interagency Trails Committee, Smith River Advisory Committee, and Stone Lagoon Action Committee have been established to expedite multi-jurisdictional project work. This proposal is the result of a development effort that has involved Six Rivers National Forest, the California Conservation Corps, Redwood National Park, California Department of Parks and

Recreation, California Department of Fish and Game, College of the Redwoods, Yurok Tribe, Del Norte County of board of Supervisors, Klamath Chamber of Commerce, Orick Chamber of Commerce, and local non-profit organizations including Rural Human Service.

Coordination of project work, education, training, and support services, and direct

supervision will be provided by staff with many years of experience operating youth service programs in collaboration with the United States Forest Service. Individually placed resource assistants will work under the direct supervision of highly qualified agency personnel who have both the interest and experience in mentoring young adults.

Existing staff positions will be utilized for project coordination, corps member development programming coordination, food service, and support. The only staff positions sought through this proposal is the Americorps crew supervisor and education coordinator.

The salmon and steelhead restoration projects implemented collaboratively with the CCC and Forest Service have been awarded the Robert Rodale National Environmental Achievement Award in 1991 as the nation's top fisheries conservation program. In 1994 this same program was awarded the Governor's Economic and Environmental Leadership Award. The trail maintenance and construction programs of the Del Norte Center have received the 1989 National Project Award from the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps. The CCC's Del Norte Center and partners have also been honored for their pioneering efforts in integrating work projects with college accredited course work which have resulted not only in corps member academic achievement but also in the completion of complex and technical projects including the

construction of a youth hostel in collaboration with American Youth Hostels, construction of a full service marine mammal rehabilitation center, and completion of numerous watershed and fish habitat restoration projects.

**CERTIFICATION
SIGNATURE**

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☐ Certification: Lobbying Activities

Organization Name: _____

Project Name: _____

**Name and Title
of Authorized Representative:** _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**ASSURANCES
SIGNATURE**

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Organization Name: _____

Project Name: _____

**Name and Title
of Authorized Representative:** _____

Signature: Quigley W. Thomas

Date: _____

Individual Site Application #18
Public Lands and Environment Team
Olympic National Forest at Fort Worden, Washington

SUMMARY

The day-to-day operation of Fort Worden will be administered through a contract with an organization such as Northwest Youth Corps (NYC). Over the past eleven years, NYC has developed a strong education component that is integrated into all aspects of the corps program. It includes a minimum of 8 hours weekly of required participation in education programs that will address the natural environment, society's use of natural resources, job-training, personal growth and leadership development. In addition participants will take part in research projects, group presentations and writing projects. NYC will schedule outside speakers, educational videos and films and field trips to supplement the curriculum and education program. Partnerships will be formed to provide GED opportunities for those who have not finished high school and grants made available for post high school education to those who complete the program.

Through education on safe work habits at the camp, participants will learn to carry these through to later life and be more aware of personal and public safety issues and concerns.

Fort Worden will provide employment, training and financial incentives to promote further education to a host of youth living in an area of Western Washington that has been economically hard hit by the down fall of the timber industry and declining salmon stock in the northwest. Local communities have identified their youth as a high priority for jobs and training needs.

Projects completed by participants will include a broad range of watershed restoration,

forest stand improvements, recreation construction and maintenance, trail maintenance and construction, resource data collection, erosion control and wildlife and fisheries habitat enhancement. Many of these are backlog projects that have been un-funded to date.

NEEDS TO BE MET

The Fort Worden AmeriCorps Camp will address a multitude of needs identified in western Washington. This region has been hard hit economically by: 1.) the loss of timber revenue due to concerns of old growth dependant species survival, and 2.) concerns over declines in salmon populations have further reduced historic timber supplies and resulted in the loss of many timber related jobs. Seven at risk species of salmon are located on the Quilcene Ranger District elevating the need for watershed restoration efforts to avoid future listing of the species as threatened or endangered. Salmon fishing in Pacific Northwest waters has been canceled for the 1994 season with the loss of many jobs. In addition, the local shellfish industry is a 6 million dollar a year industry whose survival is dependent upon clean water from the National Forest. Local timber dependent communities have identified the need to provide jobs and training for local youth and enhance their ability to finance post high school education. This program will also enable the Forest Service and other Federal agencies to complete a variety of backlogged resource projects related to forest health, recreation, trail maintenance and construction, fisheries and wildlife habitat enhancement and watershed restoration. Many of these projects are labor intensive and will lend themselves well to this program. Over the past two years the Forest Service has worked with a wide variety of groups, agencies and local governments to identify how they could best fill identified needs. Of primary concern were the needs identified by the timber dependent rural communities it serves. A concern that surfaced

over and over again was the need to provide jobs, training, skills and counselling to their youth. Also of concern was the need to provide more and better maintained recreation facilities and to enhance local tourism opportunities.

Trail construction will involve approximately 4,125 hours of work constructing a tie trail between the Gold Creek Trail and the Lower Dungeness. This project will include the construction of two log stringer bridges and will reduce user conflict by completing a loop trail for horse hiker and bike users.

Trail Maintenance will involve approximately 3,241 hours of work bringing approximately 90 miles of trail up to standard. This will include repair and replacement of trail signs and registration boards, obliteration and revegetation of short cut trails, ditch cleaning, brushing and re-establishment of tread.

Developed recreation maintenance and restoration will involve approximately 7,360 hours of work. This includes repair and replacement of picnic tables, fire places, tent pads and barrier posts. Also included is the repair of toilets and water systems. This work will be directed towards restoration of facilities to meet standards and meeting accessibility standards.

Noxious weed removal will involve approximately 300 hours of work to remove non native plant species from within camp areas within the Buckhorn Wilderness area.

Fish habitat enhancement will involve approximately 3,241 hours of work. Work includes construction and installation of fish structures within streams to improve nest sites for critical salmon stocks.

Wildlife habitat improvement will involve approximately 2,357 hours of work. This will be the construction and installation of bird and bat nest boxes to meet the needs of species whose

habitat has been depleted. There will be a collection of native seed and plants for revegetation of depleted deer and elk browse. At the same time an inventory of threatened and/or endangered plant species will be conducted.

Watershed restoration will involve approximately 5,893 hours of work to stabilize sediment producing slopes. This will include installation of erosion matting, planting willows and conifer trees and the application of grass seed and fertilizer. These projects are within the critical Port Townsend Municipal watershed and will help reduce sedimentation into critical salmon producing streams.

Community development will involve about 2,900 hours of work within the timber producing community of Quilcene and Port Townsend. Work will include beautification projects, planting flowers and trees, park and trail enhancement and others to strengthen community ties, foster civic responsibilities and develop more skilled and dedicated citizens.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Fort Worden will be administered by a contract with an organization such as Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) in partnership with a host of other agencies and profit and non-profit organizations. The Quilcene Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest will have the primary responsibility to provide on-site technical expertise as needed, provide environmental resource projects and be the primary contact for the contract. They will also work with the National Park service and Washington State Parks to provide environmental resource projects. Partnerships have also been established with the National Forest Foundation.

The Fort Worden AmeriCorps Camp will be a resident facility accommodating 32 male and female youth and a staff of 10. In addition, up to 5 part-time project staff may be utilized

out of the Forest Service district office to complete project planning and coordination. The resident camp will be located at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend Washington adjacent to the Quilcene Ranger District in the Olympic National Forest. Fort Worden is the site of many cultural events each year including concerts, art shows, seminars and workshops making this a unique opportunity for Americorps participants. Fort Worden is also the location of the Marine Science Center offering unique environmental education opportunities.

Field camps (spike camps) will often be located near project work sites. Day to day operation of the camp and on the ground supervision of participants will be contracted. Technical expertise and resource projects will be supplied by the agencies involved. This program will build on the current 1994 Fort Worden Youth Forest Camp scheduled to operate from June through mid August. The Youth Forest Camp will be operated through a contract with Northwest Youth Corps. It will also utilize a number of developed partnerships with local schools, industry and other agencies.

The primary purpose of the project will be to complete environmental resource projects identified including: watershed restoration, recreation site restoration, trail construction and maintenance, fish and wildlife habitat improvement and local non Federal agency cooperative projects. In addition, five components will be considered as requirements for all participants. These include safety, work experience, education, recreation and personal growth and development and will be woven into all facets of camp operation and require both group and individual participation. A typical week in the life of a participant might include a four day spike camp doing trail maintenance in a wilderness area. Education, safety and personal growth development will be integrated into the project. The remainder of the week might include a day

cleaning up equipment and discussing as a group how the project went and might be improved in the future or teaching a session on environmental education in one of the local schools. The next week might include four days working on erosion control on forest roads with two days dedicated to environmental education or completion of a GED. It is estimated that education and training will account for approximately 20% of the total time. Weekends will have developed recreation programs such as visits to nearby parks, hikes or sports activities.

All of the service activities respond well to the identified needs of completing resource projects which conserve, restore and sustain natural habitats, providing employment, training and personal growth opportunities and assisting participants with finances for post high school education.

Instrumental in the successful operation of this project is the support and training of participants and the administering organizations like Northwest Youth Corps (NYC). All NYC staff are required to have current CPR and First Aid Certifications and a demonstrated safe driving record. All participants will be required to participate in a minimum of 8 hours per week of structured and planned education which will address natural environment, societies use of natural resources, job-training, personal growth and leadership development, completion of GED's etc. Participants are expected to take part in research projects, group presentations, and writing projects. Whenever possible, training and education will be integrated into resource project work. NYC will also schedule outside speakers, educational videos and field trips to supplement the curriculum and education program. Group meeting will be held on a weekly basis to discuss topics and issues facing the group. "Circle Meetings" are also used to aid in conflict resolution as needed. Recreation activities will promote physical fitness, encourage

individual interest, foster social growth, introduce participants to a wide range of outdoor recreational activities and encourage the development of lifelong leisure skills.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

The Americorps Fort Worden Camp will be a seven-day resident Co-educational camp consisting of 32 full time participants and 5 part time participants. Part time participants may work out of the District office to accomplish project planning and other needed work. The mix will exceed or as a minimum be consistent with 1990 National Census Data for the areas served. Educational level or economic income will not be a factor in participant selection. Applicant disabilities will not be a limiting factor except where physical conditions are a safety factor to the safety of the participant(s).

Recruiting of participants will include many different and varied forms. Simultaneously there will be a mass media advertising blitz consisting of the development and distribution of posters, brochures and other mailings to educational institutions (alternative schools through colleges and universities), student counselors, agencies who focus on youth, juvenile justice counselors, special interest groups (Urban League, Hispanic, Native American and Asian/Pacific Islands and service clubs), state employment offices, local Governments and "word of mouth." On site presentations to schools, community civic groups and other fora such as job fairs, and special interest groups will be made. Of specific importance will be the strong encouragement of parents attendance, and participation, even for age groups where parental permission is not required. It is our belief that open discussions from parents and other interested parties develops a trust that can only be achieved through the personal approach.

Press releases, public service announcements, TV, articles in community newspapers,

student newspapers (alternative through college) will be used extensively.

Publication of success stories and accomplishments that benefit the community will be an ongoing component.

Participants will be recruited from an established geographic area within the communities being served. There will be no criteria established in regard to education or work experience to qualify. Applicants at the out-set will be informed of unacceptable behavior, i.e., substance abuse, acts of physical aggression, etc. Participants will be randomly chosen by various state agencies serving youth. Selection will include urban, rural and reservation communities to ensure that a maximum ethnic, gender, racial, cultural and social economic diversity is achieved.

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

Participants selected to participate will receive a stipend of \$4.50 per hour paid monthly. (This is the minimum wage in the guidelines published by the Corporation.) In addition, full-time participants will qualify for Health Insurance and Worker's Compensation for Injury coverage. Participants who successfully complete the 1700 hour service requirement will be entitled to earn an education award of \$4,725.

Participants will gain an appreciation for the protection of the environment, develop leadership skills, learn job skills, learn how to deal with conflict, learn how to work in teams, and develop a more keen sense of self.

INTERNAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES

The success of this program will be evaluated based on specific program objectives. Each program objective will be evaluated in quantitative and/or qualitative terms based on the

criteria listed here. The elements that will be measured to determine the success of Fort Worden Americorps program include service to the community, participant attendance and completion rates, job skills development, life skills development and educational development. The success of this program will be based upon specific program objectives. Each program objective will be evaluated in quantitative and/or qualitative terms based upon written criteria. The following are a sample of the objectives and criteria that will be developed to guide and evaluate the Fort Worden Americorps program.

Objective: To offer a work experience program that teaches participants basic job skills and a sound work ethic and social skills necessary to succeed in their community.

Evaluation: Percentage of participants completing the program and receiving positive evaluations. Written feedback on what the youth learned concerning job-search and job-retention skills.

Objective: To help the youth gain an understanding of resource management issues and an appreciation of local, regional and global environmental issues.

Evaluation: Assessment of pre-test and post-test scores on NYC's or similar camp operator's SEED test. Written evaluations from Americorps members on SEED sessions, and what individual's considered the most important thing learned related to environmental education.

Objective: To complete projects according to project specifications, in a safe, efficient and timely manner.

Evaluation: Assessment of completed project by Forest Service managers.

INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONNEL INFORMATION

The Fort Worden camp will be operated by contract similar to Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) 1994 contract. NYC was created in 1983 to offer youth a residential job training, employment, and education experience. Modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930.s, NYC programs integrate hard work and education into a curriculum that promotes the development of confidence, self esteem, individual responsibility, an understanding of basic job skills, and an awareness of environmental issues.

Over the past 10 years, NYC has served over 1700 youth from all economic and ethnic backgrounds. Since 1983, NYC participants have completed over 350,000 hours of resource management projects throughout Oregon, Washington and Idaho. In 1993, NYC crews worked on projects for 31 National Forest Ranger Districts on 14 National Forests. NYC has a reputation throughout the Northwest for providing hard working crews and top quality work.

NYC will recruit camp staff from the immediate camp vicinity and nationwide. NYC's success in recruiting, hiring, and training staff is demonstrated by the program's exceptional safety record, a completion rate averaging 92%, the high percentage of referrals from previous participants and ongoing support from parents and project sponsors.

**Individual Site Application #
Public Lands and the Environment
California, Six Rivers National Forest**

SUMMARY

The Six Rivers National Forest in partnership with other resource management agencies, the California Conservation Corps, College of the Redwoods, and Humboldt State University propose to establish a USDA Americorps program under the authority of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 to: provide 20 high quality opportunities for young women and men to serve the critical environmental needs of Northwestern California; an area impacted by changes in federal policy, by the dramatic decline in wildlife and fisheries resources including the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet, and the presence of numerous stocks of salmon and steelhead that are at-risk of extinction including the Coho Salmon. Build on the existing accredited curricula developed by resource agencies, corps, and higher education to establish a model Natural Resources Training Institute which will provide learning opportunities integrated with service projects for a diverse group of young adults recruited both locally and from throughout the network of corps in California's urban and rural areas. Provide resources to assist in implementing a coordinated ecosystem management plan for one of the most spectacular contiguous natural recreation areas in the country encompassing the Smith River National Recreation Area, Redwood National Park, and the parks of California's North Coast Redwoods District. These agencies along with the California Department of Fish and Game are seeking support through their respective titles of the National Service Act to establish a truly coordinated resource management program.

