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weren't enough, English is not a predominant language. Taken all together, these problems combine to form a complex web of social malaise that serves to disconnect colonias residents from normal social programs and typical American solutions. Despite all that, colonias residents are proud of what they have accomplished and are hoping to accomplish. Having a strong work and land ethic, many of these hardy souls consider themselves pioneers of sorts on the border frontier of the American dream.

THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SOLUTION

Housing, water, social services, and a full-range of developmental activities are in store for RDT members in the Colonias region. Volunteers will organize communities to apply for, operate, and maintain water and sewer systems and housing projects that will raise their communities to new standards. AmeriCorps volunteers will begin organizing residents into unified social structures that will capitalize on the strengths of "those who remain behind" to establish home-based businesses, work-at-home programs, cooperatives that knit the individual efforts together into a true economic and market force. The volunteers will be a unifying force for change in the Rio Grande Valley as they provide a major liaison role for the communities and social service agencies that exist. These volunteers will serve as the focal point of the mighty federal engine at the local-action level where true reinvention of government will take place. The goal is to position colonias residents as a grassroots vanguard of the NAFTA revolution.

**Individual Site Application #31
Rural Development
Four Corners (UT, AZ, CO, NM)**

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 70

NEEDS TO BE MET

The Four Corners region of the United States is a vast, sparse populated area of tremendous diversity and spectacular beauty. The region is at the heart of an ongoing struggle to create a sensitive balance between the need to protect and sustain the environment, and the need to provide a sound economic base for the area's residents. This proposal will provide for action which will ultimately help develop that balance. The area has a population of approximately 441,000 people and covers an area of about 83,000 square miles. The project includes an area about 250 miles in circumference from where the four states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah join together. There are 12 population centers ranging in size from a few hundred to several thousand persons. The rural population is widely dispersed, with many areas having poor accessibility. This region is one of the most economically distressed areas in the Nation. Per-capita income is less than \$5,000. About 53 percent of the Navajo Nation's population lives below the poverty level. Unemployment ranges as high as 28%. Unemployment is generally high on all the Indian reservations in the area. About 42 percent of the area's population are members of the Hopi, Navajo, Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, White Mesa Ute or Zuni tribes.

THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SOLUTION

Four USDA agencies (Rural Development Administration, Farmers Home Administration, Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service) have joined forces to provide a full-service rural development experience for the region. Fifty-six RDT positions have been identified that span nearly all of the possible features of a comprehensive approach to regional rural development. In addition to RDT programmatic features of Housing, Water Systems, and Rural Business Development, the two attached specific and targeted projects round out the regional mix.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PROJECTS

This proposal has been jointly prepared by the RC&D coordinators of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah with assistance from conservation district leaders in Arizona and Colorado and RC&D Council members. It addresses the large scale rural development needs of the region. The concept provides for team approaches to addressing key problems common to each state in there region. A need for 20 AmeriCorps participants has been identified. These people would be distributed in functional teams.

Specifically, the proposal addresses the need to inventory existing human and natural resources for the purpose of determining possible new and innovative natural resource based industry potential. The proposal further provides for the seeking of funds to establish these industries. In addition, proposal addresses the need to assist limited resource farmers (especially Native Americans) to develop sustainable small scale agricultural systems leading to improved nutrition, increased income and employment, and a quality environment.

Finally, the proposal includes an element of education and information directed toward helping area citizens (and others) understand benefits and costs associated with environmental and economic choices currently being made.

- 1) Develop an inventory of existing natural resources and determine the feasibility of developing new and innovative natural resources based industries with possible value-added potential.
- 2) Seek grant funds to provide for the establishment of ~~feasible~~ industries.
- 3) Assist small scale, limited resource farmers in developing sustainable agricultural systems for the purpose of improving family nutrition, increasing income, expanding employment, and maintaining a quality environment.
- 4) Conduct an information and education program for the purpose of helping area residents understand the costs and benefits of environmental and economic choices currently being made.

The project concept is to utilize skilled teams of AmeriCorps participants in each of the states working closely with established agencies and organizations currently dealing with rural development issues related to natural resources and the environment. Each of the major components of the project; inventorying, determining industry potential, small scale agriculture, information and education, will benefit from a team of individuals whose efforts will be directed toward accomplishing specific tasks associated with the component. The project is designed to create strong partnerships with existing professionals in order to minimize replication of efforts and maximize existing resources. The project will be administered in each of the four states by RC&D Councils in cooperation with the Soil

Conservation Service. Each Council is a nonprofit organization consisting of 20 to 24 local sponsors. Sponsors include area communities, counties, Native American Nations, Council of Governments, and Soil Conservation Districts. Each Council has a full time coordinator provided them by the Soil Conservation Service. The broad makeup of the Councils ensures that they deal with concerns at the grassroots level and makes possible the creation of effective partnerships between a wide variety of entities in order to address key concerns. The project will require cooperation among many partners. Project partners will include each RC&D Council (one per state total of 4), the Soil Conservation Districts, local units of government, councils of Government, the Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Native American Nations. Each RC&D Council has a long range plan with a community or rural development objective. Utilization of AmeriCorps participants accelerate the implementation of Councils objectives.

Data Inventory and Industry Potential Analysis. This project will inventory natural resources and socioeconomic data in the region. A project team will be utilized to identify natural resources and new technologies with potential for development. This will involve detailed literature research to determine characteristics of the resource and its value-added potential. The most promising industries will be prioritized and additional work will be done to identify potential markets. This data will then be used for feasibility studies and grant applications to establish natural resource based industries in the region which will improve the employment base. Typical activities of AmeriCorps participants will be to conduct literature reviews and

summarize data, prepare questionnaire for needs assessment, interview key informants on the telephone and in person, gather economic data and enter into a database.

Finally, be a team member to prepare grant applications.

Small Scale Agriculture Development. This project is designed to accelerate small scale agriculture primarily with the Native Americans nations in the region. It addresses the need to improve Native American nutrition and increase employment and per capita income on Indian reservations in the region. In partnership with local organizations, a team of specialists will provide intensive training to partnership agencies and facilitate training workshops to reach large numbers of people in remote areas. Training would include small animal production, gardening, preserving products for future use and related activities. A team of five persons would be utilized to service the region. Typical activities of AmeriCorps participants will be to provide training in their specialty area, organize small groups to conduct this training. AmeriCorps participants with marketing or business administration will assist in establishing a marketing cooperative to sell excess products.

Natural Resources Inventory. This inventory would include soils, rangeland, woodland, wildlife land, riparian and wetlands, cultural resources sites, water resources, land use and ownership. The inventory would be digitized into a GIS format. A public information specialist will be used to keep local residents apprised of progress and to provide information on potential uses of the inventory data. Typical activities of AmeriCorps participants will be to gather data in the field. Data will be placed on maps under the direction of a natural

resource professional. Data will then be entered into a GIS system.

Information and Education. This project would develop and implement a communications plan for internal and external audiences. Educational materials would be targeted to citizens in the Four Corners region. Topics will reflect the need for strong resource conservation and development to increase the economic viability of the region. Project activities will include press releases, speakers bureau, static displays, and other appropriate mediums. Typical activities of AmeriCorps participants will be to research and write press releases for newsletters and the general media and make contact with media representatives in each community.

Hopi\Navajo Regional Planning - One Strategic Planner (preferred) or Small Business Developer. Community based economic planning on the Hopi and Navajo Indian Reservations, working primarily with Chapters Houses and local communities. Planning will be for tourism, small business development, and infrastructure requirements. Estimate 3 to 4 plans in progress each year for two to three years. Unemployment is currently 50 to 80% (depending on chapter or community).

FOREST SERVICE PROJECTS

The intent of the "Strengthening Partnerships for Active Rural Communities" (SPARCS) program is on the existing partnerships, as well as initiate actions that are of regional scope for the entire 4-Corners area that have broad-based community support.

SPARCS will be bolstered by the AmeriCorps program in improving partnerships at the individual community level, as well as to accelerate the projects identified in the last six months within the SPARCS process. Some projects:

1) Development of social, economic and demographic shared data bases to support sustainable economic development. Specifically these data bases are needed to establish baseline information regarding current local conditions and trends. They will be used to suggest and validate strategies for diversifying or strengthening local economies. Estimated project cost is \$35,000. AmeriCorps Participants: This task will be accomplished by Americorps members staffed at the locations in Region 2 and 3 as a part of overall strategy development and project implementation. Skills needed include socio-economics, data base management, electronic mail services or bulletin boards, telecommunications, facilitation and familiarity with existing state or Cooperative Extension Service data bases.

2) Training for community capacity building and leadership development. AmeriCorps participant: One person with strong community/regional planning background, to be assigned to work with Sheila Knop, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. Through regional workshops and local seminars, increase preparedness and skill to support sustainable rural economic development, by promoting dialogue and collaborative learning activities organized around regional development concerns, such as value-added forestry, agriculture and tourism.

3) Tribal Tourism Development/4 Corners Heritage Council. Six participants will be shared

between the affected tribes and the 4-Corners Heritage Council. Skills needed include regional planning, community development, public or business administration, landscape architecture, engineering, recreation planning, interpretation and environmental education. All the Tribes within the 4-Corners are pursuing tourism development as an economic development strategy.

4) Four Corners Business and Expansion Program - Participants will

Develop a business retention and expansion (R&E) program for the Four Corners region.

The purpose of this program is to identify and solve business problems related to survival, expansion and start-up and thereby to strengthen and/or increase economic activity. The

program would require a full-time coordinator familiar with the area who would serve all the program participants. The coordinator would work with a regional resource team comprised

of representatives from the USFS, FMHA, RDA, CE, SBDC, COG's and state economic development departments and local citizens. This proposal is jointly prepared and submitted

under a multi-agency / multi jurisdictional approach to enhancing the viability of rural

communities and Tribes in the Four Corners Area (Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New

Mexico) through existing strategic partnerships. The Americorps program will provide an

infusion of assistance into new alliances, shared visions and collaborative approaches

addressing community problems and change identified by communities and Tribes in the

Four Corners Area.

This proposal takes advantage of existing community based planning,

partnerships and networks established in the last 2 years to work with rural people, communities and Tribes to create jobs, increase family income, generate community revenue, and enhance the quality of life in the Four Corners area.

Partnerships and Networks, Region 2 -This partnership includes the municipalities and counties of Southwestern Colorado, the U.S.Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Fort Lewis College, the Colorado Dept. of Transportation, the Southwestern Colorado Travel Region, and the Four Corners Heritage Council. This partnership focuses on joint efforts between local communities, and public land agencies in areas of resource management, collaborative planning, research, economic diversification and public policy. Three corp members will be assigned to the Community-Public Lands Partnership. Skills needed will include Community/Land Use planners, economists, GIS, facilitation of processes, Tourism-Recreation planners, value added forest products and Agriculture.

Partnerships and Networks, Region 3 - These partnership includes the municipalities and counties of Northeastern Arizona, Northwestern New Mexico, the U.S.Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the New Mexico and Arizona Departments of Commerce, Tourism and Transportation, the New Mexico Rural Development Council and the Four Corners Heritage Council. The partnerships focus on joint efforts between local communities, Action Teams, Tribes and public agencies in areas of resource management, recycling, collaborative planning, research, and economic diversification. Two teams of three AmeriCorps participants will be assigned to support the above listed projects and partnerships. One team will be assigned to northern Arizona to work through the Coconino

and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests; the other team will be assigned to the Carson, Cibola and Santa Fe NF's of northwestern New Mexico. Skills needed will include community/regional planners, economists, GIS, facilitation/mediation, tourism/recreation planners, and business/cooperative development, with emphasis in value added forest products and agriculture.

Timber/ Bridge Wood Transportation Project - Most counties have limited access to people with engineering skills to assist them in the development of timber bridge proposals and in the construction of the bridges. This project would involve recruitment of an engineering graduate student to assist interested counties, communities, and Indian Tribes in identifying there bridge needs, help in the development of proposals and oversee construction. The wood utilization conference scheduled to be held in Farmington, NM in the fall of 1994 will include timber bridge technology and construction as well as demonstration of the SLAM timber bridge design program.

**Individual Site Application #32
Rural Development
Pacific Rim (CA, WA, AK)**

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 70

NEEDS TO BE MET:

Rural areas of California are suffering from multiple environmental concerns and severe economic problems. The Pacific Northwest has needs to protect endangered species of wildlife, improve forest management on small land holdings, and improve economic conditions. Other rural areas are suffering competing demands for limited water, and they need water quality and conservation improvement. Small farmers with limited resources and of various ethnic groups need help with farming methods and resource protection.

In Alaska, many communities are connected to each other only by river in summer, dogsled and snow machine trails in the winter, and expensive air service all year long. The indigenous people adapted to this vast, harsh land centuries ago by hunting, gathering, and fishing for food, clothing, and shelter materials. People continue to live off the land and this lifestyle is defined as "subsistence" by today's society.