NEEDS TO BE MET

Several wildlife species are endangered and in need of habitat restoration and protection. This will ensure future generations the pleasures of fishing, bird watching, and other recreational pursuits.

One of the greatest threats to forests in addition to improper utilization is fire. Americorps participants will reduce fire hazards through education of the public, management of fuels, and safe practices.

Watershed protection will aid in the preservation of clean water for human and wildlife survival, prevent erosion, and help to control flooding.

Public park facilities are becoming aged and in need of restoration and upgrading to meet today's demands by an ever increasing number of visitors. Parks are also need to be more accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

Changing economic conditions requires new and creative approaches for the communities to recover from the loss of traditional income from logging and fishing. AmeriCorps participants will aid in the economic diversification effort.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Projects will occur in two major geographic areas encompassed by the Smith River National Recreation Area and the Lower Trinity Recreation Unit. Project effort in these two areas will focus on the following:

- protect and restore endangered stocks and species through resource assessment and analysis, erosion control mapping, watershed/landscape-based habitat restoration, maintenance

**CERTIFICATION
SIGNATURE**

**Note: This form must be signed and included in the application.
Before You Start.** Before completing certification,
please read Certification Instructions, page 30.

SIGNATURE. By signing this Certification page, the applicant certifies that it will agree to perform all actions and support all intentions stated in the Certification sections in part III of this application. The three Certifications are:
☐ Certification: Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters.
☐ Certification: Drug-Free Workplace
☐ Certification: Lobbying Activities

Organization Name: _____

Project Name: _____

**Name and Title
of Authorized Representative:** _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**ASSURANCES
SIGNATURE**

Note: This form must be signed and included in the application.
By signing this assurances page, the applicant certifies that it will agree to perform all actions and support all intentions stated in the Assurances on page 28.

Organization Name: _____

Project Name: _____

**Name and Title
of Authorized Representative:** _____

Signature: Gary W. Thomas

Date: _____

**Individual Site Application #18
Public Lands and Environment Team
Olympic National Forest at Fort Worden, Washington**

SUMMARY

The day-to-day operation of Fort Worden will be administered through a contract with an organization such as Northwest Youth Corps (NYC). Over the past eleven years, NYC has developed a strong education component that is integrated into all aspects of the corps program. It includes a minimum of 8 hours weekly of required participation in education programs that will address the natural environment, society's use of natural resources, job-training, personal growth and leadership development. In addition participants will take part in research projects, group presentations and writing projects. NYC will schedule outside speakers, educational videos and films and field trips to supplement the curriculum and education program. Partnerships will be formed to provide GED opportunities for those who have not finished high school and grants made available for post high school education to those who complete the program.

Through education on safe work habits at the camp, participants will learn to carry these through to later life and be more aware of personal and public safety issues and concerns.

Fort Worden will provide employment, training and financial incentives to promote further education to a host of youth living in an area of Western Washington that has been economically hard hit by the down fall of the timber industry and declining salmon stock in the northwest. Local communities have identified their youth as a high priority for jobs and training needs.

Projects completed by participants will include a broad range of watershed restoration,

forest stand improvements, recreation construction and maintenance, trail maintenance and construction, resource data collection, erosion control and wildlife and fisheries habitat enhancement. Many of these are backlog projects that have been un-funded to date.

NEEDS TO BE MET

The Fort Worden AmeriCorps Camp will address a multitude of needs identified in western Washington. This region has been hard hit economically by: 1.) the loss of timber revenue due to concerns of old growth dependant species survival, and 2.) concerns over declines in salmon populations have further reduced historic timber supplies and resulted in the loss of many timber related jobs. Seven at risk species of salmon are located on the Quilcene Ranger District elevating the need for watershed restoration efforts to avoid future listing of the species as threatened or endangered. Salmon fishing in Pacific Northwest waters has been canceled for the 1994 season with the loss of many jobs. In addition, the local shellfish industry is a 6 million dollar a year industry whose survival is dependent upon clean water from the National Forest. Local timber dependent communities have identified the need to provide jobs and training for local youth and enhance their ability to finance post high school education. This program will also enable the Forest Service and other Federal agencies to complete a variety of backlogged resource projects related to forest health, recreation, trail maintenance and construction, fisheries and wildlife habitat enhancement and watershed restoration. Many of these projects are labor intensive and will lend themselves well to this program. Over the past two years the Forest Service has worked with a wide variety of groups, agencies and local governments to identify how they could best fill identified needs. Of primary concern were the needs identified by the timber dependent rural communities it serves. A concern that surfaced

over and over again was the need to provide jobs, training, skills and counselling to their youth. Also of concern was the need to provide more and better maintained recreation facilities and to enhance local tourism opportunities.

Trail construction will involve approximately 4,125 hours of work constructing a tie trail between the Gold Creek Trail and the Lower Dungeness. This project will include the construction of two log stringer bridges and will reduce user conflict by completing a loop trail for horse hiker and bike users.

Trail Maintenance will involve approximately 3,241 hours of work bringing approximately 90 miles of trail up to standard. This will include repair and replacement of trail signs and registration boards, obliteration and revegetation of short cut trails, ditch cleaning, brushing and re-establishment of tread.

Developed recreation maintenance and restoration will involve approximately 7,360 hours of work. This includes repair and replacement of picnic tables, fire places, tent pads and barrier posts. Also included is the repair of toilets and water systems. This work will be directed towards restoration of facilities to meet standards and meeting accessibility standards.

Noxious weed removal will involve approximately 300 hours of work to remove non native plant species from within camp areas within the Buckhorn Wilderness area.

Fish habitat enhancement will involve approximately 3,241 hours of work. Work includes construction and installation of fish structures within streams to improve nest sites for critical salmon stocks.

Wildlife habitat improvement will involve approximately 2,357 hours of work. This will be the construction and installation of bird and bat nest boxes to meet the needs of species whose

habitat has been depleted. There will be a collection of native seed and plants for revegetation of depleted deer and elk browse. At the same time an inventory of threatened and/or endangered plant species will be conducted.

Watershed restoration will involve approximately 5,893 hours of work to stabilize sediment producing slopes. This will include installation of erosion matting, planting willows and conifer trees and the application of grass seed and fertilizer. These projects are within the critical Port Townsend Municipal watershed and will help reduce sedimentation into critical salmon producing streams.

Community development will involve about 2,900 hours of work within the timber producing community of Quilcene and Port Townsend. Work will include beautification projects, planting flowers and trees, park and trail enhancement and others to strengthen community ties, foster civic responsibilities and develop more skilled and dedicated citizens.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Fort Worden will be administered by a contract with an organization such as Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) in partnership with a host of other agencies and profit and non-profit organizations. The Quilcene Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest will have the primary responsibility to provide on-site technical expertise as needed, provide environmental resource projects and be the primary contact for the contract. They will also work with the National Park service and Washington State Parks to provide environmental resource projects. Partnerships have also been established with the National Forest Foundation.

The Fort Worden AmeriCorps Camp will be a resident facility accommodating 32 male and female youth and a staff of 10. In addition, up to 5 part-time project staff may be utilized

out of the Forest Service district office to complete project planning and coordination. The resident camp will be located at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend Washington adjacent to the Quilcene Ranger District in the Olympic National Forest. Fort Worden is the site of many cultural events each year including concerts, art shows, seminars and workshops making this a unique opportunity for Americorps participants. Fort Worden is also the location of the Marine Science Center offering unique environmental education opportunities.

Field camps (spike camps) will often be located near project work sites. Day to day operation of the camp and on the ground supervision of participants will be contracted. Technical expertise and resource projects will be supplied by the agencies involved. This program will build on the current 1994 Fort Worden Youth Forest Camp scheduled to operate from June through mid August. The Youth Forest Camp will be operated through a contract with Northwest Youth Corps. It will also utilize a number of developed partnerships with local schools, industry and other agencies.

The primary purpose of the project will be to complete environmental resource projects identified including: watershed restoration, recreation site restoration, trail construction and maintenance, fish and wildlife habitat improvement and local non Federal agency cooperative projects. In addition, five components will be considered as requirements for all participants. These include safety, work experience, education, recreation and personal growth and development and will be woven into all facets of camp operation and require both group and individual participation. A typical week in the life of a participant might include a four day spike camp doing trail maintenance in a wilderness area. Education, safety and personal growth development will be integrated into the project. The remainder of the week might include a day

cleaning up equipment and discussing as a group how the project went and might be improved in the future or teaching a session on environmental education in one of the local schools. The next week might include four days working on erosion control on forest roads with two days dedicated to environmental education or completion of a GED. It is estimated that education and training will account for approximately 20% of the total time. Weekends will have developed recreation programs such as visits to nearby parks, hikes or sports activities.

All of the service activities respond well to the identified needs of completing resource projects which conserve, restore and sustain natural habitats, providing employment, training and personal growth opportunities and assisting participants with finances for post high school education.

Instrumental in the successful operation of this project is the support and training of participants and the administering organizations like Northwest Youth Corps (NYC). All NYC staff are required to have current CPR and First Aid Certifications and a demonstrated safe driving record. All participants will be required to participate in a minimum of 8 hours per week of structured and planned education which will address natural environment, societies use of natural resources, job-training, personal growth and leadership development, completion of GED's etc. Participants are expected to take part in research projects, group presentations, and writing projects. Whenever possible, training and education will be integrated into resource project work. NYC will also schedule outside speakers, educational videos and field trips to supplement the curriculum and education program. Group meeting will be held on a weekly basis to discuss topics and issues facing the group. "Circle Meetings" are also used to aid in conflict resolution as needed. Recreation activities will promote physical fitness, encourage

individual interest, foster social growth, introduce participants to a wide range of outdoor recreational activities and encourage the development of lifelong leisure skills.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

The Americorps Fort Worden Camp will be a seven-day resident Co-educational camp consisting of 32 full time participants and 5 part time participants. Part time participants may work out of the District office to accomplish project planning and other needed work. The mix will exceed or as a minimum be consistent with 1990 National Census Data for the areas served. Educational level or economic income will not be a factor in participant selection. Applicant disabilities will not be a limiting factor except where physical conditions are a safety factor to the safety of the participant(s).

Recruiting of participants will include many different and varied forms. Simultaneously there will be a mass media advertising blitz consisting of the development and distribution of posters, brochures and other mailings to educational institutions (alternative schools through colleges and universities), student counselors, agencies who focus on youth, juvenile justice counselors, special interest groups (Urban League, Hispanic, Native American and Asian/Pacific Islands and service clubs), state employment offices, local Governments and "word of mouth." On site presentations to schools, community civic groups and other fora such as job fairs, and special interest groups will be made. Of specific importance will be the strong encouragement of parents attendance, and participation, even for age groups where parental permission is not required. It is our belief that open discussions from parents and other interested parties develops a trust that can only be achieved through the personal approach.

Press releases, public service announcements, TV, articles in community newspapers,

student newspapers (alternative through college) will be used extensively.

Publication of success stories and accomplishments that benefit the community will be an ongoing component.

Participants will be recruited from an established geographic area within the communities being served. There will be no criteria established in regard to education or work experience to qualify. Applicants at the out-set will be informed of unacceptable behavior, i.e., substance abuse, acts of physical aggression, etc. Participants will be randomly chosen by various state agencies serving youth. Selection will include urban, rural and reservation communities to ensure that a maximum ethnic, gender, racial, cultural and social economic diversity is achieved.

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

Participants selected to participate will receive a stipend of \$4.50 per hour paid monthly. (This is the minimum wage in the guidelines published by the Corporation.) In addition, full-time participants will qualify for Health Insurance and Worker's Compensation for Injury coverage. Participants who successfully complete the 1700 hour service requirement will be entitled to earn an education award of \$4,725.

Participants will gain an appreciation for the protection of the environment, develop leadership skills, learn job skills, learn how to deal with conflict, learn how to work in teams, and develop a more keen sense of self.

INTERNAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES

The success of this program will be evaluated based on specific program objectives. Each program objective will be evaluated in quantitative and/or qualitative terms based on the

criteria listed here. The elements that will be measured to determine the success of Fort Worden Americorps program include service to the community, participant attendance and completion rates, job skills development, life skills development and educational development. The success of this program will be based upon specific program objectives. Each program objective will be evaluated in quantitative and/or qualitative terms based upon written criteria. The following are a sample of the objectives and criteria that will be developed to guide and evaluate the Fort Worden Americorps program.

Objective: To offer a work experience program that teaches participants basic job skills and a sound work ethic and social skills necessary to succeed in their community.

Evaluation: Percentage of participants completing the program and receiving positive evaluations. Written feedback on what the youth learned concerning job-search and job-retention skills.

Objective: To help the youth gain an understanding of resource management issues and an appreciation of local, regional and global environmental issues.

Evaluation: Assessment of pre-test and post-test scores on NYC's or similar camp operator's SEED test. Written evaluations from Americorps members on SEED sessions, and what individual's considered the most important thing learned related to environmental education.

Objective: To complete projects according to project specifications, in a safe, efficient and timely manner.

Evaluation: Assessment of completed project by Forest Service managers.

INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONNEL INFORMATION

The Fort Worden camp will be operated by contract similar to Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) 1994 contract. NYC was created in 1983 to offer youth a residential job training, employment, and education experience. Modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930.s, NYC programs integrate hard work and education into a curriculum that promotes the development of confidence, self esteem, individual responsibility, an understanding of basic job skills, and an awareness of environmental issues.

Over the past 10 years, NYC has served over 1700 youth from all economic and ethnic backgrounds. Since 1983, NYC participants have completed over 350,000 hours of resource management projects throughout Oregon, Washington and Idaho. In 1993, NYC crews worked on projects for 31 National Forest Ranger Districts on 14 National Forests. NYC has a reputation throughout the Northwest for providing hard working crews and top quality work.

NYC will recruit camp staff from the immediate camp vicinity and nationwide. NYC's success in recruiting, hiring, and training staff is demonstrated by the program's exceptional safety record, a completion rate averaging 92%, the high percentage of referrals from previous participants and ongoing support from parents and project sponsors.

**CERTIFICATION
SIGNATURE**

**Note: This form must be signed and included in the application.
Before You Start.** Before completing certification,
please read Certification Instructions, page 30.

SIGNATURE. By signing this Certification page, the applicant certifies that it will agree to
perform all actions and support all intentions stated in the Certification sections
in part III of this application. The three Certifications are:
☐ Certification: Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters.
☐ Certification: Drug-Free Workplace
☐ Certification: Lobbying Activities

Organization Name: _____

Project Name: _____

**Name and Title
of Authorized Representative:** _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**ASSURANCES
SIGNATURE**

Note: This form must be signed and included in the application.
By signing this assurances page, the applicant certifies that it will agree to
perform all actions and support all intentions stated in the Assurances on page 28.