A mixed-bag of land ownership creates difficulties in managing the natural resources for traditional subsistence and culturally acceptable uses. The state government, federal government, native village councils, and native corporations own and manage the lands which have supported the Athabascan people for generations.

THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SOLUTION

The AmeriCorps positions within these communities (as proposed in this grant application) are part of the movement to counteract the social fragmentation occurring within our communities. By recruiting from within local communities, and working closely with different people within the community to develop the collaborative working relationships that facilitate integrated service-learning within schools, the AmeriCorps participant (as a Regional Based Coordinator of the Adopt-a-Watershed curriculum model) will play a key role in integrating the development of our two greatest resources; the children of our communities and the land we live on. AmeriCorps participants will meet these needs by providing on site technical and educational assistance.

Residents have the traditional knowledge base required for the job, but we need to translate this into a working relationship that creates local employment and skilled professional workers. The AmeriCorps project would help Alaskan young people to assist their native villages in writing natural resource management plans for their land. The villages' goals are to increase local employment and provide professional opportunities that do not conflict with their traditional values. It is typical that the good agency jobs in these villages are filled by outsiders, whose high wages raise the per capita income without benefit to the local people. The AmeriCorps project should give local residents opportunities for both experience and education in natural resource management fields.

MID COLUMBIA SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

This project will restore and maintain salmon habitat on privately owned lands in the MidColumbia region by providing technical, financial, and material assistance through a collaboration of local, state, and federal efforts.

Gain voluntary participation by private landowners by providing incentives to improve and protect key salmon habitat they control.

Plan, design and install critical conservation practices that enhance salmon habitat components such as water quality, cover, food sources and adequate in-stream **flows**. Coordinate and focus the technical, financial and material resources of local, state, and federal agencies to accomplish the mission.

The Mid-Columbia region located on the Washington side of the Columbia River is capable of providing key habitat for salmon spawning. Certain runs of salmon in the Columbia River system are candidates for listing under the endangered Species Act. Current water quality conditions for the direct tributaries and their sub-watersheds are generally below state standards for aquatic life. The Columbia River salmon issue has become a major national concern. This project aims to deal with this issue using a voluntary approach that will insure longer lasting results.

The primary environmental concerns are high in-stream water temperatures and low stream flows in the summer. Both of these conditions are fatal to juvenile salmon. Both of these conditions can be corrected by improving vegetative cover and soil stability along streambeds and adjacent areas. Current economic and resource limitations in the area require

that an incentive be provided to landowners to voluntarily improve salmon habitat in streams they control. The project would utilize the AmeriCorps program to supply the needed personnel to plan, design and install conservation practices on privately owned lands.

Partnering agencies would help provide additional financial and material assistance.

The Soil Conservation Service would provide overall leadership and direction for the project.

Local conservation districts would also provide oversight and prioritization based on their knowledge of the local conditions and their rapport with the landowners.

AmeriCorps participants would build a record of work experience and dependability, learn and utilize team problem solving skills to accomplish a goal, learn the factors that contribute to good water quality and gain experience in dealing with people on an individual and group basis. The local community would gain the opportunity to voluntarily solve a high profile environmental concern. The project would also provide a format for diverse groups and individuals to come to a consensus on how to treat salmon habitat problems. Finally, numerous opportunities for environmental education would be created for local schools and the general public. All of this will contribute to a better, and more sustainable solution.

The proposed project area is located in Klickitat County,

Washington and encompasses the major drainages and tributaries to the Columbia River that originate within the county.

There is an overall need within the project area to provide accelerated assistance to private landowners to improve conditions in potential salmon spawning waters. The AmeriCorps program would provide the needed support and opportunity to satisfy this need. Certain runs of salmon in the Columbia River system are being considered for listing under

the Endangered Species Act. Providing quality spawning habitat is vital to salmon survival. The AmeriCorps program can be used to address this national environmental concern by supplying needed personnel to plan, design and install critical conservation practices. The objective is to target private landowners with technical, financial and material assistance to improve salmon habitat. AmeriCorps participants could work with landowners to help them improve streamside areas (also known as riparian areas) to provide more shading in the summer and thus increase water flows. AmeriCorps workers could also assist irrigators to be more efficient. In this way, less water would have to be taken from streams. This would improve summer time stream flows as well.

These conditions have been documented by the Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts in their Watershed Inventory Report of January 1991. There is also supporting documentation available from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as the Yakima Indian Nation.

The project would build on four years of water quality improvement projects by the Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts as well as the Yakima Indian Nation and the Northwest Power Planning Council. Several streams and rivers in the project area have been targeted by the following agencies for salmon habitat enhancement.

CALIFORNIA WATERSHED PROTECTION

The project will protect and heal watershed ecosystems in areas damaged by the 1993-94 wild fires, earthquake, and also in areas with a high potential for fires.

This AmeriCorps project would meet needs in rural and rural/urban interface areas of California. The participants would work on projects to provide assistance to persons needing help in forest recovery, salmon and fisheries recovery, water quality improvement and conservation, and similar work.

Rural areas of California are suffering from multiple environmental concerns and severe economic problems. The Pacific Northwest has needs to protect endangered species of wildlife, improve forest management on small landholdings, and improve economic conditions. Other rural areas are suffering competing demands for limited water, and they need water quality and conservation improvement. Small farmers with limited resources and of various ethnic groups need help with farming methods and resource protection.

The goal of the Adopt-a-Watershed program is to develop a strong community-school connection through a collaborative effort of coordinating existing programs and community resources. It will link work and education through hands on learning by doing, in the service of watershed stewardship. It is becoming imperative that communities join together to care for the land around them and to teach their youth. This program will develop that ethic of service in all of the participants, the teachers, the parents, the students, the mentors, and the apprentices as each person involved understands how he/she is part of a larger

process, and how each person has power and value in the collaborative effort of building community and caring for their own habitat.

The AmeriCorps positions within these communities (as proposed in this grant application) are part of the movement to counteract the social fragmentation occurring within our communities. By recruiting from within local communities, and working closely with different people within the community to develop the collaborative working relationships that facilitate integrated service-learning within schools, the AmeriCorps participant (as a Regional Based Coordinator of the Adopt-a-Watershed curriculum model) will play a key role in integrating the development of our two greatest resources; the children of our communities and the land we live on. AmeriCorps participants will meet these needs by providing on site technical and educational assistance.

The needs that will be met by this are rural development and environmental in nature. The specific site projects will address needs of endangered species conservation, Limited Resource Farmers, education about the environment, and natural resource protection and betterment. A national service program addresses these needs very well because meeting the needs incrementally protects and improves the Nation's natural resource base, improves the economic climate of some severely depressed rural parts of California, and assists limited resource and minority landowners and land users.

ALASKA FOREST SERVICE INITIATIVE

Development of native 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. The program will help communities identify environmentally sound economic alternatives, provide technical assistance in analyzing these alternatives, and work with native community and business leaders to implement essential projects that lead to sustainable economic activity. Participants will provide technical support skills often unavailable in rural communities.

Participants 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.

Participants activities are expected to have a significant positive impact on the economy in rural Alaska. The technical expertise that participants 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. Participants will also support the development of home-based and micro-businesses. Participants will help prepare business plans, assist in the preparation of financing packages, assist in grant writing, and develop micro-loan programs in rural communities to help generate successful small businesses.

This includes designing, producing, mailing and analyzing several broad-based surveys aimed at determining community needs such as improvement in the local businesses and 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 to the development of about 5 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. five worker training programs will be designed and implemented. These will address employment and management needs. Approximately 5 financing plans will be developed for small businesses, and 5 revolving loan funds will be established. Several community foundations will be established for the State will be given grant writing 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 Alaska Rural Development Council, The Alaska Division of Forestry The Alaskan Tribal Councils, The Private Sector Foundations Small Business

Development Centers.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE ALASKA PROJECTS

To conserve and protect tribal land and other resources; to encourage and support the exercise of tribal powers of self-government; to aid and support economic development; to promote the general welfare of each member tribe and its respective individual members; to preserve and maintain justice for all; and to otherwise exercise all powers granted to its member villages.

The Yukon Flats region of Alaska is a 55,000 square mile area populated by 1500 people in ten Athabascan Indian villages. The communities are connected each other only by river in summer, dogsled and snow machine trails in the winter, and expensive air service all year long. The indigenous people adapted to this vast, harsh land centuries ago by hunting, gathering, and fishing for food, clothing, and shelter materials. People continue to live off the land and this lifestyle is defined as "subsistence" by today's society.

A mixed-bag of landownership creates difficulties in managing the natural resources for traditional subsistence and culturally acceptable uses. The state government, federal government, native village councils, and native corporations own and manage the lands which have supported the Athabascan people for generations.

There have been severe cutbacks in the agencies that have resource management authority and responsibility within the Yukon Flats. These agencies do not have the time or funding to identify and accomplish wildlife and other natural resource management objectives over an area the size of Iowa that encompasses the Yukon Flats. The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG), a consortium of the villages in the Flats, is developing the technical capacity and human resource skills needed to create a partnership between the

agencies and the villages.

The AMERICORPS project would help Athabascan young people to assist their native villages in writing natural resource management plans for their land. The villages' goals are to increase local employment and provide professional opportunities that do not conflict with their traditional values. It is typical that the good agency jobs in these villages are filled by outsiders, whose high wages raise the per capita income without benefit to the local people. The project should give local residents opportunities for both experience and education in natural resource management fields.

The participants will assist villages in gathering wildlife and other natural resource data, coordinate the data collection with and receive training from USDA-SCS and USDI-F&WS, help villages prioritize resources of concern and write natural resource management plans.

The AmeriCorps project will help the Yukon Flats communities provide jobs, educational opportunities, and a natural resource planning mechanism which the local residents will use to manage their wildlife and other subsistence use resources.

Individual Site Application #33
Rural Development
Midwest Flood States (IA, MO, IL, KS, NB, ND, SD, MN, WI)

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 189

NEEDS TO BE MET

The great floods of the past year have ravaged large portions of the vast Mississippi and Ohio watersheds. Farms, homes, businesses, whole rural infrastructures have been washed away or laid waste to at the whim of Mother Nature. In places, whole townsites must either be rebuilt or substantially reworked. Clearly, a simple patch-up effort will not suffice. As if the flood had not taken enough toll, this region has been recently plagued with a rapidly shifting economy as its two mainstays, agriculture and manufacturing, readjust to life in the 90's. In many places of the region, rapid depopulation is occurring independent of whatever effects the great floods may also be having in that regard. The job ahead in the Flood Region is diverse and so requires a diverse mixture of solutions.

The environmental needs to be met will be the restoration and protection of resources damaged by the statewide record floods of 1993 including wetlands restoration, riparian area reestablishment, livestock waste management, trout stream protection, and debris removal. The project will also promote rural development by restoring, improving, and protecting priority resources for farmers and small rural communities. In North Dakota, the two participants will assist in the completion of a inventory of rivers and streams in a seven-county project area. The inventory data will be evaluated to determine eligibility for

Emergency Wetlands Protection assistance and to prioritize specific sites. The AmeriCorps participants would be involved in the inventory and evaluation phases. Prioritized sites will be planned by SCS personnel for debris removal. In Iowa, the work of the AmeriCorps participants will enable local water resource districts to alleviate flooding hazards caused by the Midwest flood of 1993. Considerable debris, primarily native woody material needs to be cleared and snagged from the Red River and eight of its major tributaries in order to curtail future flooding. An estimated 500 river miles will require a reconnaissance survey to determine the specific actions that will be necessary to curb flooding problems. The local water resource districts have estimated 190 roads and 250 bridges and culverts would benefit from Emergency Watershed Protection. An estimated 200 farmsteads, with nearly 1,000 buildings, would benefit from reduced out-of-bank flooding. Twenty-one communities would also benefit. Implementation of this project will benefit over 167,000 people in the seven counties. Reduced flooding will protect soil resources from overland shoot flows. Prime farmlands, which entail nearly half of the cropland in the project area, would be better protected from flood events.

The needs in the other flood states are equally enormous.

THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SOLUTION

Two-hundred and ninety-seven (NUMBER NOT YET DETERMINED) participants will form Midwest Rural Development and Environmental teams and will perform flood recovery work, and address priority environmental and rural development concerns in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and

Wisconsin. Four states have designated exact service projects they will conduct; the remaining decisions will be based on spring and summer weather and flooding conditions.

The Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) will administer the program. In Illinois, twenty-three participants will form two environmental teams to supervise the clean-up of debris from the flood in 12 counties. In Iowa, sixty-six participants will form a rural development team to restore and protect resources damaged by the flood. In North Dakota, two participants will work in a seven-county area to assist in the completion of an inventory of rivers and streams; the participants also will supervise debris removal projects. In South Dakota, thirteen participants will form a rural development team in designated flood disaster areas to perform recovery work, as well as emphasize the importance of flood plain management. (IOWA?) The remaining participants will be assigned in the other five states as needs are identified by the SCS, the ASCS, members of the state's emergency management team, and local partners. All teams will be designed according to the rural development model with more skilled participants assigned individually, but some will also form into crews periodically to supervise environmental work such as debris removal.

A socio-economic diverse group of participants will be recruited, with persons displaced or otherwise affected by the flood to be given preference as participants.

Sites will be identified by the Soil Conservation Service, the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, and personnel from the other agencies that comprise each state's emergency management team. Site design plans could duplicate work activities as outlined in the Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota proposals. The **Iowa** model is a rural

development team, consisting of 12 components with 66 participants as follows:

1) three participants will assist the reestablishment of riparian wetland areas in each state; 2) ten participants will serve as community assistance planners in each state; 3) four engineering students and one coordinator will serve as participants in Animal Waste Management System development; 4) four engineers and one coordinator will work in the Emergency Watershed Protection Program; 5) one information specialist in each state will communicate emergency program opportunities to the public; 6) one landscape architect will enhance rural development efforts by incorporating comprehensive landscape planning and using visual tools to involve the public; 7) one coordinator will match beginning limited resource farmers with retirement age farmers under the Rural Population Stabilization Program; 8) two specialists will identify locations of tracts participating in the Wetland Reserve Program, Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program, and Conservation Reserve Program and will develop Digital Data Layers; 9) six restoration specialists will target flood damaged riverine areas for wetland restoration; 10) one biologist, one engineer, six implementation crew members for streambank stabilization; 11) one ecosystem manager will perform accelerated ecosystem management planning with private landowners in priority streams; and 12) four water resource assistants and four nutrient management planners will work with rural water management and improvement.

The **North Dakota** plan calls for two rural development participants with forestry, biology, surveying, engineering, or contracting skills to assist SCS personnel in the Emergency Watershed Protection recovery effort. The **South Dakota** proposal will create a rural development team of 11 biological technicians who will perform paraprofessional tasks

in various areas of the state related to watershed recovery work. In **Illinois**, an Environment Team of 23 participants with two crew leaders would supervise removal of flood debris in 12 counties of the state.

All participants will receive on-the-job training in technical and programmatic areas to meet the needs of their position. Training, will be provided on location by local and state level specialists from SCS, ASCS, and other resource agencies.

Participants on the rural development teams will be mostly college or professional school graduates. Socio-economic diversity of participants will be a major component in recruitment. In addition, work/study students in institutions of higher education in the flood states will also be recruited. A goal of 25% of the participants will be recruited through the Corporation's national recruitment pool.

Participants will gain valuable technical expertise, community organizing skills which could be helpful in their future careers. The individuals will have an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills in natural resource conservation. This opportunity could result in these individuals pursuing an education and career in conservation or rural development.

Success will be measured based on accomplishments related to an annual plan of operations that will be developed each year for each program.

Initially, the participants on the rural development teams will work with the SCS or ASCS project office or local field office staffs. After minimum skill levels are attained, the participant will work independently with periodic supervision and quality control overview. Participants will have tasks assigned that are matched to their educational and previous work

experiences.

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: USDA

Project Name: AmeriCorps/Team USDA

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: Joel Berg Director of National Service

Signature: *Joel Berg*
Date: 4/29/91

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: USDA

Project Name: AmeriCorps/Team USDA

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: Joel Berg, Director of National Service

Signature: *Joel Berg*
Date: 4/29/91

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

DRAFT
14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

Date:

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES R. LYONS, Assistant Secretary, NRE

FROM: Jack Ward Thomas
Chief

SUBJECT: Forest Service funding of USDA AmeriCorps Proposal

ISSUE:

The Forest Service does not have the flexibility to increase its level of funding for the USDA AmeriCorps Proposal. Increasing the commitment from \$6.5 million to \$10 million would seriously impact FS programs. There are no discretionary dollars to move around. Other agencies may have special funds for flood restoration or other projects.

DISCUSSION:

The current State & Private Forestry commitment of \$2.5 million reduces the affected program budgets by 15 percent. Withdrawing additional funds for these programs would have further serious impacts. Today, funds are being redirected from originally planned activities, and only \$1000 (not \$10,000) per participant is being sought by the Department from the Corporation. We recognize that the Corporation is contributing the \$4725 post service educational award for each participant.

Given this situation and the need to assure AmeriCorps efforts are carried out within existing program authorities, the original commitment underestimated the impacts to a limited group of programs. Within the hosting Regions/Area, the percentages are much higher. Additional commitments out of existing programs to help support an overall AmeriCorps effort by the FS totalling \$10 million will require additional reprogramming of dollars away from commitments to assist with planned community-based activities (including other Presidential efforts like working with timber-dependent communities in the Pacific Northwest, and with Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities in the South). This could result in the elimination of positions needed to coordinate Regional efforts and carry out community assistance work.

Additional funding commitments over the \$4 million dollar level of National Forest System funds could result in additional people being put on the surplus list. This would particularly be true if the funds come from the timber and engineering or range programs. There is already a shortage of funds.

SUMMARY:

The FS commitment of \$6.5 million is a significant contribution from existing program funds. In today's environment of downsizing and budget reduction, the Forest Service does not have the flexibility that would allow for additional earmarking of FY 1995 program funds in the amount of \$3 million for national service.

Reviewed by: _____

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
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DRAFT
14th & Independence SW
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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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Reviewed by: _____

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

STATE + PRIVATE

AGENCY FOREST SERVICE

SITE APPLICATION # 25

NAME DON GREENE (202)358-3549

PAGE 1 of 1

TASK	SUPPORT FUNDING	APPROPRIATIONS	AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION
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STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

FOREST MANAGEMANT AND UTILIZATION

The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. Title XXIII Sub-title G

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------|---|
| #1 | Participant would work directly with government and non-profits organizations to provide skills and services to local communities to help develop rural tourism. | Rural Development | Chapter 1 Sec. 2371 (a through c) Chapter 2 Sec. 2375 (b) Sec. 2377 (a 4) and (b) (7 U.S.C. 6613) (7 U.S.C. 6615) |
| #2 | Participants could work with State Rural Development Councils to identify needs and target projects. | | (7 U.S.C. 6613) (7 U.S.C. 6615) |
| #3 | Participants would provide technology transfer to local communities and prepare themself's to become Wood Utilization Foresters. | Rural Forestry Assistance | Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 as amended by the 1990 Farm Bill Sec.3 (a) (a10 A&B) (16 U.S.C. 2102) |

Don Greene
5/5/94

AGENCY FOREST SERVICE

NAME DON GREENE (202) 358-3549

SITE APPLICATION # 26

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TASK	SUPPORT FUNDING	APPROPRIATIONS	AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION
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STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION

#1 Participants will serve six counties and provide leadership and hold a series of economic workshops. The skills required would be economics, marketing, industrial development.	Rural Forestry Assistance	Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 as Amended by the 1990 Farm Bill Se. 3(a) and (b) (16 U.S.C. 2102)
	Economic RECOVERY	The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. Title XXIII Sub-Title G (7 U.S.C. 6613) and (7 U.S.C. 6615)

AGENCY FOREST SERVICE

SITE APPLICATION # 27

NAME DON GREENE (202) 358-3549

PAGE 1 of 1

TASK SUPPORT FUNDING

APPROPRIATIONS

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION

- | | | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| #1 | Engineering students and graduate will provide technical assistance to communities wanting to install the timber bridge. | Annual Appropriations Bill | Linked to initial authorization in 1989 |
| #2 | Participants will transfer recycling technology from existing rural and urban projects to other sites. | Forest Products Conservation and Recycling | Sec. 3(a 10A,B) (16 U.S.C. 2102 |
| #3 | Participants would work with the local community leaders to devise an economic development plan. | Economic Recovery | The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. Title XXIII Sub-Title G Chapter 1 Sec. 2371 (a through c) Chapter 2 Sec. 2375 (b) Sec. 2377 (a4) and (b) (7 U.S.C. 6613) (7 U.S.C. 6615) |

AGENCY FOREST SERVICE

SITE APPLICATION # 29

NAME DON GREENE (202) 358-3549

PAGE 1 of 1

TASK SUPPORT FUNDING

APPROPRIATIONS

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION

- | | | | |
|-----|--|--|--|
| #1 | Participants will help communities identify environmentally sound economic alternatives. They will provide technical assistance in secondary wood products manufacturing and recycled products. | Rural Forestry Assistance

Urban and Communitie Forestry | Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 as Amended by the 1990 Farm Bill. Sec. 3(a and a10 A&B) (16 U.S.C. 2102)

(16 U.S.C. 2105) |
| #2 | Patrticipants will work in a mentored environment with agency professionals to develop interpersonal, management, and collaborative skills. These skills will be utilized to design economic plans for the region. | Economic Recovery | The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. Title XXIII Sub-Title G (7 U.S.C. 6613 and (7 U.S.C. 6615) |
| #3. | Participants will help develop economic and job opportunities, through partnership in both the public and private sector. | Economic Recovery | (7 U.S.C. 6613 and 6615) |

AGENCY FOREST SERVICE

NAME DON GREENE (202) 358-3549

SITE APPLICATION # 31

PAGE 1 of 1

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TASK	SUPPORT FUNDING	APPROPRIATIONS	AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION
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STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION

#1 The participant will be required to develop various private and public partnerships to focus on the economic development in the four corners region.

Economic Recovery

The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade act of 1990. Title XXIII Sub-Title G (7 U.S.C. 6613 and 6615)

AGENCY FOREST SERVICE

SITE APPLICATION # 32

NAME DON GREENE (202) 358-3549

PAGE 1 of 1

TASK SUPPORT FUNDING

APPROPRIATIONS

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION

#1 Participants will provide technical support skills often unavailable in rural communities. They will focus on developing a variety of businesses both rural and urban and improve the employment and economy. The graduate have degrees in Business Administration, Economics, Business Planning, and Finance. Training would be directed toward secondary wood and recycled products, rural development and economic recovery.

Urban and Community Forestry

Rural Community Assistance

Economic Recovery

Cooperative Forestry Act of 1978 as Amended by the 1990 Farm Bill Sec. 2(a and b5) Sec. 3 (a and 10A_B) Sec. 11(c) (c1A) (16 U.S.C. 2101) (16 U.S.C. 2102) (16 U.S.C. 2105)

The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, Trade Act of 1990. Title XXIII Sub-title G Chapter 1 Sec. 2371 (a through c) Chapter 2 Sec. 2375 (b) Sec. 2377 (a4) (b) (7 U.S.C. 6613) (7 U.S.C. 6615)

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

25

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. ¹ 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: ^{#2} 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 ^{#3} AmeriCorps participant would provide technology transfer to local communities as requested.

West Virginia Sustainable Development

#1

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 its 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.

1

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.

2

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.

#3

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 Hazelhurst 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 #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

FOREST SERVICE

29

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 ^{#3} 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 ^{#1} 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.

^A
Education - Corps members will be working in a mentored environment where professional Forest Service and State Forester's staff provide guidance and direction. ^{#2} 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 #31
Rural Development
Four Corners (UT, AZ, CO, NM)**

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 70

NEEDS TO BE MET

The Four Corners region of the United States is a vast, sparse populated area of tremendous diversity and spectacular beauty. The region is at the heart of an ongoing struggle to create a sensitive balance between the need to protect and sustain the environment, and the need to provide a sound economic base for the area's residents. This proposal will provide for action which will ultimately help develop that balance. The area has a population of approximately 441,000 people and covers an area of about 83,000 square miles. The project includes an area about 250 miles in circumference from where the four states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah join together. There are 12 population centers ranging in size from a few hundred to several thousand persons. The rural population is widely dispersed, with many areas having poor accessibility. This region is one of the most economically distressed areas in the Nation. Per-capita income is less than \$5,000. About 53 percent of the Navajo Nation's population lives below the poverty level. Unemployment ranges as high as 28%. Unemployment is generally high on all the Indian reservations in the area. About 42 percent of the area's population are members of the Hopi, Navajo, Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, White Mesa Ute or Zuni tribes.

THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SOLUTION

Four USDA agencies (Rural Development Administration, Farmers Home Administration, Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service) have joined forces to provide a full-service rural development experience for the region. Fifty-six RDT positions have been identified that span nearly all of the possible features of a comprehensive approach to regional rural development. In addition to RDT programmatic features of Housing, Water Systems, and Rural Business Development, the two attached specific and targeted projects round out the regional mix.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PROJECTS

This proposal has been jointly prepared by the RC&D coordinators of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah with assistance from conservation district leaders in Arizona and Colorado and RC&D Council members. It addresses the large scale rural development needs of the region. The concept provides for team approaches to addressing key problems common to each state in there region. A need for 20 AmeriCorps participants has been identified. These people would be distributed in functional teams.

Specifically, the proposal addresses the need to inventory existing human and natural resources for the purpose of determining possible new and innovative natural resource based industry potential. The proposal further provides for the seeking of funds to establish these industries. In addition, proposal addresses the need to assist limited resource farmers (especially Native Americans) to develop sustainable small scale agricultural systems leading to improved nutrition, increased income and employment, and a quality environment.