Organization Name: _____

Project Name: _____

**Name and Title
of Authorized Representative:** _____

Signature: _____ *Trig W Thomas*

Date: _____

Individual Site Application # 17
Public Lands and the Environment
California, Six Rivers National Forest

SUMMARY

The Six Rivers National Forest in partnership with other resource management agencies, the California Conservation Corps, College of the Redwoods, and Humboldt State University propose to establish a USDA Americorps program under the authority of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 to: provide 20 high quality opportunities for young women and men to serve the critical environmental needs of Northwestern California; an area impacted by changes in federal policy, by the dramatic decline in wildlife and fisheries resources including the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet, and the presence of numerous stocks of salmon and steelhead that are at-risk of extinction including the Coho Salmon. Build on the existing accredited curricula developed by resource agencies, corps, and higher education to establish a model Natural Resources Training Institute which will provide learning opportunities integrated with service projects for a diverse group of young adults recruited both locally and from throughout the network of corps in California's urban and rural areas. Provide resources to assist in implementing a coordinated ecosystem management plan for one of the most spectacular contiguous natural recreation areas in the country encompassing the Smith River National Recreation Area, Redwood National Park, and the parks of California's North Coast Redwoods District. These agencies along with the California Department of Fish and Game are seeking support through their respective titles of the National Service Act to establish a truly coordinated resource management program.

NEEDS TO BE MET

Several wildlife species are endangered and in need of habitat restoration and protection. This will ensure future generations the pleasures of fishing, bird watching, and other recreational pursuits.

One of the greatest threats to forests in addition to improper utilization is fire. Americorps participants will reduce fire hazards through education of the public, management of fuels, and safe practices.

Watershed protection will aid in the preservation of clean water for human and wildlife survival, prevent erosion, and help to control flooding.

Public park facilities are becoming aged and in need of restoration and upgrading to meet today's demands by an ever increasing number of visitors. Parks are also need to be more accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

Changing economic conditions requires new and creative approaches for the communities to recover from the loss of traditional income from logging and fishing. AmeriCorps participants will aid in the economic diversification effort.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Projects will occur in two major geographic areas encompassed by the Smith River National Recreation Area and the Lower Trinity Recreation Unit. Project effort in these two areas will focus on the following:

- protect and restore endangered stocks and species through resource assessment and analysis, erosion control mapping, watershed/landscape-based habitat restoration, maintenance

and rehabilitation of road systems, rehabilitating wildfire areas, conducting prescribed burns;

- transition and revitalize the local, formerly timber-based, community economy by developing recreational facilities (camping, boating and fishing access, trail, etc.) restoring fisheries, assisting with the implementation of new forestry practices within the Smith River National Recreation Area, providing interpretive service;

- provide for public safety through fire hazard reduction/fuels management projects, and wild-land fire fighting. Project, location and time-allocation of the 14-crew based and 6 individually-placed Americorps participants will be assigned as shown in the table below.

It is the intent of Six Rivers National Forest to start with 20 residential Americorps positions with work projects focused within the Smith River National Recreation Area. We are hoping to expand in subsequent years with positions placed for work in the Lower Trinity Ranger unit.

The 20 Americorps participants will be based at the National Park Service's Requa Maintenance Facility at the mouth of Klamath River. This facility has fully operational housing, food service, warehouse, shop, classroom, and office facilities. In addition, AmeriCorps members will have full access to the education and participant support services provided at this facility to members of the California Conservation Corps.

A second year expansion crew will be housed at the Forest Service's residential work facility at Sawyer on the Trinity River. Americorps members will work from spike camp during the summer and early fall months.

Six Rivers National Forest AmeriCorps Program
Breakdown of Service Hours by Task and by Location

Project	Location	% of Total Participant Hours	Total Participant Hours
Resource assessment & analysis, erosion control mapping, assisting with implementation of new forestry	Smith River Nat'l Rec. Area (NRA)	17%	5780
	Lower Trinity Recreation Unit	4%	1360
Project prescription, design, preparation of NEPA documents	Smith River NRA	7%	2380
	Lower Trinity Recreation Unit	4%	1360
Development of recreational facilities, providing interpretive education	Smith River NRA	17%	5780
Public safety; fire hazard reduction, fuels management, wild-land fire fighting	Smith River NRA	5%	1700
Watershed/landscape habitat restoration, maintenance & rehab of road systems, rehab of wildlife areas, restoring fisheries	Smith River NRA	32%	10880
	Lower Trinity Recreation Unit	14%	4760
	TOTAL	100%	34000

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

AmeriCorps members will be recruited from throughout the network of corps (14 base centers and 30 satellites of the state corps and 11 local, urban, non-profit corps) located throughout California. Recruitment will also take place at area and state-wide high schools, colleges and universities, and through use of public media. A percentage of positions (perhaps 10%) can be reserved for nationally recruited placements. The Americorps positions, especially the 8 individual placements, are viewed as advanced opportunities for corps members. Statewide recruitment will be conducted by existing CCC staff. The participants will reflect the socio-economic diversity of the area.

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS

In addition to the salary paid, all participants who successfully complete 1700 hours of service will earn the educational award from the National Service Corporation. The value of that award is \$4,725.00 payable to an institution of higher education, including accredited vocational schools.

Participants will gain an appreciation for the environment, learn job/work related skills, and develop interpersonal and leadership skills.

The proposed orientation, training, and education program for participants represents many years of development between human resource staff from the Forest Service, educators from the College of the Redwoods, and corps member development staff from the CCC's Del Norte Center (based in Klamath).

The heart of the program is the Natural Resources Technician certification program

The curriculum is designed to support the service projects and the development of

participants in the following areas:

- Applied Natural Resources Technology: job specific skills training, e.g. fish habitat restoration, erosion control, construction;
- Adult basic education: with environmental literacy as the central learning context, curriculum will include remedial basic academic skills, GED preparation, and high school diploma attainment when appropriate;
- Citizenship education: goals include developing citizenship and environmental stewardship, democratic governance, critical thinking skills, leadership development, and supporting the function of a participant governing board.

Participants who complete this program will represent a diverse and competent hiring pool for employers including the Forest Service.

Participants will begin their tenure with a 104-hour orientation consisting of the CCC's 80-hour COMET program including academic assessment, first aid, CPR, team-building, tool use and safety, journal writing, career development, conservation awareness, drug and alcohol education, and the USFS 24-hour employee orientation program.

Existing participant support services including an on-site counselor who provides individual and group counseling and the Employee Assistance Program provided by Occupational Health Services will be made available to Americorps members.

Existing CCC resources will assist Americorps members in post program placement to post secondary education, employment, CCC opportunity programs such as the Backcountry Trails Project, Placer Energy Center, Helitak program, National and International Exchanges, or to corp in their hometown to complete their term of service.

INTERNAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Participants will be provided with performance evaluations on a monthly basis. These evaluations will include education and training achievements. Individual goal setting and planning will be conducted simultaneously with performance evaluations. Work production and work hours will be continuously monitored and documented. A year end summary report will be produced and will include information on service provided and input through surveys and topical narratives. Evaluation tools for the program and performance areas listed above presently exist.

INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONNEL INFORMATION

Six Rivers National Forest and the other primary sponsoring agencies bring over 16 years of experience in operating productive youth service programs. Systems and infrastructure are in place for recruitment, participant support, residential programming, and to provide the experienced supervision and leadership to form productive teams of young adult women and men from a full diversity of backgrounds. Sponsoring agencies have a long-history of collaborative project development and implementation such as the Coastal and Coast-to-Crest trails and numerous watershed and fisheries restoration projects. Collaborative decision-making bodies such as the Joint Interagency Trails Committee, Smith River Advisory Committee, and Stone Lagoon Action Committee have been established to expedite multi-jurisdictional project work. This proposal is the result of a development effort that has involved Six Rivers National Forest, the California Conservation Corps, Redwood National Park, California Department of Parks and

Recreation, California Department of Fish and Game, College of the Redwoods, Yurok Tribe, Del Norte County of board of Supervisors, Klamath Chamber of Commerce, Orick Chamber of Commerce, and local non-profit organizations including Rural Human Service.

Coordination of project work, education, training, and support services, and direct

supervision will be provided by staff with many years of experience operating youth service programs in collaboration with the United States Forest Service. Individually placed resource assistants will work under the direct supervision of highly qualified agency personnel who have both the interest and experience in mentoring young adults.

Existing staff positions will be utilized for project coordination, corps member development programming coordination, food service, and support. The only staff positions sought through this proposal is the Americorps crew supervisor and education coordinator.

The salmon and steelhead restoration projects implemented collaboratively with the CCC and Forest Service have been awarded the Robert Rodale National Environmental Achievement Award in 1991 as the nation's top fisheries conservation program. In 1994 this same program was awarded the Governor's Economic and Environmental Leadership Award. The trail maintenance and construction programs of the Del Norte Center have received the 1989 National Project Award from the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps. The CCC's Del Norte Center and partners have also been honored for their pioneering efforts in integrating work projects with college accredited course work which have resulted not only in corps member academic achievement but also in the completion of complex and technical projects including the

construction of a youth hostel in collaboration with American Youth Hostels, construction of a full service marine mammal rehabilitation center, and completion of numerous watershed and fish habitat restoration projects.

Individual Site Application #19
Environment Team
Southern Oregon, Northern California

SUMMARY

The Katydid AmeriCorps Camp will be a resident facility accommodating 35 participants and a staff of 10. It will be located at Camp Katydid approximately two miles west of the Prospect Ranger District on the Rogue River National Forest. The Rogue River National Forest Service will be the administering agency of this project, in partnership with the Northwest Youth Corps (NYC).

The participants will complete resource projects identified to improve forest and watershed health and to enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

These are activities that would normally not be completed due to budgetary and time constraints faced by regular staff. On a secondary level, work experience and job training needs will be met through the project. In recent years, unemployment and unemployability have been major problems in the area due to loss of timber supplies and closure of salmon fishing.

The Rogue River National Forest Service has set the general program goals and objectives, designed the program and will be responsible for the overall supervision of the program and its evaluation and budget. The NYC is charged with the training and supervision of the AmeriCorps members.

NEEDS TO BE MET

This region has been hard hit economically by the loss of timber revenue due to concerns of old growth dependent species survival. Concerns over declines in salmon

populations have further reduced historic timber supplies and resulted in the loss of many timber related jobs. In addition, a closure to salmon fishing on most of the Oregon coast has heavily impacted the commercial and sport fisheries industries.

Local timber dependent communities have identified the need to provide jobs and training for local youth and enhance their ability to finance post high school education. This project has been identified as the number two priority by the joint Jackson and Josephine County Commissioners during the recent Economic Adjustment Initiative process.

This program will also enable the Forest Service and other federal agencies to complete a variety of backlog resource projects related to forest health, recreation, fisheries and wildlife habitat enhancement and watershed restoration. Many of these projects are labor intensive and will lend themselves well to this program. This year the Rogue River National Forest has already identified over \$205,000 in project money to support the existing Youth Forest Camp at Katydid to be completed between June and August 1994. The Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Crater Lake National Park and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have identified projects that could be completed by AmeriCorps participants as well.

Coordination with northern California forests is under way to see how this program can meet their needs as well. Several processes have been used to identify needs in this area. Over the past two years the national forest service has worked with a wide variety of publics, agencies and local governments to identify how they could best fill identified needs. Of primary concern were the needs identified by the timber dependent rural communities it serves. A concern that surfaced over and over again was the need to provide jobs, training,

skills and counselling to their youth. Also of concern was the need to provide more recreation facilities and better maintenance to enhance local tourism opportunities. This process involved numerous working groups of agency and community members and responses from over 6,000 questionnaires sent to communities. The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and a number of state agencies have also worked closely to identify high priority watershed restoration and forest health projects to be completed over the next three to five years. Local government has worked closely with the agencies and agreed with priorities set for projects.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Day-to-day operation of the camp and on the ground supervision of participants will be contracted to the Northwest Youth Corps. Technical expertise and resource projects will be supplied by the agencies involved. This project will build on the current Katydid Youth Forest Camp scheduled to operate from June through mid August. It will also utilize a number of developed partnerships with local schools, industry and other agencies. The primary purpose of the project will be to complete resource projects identified to improve forest and watershed health and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, five components will be considered as requirements for all participants. These include safety, work experience, education, recreation and personal growth and development and will be woven into all facets of camp operation and require both group and individual participation.

A typical week in the life of a participant might include a four-day spike camp doing trail maintenance in a wilderness area. Education, safety and personal growth development would be integrated into the project. The remainder of the week might include a day cleaning

up equipment and discussing as a group how the project went and might be improved in the future. The next week might include four days working on erosion control on forest roads with the fifth day dedicated to education. Weekends would have developed recreation programs such as visits to nearby parks, hikes or sports activities.

The Katydid camp is not only located adjacent to lands administered by two districts of the Rogue River National Forest but is also in close proximity to Crater Lake National Park and lands administered by the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. All of these agencies have expressed an interest in partnering on work for this project.

The program participants will live in a centrally located resident facility. The participants as well as the program staff will participate in pre-service training provided by AmeriCorps. They will generally work four days a week on projects requested by the Rogue River National Forest, the Medford District Bureau of Land Management, the US Army Corps of Engineers, or other agencies, participate in one day of in-service training, and enjoy structured recreational activities on the weekends. Their work and in-service training projects will directly reflect and identified needs of the administering agency.

Instrumental in the successful operation of this project is the support and training of participants and the administering organization (NYC). All NYC staff are required to have current CPR and First Aid Certifications and a demonstrated safe driving record. NYC has developed extensive staff training, curriculums, leadership handbooks and operations manuals. NYC will conduct an eight day staff training program which focuses on leadership, supervision, conflict resolution and youth leadership. They will develop a safety analysis

prior to beginning each project and have developed safety and emergency procedures. Training will also cover project skills, spike camp operation, paper work requirements, motivational techniques, education programs, recreational activities and program guidelines. All participants will be required to participate in a minimum of 10 hours per week of structured and planned education which will address natural environment, societies use of natural resources, job-training, personal growth and leadership development. Participants are expected to participate in research projects, group presentations, and writing projects. Whenever possible, training and education will be integrated into resource project work. NYC will also schedule outside speakers, educational videos and field trips to supplement the curriculum and education program. Group meetings will be held on a weekly basis to discuss topics and issues facing the group. Circle Meetings will also be used to aid in conflict resolution as needed. Recreation activities will promote physical fitness, encourage individual interest, foster social growth, introduce participants to a wide range of outdoor recreational activities and encourage the development of lifelong leisure skills.

Participant Placement and Supervision: Participants will be placed in working groups of approximately 7 for each resource project. Crew leadership and supervision will be provided by NYC staff. Specific project expertise will be provided by agency resource specialists as needed. The Prospect Ranger District will hire a full time coordinator to work with the NYC and participants to coordinate project work and act as a liaison with other agencies.

Other partners in the program include the US National Forest Service, the Medford District Bureau of Land Management, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and a large number of state and local agencies. They will support the program in every phase of the project

ensuring that the program meets local needs rather than fulfills mandates from Washington-based bureaucracies.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND RECRUITMENT

The Katydid AmeriCorps Camp will be a seven-day resident coed camp consisting of 35 full-time participants of diverse socio-economic mix. Applicant disabilities will not be a limiting factor except where they would pose a danger to themselves or others or prohibit them from participating in the majority of the program activities.

The Northwest Youth Corps will be charged with all aspects of participant recruitment, training, supervision, and evaluation. The socio-economic diversity will reflect the local pool of applicants in the southern Oregon and northern California region. None of the applicants will be drawn from the national recruitment system.