Finally, the proposal includes an element of education and information directed toward helping area citizens (and others) understand benefits and costs associated with environmental and economic choices currently being made.

- 1) Develop an inventory of existing natural resources and determine the feasibility of developing new and innovative natural resources based industries with possible value-added potential.
- 2) Seek grant funds to provide for the establishment of ~~feasible~~ industries.
- 3) Assist small scale, limited resource farmers in developing sustainable agricultural systems for the purpose of improving family nutrition, increasing income, expanding employment, and maintaining a quality environment.
- 4) Conduct an information and education program for the purpose of helping area residents understand the costs and benefits of environmental and economic choices currently being made.

The project concept is to utilize skilled teams of AmeriCorps participants in each of the states working closely with established agencies and organizations currently dealing with rural development issues related to natural resources and the environment. Each of the major components of the project; inventorying, determining industry potential, small scale agriculture, information and education, will benefit from a team of individuals whose efforts will be directed toward accomplishing specific tasks associated with the component. The project is designed to create strong partnerships with existing professionals in order to minimize replication of efforts and maximize existing resources. The project will be administered in each of the four states by RC&D Councils in cooperation with the Soil

Conservation Service. Each Council is a nonprofit organization consisting of 20 to 24 local sponsors. Sponsors include area communities, counties, Native American Nations, Council of Governments, and Soil Conservation Districts. Each Council has a full time coordinator provided them by the Soil Conservation Service. The broad makeup of the Councils ensures that they deal with concerns at the grassroots level and makes possible the creation of effective partnerships between a wide variety of entities in order to address key concerns. The project will require cooperation among many partners. Project partners will include each RC&D Council (one per state total of 4), the Soil Conservation Districts, local units of government, councils of Government, the Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Native American Nations. Each RC&D Council has a long range plan with a community or rural development objective. Utilization of AmeriCorps participants accelerate the implementation of Councils objectives.

Data Inventory and Industry Potential Analysis. This project will inventory natural resources and socioeconomic data in the region. A project team will be utilized to identify natural resources and new technologies with potential for development. This will involve detailed literature research to determine characteristics of the resource and its value-added potential. The most promising industries will be prioritized and additional work will be done to identify potential markets. This data will then be used for feasibility studies and grant applications to establish natural resource based industries in the region which will improve the employment base. Typical activities of AmeriCorps participants will be to conduct literature reviews and

summarize data, prepare questionnaire for needs assessment, interview key informants on the telephone and in person, gather economic data and enter into a database.

Finally, be a team member to prepare grant applications.

Small Scale Agriculture Development. This project is designed to accelerate small scale agriculture primarily with the Native Americans nations in the region. It addresses the need to improve Native American nutrition and increase employment and per capita income on Indian reservations in the region. In partnership with local organizations, a team of specialists will provide intensive training to partnership agencies and facilitate training workshops to reach large numbers of people in remote areas. Training would include small animal production, gardening, preserving products for future use and related activities. A team of five persons would be utilized to service the region. Typical activities of AmeriCorps participants will be to provide training in their specialty area, organize small groups to conduct this training. AmeriCorps participants with marketing or business administration will assist in establishing a marketing cooperative to sell excess products.

Natural Resources Inventory. This inventory would include soils, rangeland, woodland, wildlife land, riparian and wetlands, cultural resources sites, water resources, land use and ownership. The inventory would be digitized into a GIS format. A public information specialist will be used to keep local residents apprised of progress and to provide information on potential uses of the inventory data. Typical activities of AmeriCorps participants will be to gather data in the field. Data will be placed on maps under the direction of a natural

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resource professional. Data will then be entered into a GIS system.

Information and Education. This project would develop and implement a communications plan for internal and external audiences. Educational materials would be targeted to citizens in the Four Corners region. Topics will reflect the need for strong resource conservation and development to increase the economic viability of the region. Project activities will include press releases, speakers bureau, static displays, and other appropriate mediums. Typical activities of AmeriCorps participants will be to research and write press releases for newsletters and the general media and make contact with media representatives in each community.

Hopi\Navajo Regional Planning - One Strategic Planner (preferred) or Small Business Developer. Community based economic planning on the Hopi and Navajo Indian Reservations, working primarily with Chapters Houses and local communities. Planning will be for tourism, small business development, and infrastructure requirements. Estimate 3 to 4 plans in progress each year for two to three years. Unemployment is currently 50 to 80% (depending on chapter or community).

FOREST SERVICE PROJECTS

The intent of the "Strengthening Partnerships for Active Rural Communities" (SPARCS) program is on the existing partnerships, as well as initiate actions that are of regional scope for the entire 4-Corners area that have broad-based community support.

#31

SPARCS will be bolstered by the AmeriCorps program in improving partnerships at the individual community level, as well as to accelerate the projects identified in the last six months within the SPARCS process. Some projects:

1) Development of social, economic and demographic shared data bases to support sustainable economic development. Specifically these data bases are needed to establish baseline information regarding current local conditions and trends. They will be used to suggest and validate strategies for diversifying or strengthening local economies. Estimated project cost is \$35,000. AmeriCorps Participants: This task will be accomplished by Americorps members staffed at the locations in Region 2 and 3 as a part of overall strategy development and project implementation. Skills needed include socio-economics, data base management, electronic mail services or bulletin boards, telecommunications, facilitation and familiarity with existing state or Cooperative Extension Service data bases.

2) Training for community capacity building and leadership development. AmeriCorps participant: One person with strong community/regional planning background, to be assigned to work with Sheila Knop, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. Through regional workshops and local seminars, increase preparedness and skill to support sustainable rural economic development, by promoting dialogue and collaborative learning activities organized around regional development concerns, such as value-added forestry, agriculture and tourism.

3) Tribal Tourism Development/4 Corners Heritage Council. Six participants will be shared

between the affected tribes and the 4-Corners Heritage Council. Skills needed include regional planning, community development, public or business administration, landscape architecture, engineering, recreation planning, interpretation and environmental education. All the Tribes within the 4-Corners are pursuing tourism development as an economic development strategy.

4) Four Corners Business and Expansion Program - Participants will

Develop a business retention and expansion (R&E) program for the Four Corners region. The purpose of this program is to identify and solve business problems related to survival, expansion and start-up and thereby to strengthen and/or increase economic activity. The program would require a full-time coordinator familiar with the area who would serve all the program participants. The coordinator would work with a regional resource team comprised of representatives from the USFS, FMHA, RDA, CE, SBDC, COG's and state economic development departments and local citizens. This proposal is jointly prepared and submitted under a multi-agency / multi jurisdictional approach to enhancing the viability of rural communities and Tribes in the Four Corners Area (Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico) through existing strategic partnerships. The Americorps program will provide an infusion of assistance into new alliances, shared visions and collaborative approaches addressing community problems and change identified by communities and Tribes in the Four Corners Area.

This proposal takes advantage of existing community based planning,

partnerships and networks established in the last 2 years to work with rural people, communities and Tribes to create jobs, increase family income, generate community revenue, and enhance the quality of life in the Four Corners area.

Partnerships and Networks, Region 2 - This partnership includes the municipalities and counties of Southwestern Colorado, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Fort Lewis College, the Colorado Dept. of Transportation, the Southwestern Colorado Travel Region, and the Four Corners Heritage Council. This partnership focuses on joint efforts between local communities, and public land agencies in areas of resource management, collaborative planning, research, economic diversification and public policy. Three corp members will be assigned to the Community-Public Lands Partnership. Skills needed will include Community/Land Use planners, economists, GIS, facilitation of processes, Tourism-Recreation planners, value added forest products and Agriculture.

Partnerships and Networks, Region 3 - These partnership includes the municipalities and counties of Northeastern Arizona, Northwestern New Mexico, the U.S. Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the New Mexico and Arizona Departments of Commerce, Tourism and Transportation, the New Mexico Rural Development Council and the Four Corners Heritage Council. The partnerships focus on joint efforts between local communities, Action Teams, Tribes and public agencies in areas of resource management, recycling, collaborative planning, research, and economic diversification. Two teams of three AmeriCorps participants will be assigned to support the above listed projects and partnerships. One team will be assigned to northern Arizona to work through the Coconino

and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests; the other team will be assigned to the Carson, Cibola and Santa Fe NF's of northwestern New Mexico. Skills needed will include community/regional planners, economists, GIS, facilitation/mediation, tourism/recreation planners, and business/cooperative development, with emphasis in value added forest products and agriculture.

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Timber/ Bridge Wood Transportation Project - Most counties have limited access to people with engineering skills to assist them in the development of timber bridge proposals and in the construction of the bridges. This project would involve recruitment of an engineering graduate student to assist interested counties, communities, and Indian Tribes in identifying there bridge needs, help in the development of proposals and oversee construction. The wood utilization conference scheduled to be held in Farmington, NM in the fall of 1994 will include timber bridge technology and construction as well as demonstration of the SLAM timber bridge design program.

**Individual Site Application #32
Rural Development
Pacific Rim (CA, WA, AK)**

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 70

NEEDS TO BE MET:

Rural areas of California are suffering from multiple environmental concerns and severe economic problems. The Pacific Northwest has needs to protect endangered species of wildlife, improve forest management on small land holdings, and improve economic conditions. Other rural areas are suffering competing demands for limited water, and they need water quality and conservation improvement. Small farmers with limited resources and of various ethnic groups need help with farming methods and resource protection.

In Alaska, many communities are connected to each other only by river in summer, dogsled and snow machine trails in the winter, and expensive air service all year long. The indigenous people adapted to this vast, harsh land centuries ago by hunting, gathering, and fishing for food, clothing, and shelter materials. People continue to live off the land and this lifestyle is defined as "subsistence" by today's society.

A mixed-bag of land ownership creates difficulties in managing the natural resources for traditional subsistence and culturally acceptable uses. The state government, federal government, native village councils, and native corporations own and manage the lands which have supported the Athabascan people for generations.

THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM SOLUTION

The AmeriCorps positions within these communities (as proposed in this grant application) are part of the movement to counteract the social fragmentation occurring within our communities. By recruiting from within local communities, and working closely with different people within the community to develop the collaborative working relationships that facilitate integrated service-learning within schools, the AmeriCorps participant (as a Regional Based Coordinator of the Adopt-a-Watershed curriculum model) will play a key role in integrating the development of our two greatest resources; the children of our communities and the land we live on. AmeriCorps participants will meet these needs by providing on site technical and educational assistance.

Residents have the traditional knowledge base required for the job, but we need to translate this into a working relationship that creates local employment and skilled professional workers. The AmeriCorps project would help Alaskan young people to assist their native villages in writing natural resource management plans for their land. The villages' goals are to increase local employment and provide professional opportunities that do not conflict with their traditional values. It is typical that the good agency jobs in these villages are filled by outsiders, whose high wages raise the per capita income without benefit to the local people. The AmeriCorps project should give local residents opportunities for both experience and education in natural resource management fields.

MID COLUMBIA SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

This project will restore and maintain salmon habitat on privately owned lands in the MidColumbia region by providing technical, financial, and material assistance through a collaboration of local, state, and federal efforts.

Gain voluntary participation by private landowners by providing incentives to improve and protect key salmon habitat they control.

Plan, design and install critical conservation practices that enhance salmon habitat components such as water quality, cover, food sources and adequate in-stream flows. Coordinate and focus the technical, financial and material resources of local, state, and federal agencies to accomplish the mission.

The Mid-Columbia region located on the Washington side of the Columbia River is capable of providing key habitat for salmon spawning. Certain runs of salmon in the Columbia River system are candidates for listing under the endangered Species Act. Current water quality conditions for the direct tributaries and their sub-watersheds are generally below state standards for aquatic life. The Columbia River salmon issue has become a major national concern. This project aims to deal with this issue using a voluntary approach that will insure longer lasting results.

The primary environmental concerns are high in-stream water temperatures and low stream flows in the summer. Both of these conditions are fatal to juvenile salmon. Both of these conditions can be corrected by improving vegetative cover and soil stability along streambeds and adjacent areas. Current economic and resource limitations in the area require

that an incentive be provided to landowners to voluntarily improve salmon habitat in streams they control. The project would utilize the AmeriCorps program to supply the needed personnel to plan, design and install conservation practices on privately owned lands.

Partnering agencies would help provide additional financial and material assistance.

The Soil Conservation Service would provide overall leadership and direction for the project.

Local conservation districts would also provide oversight and prioritization based on their knowledge of the local conditions and their rapport with the landowners.

AmeriCorps participants would build a record of work experience and dependability, learn and utilize team problem solving skills to accomplish a goal, learn the factors that contribute to good water quality and gain experience in dealing with people on an individual and group basis. The local community would gain the opportunity to voluntarily solve a high profile environmental concern. The project would also provide a format for diverse groups and individuals to come to a consensus on how to treat salmon habitat problems. Finally, numerous opportunities for environmental education would be created for local schools and the general public. All of this will contribute to a better, and more sustainable solution.

The proposed project area is located in Klickitat County,

Washington and encompasses the major drainages and tributaries to the Columbia River that originate within the county.