Recruiting of participants will include many different and varied forms. Simultaneously there will be a mass media advertising blitz consisting of development and placement of posters, brochures and other mailings to educational institutions (from alternative schools to colleges and universities), student counselors, agencies who focus on youth, juvenile justice counselors, special interest groups (Urban League, Hispanic, Native American and Asian/Pacific Islander, service clubs), state employment offices, local governments and "word of mouth". On site presentations to schools, community civic clubs and forums, job fairs, and special interest groups will be made.

Participants will be selected primarily from southern Oregon and northern California. The NYC, Forest Service and other participating partners will work together for final selection of participants. Only those participants who have graduated, will graduate or are

seeking a GED will be considered. Every attempt will be made to ensure a balance of male/female participants and a mix of ethnic and socio-economic diversity consistent with the area being served. All reasonable accommodations will be made to accommodate participants with disabilities.

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

Participants will receive a stipend of \$4.50 per hour, paid monthly. In addition full-time participants will qualify for Health Insurance and Worker's Compensation for Injury coverage. Participants who successfully complete the 1,700 hour requirement will be entitled to earn an education award of up to \$4,725. Part-time participants will be entitled to earn an educational award of up to \$2,363.

INTERNAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES

The success of this program will be evaluated based on specific program objectives. Each program objective will be evaluated in quantitative and/or qualitative terms based on the criteria listed here. The elements that will be measured to determine the success of this program include:

Youth Services: participant attendance and completion rates, evaluation of participant experience, job skills development, life skills development and educational development.

Operations: youth recruitment, project evaluations by Forest Service managers, total youth served.

Program Objectives and Evaluation Criteria: Clearly defined objectives and

evaluation criteria are valuable tools in providing direction and achieving success. The following are a sample of the objectives and criteria that will be developed to guide and evaluate the AmeriCorps program.

Objective: To complete projects according to project specifications, in a safe, efficient and timely manner.

Evaluation: Assessment of completed project by Forest Service managers.

Objective: To offer a work experience program that teaches participants basic job skills and a sound work ethic.

Evaluation: Percentage of youth completing the program and receiving positive evaluations. Written feedback on what the youth learned concerning job-search and job-retention skills.

Objective: To help the youth gain an understanding of resource management issues and an appreciation of local, regional and global environmental issues.

Evaluation: Assessment of pre and post-test scores on NYC's SEED test. Written evaluations from AmeriCorps members on SEED sessions, and what individual's considered their most important learning experience related to environmental education.

INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONNEL INFORMATION

The Katydid AmeriCorps Camp will be operated by Northwest Youth Corps (NYC). NYC was created in 1983 to offer youth a residential job training, employment, and education experience. Modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s, NYC programs integrate hard work and education into a curriculum that promotes the development of confidence, self-esteem, individual responsibility, an understanding of basic job skills, and an

awareness of environmental issues.

Over the past 10 years, NYC has served over 1,700 youth from all economic and ethnic backgrounds. Since 1983, NYC participants have completed over 350,000 hours of resource management projects through out Oregon, Washington and Idaho. In 1993, NYC crews worked on projects for 31 National Forest Ranger Districts on 14 National Forests. NYC has a reputation throughout the Northwest for providing hard working crews and top quality work.

NYC will recruit camp staff from the immediate camp vicinity and nationwide. NYC's success in recruiting, hiring, and training staff is demonstrated by the program's exceptional safety record, a completion rate averaging 92%, the high percentage of referrals from previous participants and ongoing support from parents and project sponsors.

Individual Site Application #20
Public Lands and the Environment
Arizona

SUMMARY

The Americorps/USDA Arizona Public Lands and Environment Team is a multi-agency initiative designed to perform 40,500 hours of community service. The Team will help the state of Arizona fulfill its most critical education, conservation, developed recreation, and environmental needs, while focusing the energies of qualified participants who are at least 18 years of age. The Arizona Team will provide efficient and effective assistance in the management of public lands, as well as enable participants to develop a self-directed and enthusiastic attitude toward conservation practices and community service in Arizona.

The program will actively recruit from a broad cross-section of socioeconomic backgrounds throughout Arizona. The application process, including recruitment and selection, will encourage diverse individuals of all backgrounds to participate.

The USDA Forest Service has a long and successful record of administering service programs. The Forest Service will contract with the Arizona Conservation Corps to administer the day-to-day operations of the Team. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management specialists will provide on-site technical expertise for research projects. An Advisory Group has been formed to monitor overall operation of the program, including planning and execution. The Advisory Group includes the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Labor Department, Job Training Partnership Act, Arizona National Guard and Department of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation, and other community groups. The Advisory Group will aid the Arizona Conservation Corps in management of the

program.

NEEDS TO BE MET

The Americorps/USDA Arizona Public Lands and Environment Team will coordinate existing projects and will fulfill environmental needs of the community, while educating citizens simultaneously. Until recently, funding difficulties slowed coordinated efforts by conservation agencies and other parties interested in environmental protection and education, which limited their effect.

The Forest Service and the Department of Interior must develop and improve their fisheries programs for recreational use. Increased use of the National Forests and Parks for outdoor recreation has doubled over the past five years. Public requests for more fishing and camping opportunities necessitated program improvement in both agencies.

Over 1,500 miles of trail work are needed. This includes up to 300 footbridges needing reconstruction, relocation, or replacement and 200 miles of trails requiring erosion control devices and drainage crossings.

More than 2,300 developed recreation areas and remote sites must update fire pits, spurs, and access for persons with disabilities. At least 1,200 new sites are needed. Approximately 1,100 protected wildlife habitats are essential.

Participants need opportunities for community involvement and service, additional education and training, interpersonal skill development, as well as practical life experience.

PROGRAM DESIGN

The Americorps/USDA Arizona Public Lands and Environment Team proposal has been developed through a collaborative effort among USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Arizona National Guard, Arizona Department of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation, Arizona Conservation Corps and state-wide rural community leaders. The goals of the project include providing hands-on public lands management and environmental education experience to participants, while completing essential conservation projects.

A mobile residential work camp will travel the state with a total of 45 participants per year. Camps will be located on public lands within short driving distances from several area projects. Housing and transportation support will be provided by the Arizona National Guard. Meals are furnished as part of the participant support cost.

Participants will work 40 hours per week and will be expected to take part in all aspects of the program, including non-"work" related activities. Work activities include: revitalizing National Forest and Park facilities, improving visitor services, constructing and enhancing wildlife habitat, range and riparian work (fencing), campground development and trail maintenance, erosion control, fuel management, watershed rehabilitation and development of fisheries improvement programs.

Hours dedicated to each activity are projected at:

Wildlife Habitat Improvement	8,100
Forest Trail Maintenance	12,000
Recreation Management	8,100
Construction of Roads/Trails	3,100

Fisheries Development	<u>9,200</u>
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TOTAL	50,500 hours
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Work completed by the participants on Arizona public lands is essential to repair and restore natural resources after over-development. For instance, the state has lost 85 % of its riparian areas to date, because of development. Protecting any remaining non-developed areas is critical to providing essential wildlife habitat, successful soil and water conservation, and abundant public recreation areas.

The Arizona Team will fully integrate all work and community service activities with educational opportunities. Education, training, and career development projects will be conducted by Arizona Conservation Education Coordinators, working in consultation with the Advisory Group, Arizona Department of Education, and the Arizona Conservation Corps' field leadership staff. The educational program will include customized learning/Individual Development Plans, formulated according to the participants' interests, abilities, needs, values, barriers, and goals. Counselors and Arizona Conservation Corps staff will individually mentor the participants, establishing expectations and standards for excellence in education, teamwork, social responsibility and community leadership.

Participants will work in groups of five to ten and be supervised by trained agency and Arizona Conservation Corps staff. Technical supervision on some conservation projects will be provided by agency personnel.

Participants will be encouraged to continue their educations (while using their educational vouchers), by passing high school equivalency exams, attending college, graduate school or vocational training, or entering an apprenticeship program.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

Ninety adults over the age of 18 will be recruited for the Americorps/USDA Arizona Public Lands and Environment Team from urban, suburban, rural, and reservation communities throughout the state of Arizona. An integrated socioeconomic mixture of people diverse by age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical ability, and educational and economic backgrounds will participate. Recruitment strategy involves the assistance of various local and state agencies to ensure the selection of a diverse applicant pool, reflecting the demographics of the state.

Local and state agencies and community groups, as well as the media, will be notified of the recruitment period for the program. Applicants will be selected based upon a willingness to work hard and an interest in serving their country and improving the environment.

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

Participants who complete the entire one-year term of their service will receive \$4,725 in higher education benefits, which will be provided directly by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Additional benefits include personal development, increased natural resources management knowledge, and teamwork and leadership experience.

INTERNAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES

Individual participant progress will be monitored by monthly evaluation to help participants on their goal paths, review Individual Development Plans as necessary, and provide encouragement and support for achievements and progress. The evaluation will also flag potential problems that can be addressed effectively by modifying Individual Development Plan objectives, for instance. The goal is to provide an atmosphere of trust and motivation, so

problems are solved quickly and effectively, encouraging the participants to embrace changing goals and objectives, and not fear obstacles which may enter their paths.

A monthly project status report will be required. This report will include work progress, budget information, anticipated delays or problems, participant training, evaluation and personal development activities and achievements.

INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONNEL INFORMATION

Americorps/USDA Arizona Public Lands and Environment Team's partnership with local, state, and Federal agencies, local and state conservation groups, and other interested parties is essential to the success of the program. The Arizona Conservation Corps, a state agency that serves Arizona's youth by designing and implementing innovative and effective educational and vocational training programs, will be instrumental in the management and leadership of the Team.

Since 1991, the Arizona Conservation Corps, Forest Service, and Department of Interior have successfully completed \$316,000 of conservation work in the National Forests and National Parks, providing over 1,500 young adults an opportunity to increase their environmental awareness and education. This partnership established a strong base for the present collaboration and will contribute advice and experience to the Americorps/USDA Arizona Public Lands and Environment Team.

**Individual Site Application #21
Environment Team
Bienville National Forest, Mississippi**

SUMMARY

The Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps (GJYSC) will recruit 20 participants who will be divided into two Public Land and Environmental Teams. These crews will implement projects that will improve, conserve, and restore public lands in the Bienville National Forest, Bienville Ranger District.

NEEDS TO BE MET

The Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps will satisfy two critical areas of needs designated by the Corporation as national priorities: natural environment and education. The Bienville Ranger District and National Forest, in the central part of the state, is visited by thousands each year. There is a backlog of unmet needs in several areas of the park.

One project in particular is crucial to the survival of the Red-Cocker Woodpecker (RCW) population. In 1970, the RCW was declared an endangered species. It now has the same protection given the better known bald eagle and whooping crane.

But protection alone is not enough. On Federal and State lands, forestry practices are giving the birds a better chance of survival by creating a favorable habitat. There are 91 colonies located in the district. However, the

undergrowth and bushes below the nest are interfering with the birds flightpath and stopping the birds from stopping to build their colonies. The GJYSC Public Land Team, along with the wildlife biologist, will work together to remove trees from the areas where the birds fly through the use of herbicides and hand tools.

Another key project is the Bienville Scenic Pine Trail. At 189 acres, the scenic trail is the largest known block of residential pine timber in Mississippi. The cover type consists of old growth loblolly and short leaf pines, ranging generally in age from 125 to 200 years, with a dense midstory composed primarily of young hardwoods. Along this 1.8 mile trail, which is in need of rehabilitation, are eight points of significant interest -- stops such as the Loblolly Prairie and the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker colonies. The Team will do maintenance, reconditioning, and upgrading of the hiking trail through a virgin stand of loblolly pine.

Also, the crews will make the trail more accessible for those who are physically disabled by building ramps and stands. The crew will perform heavy maintenance and reconditioning of 23 miles of a horse/hiking trail known as the Shockaloe Trail.

Crews will also perform road maintenance will entails removing brush from curves on Forest Service roads.

PROGRAM DESIGN

GJYSC Public Lands Team will work side-by-side with the national forest wildlife biologist, foresters and rangers on urgent conservation projects

important Southern portion of the country. The Bienville Ranger District staff along with the GJYSC staff developed essential key Natural Environment projects including: removal of trees that occupy space within the Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers' flight path; recondition and repair a 1.8 mile trail that goes through a virgin stand of loblolly pine; make the trail more accessible for the physically disabled; recondition and perform heavy repair of this 23 mile horse/hiking trail; removal of brush to alleviate blind curves for the traveling public on Forest Service roads; removal of excess stems from young pine stands; perform routine maintenance and upgrading of existing facilities at the base camps for Shockaloe Horse Trail; develop food plots within the Forest by planting and seeding for wildlife habitats.

The GJYSC will handle all administrative and programmatic duties. Two Crew Leaders will work along with the Bienville National Forest wildlife biologist, foresters and Rangers performing the projects. GJYSC Youth Development Department will be responsible for all educational matters and post placement, including but not limited to G.E.D. testing, college preparation and entrance. Corpsmembers without G.E.D.'s will be required to work towards obtaining it for no less than nine hours a week. The primary partner is the USDA Bienville National Forest and Ranger District. The District Ranger, Clinton Floyd and his staff, have worked very closely with the corps to develop service projects and has pledged their full support.

The structure will consist of a Project Coordinator, which will also

serve as a Crew Supervisor, a second Crew Supervisor and 20 corpsmembers. Forest staff will consist of the Districts' Rangers, Foresters, and Biologist. Actual crew supervision will be the responsibility of the corps staff. As well, all administrative matter will be handled by the corps. Evaluations will be a joint effort by both corps staff and forest staff.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

A diverse, socio-economic mix of participants will be recruited from both the inner city and the smaller communities surrounding the district, including Scott, Smith, Jasper, Newton and Hinds. The intent is to put together in crews young people from varied socioeconomic backgrounds performing conservation projects that will benefit the entire community.

Recruitment will done by radio and television Public Service Announcements, through newspaper, the schools, and by word of mouth. Corpsmembers will be selected by the GJYSC Intake Committee which includes the Executive Director, Deputy Director, Project Coordinator and Crew Supervisors.

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

The corpsmembers will also receive valuable pre-employment work maturities and basic life skill training and upon completion of the program, post placement will take place. The corps Post Placement Coordinator will work to place all graduates on related jobs, or in school (vocational, two-year or

four-year).Corpsmembers will be paid between 30 and 35 hours a week. Primary post service benefits include:

Participants will learn about natural resource conservation from the wildlife biologist, rangers, and foresters, giving them the opportunity to pursue a career in this area.

INTERNAL EVALUATION/MONITORING ACTIVITIES

The corps has two types of evaluation and monitoring tools in place, one being an internal and the other from outside consultants. Internal methods are:

- TABE (the Test of Adult Basic Educational).
- Daily Attendance.
- Cooperation.
- Volunteerism.

The corps currently uses the services of two outside consultants. One primarily evaluates the corps structure and staff. A second evaluates the corpsmembers solely. Various testing and evaluations instruments are used to determine key personal traits, levels, and characteristics. The key evaluator will the be the effectiveness of the projects along with the fact that young people from totally different backgrounds came together to solve a common concern, which in turn, benefited the entire community.

INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONNEL INFORMATION

Currently, the GJYSC is operating on a grant from the corporation

as well as various other federal, state, and local grants. Also, the corps has established solid relationship with numerous foundations and private contributors. The corps has been in existence for four years and is very familiar with procedures relevant to federal funds. The corps' staff is very diversified and is probably one of the key reasons the corps has been able to address the needs of the community in the manner they have.

**Individual Site Application #24
Public Lands and Environment Corps
Vermont and the Green Mountain National Forest**

SUMMARY

Twenty Corps members will be housed for nine months at the Brandon Training School in Brandon, Vermont, on the edge of the Green Mountain National Forest. In the summer months, the Corps members will camp out at more remote project sites. From June through August, 10 of the enrollees will transfer to the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps' other programs to lead ten teams of teenagers (100 youths) in similar work.

NEEDS TO BE MET

Environment - Restoration, maintenance, and management of national forest resources is the primary need to be met by this program. Work will reduce backlog maintenance of recreation facilities and trails. Site specific improvements will be made to meet accessibility standards for people with disabilities. Basic customer services in recreation areas, environmental education, and recreation use ethics will be provided to national forest visitors. Wilderness management, watershed improvements, fisheries and wildlife projects will be completed.

Public Safety - Public safety will take three tracks--improved conditions to recreation infrastructure, trails, and campgrounds; increased presence in campgrounds and day use areas; role modeling by camp staff and national forest employees to participants in work habits and life skills.

Education - Participants will be provided with quality programs, exceptional team building, leadership experience, and superb learning curriculum. Community education needs

will be met by outreach in outdoor education of national forest visitors. Half of the Corps members will be able to use the leadership skills they have developed during the first nine months of the program by actually leading their own crews during the summer months. These enrollees will be interviewed, further trained and then given the responsibility of a leadership position.

Human Needs - Participants will learn to take personal responsibility for all their actions, in whatever environment they are in. Experience shows us this is an important lesson young people often have not learned. However, once understood and practiced, it becomes critical to their success.

PROGRAM DESIGN

A residential center will be established to complete high priority backlogged conservation projects in the Green Mountain National Forest.

Recreation Facility Backlog - Restoration of recreation facilities in campgrounds and day use sites - work would include grading and graveling of sites and pathways for resource protection and to better meet accessibility standards; replacement of fire rings and construction of picnic tables; and repair signs and restrooms. Project accomplishments would be the number of individual sites to standard and accessibility.

Trail Backlog - Restoration and maintenance of trails - Work would include cleaning and repairing of trail drainage structures; repairing trail treadway; building small bridges; clearing down trees and trailside vegetation; repairing and replacing trail signs. Project accomplishment would be the miles of trail to standard.

Recreation Operations and maintenance - Daily operations at campgrounds and day use

areas - Work would include making visitor contacts; and doing site cleaning and routine maintenance to facilities. In addition to the daily operations at campgrounds, evening interpretative activities could be provided at the campgrounds. Staff would also assist with visitor contact at Forest Service offices. Project accomplishment would be the number of staff days provided and recreation visitor days.

Wilderness Management - work would include wilderness trail maintenance, restoration of dispersed user sites and making visitor contacts. Project accomplishment would be the miles of trails to standards, dispersed users sites restored, and number of staff days provided.

Watershed Improvements - Work would include restoration of closed roads, seeding and clearing of drainage structures; riparian revegetation. Project accomplishment would be the acres of restorations.

Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Improvements - Monitoring wildlife plots and participation in collecting and identification of small mammals as an element of wildlife monitoring activities - Work would include monitoring and maintenance and/or installation of instream fisheries structures and stocking of juvenile Atlantic salmon in headwater streams. Project accomplishment would be the number wildlife and fisheries sites monitored, acres of habitat improved, and the number of acres of salmon stocked.

Visitor and Community Services - Visitor Contact Persons - During high visitor use months, visitor contact persons would be placed at key dispersed recreation take-off points, such as trailheads. Work would include providing information, education and interpretation to protect the scenic beauty and integrity of a the Green Mountain National Forest, providing information on low-impact camping and hiking, mountain safety and wilderness ethics.

Project accomplishment would be the number of individuals contacted.

Environmental Education and Interpretive Programs - Using "the forest as a classroom," participants would provide environmental education in coordination with Project Learning Tree and other resource-based environmental education curricula to local elementary schools.

Project accomplishment would be the number of school students attending classes.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

Twenty yearlong participants will be selected from across the state of Vermont as well as from the national enrollment pool. An emphasis will be placed on serving disadvantaged and "at-risk" youths. (WRONG!!!!) Another key factor will be crew diversity. Crews should include various gender, racial, ethnic, social and economic mixes. Local media and communications companies have donated air-time and a 1-800 telephone number to enhance the recruitment of illiterate, rural and financially disadvantaged youth. These audiences are traditionally difficult to reach.

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

Self confidence will be gained through experiences in working and learning in areas of leadership, goal setting, teamwork, multicultural understanding, conflict resolution, work habits, and a sense of accomplishment will also be gained from work and program completion. Work experience will involve timber stand improvement, fisheries work, erosion control, hiking trail stabilization, user information development, public project oversight research, permit and project development. Additionally, participants may be involved in operation and maintenance of recreation facilities and trails, customer services, wilderness management, wildlife management, environmental education, and recreation conservation ethics. During the

coldest winter months, corps members will be working with environmental education teachers in local schools, project planning and design.

INTERNAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES

Monitoring efforts identify the condition of various resources and past national forest accomplishments in producing a range of goods and services to the American public while maintaining the integrity of the social and environmental ecosystems located on the Green Mountain National Forest.

Projects have been identified that will have significant and measurable accomplishments in the areas of recreation and trail backlog maintenance; demonstrated recreation operation shortfalls in developed sites and back country areas; wilderness management; watershed improvements; fisheries and wildlife habitat improvements; and visitor and community services.

INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONNEL INFORMATION

The legal applicant is the Green Mountain National Forest, but camp operations will be contracted with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC). VYCC will be the administering organization. VYCC is a state-wide conservation, education and service organization. They hire teams of teenagers who work and study under excellent adult leadership to complete high priority conservation programs. An emphasis is placed on serving disadvantaged and "at-risk" youths. The goal of VYCC is to provide every Vermont youth with the opportunity to participate in their programs.

The VYCC approach to education is an integrated cycle of reading, work, discussion,

writing and team building each day. Their curriculum, "WRD", is now a national model and is used in 15 other states. The Public Land and Environment Corps will become an important addition to VYCC's programs.

In addition to VYCC administering the residential program, other organizations will be involved in providing assistance in planning, coordination ' training, implementation and monitoring of projects on the Forest. These program partners are:

Appalachian Trail Conference Green Mountain Club, Inc.
Vermont Association of Snow Travelers Catamount Trail Association Student
Conservation Association (SCA)

Vermont Wilderness Groups Vermont Horse Council

Vermont Trail Groups

The SCA will be able to provide seasonal resource naturalist assistants to act as crew leaders, trainers or specialists for the other partner organizations. All partners will be involved in planning project workloads and setting priorities, as well as monitoring project results and quality control.

**Individual Site Application #23
Public Lands and Environment Team
White Mountain National Forest**

SUMMARY

Thirty-two participants will make up four, eight-person crews to work in the protection and restoration of the environment. This program meets the national priority for protection of the environment.

Restoration, maintenance, and management of national forest resources is the primary need to be met by this program. AmeriCorps participants will reduce backlog maintenance of recreation facilities and trails. Site-specific improvements will be made to meet accessibility standards for people with disabilities. Basic customer services in recreation areas, environmental education, and recreation use ethics will be provided to national forest visitors. Wilderness management, watershed improvements, fisheries and wildlife projects will be completed.

Secondly, the national priority of public safety will be met by the following activities: improving conditions to recreation infrastructure, trails, and campgrounds; increasing a positive presence in campgrounds and day-use areas; role modeling by AmeriCorps staff and national forest employees to participants in work habits and life-skills.

The national priorities for education and human needs will be met through program activities and direct services to the participants. The program will provide mentors, tutors, and education counselling for participants. Community education needs will be met by outreach in environmental education and outdoor education of national forest visitors. Participants will

receive leadership training, environmental education and citizenship skills. Where appropriate basic education will be available.

The crew leadership will be provided by State Conservation Association (SCA) staff. The residential program will be 36 weeks annually - beginning in January 1995.

NEEDS TO BE MET

Primary needs were identified in the 1993 Land and Resource Management Plan Monitoring Report for the White Mountain National Forest. The Report detailed the condition of various resources and past national forest accomplishments in providing a range of goods and services to the American public while maintaining the integrity of the social and environmental ecosystems located in the forest. A tremendous backlog of maintenance projects exists. They include rehabilitation and reconstruction of trails, developed sites, and backcountry areas; wilderness management; watershed improvement; fisheries and wildlife habitat improvement; and visitor and community services.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Day-to-day participant supervision will be provided by Student Conservation Association (SCA) with project design oversight, establishment of standards, and monitoring of accomplishments carried out by the national forest staff and resource professionals.

Thirty-two participants will be headquartered at Bog Brook National Guard Camp, on the border between New Hampshire and Maine. Recruitment of the participants will be a joint collaboration designed to ensure integration of each crew.

Critical components of the AmeriCorps project are: crew leadership; work projects; camp headquarters; field camps; climatic conditions; environmental education; mentoring; tutoring,

and individual counselling; evaluation criteria teamwork and leadership.

Prior to the start of the program, all crew leaders will be rigorously trained during a two-week program that includes certification in SOLO first aid, youth development, supervision, backcountry living, and wilderness work skills. Multicultural sensitivity training, conflict resolution, team work, and leadership will be given special attention.

Participants will be linked to existing components of other youth programs and given opportunities to participate in community service projects, educational field trips, and college/career workshops.

Specific projects which will provide needed service include recreation facilities restoration in five campgrounds and four day use sites. This work will consist of grading and graveling of sites and pathways for resource protection and to meet accessibility standards. Participants will replace fire rings, construct picnic tables, and repair signs and restrooms. 80 sites are targeted for work.

Trail backlog restoration and maintenance include cleaning and repairing drainage structures and bridges, clearing trees and unwanted vegetation, repairing and replacing trail signs, etc. Twenty-seven miles of trail will be brought up to new accessibility standard, and 50 miles of trail maintained.

Participants will be located in 10 major campgrounds to ensure visitor contacts, site cleaning, maintenance and evening interpretative activities. In addition, they will provide visitor assistance at the three Forest Service Offices.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND RECRUITMENT

The 32 participants will come from diverse socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. Over

the past eight years, a statewide recruiting network, which includes other professionals, educators, administrators, guidance counselors, peer leadership directors, and law enforcement officials, has been established.

Materials will be distributed to all high schools, colleges and universities, and an array of state and community organizations such as DCYS, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA and YWCA, foster care, court diversion programs, and welfare offices. In addition, recruitment materials will be distributed to recipients of food stamps. This program will be coordinated with other efforts targeting youth with similar needs.

Participants will be asked to submit a brief descriptive application, write an essay on the goals they have set and how this program will assist them in meeting their goals, and two recommendations for a school counselor, teacher, and other community members they have as a supporter, mentor or employer.

Participant selection will be based on a normal ranking of their essays and recommendations, and contribution toward meeting the multicultural goals. Some participants will be drawn from the national recruitment system.

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

Participants work service experience will strengthen their self confidence in the areas of leadership, goal setting, teamwork, multicultural understanding, conflict resolution, work habits, and a sense of accomplishment gained from work and program completion.

INTERNAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Each participant is required to set individual goals for themselves and weekly they will meet with their crew leaders to discuss the goals attainment. Each crew member will weekly

assess the team work effort using a standardized team work assessment instrument of their crew and discuss the successes and shortfalls. Crew leaders will keep a weekly log of crew accomplishments and observations of the crew members. At the completion of each project, national forest staff or resource professional will evaluate the work. Every six weeks, a national forest staff and an SCA camp director will evaluate the program accomplishments and set goals for the next evaluation period.

SCA will provide tracking to assess and evaluate the progress of participants from the program. This tracking will be completed in three phases. First, the participants will be entered into the alumni data bank and receive updates regarding SCA activities in their area. Second, the participants will be surveyed within two months of completion of the program. The survey will focus on changes in attitude, work habits, general maturity, and follow through on individual goals. Finally, all participants will be involved in environmental activities, such as White Mountain Trails Day and Earth Day activities that occur annually.

INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONNEL INFORMATION

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of natural resources and the environmental education of youth. Since its beginning in 1957, SCA has become a leader in providing opportunities for nearly 2,000 high schools and college-aged young people annually from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. SCA staff is well trained and is a very matched partner to meet gender and multicultural needs stated in Americorps and Forest Service goals.

Scott Weaver, Vice President, Field Operations joined SCA in 1978. Mr. Weaver oversees all of SCA's field programs--including those for at-risk youth and the international

conservation youth exchanges operated by SCA.

Jay A. Satz, Director of Field Operations, has worked with SCA since 1986. A former crew leader and director of the Wilderness Work Skills Program, Mr. Satz was instrumental in the design and development of much of SCA's Seattle programming.

Marta Cruz Kelly, National Director of the CCDP, brings over ten years of conservation and minority program experience to her position. Before joining SCA, Ms. Kelly served as Training, Recruitment, and Interpretation Director, as well as Education Director, for the Philadelphia Ranger Corps.

Robert B. Coates, Director of NHCC, previously served with both SCA and NHCC as National Service Coordinator, assisting with development of applications to the Corporation on National and Community Service.

Deborah Hinman, Administrative Director of the NHCC, brings eight years of youth training experience to her position, before joining SCA, Ms. Hinman served as a director for Work Options Network which provided education and training to out of school youth.

William R. Twombly, Operations Director of the NHCC, has been working with NHCC since 1991 leading residential crews of youth and training crew leaders. Before serving adjudicated youth.

SCA's field supervisors are rigorously and individually screened. The selection process includes a comprehensive written application, interviews with SCA management, and reference checks. Selection criteria includes outdoor living and work experience, first-aid skills and certification, and experience working with youth from diverse populations. All supervisors receive additional training by SCA on an annual basis.

SCA's years of experience in operating residential youth programs is their greatest strength. The recruitment, selection and training of field staff provided quality control of work and education programs offered to youth. Safety training, environmental education and job training material have been developed and proven to be effective. The support of a wide array of alumni add value to working with youth. They draw on alumni for role models and mentors of recent program participants which enhances the experience of both groups.

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of natural resources and the environmental education of youth. Since its beginning in 1957, SCA has become a leader in providing opportunities for nearly 2,000 high schools and college-aged young people annually from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. SCA staff is well trained and is a very matched partner to meet gender and multicultural needs stated in Americorps and Forest Service goals.