There is an overall need within the project area to provide accelerated assistance to private landowners to improve conditions in potential salmon spawning waters. The AmeriCorps program would provide the needed support and opportunity to satisfy this need. Certain runs of salmon in the Columbia River system are being considered for listing under

the Endangered Species Act. Providing quality spawning habitat is vital to salmon survival. The AmeriCorps program can be used to address this national environmental concern by supplying needed personnel to plan, design and install critical conservation practices. The objective is to target private landowners with technical, financial and material assistance to improve salmon habitat. AmeriCorps participants could work with landowners to help them improve streamside areas (also known as riparian areas) to provide more shading in the summer and thus increase water flows. AmeriCorps workers could also assist irrigators to be more efficient. In this way, less water would have to be taken from streams. This would improve summer time stream flows as well.

These conditions have been documented by the Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts in their Watershed Inventory Report of January 1991. There is also supporting documentation available from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as the Yakima Indian Nation.

The project would build on four years of water quality improvement projects by the Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts as well as the Yakima Indian Nation and the Northwest Power Planning Council. Several streams and rivers in the project area have been targeted by the following agencies for salmon habitat enhancement.

CALIFORNIA WATERSHED PROTECTION

The project will protect and heal watershed ecosystems in areas damaged by the 1993-94 wild fires, earthquake, and also in areas with a high potential for fires.

This AmeriCorps project would meet needs in rural and rural/urban interface areas of California. The participants would work on projects to provide assistance to persons needing help in forest recovery, salmon and fisheries recovery, water quality improvement and conservation, and similar work.

Rural areas of California are suffering from multiple environmental concerns and severe economic problems. The Pacific Northwest has needs to protect endangered species of wildlife, improve forest management on small landholdings, and improve economic conditions. Other rural areas are suffering competing demands for limited water, and they need water quality and conservation improvement. Small farmers with limited resources and of various ethnic groups need help with farming methods and resource protection.

The goal of the Adopt-a-Watershed program is to develop a strong community-school connection through a collaborative effort of coordinating existing programs and community resources. It will link work and education through hands on learning by doing, in the service of watershed stewardship. It is becoming imperative that communities join together to care for the land around them and to teach their youth. This program will develop that ethic of service in all of the participants, the teachers, the parents, the students, the mentors, and the apprentices as each person involved understands how he/she is part of a larger

process, and how each person has power and value in the collaborative effort of building community and caring for their own habitat.

The AmeriCorps positions within these communities (as proposed in this grant application) are part of the movement to counteract the social fragmentation occurring within our communities. By recruiting from within local communities, and working closely with different people within the community to develop the collaborative working relationships that facilitate integrated service-learning within schools, the AmeriCorps participant (as a Regional Based Coordinator of the Adopt-a-Watershed curriculum model) will play a key role in integrating the development of our two greatest resources; the children of our communities and the land we live on. AmeriCorps participants will meet these needs by providing on site technical and educational assistance.

The needs that will be met by this are rural development and environmental in nature. The specific site projects will address needs of endangered species conservation, Limited Resource Farmers, education about the environment, and natural resource protection and betterment. A national service program addresses these needs very well because meeting the needs incrementally protects and improves the Nation's natural resource base, improves the economic climate of some severely depressed rural parts of California, and assists limited resource and minority landowners and land users.

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ALASKA FOREST SERVICE INITIATIVE

Development of native 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. The program will help communities identify environmentally sound economic alternatives, provide technical assistance in analyzing these alternatives, and work with native community and business leaders to implement essential projects that lead to sustainable economic activity. ^{# 1} Participants will provide technical support skills often unavailable in rural communities.

Participants 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.

^{# 2} Participants activities are expected to have a significant positive impact on the economy in rural Alaska. The technical expertise that participants 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.

#3
Participants will also support the development of home-based and micro-businesses.

#C/
Participants will help prepare business plans, assist in the preparation of financing packages, assist in grant writing, and develop micro-loan programs in rural communities to help generate successful small businesses.

This includes designing, producing, mailing and analyzing several broad-based surveys aimed at determining community needs such as improvement in the local businesses and 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 to the development of about 5 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. five worker training programs will be designed and implemented. These will address employment and management needs. Approximately 5 financing plans will be developed for small businesses, and 5 revolving loan funds will be established. Several community foundations will be established for the State will be given grant writing 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 Alaska Rural Development Council, The Alaska Division of Forestry The Alaskan Tribal Councils, The Private Sector Foundations Small Business

Development Centers.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE ALASKA PROJECTS

To conserve and protect tribal land and other resources; to encourage and support the exercise of tribal powers of self-government; to aid and support economic development; to promote the general welfare of each member tribe and its respective individual members; to preserve and maintain justice for all; and to otherwise exercise all powers granted to its member villages.

The Yukon Flats region of Alaska is a 55,000 square mile area populated by 1500 people in ten Athabascan Indian villages. The communities are connected each other only by river in summer, dogsled and snow machine trails in the winter, and expensive air service all year long. The indigenous people adapted to this vast, harsh land centuries ago by hunting, gathering, and fishing for food, clothing, and shelter materials. People continue to live off the land and this lifestyle is defined as "subsistence" by today's society.

A mixed-bag of landownership creates difficulties in managing the natural resources for traditional subsistence and culturally acceptable uses. The state government, federal government, native village councils, and native corporations own and manage the lands which have supported the Athabascan people for generations.

There have been severe cutbacks in the agencies that have resource management authority and responsibility within the Yukon Flats. These agencies do not have the time or funding to identify and accomplish wildlife and other natural resource management objectives over an area the size of Iowa that encompasses the Yukon Flats. The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG), a consortium of the villages in the Flats, is developing the technical capacity and human resource skills needed to create a partnership between the

agencies and the villages.

The AMERICORPS project would help Athabascan young people to assist their native villages in writing natural resource management plans for their land. The villages' goals are to increase local employment and provide professional opportunities that do not conflict with their traditional values. It is typical that the good agency jobs in these villages are filled by outsiders, whose high wages raise the per capita income without benefit to the local people. The project should give local residents opportunities for both experience and education in natural resource management fields.

The participants will assist villages in gathering wildlife and other natural resource data, coordinate the data collection with and receive training from USDA-SCS and USDI-F&WS, help villages prioritize resources of concern and write natural resource management plans.

The AmeriCorps project will help the Yukon Flats communities provide jobs, educational opportunities, and a natural resource planning mechanism which the local residents will use to manage their wildlife and other subsistence use resources.

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**FOREST SERVICE CONTRIBUTION
TO USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM PROPOSAL**

INTRODUCTION

The Forest Service, as an integral member of Team USDA, supports President Clinton's national service initiative known as AmeriCorps. The following Forest Service proposal focuses on the Rural Development Team portion of AmeriCorps, as part of the larger USDA program application to the Corporation for National Community Service.

SUMMARY

The Forest Service pledges a total of \$2,599,700, which includes both direct funding and agency in-kind contributions. This level of funding creates 74 AmeriCorps positions. The \$2,599,700 consists of \$1,775,000 from the agency's Rural Community Assistance efforts, \$337,000 from Urban and Community Forestry's recycling efforts, \$275,000 from the Wood In Transportation program, and \$213,000 from the Forest Products Conservation and Recycling program. The particular projects selected for AmeriCorps are described in the following section.

ASSUMPTIONS

The following are a list of assumptions used throughout this proposal:

- (1) All funding dollars include Forest Service in-kind contributions.
- (2) An AmeriCorps person would cost a minimum of \$20,000.
- (3) A strong political need exists to link AmeriCorps projects with Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC Zones)
- (4) The Forest Service will work within its existing authorities and initial PBMI for Fiscal Year 1995 and will not reallocate funds from one Region to another.
- (5) The Forest Service proposal is an integral part of the overall USDA strategy and should not be separated from the Department's efforts.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

Within each of the projects, objectives, number of AmeriCorps members, skills, and funding levels are addressed. The number of AmeriCorps members and associated funding by Forest Service program appropriation is provided on the attached table.

Project # 1
South Carolina

South Carolina has the second highest minority population in the Southern region, composed primarily of African Americans. Current program efforts have had difficulty reaching these communities due to cultural differences. Leadership and sustainable economic development skills are essential for these communities. Developing and identifying community leaders in disenfranchised 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

6+2

are available from the Forest Service and state agencies to accomplish this objective.

Persons with a diverse background and understanding of African American culture would be desirable candidates. Interpersonal skills, ability to listen and facilitation skills would be required. Some of these skills can be developed through mentoring with agency personnel. A series of Economic Development Specialists could be assigned to rural sites throughout the state.

The Forest Service commits \$132,000 of its Rural Community Assistance (RCA) dollars to fund 5 AmeriCorps members, with college degrees, who are specialists in either leadership or economic development.

Mississippi Delta

#2
This area includes the following counties: MS Counties: Desoto, Tunica, Panola, Coahoma, Bolivar, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Washington, Sunflower, Carrol, Charkey, Holmes, Humphreys, Yazoo, Wassren, Issaquena, Claiborne, and Jefferson. AR Counties: Crittenden, Lee, Phillips, Desha, and Chicot. LA Counties: East Carroll, West Carroll, Madison, Tensas, and Concordia. 3 + 4

The Governor of Mississippi recently signed legislation to authorize replacement of over 6,000 unsafe bridges. Opportunities exist to promote "Wood in Transportation" by having qualified Engineering students working through AmeriCorps to provide technical assistance to communities wanting to install timber bridges. These AmeriCorp participants could also transfer the bridge technology to areas where potential projects could be duplicated and demonstrate the advantages of wooden bridges.

An opportunity exists to transfer recycling technology from the Franklin County Recycling Project to other sites. Development of recycling programs following this model could be duplicated in other areas of the Delta region in order to create jobs for disabled persons.

By working with partnerships developed from ongoing RCA activities, the Forest Service could provide AmeriCorps participants to work with local community leaders in meeting specific community needs, particularly with ongoing social programs, education and infrastructure needs. For example, local leaders developed from the Copiah County leadership development workshops may be able to utilize a Business major to assist citizens in establishing small businesses. In addition other federal agencies, such as the Small Business Administration, could provide technical and financial assistance, furthering agency efforts.

Ongoing outreach efforts can be enhanced by collaborating with 1890 institutions and black colleges. Alcorn State has capacity grants for education programs from day care kindergarden 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 AmeriCorp participant would work with community leaders to develop practical solutions.

Other predominately black colleges such as Rust have provided leadership workshops for minority communities to build capacity. AmeriCorp participants could work side by side with rural sociologists and other experts in these fields to develop and disseminate this information. Additionally a study could start which addresses the social changes needed to improve the economy of the region and implementations plans for practical solutions begun.

The Forest Service allocates \$384,000 to fund 15 AmeriCorps positions in the Mississippi Delta as follows: (1) \$73,000 of Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) funds for 3 AmeriCorps positions requiring college degrees to transfer recycling technology regarding urban forest residual management, (2) \$73,000 of Wood In Transportation (WIT) dollars funding 3 AmeriCorps positions, two of which are graduate degrees and one undergraduate, to assist communities address their timber bridge needs, and (3) \$238,000 of RCA funds, creating 9 AmeriCorps undergraduate degreed positions to perform outreach to 1890 schools, conduct leadership and economic development, and begin a "Delta Social Changes" study.

3
Alaska

The objectives listed for AmeriCorps participants are need and feasibility. Additionally, these activities are complementary to the activities planned by the Alaska Community Services Commission, the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, and of equal importance our sister agencies in TEAM USDA.

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5 + 6

The Forest Service allocates \$155,000 to fund 5 positions in Alaska. The dollars are distributed as follows: (1) \$62,000 of U&CF funds, creating 2 positions, requiring undergraduate degrees, to assist selected communities throughout the State of Alaska in developing U&CF recycling plans and/or produce prototypes, (2) \$31,000 of RCA program dollars for 1 AmeriCorps member, with a graduate degree, to provide rural community assistance to timber-dependent Southeastern Alaska communities for economic diversification, (3) \$31,000 of RCA program dollars for 1 AmeriCorps member, requiring an undergraduate degree, to provide rural community assistance to help forest and farm owners in South-Central Alaska develop markets and/or cooperatives, and (4) \$31,000 of RCA program dollars for 1 AmeriCorps member, a college graduate, to provide rural community assistance to help Alaska Native Villages by delivering program opportunities to remote Native communities.

4
Appalachia

(1) Southern Region Component:

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This includes the following States: TN, KY, GA, VA, and NC.

Rural tourism efforts are underway in this region and feature recreational and aesthetic opportunities. Local partners have needs for tour guides with interpretive skills. Recreation planners, tourism surveys, and marketing are needed. AmeriCorps participants could work with the Appalachian Regional Commission and other partners to develop regional tourism plans.

Another identified need is hiring professional Economic Development Coordinators who would seek business development opportunities for this area. Business students could work with these professionals and local communities.

Environmental students work in these areas to identify uses of environmental concern with related new business ventures.