Program Partners:

Student Conservation Association

National Forest Foundation

Maine National Guard

White Mountain National Forest

Individual Site Application #24
Rural Development
New England (ME, VT, NY)

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 45

NEEDS TO BE MET

Early efforts at water quality improvement in the Northeast states produced remarkable results that fell into disuse when single-resource solutions of the federal system came into vogue. Now that years have passed and the holistic management techniques have been rediscovered (and discovered to have been quietly working all this time), it is time to reintroduce these water quality techniques in concert with a new philosophy of federalism. Water quality is critical to Northern New England's natural resource-based economy which has been severely impacted with high unemployment rates. Northern New England's key rural economies impacted by water quality are its aquaculture and fishing industries, agriculture, drinking water supplies, new crop development, forestry, forest management practices, tourism, and recreation. If Northern New England's water quality concerns are not addressed, the present bleak state of the economies that depend on this resource will continue. Rural communities in this region, spreading as far as Northwestern New York State, also have other unique resource and fire problems.

THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SOLUTION

Northern New England's AmeriCorps water quality proposal will address the needs of numerous individual projects throughout the region under the umbrella of Northern New

England USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) programs of technical assistance.

An unified AmeriCorps team will be established and trained individually to continue serving the water quality needs of the region and the nation throughout their careers long after their AmeriCorps experience.

In one project area, participants will work under the administration of Northern New England USDA Soil Conservation Service team with assistance from the Quebec Labrador Foundation's (QLF) Atlantic Center for the Environment. The QLF will be responsible for selection, screening, training, employee evaluation, monitoring, and employee workshops. Other administrative duties will be provided through and by Maine SCS state and field office professionals in local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDS) and Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) areas.

In Vermont, a three person technical team (the Americorps Rural Fire Protection Technical Team) will be established to provide assistance to Vermont communities to help prevent the type of fires that can devastate rural communities.

In Northwestern New York State, five participants will provide aid and assistance to the Seneca Nation in improving natural resource management decisions.

Some of the individual project descriptions already identified follow this section and cover efforts from water quality and water supply to economic diversification and data base construction.

MAINE WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

These projects will work with communities to enhance water quality and fisheries in the State of Maine, and to increase and protect water-based industries in the State of Maine.

The projects will promote awareness of water quality problems and solutions for Maine's citizens through education and resource management demonstration projects, enhance the state's soil and water based economy by providing rural development leadership in management and development of the state's resources, and assess water quality resources.

The specific needs which this project will meet will be environmental in that water quality preservation and enhancement will be the common thread and concern of each of the twenty positions in fifteen individual projects. Water quality is critical to Maine's natural resource-based economy which has been severely impacted with unemployment rates ranging from 15.81 in Aroostook County to 21.9% in coastal Washington County during the month of March 1994.

One participant will serve at a Cranberry water Quality Coordinator. The council is currently involved with the Maine Department of Agriculture, the University of Maine, the Maine Cranberry Grower's Association, USDA agencies, EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a program to promote wise development of Maine's new cranberry farming enterprises. This participant will serve as a coordinator to address growers' needs and coordinate appropriate available agency programs to one-on-one farmer assistance for water quality monitoring and pest management.

One participant will be a Lakes Coordinator for the St. John Aroostook RC&D who will assist the Shin Pond Association conduct a sanitary survey of 250 camps, utilizing a form developed by the RC&D and Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Once the surveys are complete, the participant will develop a sanitary survey report (similar to others developed by the RC&D. Next, the coordinator will assist the Shin Pond Association implement its recommendations. The surveying will begin in May and be completed by October. From October through May, the incumbent will implement a work plan that has been developed by the Fish River Lakes Water Quality Association.

One participant will serve as a Trails Coordinator who will assist four local communities in administering Land and Water Conservation funding and National Recreational Trails Act funding received for the development of 18.5 miles of abandoned railroad right of way into a year-round multi-use recreational trail. The coordinator will be responsible to oversee development by working with personnel from local communities, working with a labor force provided by a local employment training agency, recordkeeping, and documenting and inspecting work as it proceeds. This trail system will improve water quality throughout Aroostook County by removing All Terrain Vehicles from highly eroded areas, placing them on trails designed to prevent erosion and sedimentation.

One participant will serve as an Environmental Education Circuit Rider. There is an immediate need in Cumberland County to facilitate and promote teacher training in the use of curricula which addresses the goals for environmental education. Studies show that, in many areas, environmental education curricula are virtually nonexistent. Training opportunities and resource materials are not being used. As a result, young people are not growing up with the knowledge and information they need to make informed decisions and take action concerning their environment.

One participant will be an Atlantic Salmon Coordinator. With the soon to be built fish

ladder at Grand Falls, New Brunswick, Canada, Atlantic salmon will be introduced to the upper St. John in Aroostook County, Maine. The coordinator will develop a strategic business marketing plan with a descriptive benefit and cost analysis to establish private sector participation in the development of this fishery and the control of erosion and sedimentation on the United States side of this watershed. This fishery will provide economic development opportunities that will help offset the loss of Logging Air Force Base and the decline of the traditional agricultural economy.

Four participants will serve as Mid-Coast Fisheries Coordinators. These coordinators will be trained in fisheries and related skills to preserve and restore the historic sea fish runs to the Medomak River. The four coordinators will interact with community and industry leaders to establish a pilot demonstration hatchery for the culturing of shad and other anadromous species for enhancing absent or depleted runs. They will also inventory and monitor water quality as it relates to this reintroduction effort under the direction of the Time and Tide RC&D aquaculture specialist.

Five participants will serve as Marine Education Center Coordinators. Eighty percent of the clam flats along the coast of Maine are closed due to pollution and loss of the ability of the clams to maintain viable populations. The Beals Island Shellfish hatchery is designed to enhance the areas economic base through the production of baby seed shellfish (clams, scallops) and through educational training in the interrelationships of basic shellfish biology, resource management and the effects of varying water quality parameters. Individuals working with this program will develop community understanding between the relationship of good water quality to the biology and economics of the shellfish industry through a training

regime which includes conditioning adult shellfish broodstock to produce eggs, raising the young that develop from the eggs, growing in mass cultures the microscopic plants they feed on and treating all the water that is necessary for these activities in a variety of ways that affect water quality parameters.

Two participants will serve as Casco Bay Watershed Coordinators. They will plan, inventory, educate, and apply total resource management conservation solutions to improve water quality in priority SCS subwatershed units. They will be responsible for organizing the Ecosystem project, identifying conservation priorities, developing a team action plan, coordinating with SCS and Soil and Water Conservation District technical advisors, monitoring progress, completing technical components, recording any necessary documentation and supervising associate conservation volunteers to assure successful ecosystem goals achievement.

Two participants will serve as St. Croix River and Chandler River Coordinators. The St. Croix Watershed covers 1,640 square miles of northeastern Maine and southwestern New Brunswick, Canada. A preliminary plan has been developed by the Washington County Water Quality Team and the St. Croix International Waterway Commission using a multi-agency approach that involved many local community volunteers. The coordinators would help complete the assessment and help implement the plan. The coordinators will develop a community non-point source program to address the high coliform counts, protect large aquifer recharge areas used in agriculture, promote wise use of natural resources through best management practices, help maintain the sustainable natural resource based economy and build environmental awareness within the communities. The coordinator will assist in

promoting Integrated Crop Management on wild lowbush blueberries.

One participant will serve as an Agriculture Water Quality Viability Coordinator. The coordinator, working with local communities and the Southern Aroostook SWCD, will develop resource water quality information for the north branch of the Meduxnekeag River and Prestile Stream Watershed projects. The coordinator will interface with local agriculture businesses, agricultural and forestry processors, citizens and municipalities. Additionally, the participant will work with limited resource farmers and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians to gather inventory data and develop draft reports that will lead to the development and implementation of water quality and rural development improvement practices for both of these watersheds.

One participant will serve as a MACD Conservation Education Coordinator. The participant, working with the Maine Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and its Education Committee, will coordinate the conservation water quality education activities of Maine's 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

For all the above-listed participants, USDA SCS will be a statewide leader and administrator of an AmeriCorps project that will tie together rural development water quality projects from Maine's 4,000 miles of coastline and estuaries to the state's vast inland lakes and streams. The Quebec Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment (QLF/ACE) will be a partner helping to recruit, train, place, and evaluate applicants and the program. The USDA-SCS will transfer funds to the QLF/ACE under a memo of understanding that will provide specific details of cooperation. Local SWCDs and RC&D councils throughout the state have identified water quality concerns and needs and proposed

AmeriCorps projects to be addressed under the Soil Conservation Service umbrella.

VERMONT FIRE PROTECTION PROJECT

Rural fire departments in Vermont and all states are rated by an organization called the Independent Services Office (ISO). These ratings take into account the departments' capabilities to suppress fires in an effective and timely manner. These ratings range from 1 to 10, with 10 basically having little or no fire protection. Insurance companies use these ratings to determine the level of premiums to charge their customers for fire insurance. The higher the rating, the higher the premium. In Vermont, 25 towns have this higher rating.

The Vermont Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils along with the Soil Conservation Service have been providing limited technical assistance to Vermont communities for fire suppression water supplies. This effort, while successful, has just scratched the surface of the needs in rural Vermont communities. At the present time there are requests from 22 fire departments in Vermont and the list is growing.

A three person technical team (the Americorps Rural Fire Protection Technical Team) will be established to provide assistance to Vermont communities. A director, an information and education coordinator, and an engineer will make up the team. The development of fire protection and fire prevention plans will be a product of the team. On-site training and implementation assistance to install improvements are also a part of the project. The team will be administered by the RC&D councils in Vermont. One participant will be responsible for overall team coordination, including developing a plan of work, scheduling, compiling comprehensive community plans, supervision of other specialists, etc.

One participant will be responsible for the overall marketing of the project through media, organizations and other appropriate opportunities. One participant will be an engineer responsible for evaluating and designing water withdrawal facilities.

NORTHWESTERN NEW YORK ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION

This project will engage five participants who will focus on ecosystem protection through the application of Geographic Information System technology. They will protect farmland, defend open space, preserve and restore stream corridors, develop urban greenways, protect wellheads, and help the Seneca Nation make other natural resource based decisions.

The project is centered in Erie County and the Sovereign Lands of the Seneca Nation. Included in this area are 3 cities, 25 towns, the Tonawanda Indian Reservation, the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation, the Allegany Indian Reservation and the Oil Springs Indian Reservation. The total population is just under one million. Data for land use planning and resource management is available but is often neither organized nor understood. The Seneca Nation, in particular, is struggling to manage its limited land holdings while accommodating the pressure of an increasing population.

The participants' efforts will focus on GIS data management and resource analysis. Participants will coordinate GIS activities with involved communities and other organizations and agencies. The Soil Conservation Service's East Aurora field office staff, as the project planners, will provide supervision and consult directly with the communities served to gather data and explain key components of various activities.

The project will build on the existing "Seneca Nation of Indians Cultural Resources Inventory," a \$44,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. This grant, administered through the Soil Conservation Service, was to demonstrate the use of GIS and imaging for protection of cultural resources. The funded phase is completed though numerous additional tasks have been identified as a result.

Individual Site Application #25
Rural Development
Appalachia (KY, NC, WV, VA, TN, GA, AL)

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 95

NEEDS TO BE MET

The level of poverty in the Caucasian communities of the Southern Highlands of Appalachia are so persistent that they are also cliché. Whatever we, as a society, have done for and to Appalachia, it has not been nearly enough. Out-and-out poverty, both economic and of the spirit, have blighted the region defying attempts at solution. Changing economies have left a legacy of environmental degradation that must be dealt with before re-development can take place. Infrastructure needs are spotty and not regionally addressed.

THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SOLUTION

Rural Development Team members will furnish critical community organizing skills to groups who can apply for rural development programs. Infrastructure needs will be handled through partnerships among four USDA agencies: the Forest Service, the Rural Development Administration (RDA), the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and the Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA).

Six team members will work to implement the new Empowerment Zone & Enterprise Community Initiative by serving as resident community and rural development experts in each designated community. They will work with economically and socially disadvantaged rural residents to use appropriate programs through cooperative efforts with other USDA

agencies, and collaborate with all Federal, State, local, private sector and not-for profit organizations to help diversify local economies. Team members will be on-site to establish themselves as small business planning developers and information brokers with FmHA and other market-oriented organizations to assist in the assessment and development of markets for unique local products. Some of the individual project descriptions already identified follow this section and cover efforts from water quality and water supply to economic diversification and data base construction.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PROJECTS

SCS will run projects in Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, and northern portions of Georgia and Alabama. Individuals from low-income households will receive the greatest benefit from the assistance that will be provided by AmeriCorps participants. Projects will help improve the environment, make local land users more knowledgeable about their surroundings, and help prepare them to be more "environmentally responsible," while not jeopardizing already marginal income levels. Management of water resources is a priority concern throughout the region in both rural and urban areas. These are ambitious projects that include a broad range of sites with a wide variety of objectives.

Locations for the thirty eight participants have been selected by Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service staff. Each position was selected on the basis of need of community or residents of the region to be served, the degree to which AmeriCorps participants would meet with a challenging and rewarding experience, and degree to which project staff could provide the support and direction necessary to ensure a the vital service is

performed. The numbers of AmeriCorps participants selected to work in any one geographic area are based on the amount of effort that would be mutually rewarding while not disturbing the culture of the community receiving the assistance. Typically these are projects with few participants requiring a carefully planned orientation and feed back from project staff at regular intervals. Following is a list of specific locations and functions of participants:

Tennessee Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council in Alabama - Two AmeriCorps participants will oversee details of a diverse multi-county resource conservation and development program that will include agribusiness development, community planning, and water resource management.

Woodland Community Land Trust (WCLT) and the Whitley County Communities For Children - These projects - located in Tennessee and Kentucky respectively - will serve rural, low income communities. Six AmeriCorps will offer assistance in training in intensive grazing, livestock raising and care, marketing farm products, and improving farm and community land management.

Water Quality Protection, Scenic and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement - Two AmeriCorps participants will serve in this remote and rugged area of Georgia to help rural farm owners gain more usable land from property while controlling erosion along stream banks and hillside areas.

West Virginia Soils Project - One Community Resource Aid will join partners from county commissions, planning and development councils and community governments and organizations to protect local soils and watersheds.

West Virginia Integrated Crop Management - One resource conservationist will integrate crop management with producers by providing in-field technical assistance, including insect and weed scouting, soil testing, determining crop yields, and pesticide education.

West Virginia Archeological Site Exploration - Low income residents West Virginia seldom have ability to take advantage of the cultural and environmental benefits that archeological data can provide in improving land use planning. One Cultural Resource Specialist, trained in archeology, will inventory and investigate archaeological and historical sites located on areas planned for construction of flood prevention or other structural measures, prepare archaeological and historical reports to document and record findings, and provide training to field office staffs and others in the identification of sites.

Southern Virginia Rural Recreation Development- Two AmeriCorps participants will work with the local grassroots citizens groups, the Old Dominion RC&D, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of State Parks and the Norfolk Southern Railroad which is interested in donating an abandoned railroad line for use as a recreational trail.

New River-Highlands Outreach Coordination - One participant will serve as the New

River Highlands RC&D Outreach Coordinator to create an program to focus attention on the water quality and forestry activities of the council and its resource committees.

Virginia Tidewater Forestry Products - One participant will help expand the markets available for forestry products.

Marion Virginia Greenway - One participant will assist the local partners that include the Grassroots Conservancy, Smyth County and Evergreen SWCD and several State agencies in establishing a greenway through the Town of Marion, Virginia.