Working with state forestry organizations can provide opportunities for AmeriCorps participants to work with professional Wood Utilization Foresters. The objective would be to promote alternative wood products and value added manufacturing technologies.

The Black Belt studies initiated at North Carolina State University could provide opportunities to implement social changes needed to improve the economy of the region.

The Forest Service targets \$450,000 to the Appalachian States of TN, KY, GA, VA, and NC to fund 20 AmeriCorps positions as follows: (1) \$113,000 from Forest Products Conservation and Recycling (FPC&R) for 5 AmeriCorps members with undergraduate degrees to perform wood utilization activities, and (2) \$337,000 of RCA dollars, creating 15 AmeriCorps positions, three requiring graduate and the rest undergraduate degrees, to engage in rural tourism, economic development, and Black Belt Studies.

#5

(2) Northeastern Area Component:

This section addresses the needs of the State of WV.

Initial Forest Service efforts are directed to those counties eligible for participation in the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community program. Corps members will carry out sustainable natural resource-based economic development activities identified by local communities and planned cooperatively by the communities, the West Virginia Division of Forestry, the West Virginia University Appalachian Hardwood Center, and the Northeastern Area's Economic Action Program. This concept is supported by the West Virginia Rural Development Council.

1, 4, 6
+ 5

The program's objective is to assist communities in planning for and implementing sustainable economic development strategies based on forest resources with an emphasis on value-added enterprises. Value-added forest based enterprises include, but are not limited to:

- Secondary Wood Products Manufacturing
- Tourism Development
- Gathering and Marketing Special Forest Products
- Manufacturing Recycled Products Based on Wood Fiber

The Forest Service commits \$380,000 (including funds for project related activities) to this section of Appalachia to fund 6 AmeriCorps positions as follows: (1) \$102,000 from U&CF funds for 1 AmeriCorps member, a wood processing specialist with a graduate degree, (2) \$176,000 of RCA program dollars for 3 AmeriCorps people, one a business development specialist with a graduate degree, one a travel and tourism specialist with a graduate degree, and one a marketing specialist with an undergraduate degree, and (3) \$102,000 of WIT money for 2 AmeriCorps positions, a environmental engineer with a graduate degree and one a civil engineer with an undergraduate degree.

#5

Four Corners

This area includes the states of AZ, CO, NM, and UT.

6
Prior to the initiation of the regional agency and community "Strengthening Partnerships for Active Rural Communities" (SPARCS) collaboration, the Forest Service was actively working with many partners in the 4 Corners area, including a dozen Community Action Teams, and projects with the Navajo, Zuni and Jicarilla Apache tribes. The intent of SPARCS was to build on the existing partnerships, as well as initiate actions that are of regional scope for the entire 4-Corners area that have broad-based community support. The agency's desire under the Americorps program, is to strongly support both its longer term partnerships at the individual community level, as well as to accelerate the projects identified in the last six months within the SPARCS process. 1,4+6

The 4 Corners Site is defined for the Americorps proposal as the lands contained within the boundaries of the 4 RC&D areas that touch at the 4 Corners Monument. Included within the area are the lands or influence zones of the San Juan, Rio Grande, Manti-La Sal, Carson, Cibola, Santa Fe, Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

The Forest Service plans to use AmeriCorps members to work on four projects as follows:

(1) Devise social, economic and demographic shared data bases to support sustainable economic development. Specifically these data bases are needed to establish baseline information regarding current local conditions and trends. They will be used to suggest and validate strategies for diversifying or strengthening local economies.

(2) Train people for community capacity building and leadership development throughout the 4-Corners region by conducting regional workshops and local seminars; increasing preparedness and skill to support sustainable rural economic development; and promoting dialogue and collaborative learning activities organized around regional development concerns, such as value-added forestry, agriculture and tourism.

(3) Develop a tribal tourism and 4 Corners Heritage Council throughout the 4-Corners area, with emphasis on tribal lands. All of the Tribes within the 4-Corners are pursuing tourism development as an economic development strategy. The Heritage Council was commissioned by the Governors of the four affected states with a charter to develop locally-based heritage tourism opportunities, with an emphasis on providing an economic boost to the tribes and rural communities. They have 4 mutual objectives (projects) for 1994-97:

- a. Community Tourism Development Plans on the Navajo Reservation
- b. Tourism / Recreation Facilities Site Plans on the Navajo Reservation.
- c. Train Native American Resource Interpreters
- d. Archeaeological Research, Guided Tours, and Ruin Stabilization on the Ute Mtn Ute Tribal Park.

(4) Develop a 4 Corner: is ss and expansion program + u a business retention and expansion (R&E) program for the Four Corner region. The purpose of this program is to identify and solve business problems related to survival, expansion and start-up and thereby to strengthen and/or increase economic activity. The program would require a full-time coordinator familiar with the area who would serve all the program participants.

The Forest Service allocates \$483,700 to fund 12 positions in the Four Corners area. All funds are RCA program dollars. The skills for the 12 positions are as follows: two AmeriCorps members with undergraduate degrees having a socio-economic and data base management background; one AmeriCorps member with a masters degree in community/regional planning; six AmeriCorps people - one regional planner requiring a masters degree, one community development specialist with a masters degree, one public or business administration with a masters degree, one landscape architect with an undergraduate degree, one recreation planner with an undergraduate degree, and one interpretation and environmental educator with an undergraduate degree; and three AmeriCorps members - one with a masters degree in business and economic development and two people with community planning skills and undergraduate degrees.

In the Four Corners area, AmeriCorps members will also be used to address projects contained in the State specific plans of AZ, CO, NM, and UT. Examples of State specific projects include a community and public land partnership in CO and a local community partnerships and networks effort in AZ and NM.

~~#8~~
#7
Minnesota

1, 4, 5, 6

Forest Service efforts are directed to those counties with the highest unemployment rates and with resources available for natural resource-based economic development. AmeriCorps members will carry out sustainable natural resource-based economic development activities identified by local communities and planned cooperatively by the communities, the Minnesota DNR, the Minnesota Department of Economic Development, the University of Minnesota, and the Northeastern Area's Economic Action Program.

Those counties where natural resource based industries make up more than 15% of the economy and with above state average unemployment will be targeted for initial efforts.

The program's objective is to assist communities in planning for and implementing sustainable economic development strategies based on natural resources with an emphasis on value-added enterprises. Value-added natural resource based enterprises include, but are not limited to:

- Secondary Wood Products Manufacturing
- Tourism Development
- Gathering and Marketing Special Forest Products
- Manufacturing Recycled Products Based on Wood Fiber

The Forest Service commits \$615,000 (including funds for project related activities) to Minnesota to fund 11 AmeriCorps positions as follows: (1) \$315,000 of RCA funds for 6 AmeriCorps positions, (2) \$100,000 of FPC&R dollars to fund 1 AmeriCorps individual, (3) \$100,000 of U&CF program dollars for 2 AmeriCorps people, and (4) \$100,000 of WIT money for 2 AmeriCorps positions. These AmeriCorps members will possess the following skills: marketing

specialist (undergraduate degree), business development specialist (graduate degree), computer specialist (undergraduate degree), travel/tourism specialist (graduate degree), industrial engineer/wood processing specialist (graduate degree), aquaculture specialist/fisheries biologist (undergraduate degree), industrial education specialist (graduate degree), environmental engineer (graduate degree), civil engineer (undergraduate degree), and operations management specialist (graduate degree).

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY
 =====
 AMERICORPS AUTHORITIES AND APPROPRIATIONS
 =====

PROJECTS -----	APPROPRIATIONS -----	AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION -----
1. SOUTH CAROLINA	STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY	Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 as amended by the 1990 Farm Bill Sec.3(a) and (b)
	① Forest Mgt and Utilization	
	② Economic Development	The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 Subtitle G Chapter 2377 (a) and (b)
1		
2. MISSISSIPPI DELTA	Forest Mgt and Utilization	Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 as amended by the 1990 Farm Bill Sec. 9 (a7) (b 3,6,7,and 8)
	⑤ Urban and Community For.	
	④ Rural Community Assistance	Sec. 2 (a2 and b2) Sec. 3 (a and 10A-B) Sec. 11 (c)
3. ALASKA	① Forest Mgt. and Utilization	Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 Sec. 9 (a 7) (b 3,6,7, and 8)
	⑤ Urban and Community For.	
	④ Rural Community Assistance	Sec. 2 (a2 and b2) Sec.3 (a and 10 A-B) Sec. 11 (c 1A)
	⑥ Economic Recovery	The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, Trade Act 1990 Subtitle G Chapter 1 Sec.2377 (a 1-4 and (b)

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|---|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 4. APPALACHIA
(Southern Region
Component) | ① | Forest Mgt. and Utilization | Cooperative Forestry
Assistance Act of 1978
Sec.3(a & 10 A-B) |
| | ④ | Rural Community Assistance | The Food, Agriculture,
Conservation, Trade Act
1990 Subtitle G Chapter 1
Sec. 2377 (a 1-4) and (b) |
| 5. APPALACHIA
(Northeastern Area
Component) | ① | Forest Mgt. and Utilization | Cooperative Forestry
Assistance Act of 1978 |
| | ⑤ | Urban and Community For. | Sec. 9 (b3 and d) |
| | ④ | Rural Community Assistance | Sec. 3(a & 10 A-B) |
| | ⑥ | Economic Recovery | The Food, Agriculture,
Conservation, and Trade
Act 1990. Subtitle G
Chapter 1 Sec. 2371 (a)
(b3) (c1) Sec. 2377 (a 1-
4) and (b) |
| 6. FOUR CORNERS
(REGIONS 2,3,4) | ① | Forest Mgt. and Utilization | Cooperative Forestry
Assistance Act of 1978 |
| | ④ | Rural Community Assistance | Sec. 3(a & 10 A-B) |
| | ⑥ | Economic Recovery | The Food, Agriculture,
Conservation, and Trade
Act 1990. Subtitle G
Chapter 1 Sec. 2371 (a)
(b3) (c1) Sec. 2377 (a1-
4) and (b) |

7. MINNESOTA

- ① Forest Mgt. and Utilization Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978
- ④ Rural Community Assistance Sec. 3(a & 10 A-B)
- ⑤ Urban and Community For. Sec. 9(a 7) (b 3,6,7,and 8)
- ⑥ Economic Recovery The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act 1990. Subtitle G Chapter 1 Sec. 2371 (a) (b3) (c1) Sec. 2377 (a1-4) and (b)

Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

Act of July 1, 1978 (P.L. 95-313, 92 Stat. 365 as amended; 16 U.S.C. 2101 (note), 2101-2114, 16 USC 1606 note, 16 USC 1606).

Note--This Act was amended by PL 100-418 to add Section 15 (redesignated as Section 18 by PL 100-418); amended by PL 101-624, Title XII, to add new sections and change some existing sections, and amended by PL 101-513 to conform with international provisions of the International Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990.

Sec. 1. This Act may be cited as the "Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978." (16 U.S.C. 2101 (note))

Findings, Purpose, and Policy

Sec. 2. (a) Findings.--Congress finds that--

(1) most of the productive forest land of the United States is in private, State, and local governmental ownership, and the capacity of the United States to produce renewable forest resources is significantly dependent on such non-Federal forest lands;

(2) adequate supplies of timber and other forest resources are essential to the United States, and adequate supplies are dependent on efficient methods for establishing, managing, and harvesting trees and processing, marketing, and using wood and wood products;

(3) nearly one-half of the wood supply of the United States comes from nonindustrial private timberlands and such percentage could rise with expanded assistance programs;

(4) managed forest lands provide habitats for fish and wildlife, as well as aesthetics, outdoor recreation opportunities, and other forest resources;

(5) the soil, water, and air quality of the United States can be maintained and improved through good stewardship of privately held forest resources;

(6) insects and diseases affecting trees occur and sometimes create emergency conditions on all land, whether Federal or non-Federal, and efforts to prevent and control such insects and diseases often require coordinated action by both Federal and non-Federal land managers;

(7) fires in rural areas threaten human lives, property, forests and other resources, and Federal-State cooperation in forest fire protection has proven effective and valuable;

(8) trees and forests are of great environmental and economic value to urban areas;

(9) managed forests contribute to improving the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields that are of broad benefit to society;

(10) over half the forest lands of the United States are in need of some type of conservation treatment;

(11) forest landowners are being faced with increased pressure to convert their forest land to development and other purposes;

(12) increased population pressures and user demands are being placed on private, as well as public, landholders to provide a wide variety of products and services, including fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetic quality, and recreational opportunities;

(13) stewardship of privately held forest resources requires a long-term commitment that can be fostered through local, State, and Federal governmental actions;

(14) the Department of Agriculture, through the coordinated efforts of its agencies with forestry responsibilities, cooperating with other Federal agencies, State foresters, and State political subdivisions, has the expertise and experience to assist private landowners in achieving individual goals and public benefits regarding forestry;

(15) the products and services resulting from nonindustrial private forest land stewardship provide income and employment that contribute to the economic health and diversity of rural communities;

(16) sustainable agroforestry systems and tree planting in semiarid lands can improve environmental quality and maintain farm yields and income; and

(18) the same forest resource supply, protection, and management issues that exist in the United States are also present on an international scale, and the forest and rangeland renewable resources of the world are threatened by deforestation due to conversion to agriculture of lands better suited to other purposes, over-grazing, over-harvesting, and other causes which pose a direct adverse threat to people, the global environment, and the world economy.

Note.-- P.L. 101-513 incorrectly referred to section 2(a) paragraph (16), (17) and added new paragraph (18). It should have referred to (15), (16), and added new paragraph (17). The result is that there now is no paragraph (17).

(b) Purpose.--It is the purpose of this Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary"), with respect to non-Federal forest lands in the United States, and forest lands in foreign countries, of the United States, to assist in--

(1) the establishment of a coordinated and cooperative Federal, State, and local forest stewardship program for management of the non-Federal forest lands;

(2) the encouragement of the production of timber;

(3) the prevention and control of insects and diseases affecting trees and forests;

(4) the prevention and control of rural fires;

(5) the efficient utilization of wood and wood residues, including the recycling of wood fiber;

(6) the improvement and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat;

(7) the planning and conduct of urban forestry programs;

(8) broadening existing forest management, fire protection, and insect and disease protection programs on non-Federal forest lands to meet the multiple use objectives of landowners in an environmentally sensitive manner;

(9) providing opportunities to private landowners to protect ecologically valuable and threatened non-Federal forest lands; and

(10) strengthening educational, technical, and financial assistance programs that provide assistance to owners of non-Federal forest lands in the United States, and forest lands in foreign countries,.

(c) Policy.--It is the policy of Congress that it is in the national interest for the Secretary to work through and in cooperation with State foresters, or equivalent State officials, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector in implementing Federal programs affecting non-Federal forest lands.

(13) stewardship of privately held forest resources requires a long-term commitment that can be fostered through local, State, and Federal governmental actions;

(14) the Department of Agriculture, through the coordinated efforts of its agencies with forestry responsibilities, cooperating with other Federal agencies, State foresters, and State political subdivisions, has the expertise and experience to assist private landowners in achieving individual goals and public benefits regarding forestry;

(15) the products and services resulting from nonindustrial private forest land stewardship provide income and employment that contribute to the economic health and diversity of rural communities;

(16) sustainable agroforestry systems and tree planting in semiarid lands can improve environmental quality and maintain farm yields and income; and

(18) the same forest resource supply, protection, and management issues that exist in the United States are also present on an international scale, and the forest and rangeland renewable resources of the world are threatened by deforestation due to conversion to agriculture of lands better suited to other purposes, over-grazing, over-harvesting, and other causes which pose a direct adverse threat to people, the global environment, and the world economy.

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(1) the establishment of a coordinated and cooperative Federal, State, and local forest stewardship program for management of the non-Federal forest lands;

(2) the encouragement of the production of timber;

(3) the prevention and control of insects and diseases affecting trees and forests;

(4) the prevention and control of rural fires;

(5) the efficient utilization of wood and wood residues, including the recycling of wood fiber;

(6) the improvement and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat;

(7) the planning and conduct of urban forestry programs;

(8) broadening existing forest management, fire protection, and insect and disease protection programs on non-Federal forest lands to meet the multiple use objectives of landowners in an environmentally sensitive manner;

(9) providing opportunities to private landowners to protect ecologically valuable and threatened non-Federal forest lands; and

(10) strengthening educational, technical, and financial assistance programs that provide assistance to owners of non-Federal forest lands in the United States, and forest lands in foreign countries,.

(c) Policy.--It is the policy of Congress that it is in the national interest for the Secretary to work through and in cooperation with State foresters, or equivalent State officials, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector in implementing Federal programs affecting non-Federal forest lands.

(d) Construction.--This Act shall be construed to complement the policies and direction under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.). (~~16 U.S.C. 2101~~)

Rural Forestry Assistance

1

Sec. 3. (a) Assistance to Forest Landowners and Others.--The Secretary may provide financial, technical, educational, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials, and State extension directors, to enable such officials to provide technical information, advice, and related assistance to private forest land owners and managers, vendors, forest resource operators, forest resource professionals, public agencies, and individuals to enable such persons to carry out activities that are consistent with the purposes of this Act, including--

(1) protecting, maintaining, enhancing, restoring, and preserving forest lands and the multiple values and uses that depend on such lands;

(2) identifying, protecting, maintaining, enhancing, and preserving wildlife and fish species, including threatened and endangered species, and their habitats;

(3) implementing forest management technologies;

(4) selecting, producing, and marketing alternative forest crops, products and services from forest lands;

(5) protecting forest land from damage caused by fire, insects, disease, and damaging weather;

(6) managing the rural-land and urban-land interface to balance the use of forest resources in and adjacent to urban and community areas;

(7) identifying and managing recreational forest land resources;

(8) identifying and protecting the aesthetic character of forest lands;

(9) protecting forest land from conversion to alternative uses; and

(10) the management of resources of forest lands, including--

(A) the harvesting, processing, and marketing of timber and other forest resources and the marketing and utilization of wood and wood products;

(B) the conversion of wood to energy for domestic, industrial, municipal, and other uses;

(C) the planning, management, and treatment of forest land, including site preparation, reforestation, thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural activities designed to increase the quantity and improve the quality of timber and other forest resources;

(D) ensuring that forest regeneration or reforestation occurs if needed to sustain long-term resource productivity;

(E) protecting and improving forest soil fertility and the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields; and

(F) encouraging the investment of a portion of the proceeds from the sale of timber or other forest resources in stewardship activities that preserve, protect, maintain, and enhance their forest land.

(b) State Forestry Assistance.--The Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters, or equivalent State officials, to--

(1) develop genetically improved tree seeds;

(2) develop and contract for the development of field arboretums, greenhouses, and tree nurseries, in cooperation with a State, to facilitate production and distribution of tree seeds and seedlings in States where the

(e) Allotments to Other Agencies.--The Secretary may, in the Secretary's discretion, and out of any money appropriated to implement this section, make allocations to Federal agencies having jurisdiction over lands held or owned by the United States in the amounts the Secretary determines necessary to prevent, retard, control, or suppress insect infestations and disease epidemics affecting trees on those lands.

(f) Limitation on Use of Appropriations.--

(1) Removing dead trees.--No amounts appropriated shall be used to--

(A) pay the cost of felling and removing dead or dying trees unless the Secretary determines that such actions are necessary to prevent the spread of a major insect infestation or disease epidemic severely affecting trees; or

(B) compensate for the value of any property injured, damaged, or destroyed by any cause.

(2) Insects and diseases affecting trees.--The Secretary may procure materials and equipment necessary to prevent, retard, control, or suppress insects and diseases affecting trees without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5), under whatever procedures the Secretary may prescribe, if the Secretary determines that such action is necessary and in the public interest.

(g) Partnerships.--The Secretary, by contract or cooperative agreement, may provide financial assistance through the Forest Service to State foresters or equivalent State officials, and private forestry and other organizations, to monitor forest health and protect the forest lands of the United States. The Secretary shall require contribution by the non-Federal entity in the amount and in the manner determined appropriate. Such non-Federal share may be in the form of cash, services, or equipment, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(h) Authorization of Appropriations.--There are authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsections (a) through (g).

(i) Integrated Pest Management.--

(1) In general.--Subject to the provisions of subsections (c) and (e), the Secretary shall, in cooperation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, subdivisions of States, or other entities on non-Federal lands (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the 'cooperator')--

(A) provide cost-share assistance to such cooperators who have established an acceptable integrated pest management strategy, as determined by the Secretary, that will prevent, retard, control, or suppress gypsy moth, southern pine beetle, spruce budworm infestations, or other major insect infestations in an amount no less than 50 percent nor greater than 75 percent of the cost of implementing such strategy; and

(B) upon request, assist the cooperator in the development of such integrated pest management strategy.

(2) Authorization of appropriations.--There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually \$10,000,000 to implement this subsection. (16 USC 2104)

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance

Sec. 9. (a) Findings.--The Congress finds that--

(1) the health of forests in urban areas and communities, including cities, their suburbs, and towns, in the United States is on the decline;

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(2) forest lands, shade trees, and open spaces in urban areas and communities improve the quality of life for residents;

(3) forest lands and associated natural resources enhance the economic value of residential and commercial property in urban and community settings;

(4) urban trees are 15 times more effective than forest trees at reducing the buildup of carbon dioxide and aid in promoting energy conservation through mitigation of the heat island effect in urban areas;

(5) tree plantings and ground covers such as low growing dense perennial turfgrass sod in urban areas and communities can aid in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, mitigating the heat island effect, and reducing energy consumption, thus contributing to efforts to reduce global warming trends;

(6) efforts to encourage tree plantings and protect existing open spaces in urban areas and communities can contribute to the social well-being and promote a sense of community in these areas; and

(7) strengthened research, education, technical assistance, and public information and participation in tree planting and maintenance programs for trees and complementary ground covers for urban and community forests are needed to provide for the protection and expansion of tree cover and open space in urban areas and communities.

(b) Purposes.--The purposes of this section are to--

(1) improve understanding of the benefits of preserving existing tree cover in urban areas and communities;

(2) encourage owners of private residences and commercial properties to maintain trees and expand forest cover on their properties;

(3) provide education programs and technical assistance to State and local organizations (including community associations and schools) in maintaining forested lands and individual trees in urban and community settings and identifying appropriate tree species and sites for expanding forest cover;

(4) provide assistance through competitive matching grants awarded to local units of government, approved organizations that meet the requirements of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or other local community tree volunteer groups, for urban and community forestry projects;

(5) implement a tree planting program to complement urban and community tree maintenance and open space programs and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, conserve energy, and improve air quality in addition to providing other environmental benefits;

(6) promote the establishment of demonstration projects in selected urban and community settings to illustrate the benefits of maintaining and creating forest cover and trees;

(7) enhance the technical skills and understanding of sound tree maintenance and arboricultural practices including practices involving the cultivation of trees, shrubs and complementary ground covers, of individuals involved in the planning, development, and maintenance of urban and community forests and trees; and

(8) expand existing research and educational efforts intended to improve understanding of--

(A) tree growth and maintenance, tree physiology and morphology, species adaptations, and forest ecology,

(B) the value of integrating trees and ground covers,

(C) the economic, environmental, social, and psychological benefits of trees and forest cover in urban and community environments, and

(D) the role of urban trees in conserving energy and mitigating the urban heat island.

(c) General Authority.--The Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials for the purpose of encouraging States to provide information and technical assistance to units of local government and others that will encourage cooperative efforts to plan urban forestry programs and to plant, protect, and maintain, and utilize wood from, trees in open spaces, greenbelts, roadside screens, parks, woodlands, curb areas, and residential developments in urban areas. In providing such assistance, the Secretary is authorized to cooperate with interested members of the public, including nonprofit private organizations. The Secretary is also authorized to cooperate directly with units of local government and others in implementing this section whenever the Secretary and the affected State forester or equivalent State official agree that direct cooperation would better achieve the purposes of this section.

(d) Program of Education and Technical Assistance.--The Secretary, in cooperation with State foresters and State extension directors or equivalent State officials and interested members of the public, including nonprofit private organizations, shall implement a program of education and technical assistance for urban and community forest resources. The program shall be designed to--

(1) assist urban areas and communities in conducting inventories of their forest resources, including inventories of the species, number, location, and health of trees in urban areas and communities, identifying opportunities for the establishment of plantings for the purposes of conserving energy, and determining the status of related resources (including fish and wildlife habitat, water resources, and trails);

(2) assist State and local organizations (including community associations and schools) in organizing and conducting urban and community forestry projects and programs;

(3) improve education and technical support in--

(A) selecting tree species appropriate for planting in urban and community environments and for promotion of energy conservation;

(B) providing for proper tree planting, maintenance, and protection in urban areas and communities;

(C) protecting individual trees and preserving existing open spaces with or without tree cover; and

(D) identifying opportunities for expanding tree cover in urban areas and communities;

(4) assist in the development of State and local management plans for trees and associated resources in urban areas and communities; and

(5) increase public understanding of the energy conservation, economic, social, environmental, and psychological values of trees and open space in urban and community environments and expand knowledge of the ecological relationships and benefits of trees and related resources in these environments.

(e) Procurement of Plant Materials.--The Secretary, in cooperation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, shall assist in identifying sources of plant materials and may procure or otherwise obtain such plant materials from public or private sources and may make such plant materials available to urban areas and communities for the purpose of reforesting open spaces, replacing dead and dying urban trees, promoting energy conservation, and providing other environmental benefits through expanding tree cover in urban areas and communities.