Tidewater Virginia Geographic Information System - Under the leadership of the Virginia State Geographic Information Specialist, one participant will be responsible for creating a fully functional (Geographic Information System) for the Tidewater RC&D Council.

Georgia Water Quality Protection, Scenic Wildlife Habitat Enhancement - Two participants will work in the following areas: streambank stabilization, creating riparian corridor/filter strips, livestock exclusion, livestock water facilities, and stream crossings.

Alabama Multi-Use Project - Two participants will work in the Tennessee Valley of the Appalachian counties of Alabama will work with community groups, individual businesses and governmental units in order to facilitate economic development and environmental protection.

Tennessee Environmental and Recycling Education - Seven AmeriCorps participants will provide at least one site to receive and store waste tires, used automotive oils and fluids, and lead-acid batteries, and other recyclable materials.

Tennessee Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism - Three AmeriCorps participants -- a planner, a marketer/trainer, and recruiter -- will help the establish the following to promote specialty recreation and tourism in the Clinch-Powell region.

Tennessee Chicksaw-Shiloh Water Quality - One participant would serve as a water quality technician monitoring and overseeing the Councils traveling gun irrigation system. The second would be responsible for developing and delivering environmental education programs to elementary school students in the area.

Tennessee Humphreys County Environmental Education Center - Two AmeriCorps participants would help the project provide easily accessible trails to the disabled and older citizens who are not able to use those trails presently existing in the community.

Tennessee Creek Watershed - One participant would serve as a non-point source contact technician.

FORREST SERVICE PROJECTS

The purpose of providing AmeriCorps participants through the Forest Service's Rural Community Assistance Program will be to provide needed skills to assist communities to become self-sufficient and maintain diverse economies. The theme of the Rural Community Assistance Program is to "Help People Help Themselves".

In Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina, 20 team members under supervision of the Forest Service will focus on rural tourism, economic development, and wood utilization.

Rural Tourism: Rural tourism efforts have been underway in this region featuring recreational and aesthetic opportunities. The AmeriCorps participant would work directly with government and non-profit organizations such as Appalachian Regional Commission to provide these skills and services to local communities and the region in general.

Economic Development Coordinators: AmeriCorps participants could work with State Rural Development Councils to identify needs and target projects.

Wood Utilization: Working with state forestry organizations, an opportunity exists for an AmeriCorps participant to work with professional Wood Utilization Foresters. The objective would be to promote alternative wood products and value added manufacturing technologies. Working under the direction of the State Forester, this AmeriCorps participant would provide technology transfer to local communities as requested.

West Virginia Sustainable Development

In West Virginia, 6 participants will particularly focus on development of community-based sustainable economic development strategies using renewable natural resources in ways that protect and enhance the environment is the primary need to be met by this program. Corps members will help communities identify environmentally sound economic alternatives, provide technical assistance in analyzing these alternatives, and work with community and business leaders to implement essential projects that lead to sustainable economic activity. Corps members will provide technical support skills often unavailable in rural communities. Corps members will provide technical support in a wide variety of areas to existing rural businesses and entrepreneurs wishing to start businesses. Activities will focus on enhancing production of value-added products from forest resources, helping rural communities capitalize on travel and tourism opportunities, developing businesses based on recycled products, and supporting development of community-based economic development organizations.

Corps members will be living in Morgantown, WV and working throughout the State. Rental housing assistance is available through the West Virginia University housing placement service.

Work experience will involve a variety of technical efforts done in conjunction with a variety of partners. This includes designing, producing, mailing and analyzing five broad-based surveys aimed at determining community needs such as improvement in manufacturing base, market characteristics, demographics, etc. These will provide the basis

for 15 needs assessments, one for each of the 15 counties served. From these, about 30 market research projects will be undertaken with new and existing businesses looking at what these companies are producing and what they are capable of producing, what new sales opportunities may exist or be potentially available. These will lead the development of about 15 business plans. Five infrastructure improvement projects will be planned, and designed aimed at transportation facilities, industrial and building facilities such as dust control systems, timber bridges and multi-modal transportation facilities. Ten worker training programs will be designed and implemented. These will address employment and management needs. Approximately 15 financing plans will be developed for small businesses, and 10 revolving loan funds will be established. Ten community foundations will be established and 15 counties will be given grant writing assistance. Additional work experience will be gained in group decision-making, consensus building, and grass roots planning processes. The USDA Forest Service's Northeastern Area will be the administering organization. The program will be run in cooperation with a variety of partners. These partners will assist in planning, coordination, training, implementation, and monitoring the program. These program partners are: the West Virginia Rural Development Council, the West Virginia Development Office, the West Virginia Division of Forestry, the Appalachian Hardwood Center at West Virginia University, the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, the Small Business Development Centers, Business and NBA programs at West Virginia colleges and universities, West Virginia Division of Tourism, Cooperative Extension Service, West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Program, and the West Virginia county governments.

Individual Site Application #26
Rural Development
South Carolina

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 45

NEEDS TO BE MET

Most rural communities in the South Carolina are changing. Those near urban areas are experiencing the trauma of unregulated and unplanned growth. However, the majority of those rural communities are seeing gradual declines in population and a reduction in the number and variety of small businesses that make living in rural America attractive. High school and college graduates are forced to seek life careers elsewhere because their hometowns, with shrinking farm employment and episodic bursts of manufacturing employment, are no longer perceived as either exciting or viable life choices. In many areas of the South Carolina, there is a lack of reliable and up-to-date environmental information. Coupled with that is a lack of environmental knowledge by the regional residents themselves. This information gap creates a disincentive for industry to relocate into an otherwise attractive area.

THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SOLUTION

Rural Development Team members will furnish critical community organizing skills to groups who can apply for rural water and waste programs. These community organizational skills will help rural residents organize themselves into such things as non-profit organizations, improvement districts, or even municipalities so that these entities can

more easily leverage funding necessary to build diversified communities. A key organizational component will be to seek out and assist disenfranchised and low-income residents and help establish them as participants in the larger community.

Team members will work to implement the new Empowerment Zone & Enterprise Community Initiative by serving as resident community and rural development experts in each designated community. They will work with economically and socially disadvantaged rural residents to use appropriate programs through cooperative efforts with other USDA agencies, and collaborate with all Federal, State, local, private sector and not-for profit organizations to help diversify local economies. RDT members will be on-site to establish themselves as small business planning developers and information brokers with FmHA, and other market-oriented organizations to assist in the assessment and development of markets for unique local products.

Fourteen team members will work on RDA rural water programs and eight team members will work on FmHa rural housing programs.

By filling the environmental information gap, efforts at rural business expansion and retention would be facilitated, thereby decreasing unemployment and reliance on transfer payments as a major economic contributor. Environmental learning and outreach centers will better prepare rural residents of the region to make decisions on the environmental effects of any development projects that they are considering as partial solutions to the overall development mix.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PROJECT

The S. C. Rural Development Corps proposes to employ twenty AmeriCorps participants in a nine county targeted area in Westcentral South Carolina. The targeted area has a population of 506,844 and 3.5 million acres of which ninety-one percent is considered rural. South Carolina has the highest number of adults of any state in the nation with less than eight years elementary education and is seventh highest in the number of students living below poverty level. The targeted area counties are representative of the state and the AmeriCorps project is designed to be replicated in other sections of the state. There is currently a lack of reliable environmental data on this conditions of water quality in rural communities. Although some data is available on large streams and rivers, small stream tributaries in rural watersheds have little or no collected data available. Rural leaders recognize this problem and agree that reliable water quality data would enable decision makers to select viable alternatives for addressing water quality concerns in rural areas.

This program proposes to utilize a multidisciplinary team of diverse backgrounds and training. These teams will collect data, develop strategies, and implement solutions. They will also assist rural low income and minority land users in identifying and implementing strategies that decrease water quality due to livestock and poultry waste, pesticide application, and grassland management. Overall leadership will be provided by USDA Soil Conservation Service; however, guidance and direction of the program will be provided through an AmeriCorps Advisory Council. This council will be composed of representatives

of numerous sponsor partners such as state and federal agencies, local units of government, and environmentally based organizations.

The project area has a high percentage of socially disadvantaged persons that receive a disproportionate share of specialized services. Many are difficult to reach due to isolation.

Our program will utilize a multidisciplinary team of participants with diverse backgrounds and training. These teams will collect data, develop strategies, and implement solutions where appropriate for demonstrations.

The work related program will gather and compile data in a format that local community decision makers can use to plan and solve environmental related problems in rural areas. The data should show the impacts on water quality for individual property owners as well as community impacts. Groups and units of government such as conservation districts, Department of Health and Environmental Control, county councils, wildlife organizations, regional planning units, and others are presently in need of the aforementioned information.

The needs addressed in this proposal have been excerpted from strategic long range plans of soil and water conservation districts and Resource Conservation and Development councils, through a variety of environmentally related public meetings, and through information obtained from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, local units of government, and environmental organizations. Agency personnel who have direct contact with rural community citizens also assisted with input into this proposal. Partners will provide portions, of the expenses related to training, office space, transportation, supervision, technical assistance, and materials and supplies.

An AmeriCorps Advisory Council will be formed for the purpose of advising and providing guidance for AmeriCorps team project operation and implementation throughout the life of the project.

The 20 member multidisciplinary team will consist of the following types of participants.

1. Rural Development Coordinator - serve as overall team coordinator. Priority would be given to a person with a degree in biological or environmental sciences. Should have good communicative, leadership, and organizational skills.
2. Water Quality Technician (5 positions) - strong technical skills in natural resources or biological sciences.
3. Environmental Technician (6 positions) - post high school education. Position requires some manual labor and willingness to work outside under potential adverse conditions.
4. Biologist/Forester (2 positions) - strong technical skills in natural resources to include knowledge of plants, animals, soils, water, and air. .
5. Environmental Education Specialist (2 positions) - teaching and writing background will be helpful since this person will be utilized to write grant proposals for implementing projects.
6. Grassland Management Specialist (2 positions) - degree in plant animal science with emphasis on forage management.

7. Sociologist - will be responsible to work with socially disadvantaged to design strategies to reach objectives.
8. Horticulturist/Agronomist - degree in agronomy or horticulture.

The AmeriCorps participants will perform a variety of activities such as follows:

1. Develop plans for the construction and use of outdoor environmental learning centers by coordinating with local steering committees composed of teachers, students, parent/teacher organizations, and others.
2. Assist teachers in the development of lesson plans for the use of outdoor learning centers to enable them to expand their ongoing teacher program into these areas.
3. Develop programs or methods to educate students in environmental education with a focus on targeting low income and minority students.
4. Construct four outdoor environmental learning centers. For example, lay out and construct nature trails, establish signs, identify plants, construct amphitheaters, set up soil profile demonstrations, etc.
5. Select at least one watershed in each county and design a method of assessing the environmental concerns and impacts of grassland operations, heavy use livestock and poultry areas, heavy pesticide and natural use areas, erosion riparian areas, and conditions of low income communities.
6. Conduct water quality assessments to include biological water sampling, livestock, and poultry operations (location & numbers, etc).

7. Develop a system for storing and manipulating the data gathered from environmental assessments.
8. Complete evaluation assessments on individual farmsteads and homesites in rural areas for water pollution hazards.
9. Work with individual citizens on conservation measures related to improving water quality and other environmental conditions.
10. Gather soil samples and livestock and poultry waste samples for analysis.
11. Recommend rates of animal waste for land application.
12. Assist with calibration of spraying and spreading equipment.
13. Monitor animal waste application.
14. Develop news articles, brochures, lesson plans, etc. for public education of environmental awareness.
15. Entry of information into computer database.
16. Interviews with socially disadvantaged.
17. Conduct outreach programs to socially disadvantaged.

FOREST SERVICE PROJECT

South Carolina has the 2nd highest minority population in the Southern region, composed primarily of African Americans. An essential need for these communities is to develop community based leadership and to develop sustainable economies. Developing and

identifying community leaders in targeted areas is the first step towards building capacity and enabling the community to set it's own vision and attain their goals. Models of this type of training are available from the Extension Service, state agencies, and consultants to accomplish this objective. A state committee, composed of representatives working with ongoing rural development efforts, such as the State Forester, Francis Marion and Sumter National Forest, Extension Service, and the State Rural Development Council, would be utilized to determine priority needs for placement of AmeriCorps volunteers. Communities with demonstrated need, based on demographic and census data, would be contacted. All communities would have an opportunity to apply for an AmeriCorps volunteer. The state committee would set priorities for available assistance. A series of Economic Development Specialists would be assigned to rural sites throughout the state on a short or long term basis depending on identified needs. Estimate that based on utilization of two (2) AmeriCorps participants, approximately six (6) counties will be served through leadership and economic development workshops.

Individual Site Application #27
Rural Development
Mississippi Delta (AK, LA, MS)

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 75

NEEDS TO BE MET

The three states of the Mississippi Delta Region comprise a list of the three states that traditionally appear at the lower end of most every organization's ranking chart for economic and social indicators. The majority of rural Delta communities are seeing gradual declines in population and a reduction in the number and variety of small businesses that make living in rural America attractive. High school and college graduates are forced to seek life careers elsewhere because their hometowns, with shrinking farm employment and episodic bursts of manufacturing employment, are no longer perceived as either exciting or viable life choices. Homes still linger in the Delta which have no running water. Substandard housing is epidemic. The great floods and ice storms of the past year have ravaged large portions of the vast Mississippi watersheds. Farms, homes, businesses, whole rural infrastructures have been washed away or laid waste to at the whim of Mother Nature.

THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SOLUTION

Rural Development Team members will furnish critical community organizing skills to Delta residents who can apply for rural development programs. These community organizational skills will help rural residents organize themselves into such things as non-profit organizations, improvement districts, or even municipalities so that these entities can

more easily leverage funding necessary to build diversified communities. A key organizational component will be to seek out and assist disenfranchised and low-income residents and help establish them as participants in the larger community. Infrastructure needs will be handled through partnerships with the Forest Service, RDA, and FmHA.

Team members will work to implement the new Empowerment Zone & Enterprise Community Initiative by serving as resident community and rural development experts in each designated community. They will work with economically and socially disadvantaged rural residents to use appropriate programs through cooperative efforts with other USDA agencies, and collaborate with all Federal, State, local, private sector and not-for profit organizations to help diversify local economies. RDT members will be on-site to establish themselves as small business planning developers and information brokers with FmHA, ACS, AMS and other market-oriented organizations to assist in the assessment and development of markets for unique local products.

Some of the individual project descriptions already identified follow this section and cover efforts from water quality and water supply to economic diversification and data base construction.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PROJECTS:

In poor North Central Mississippi, two participants will work for the improvement of rural water and wastewater systems. One participant will act as a clearing house to assist in organizing and finding technical assistance for sewage and wastewater systems.

In the small town of Holly Grove in the Lower Mississippi Delta, one participant will help work to improve low-income housing.

In 34 Western Arkansas Counties, two participants will provide public outreach in rural development and facilitate to build unique public-private partnerships.

Four participants will work in parishes in the southern and western part of Louisiana to deliver information to farmers and other landowners to reduce non-point source pollution.

Three participants will work in the Louisiana parishes of the Lower Mississippi Delta to provide "dry fire hydrants" in order to provide water for fire-fighting in areas without running water.

Two participants in Northeast Mississippi will provide rural volunteer fire districts with planning and engineering assist needed to better utilize available water resources for fire suppression.

One participant in Mississippi will work on a livestock waste treatment and disposal project and cattle herd health improvement project for limited-resource Landowners.

Two participants in Southeast Mississippi would work together to promote tourism, create new agricultural markets, and develop new uses for wood products.

Three participants in Mississippi will complete development of arboretums in three counties used for environmental education leveraging resources available.

FOREST SERVICE PROJECTS

The purpose of providing AmeriCorps participants through the Rural Community Assistance Program will be to provide needed skills to assist communities to become self-

sufficient and maintain diverse economies. The theme of the Rural Community Assistance Program is to "Help People Help Themselves". Projects will focus on wood in transportation, recycling technology, and leadership in economic development.

Wood in Transportation: The State of Mississippi authorizes replacement of over 6,000 unsafe bridges. Opportunities exist to promote "Wood in Transportation" by having qualified Engineering students and graduates working through AmeriCorps would provide technical assistance to communities wanting to install timber bridges. Forest Service employees would work with these students to acquire skills needed in planning, construction and inspection of timber bridges and other wood in transportation projects. These AmeriCorps participants could also transfer the bridge technology to areas where potential projects could be duplicated and demonstrate the advantages of wooden bridges. Initial training and coordination of these outreach activities can be provided by Forest Service regional timber bridge coordinator. Existing audio-visual aids are available for this purpose.

Recycling Technology:

An opportunity exists to transfer recycling technology from existing rural and urban projects to other sites. Development of recycling programs following these models could be duplicated in other areas of the Delta region in order to create jobs and address environmental concerns. Below are 2 ongoing examples of the types of projects AmeriCorps volunteers would be involved in. 1) In Tupelo, Mississippi, an urban waste recycling project effectively utilizes yard waste and creates a marketable landscaping product. Not only does

this technology provide additional jobs and income to the community, it also reduces the amount of materials going into the local landfill. 2) In Franklin County, Mississippi, a rural recycling project employs disabled workers to recycle glass, paper and aluminum cans. This type of project provides employment opportunities and a sense of community pride to all involved.

Leadership and Economic Development: By working with partnerships developed from ongoing activities AmeriCorps participants would work with local community leaders to meet specific community needs, particularly with ongoing social programs, education and infrastructure needs. For example, local leaders developed from the Copiah County leadership development workshops in Hazlehurst Mississippi may be able to utilize a Business major to assist citizens in establishing small businesses. Ongoing outreach efforts can be enhanced by collaborating with 1890 institutions and black colleges. Alcorn State has capacity grants for education programs from daycare kindergarten through high school. Future needs for these programs could be identified in local areas, and local leaders could incorporate these social needs into their economic development plans. For example, many persons are unable to work due to child care needs. An AmeriCorps participant would work with community leaders to develop practical solutions.

Individual Site Application #28
Rural Development
Great Lakes (MI, OH)

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 20

NEEDS TO BE MET

The Michigan portion of the project is centered in a region in the southwest portion of the state. This is the area where people and agriculture are most closely integrated. It encompasses the Saginaw Bay area. Seventy percent of Michigan's animal agriculture is located here, and pesticide and fertilizer applications are intense. Because of soils and geology, the area has the state's most vulnerable aquifer and is highly susceptible to groundwater contamination. Fourteen Americorps participants would work in Michigan.

In Ohio, the project centers in the Darby Creek Watershed. It contains portions of six counties and is within a 20 minute drive of downtown Columbus. There are numerous small rural communities in the area, and in total, nearly one million people have access to, or reside within, the watershed. There are urban and rural poor within the watershed as well as limited resource families.

Darby Creek's ecology is unique and the Nature Conservancy has a bio-reserve located within it. The area has also been targeted for special water quality efforts by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and numerous surveys and critical areas have been identified. A special need exists in the urbanizing areas to help ensure development does not effect the aquatic ecosystem of Darby Creek. Six Americorps participants would work in the watershed area. In both Michigan and Ohio chronic unemployment and out-migration of

young people continue as problems.

THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SOLUTION

The Great Lakes Americorps Projects would engage 20 participants in Ohio and Michigan. The focus of the project is improving and protecting water quality. Michigan's efforts will focus on implementing the Farm*A*Syst program - getting farmers to evaluate their impact on water quality and develop a plan for reducing that impact.

Under Farm*A*Syst, the Americorps participants will serve as facilitators working one-on-one with agricultural producers. In each case the entire farming operation will be evaluated under a standardized outline. Items such as chemical and fertilizer usage, amounts, timing, application rates, mixing areas, and storage techniques will be assessed. Wellhead areas will be identified and protection measures offered. Other items such as crop rotations and animal waste considerations are also addressed as part of the Farm*A*Syst assessment. All 14 Michigan participants will work on Farm*A*Syst evaluations, and it is anticipated that each participant will be able to work with 200 farmers during the course of one year.

In Ohio, six participants will help carry out conservation work within the Darby Creek Watershed. Two will work at the task of keeping field maps updated and work in the field to check map accuracy and inventory tributaries. Two will assist the Soil and Water Conservation District do survey and design work for conservation Best Management Practices in the rural areas. They will also work with county engineers in checking Best

Management Practices in urbanizing areas. One individual will assist with the existing Turn Key Program and help establish riparian corridor buffers strips along Darby Creek. The final participant will assist the Scenic River Coordinator at the field level as a river keeper,

The project is designed to improve and protect water quality. The two areas chosen have environmental and social problems common to many sections of the country. As such, they would be replicable. The project is also designed to put the participants at the field level in real world job situations. As watershed management and water quality projects become more accepted, this is where future employment opportunities will lie. As a result, the experience the participants obtain will be of real value to them in the private sector job market.

In Michigan, implementing the Farm*A*Syst program will require daily interaction with agricultural producers. Participants will be work under the guidance of either Extension Service or Soil Conservation Service personnel. Their job will be to provide direct, one-on-one assistance to farmers using the Farm*A*Syst outline. As part of their work, they will also be able to direct farmers to Federal, state or local agencies and organizations that could provide additional help.

In Ohio, a variety of different conservation tasks will be accomplished by participants - from mapping, to surveying, to design, to implementation. Specifically, participants will be involved with carrying out components of the Darby Creek Hydrologic Unit Proposal and the Nature Conservancy's Darby Bio-reserve Plan. In addition, participants will assist the county engineers in Madison and Union counties with Best Management Practices on

urbanizing land.

Each participant will be provided basic job orientation and community awareness training by the Soil Conservation Service, the Extension Service, or a cooperating partner.

In Michigan, the Farm*A*Syst form and format are for the most part self-explanatory and a highly technical background is not needed, Specialists from the Michigan State University Extension Service and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service will provide the necessary training and guidance.

Similarly, no special skills are needed in Ohio. The necessary training there will be provided by the Soil Conservation Service, the A. B. Graham Center, Ohio State University, and the Darby Agricultural Coordinator.

In both states, participants will receive in-house structured training along with on-site, supervised training.

Additional specific task-related training will be offered by the appropriate cooperating partner to assure that the job and the individual are matched. Follow-up of each participant will be done by the project director to determine additional training needs and/or help. This follow-up will also help the participant focus on career choices and provide guidance for additional formal training.

Participants in the Great Lakes Water Quality project will be engaged in environmental protection and restoration on a daily basis.

In Michigan, a typical day might include visiting a row crop farm, a dairy, a confined livestock facility, or some combination of the preceding.

Individual Site Application #29
Rural Development
Minnesota

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 21

NEEDS TO BE MET:

Development of community-based sustainable economic development strategies using renewable natural resources in ways that protect and enhance the environment is the primary need to be met by this program. Corps members will help communities identify environmentally sound economic alternatives, provide technical assistance in analyzing these alternatives, and work with community and business leaders to implement essential projects that lead to sustainable economic activity. Corps members will provide technical support skills often unavailable in rural communities. Corps members will provide technical support in a wide variety of areas to existing rural businesses and entrepreneurs wishing to start businesses. Activities will focus on enhancing production of value-added products from forest resources, helping rural communities capitalize on travel and tourism opportunities, developing businesses based on recycled products, and supporting development of community-based economic development organizations.

THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SOLUTION

The Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service will both run innovative programs aimed at those problems and others.

Agassiz Recreational Trails (ART) Development Project

The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources has approved \$650,000.00 for use by the ART Joint Powers Board to purchase an abandoned railroad bed and develop the Agassiz Recreational Trail. The 32 mile trail will link diverse educational and recreational opportunities along the main trail located in Clay, Norman, and Polk counties of Northwest Minnesota. We will upgrade local parks for better utilization by trail users.

The ART project started as a combined effort to restore wetlands and develop 9 miles of horse back riding trails east of Twin Valley. With each planning meeting the trail increased in scope and size. As the project was submitted to the LCMR there was 103 miles of trails and five parks. At the time we submitting the LCMR work program, one of the parks had to be dropped and a 17 mile stretch of the trail south of Ada has been sold to private landowners and is lost to trail use. But, two additional parks to the north of the main trail have been requested, along with 53 additional miles of trails going into Pennington County. Training will be provided by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Board of Water and Soil Resources (EWSR) and local Soils and Water Conservation District's (SWCD). Classroom and On the Job training will be utilized. Most of the necessary training and equipment will be provided by the SCS and BWSR offices. This will reduce the overall cost of the project. There will be the following positions:

- 1) Trail Development: This person will perform maintenance on the trail. This includes

placement of new signs repairing existing signs, tree-planting, erecting nesting boxes for birds and disposing of waste in trash containers along the trail.

2) Community Outreach: This person will work and communicate with local communities and businesses along the ART in order to promote local tourism economies. Each city council along the trail will be contacted in order to discuss how the trail could benefit the community financially and recreationally.

3) Public Outreach: Two people will promote trail tourism on a regional basis within the 14 counties of Northwest Minnesota. This is for communities that wish to develop and promote their own trail systems. These individuals will encourage such new trails to tie into the ART. A Regional Trails Plan will also be developed that will cover the 14 counties of Northwest Minnesota.

4) Trails Grant Writer: This person will be writing grants for communities that wish to develop and finance their own trail systems. This will be on a regional basis within the 14 counties of Northwest

FORREST SERVICE PROJECTS

Development of community-based sustainable economic development strategies using renewable natural resources in ways that protect and enhance the environment is the primary need to be met by this program. Corps members will help communities identify environmentally sound economic alternatives, provide technical assistance in analyzing these alternatives, and work with community and business leaders to implement essential projects that lead to sustainable economic activity. Corps members will provide technical support skills often unavailable in rural communities. Corps members will provide technical support in a wide variety of areas to existing rural businesses and entrepreneurs wishing to start businesses. Activities will focus on enhancing production of value-added products from forest resources, helping rural communities capitalize on travel and tourism opportunities, developing businesses based on recycled products, and supporting development of community-based economic development organizations.

Education - Corps members will be working in a mentored environment where professional Forest Service and State Forester's staff provide guidance and direction. Training will focus on developing interpersonal skills, collaborative planning skills, group involvement skills, consensus building skill, and meeting management skills. Corps members will be utilizing their technical skills in a real world environment. They will learn much about the decision-making process in rural communities and how to help diverse groups reach consensus on difficult issues.

Human needs - Corps members will become part of a team effort to assist rural communities

in making informed decisions as citizens identify, develop and implement sustainable economic development strategies. Corps members will be asked to apply their technical skills in real world situations which will affect the future of the communities in which they work. This involvement at the local level will familiarize Corps members with the resources, needs, and aspirations of rural communities and increase their awareness of rural people. These efforts will improve the decision-making capabilities of the Corps members, and provide new experiences to broaden their cultural awareness. Corps member activities are expected to have a significant positive impact on the economy of rural West Virginia. The technical expertise that Corps members will bring to bear in assisting existing businesses will help them become more competitive in both domestic and international markets. Targeted market research efforts will identify new products, business development efforts will improve the use of technology, updated management systems, improved advertising/sales techniques, and worker training programs implemented on-site will help improve business profitability and competitiveness. Business growth, job creation, and increased opportunities for value-added manufacturing opportunities will result. Corps members will also support the development of home-based and micro-businesses. Corps members will help prepare business plans, assist in the preparation of financing packages, assist in grantwriting, and develop micro-loan programs in rural communities to help generate successful small businesses.

Corps members will be living in the St. Paul area and working throughout the state. Rental housing assistance is available through the University of Minnesota housing placement service. Travel and per them expenses will be paid when overnight travel is required.

When project work requires extended travel periods, arrangements have been made for housing at State Parks and college campuses throughout the State. Self-confidence and practical experience in project planning, group process, consensus building, team work, multi-cultural awareness, and in natural resource based sustainable economic development will be gained from this program. Work experience will involve a variety of technical efforts done in conjunction with a variety of partners. This includes designing, producing, mailing and analyzing five broad-based surveys aimed at determining community needs such as improvement in manufacturing base, market characteristics, demographics, etc. These will provide the basis for 18 needs assessments, one for each of the 18 counties served. From these, about 36 market research projects will be undertaken with new and existing businesses looking at what these companies are producing and what they are capable of producing, what new sales opportunities may exist or be potentially available. These will lead the development of about 18 business plans. Five infrastructure improvement projects will be planned, and designed aimed at transportation facilities, industrial and building facilities such as dust control systems, timber bridges and multi-modal transportation facilities. Ten worker training programs will be designed and implemented. These will address employment and management needs. Approximately 18 financing plans will be developed for small businesses, and 10 revolving loan funds will be established. Ten community foundations will be established and 18 counties will be given grantwriting assistance. Additional work experience will be gained in group decision-making, consensus building, and grass roots planning processes.

The program will be run in cooperation with a variety of partners. These partners

will assist in planning, coordination, training, implementation, and monitoring the program.

These program partners are: The Minnesota Rural Development Board, The Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource Minnesota Technology, the University of Minnesota North Central Forest Experiment Station, Small Business Development Centers Natural Resources Research Institute at UM-Duluth, Iron Range Revitalization Board Cooperative Extension Service Upper Midwest Technology Transfer Center, and Minnesota county governments.

Individual Site Application #30
Rural Development
South Texas Colonias

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 60

NEEDS TO BE MET

"It's like having the third world in your own backyard." That's how one South Texas resident described the Colonias problem. "Colonias" is the name given to admittedly extremely sub-standard residential subdivisions all along the U.S./Mexican border that are mostly populated by persons of Mexican descent. The problems of colonias are not difficult to describe. What is surprising is that if you were to run through a litany of the major ills in the world, you would find most of them embodied in the colonias. Problems of inadequate shelter -- many, if not most, colonias residents own their own homes, for the most part. Many of these homes started life as a humble travel trailer and have since been added on to as many as five times, as the residents' families grew or they managed to recycle building materials or scrape up enough cash to purchase them. One distinguishing characteristic of colonias is that often the main problem is water. Few colonias residents have indoor plumbing. Luckier ones have a faucet on their property where they go to fetch water. Colonias areas are also typified by high water tables that make pit toilets or even septic systems not only impractical, but extremely hazardous to residents' and general watershed health. Endemic to these enclaves is poverty, drug abuse, and long periods of family separation as working-age males follow the migrant agricultural worker routes. As if that