(f) Challenge Cost-Share Program.--

(1) In general.--The Secretary shall establish an urban and community forestry challenge cost-share program. Funds or other support shall be provided under such program to eligible communities and organizations, on a competitive basis, for urban and community forestry projects. The Secretary shall annually make awards under the program in accordance with criteria developed in consultation with, and after consideration of recommendations received from, the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council established under subsection (g). Each State forester or equivalent State official may make recommendations to the Secretary for awards under the program for project proposals in their State which meet such criteria. Awards shall be consistent with the cost-share requirements of this section.

(2) Cost-sharing.--The Federal share of support for a project provided under this subsection may not exceed 50 percent of the support for that project and shall be provided on a matching basis. The non-Federal share of such support may be in the form of cash, services, or in-kind contributions.

(g) Forestry Advisory Council.--

(1) Establishment and purpose.--The Secretary shall establish a National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Council') for the purpose of--

- (A) developing a national urban and community forestry action plan;
- (B) evaluating the implementation of that plan; and
- (C) developing criteria for, and submitting recommendations with respect to, the urban and community forestry challenge cost-share program under subsection (e) (f)

(2) Composition and operation.--

(A) Composition.--The Council shall be composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary, as follows:

- (i) 2 members representing national nonprofit forestry and conservation citizen organizations,
- (ii) 3 members, 1 each representing State, county, and city and town governments,
- (iii) 1 member representing the forest products, nursery, or related industries,
- (iv) 1 member representing urban forestry, landscape, or design consultants,
- (v) 2 members representing academic institutions with an expertise in urban and community forestry activities,
- (vi) 1 member representing State forestry agencies or equivalent State agencies,
- (vii) 1 member representing a professional renewable natural resource or arboricultural society,
- (viii) 1 member from the Extension Service,
- (ix) 1 member from the Forest Service, and
- (x) 2 members who are not officers or employees of any governmental body, 1 of whom is a resident of a community with a population of less than 50,000 as of the most recent census and both of whom have expertise and have been active in urban and community forestry.

(B) Vacancy.--A vacancy in the Council shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(C) Chairperson.--The Secretary shall select 1 member, from members appointed to the Council, who is not an officer or employee of the United States nor any State, county, city, or town government, who shall serve as the chairperson of the Council.

(D) Terms.--

(i) In general.--except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph, members shall be appointed for terms of 3 years, and no member may serve more than 2 consecutive terms on the Council.

(ii) Staggered terms.--Of the members first appointed--

(I) 5, including the chairperson and 2 governmental employees, shall be appointed for a term of 3 years,

(II) 5, including 2 governmental employees, shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, and

(III) 5, including 2 governmental employees, shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, as designated by the Secretary at the time of appointment.

(iii) Continuation.--Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term of the member's predecessor shall be appointed only for the remainder of such term. A member may serve after the expiration of the member's term until the member's successor has taken office.

(E) Compensation.--

(i) In general.--Except as provided in clause (ii), members of the Council shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for reasonable costs incurred while in the actual performance of duties vested in the Council.

(ii) Federal officers and employees.--Members of the Council who are full-time officers or employees of the United States shall receive no additional pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of their service on the Council.

(iii) Financial and administrative support.--The Secretary shall provide financial and administrative support for the Council.

(3) Urban and community forestry action plan.--Within 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection and every 10 years thereafter, the Council shall prepare a National Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan. The plan shall include (but not be limited to) the following:

(A) An assessment of the current status of urban forest resources in the United States.

(B) A review of urban and community forestry programs and activities in the United States, including education and technical assistance activities conducted by the Department of Agriculture, and other Federal agencies, the State forestry organizations, private industry, private nonprofit organizations, community and civic organizations and interested others.

(C) Recommendations for improving the status of the Nation's urban and community forest resources, including education and technical assistance and modifications required in existing programs and policies of relevant Federal agencies.

(D) A review of urban and community forestry research, including--

(i) a review of all ongoing research associated with urban and community forests, arboricultural practices, and the economic, social, and psychological benefits of trees and forest cover in urban and community environments being conducted by the Forest Service, other Federal agencies, and associated land grant colleges and universities;

(ii) recommendations for new and expanded research efforts directed toward urban and community forestry concerns; and

(iii) a summary of research priorities and an estimate of the funds needed to implement such research, on an annual basis, for the next 10 years.

(4) (E) Proposed criteria for evaluating proposed projects under the urban and community forestry challenge cost share program under subsection ~~(e)~~, with special emphasis given to projects that would demonstrate the benefits of improved forest management (including the maintenance and establishment of forest cover and trees) in urban areas and communities.

(F) An estimate of the resources needed to implement the National Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan for the succeeding 10 fiscal years.

(4) Amendment of the plan.--The plan may be amended by a majority of the Council members. Such amendments shall be incorporated into the Council's annual review of the plan submitted to the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(5) Review of the plan.--The Council shall submit the plan to the Secretary and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate upon its completion. Beginning no later than one year after the plan is submitted and annually thereafter, the Council shall submit a review of the plan to the Secretary no later than December 31. The review shall consist of--

(A) the Council's assessment of prior year accomplishments in research, education, technical assistance, and related activities in urban and community forestry;

(B) the Council's recommendations for research, education, technical assistance, and related activities in the succeeding year; and

(C) the Council's recommendations for the urban and community forestry challenge cost share projects to be funded during the succeeding year.

The review submitted to the Secretary shall be incorporated into the annual report required under section 3(d) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(d)).

(6) Detail of personnel.--Upon request of the Council, the Secretary is authorized to detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the Department of Agriculture to the Council to assist the Council in carrying out its duties under this Act.

(h) Definitions.--For the purposes of this section--

(1) the term 'Council' means the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council established under subsection ~~(f)~~; ^(g)

(2) the term 'plan' means the National Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan developed under subsection ~~(f)~~(3); and ^(g)

(3) the term 'urban and community area' includes cities, their suburbs, and towns.

(i) Authorization of Appropriations.--There are hereby authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1991 through 1995, and such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year thereafter, for the implementation of this section. (16 USC 2105)

Rural Fire Prevention and Control

Sec. 10. (a) Congress finds that--

assistance provided by the Secretary of Commerce under the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974.

(e)(1) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be needed to implement paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b) of this section.

(2)(A) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually \$70,000,000 to carry out subsection (b)(4). Of the total amount appropriated to carry out subsection (b)(4)--

(i) one-half shall be available only for State foresters or equivalent State officials, and through them to other agencies and individuals, of which not less than \$100,000 shall be made available to each State; and

(ii) one-half shall be available only for rural volunteer fire departments.

(B) The Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out with funds made available pursuant to this paragraph may not exceed 50 percent of the cost of that activity. The non-Federal share for such activity may be in the form of cash, services, or in kind contributions.

(f) There shall be established in the Treasury a special rural fire disaster fund that shall be immediately available to and used by the Secretary to supplement any other money available to carry out this section with respect to rural fire emergencies, as determined by the Secretary. The Secretary shall determine that State and local resources are fully used or will be fully used before expending money in the disaster fund to assist a State in which one or more rural fire emergencies exist. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be needed to establish and replenish the disaster fund established by this subsection.

(g) As used in this section--

(1) the term "rural volunteer fire department" means any organized, not for profit, fire protection organization that provides service primarily to a community or city with a population of 10,000 or less or to a rural area, as defined by the Secretary, whose firefighting personnel is 80 percent or more volunteer, and that is recognized as a fire department by the laws of the State; and

(2) the term "mobilization" means any activity in which one fire fighting organization assists another that has requested assistance. (16 USC 2106)

Management Assistance, Planning Assistance, and Technology Implementation

Sec. 11. (a) To aid in achieving maximum effectiveness in the programs and activities conducted under this Act, the Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials for the development of stronger and more efficient State organizations that will enable them to fulfill better their responsibilities for the protection and management of non-federal forest lands. Assistance under this subsection may include, but will not be limited to, assistance in matters related to organization management, program planning and management, budget and fiscal accounting services, personnel training and management, information services, and recordkeeping. Assistance under this subsection may be extended only upon request by State foresters or equivalent State officials.

(b) To ensure that data regarding forest lands are available for and effectively presented in State and federal natural resources planning, the

Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials in the assembly, analysis, display, and reporting of State forest resources data, in the training of State forest resources planners, and in participating in natural resources planning at the State and federal levels. The Secretary shall restrict assistance under this subsection to the implementation of the forestry aspects of State and federal natural resources planning conducted under other laws. This subsection shall not be construed, in any way whatsoever, as extending, limiting, amending, repealing, or otherwise affecting any other law or authority.

(c) To ensure that new technology is introduced, new information is integrated into existing technology, and forest resources research findings are promptly made available to State forestry personnel, private forest landowners and managers, vendors, forest operators, wood processors, public agencies, and individuals, the Secretary is authorized to carry out a program of technology implementation. 4/

(1) In implementing this subsection, the Secretary is authorized to work through State foresters or equivalent State officials, and, if the State forester or equivalent State official is unable to deliver these services, the Secretary is authorized to act through appropriate United States Department of Agriculture agencies, subdivisions of States, agencies, institutions, organizations, or individuals to--

(A) strengthen technical assistance and service programs of cooperators participating in programs under this Act by applying research results and conducting pilot projects and field tests of management and utilization practices, equipment, and technologies, related to programs and activities authorized under this Act;

(B) study the effects of tax laws, methods, and practices on forest management;

(C) develop and maintain technical information systems in support of programs and activities authorized under this Act;

(D) test, evaluate, and seek registration of chemicals for use in implementing the programs and activities authorized under this Act;

(E) conduct other activities, including training of State forestry personnel whom the Secretary deems necessary to ensure that the programs and activities authorized under this Act are responsive to special problems, unique situations, and changing conditions.

(2) The Secretary may make funds available to cooperators under this Act without regard to the provisions of section 3648 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 529), which prohibits advances of public money.

(3) The Secretary shall use forest resources planning committees at National and State levels in implementing this subsection.

(d) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be needed to implement this section. (16 U.S.C. 2107)

Consolidated Payments

Sec. 12. (a) To provide flexibility in funding activities authorized under this Act, the Secretary may, upon the request of any State, consolidate the annual financial assistance payment to that State under this Act, in lieu of functional cost sharing mechanisms, formulas, or agreements. However, consolidated payments shall not include money appropriated under section 4 of this Act or money from any special Treasury fund established under this Act.

CHAPTER/SECTION DESCRIPTIONS

CHAPTER 1 - FORESTRY RURAL REVITALIZATION

Sec. 2371. Forestry Rural Revitalization

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Calls for Extension Service and Cooperative Extension System, in consultation with Forest Service, to establish and implement educational programs and provide technical assistance for economic development and global marketing purposes. Describes types of programs to be provided.

CHAPTER 2 - NATIONAL FOREST-DEPENDENT RURAL COMMUNITIES

Sec. 2372. Short Title

States title of chapter as being "National Forest-Dependent Rural Communities Economic Diversification Act of 1990."

Sec. 2373. Findings and Purposes

Outlines 7 findings and 3 purposes. Purposes focus on helping economically dependent rural communities located in or near National Forests that are economically disadvantaged to diversify local economic bases.

Sec. 2374. Definitions

Provides 4 key definitions for: action team, economically disadvantaged, rural community, and Secretary. Definitions determine eligibility for participation by communities in program.

Sec. 2375. Rural Forestry and Economic Diversification Action Teams

Covers requests for assistance, establishment and organization of action teams, cooperation needed, eligibility relative to funding assistance under Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, and approval of action plans.

Sec. 2376. Action Plan Implementation

Includes upgrading existing industries to use forest resources more efficiently and expanding economic bases of communities to reduce dependency on forest resources. Allows for making grants and entering into cooperative agreements and contracts to provide assistance called for in action plans. Limits Federal contribution to 80 percent of the total cost of the plan. States that implementation of action plans is to be consistent with other land and resource management plans.

Sec. 2377. Training and Education

Allows for developing and conducting education programs in carrying out action plans.

Sec. 2378. Loans to Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities

Allows Secretary to make loans for developing and implementing action plans. [USDA Farmers Home Administration has lead on section]

Sec. 2379. Authorization of Appropriations and Spending Authority

Provides authorization of appropriations for sums as may be necessary to carry out purposes of chapter.

SUBTITLE G--RURAL REVITALIZATION THROUGH FORESTRY

CHAPTER 1--FORESTRY RURAL REVITALIZATION

SEC. 2371. FORESTRY RURAL REVITALIZATION.

(a) Establishment of Economic Development and Global Marketing Program.-The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Extension Service and the Cooperative Extension System, and in consultation with the Forest Service, shall establish and implement educational programs and provide technical assistance to assist businesses, industries, and policymakers to create jobs, raise incomes, and increase public revenues in manners consistent with environmental concerns.

(b) Activities.-Each program established under subsection (a) shall-

(1) transfer technologies to natural resource-based industries in the United States to make such industries more efficient, productive, and competitive;

(2) assist businesses to identify global marketing opportunities, conduct business on an international basis, and market themselves more effectively; and

(3) train local leaders in strategic community economic development.

(c) Types of programs.-The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish specific programs under subsection (a) to-

(1) deliver educational services focused on community economic analysis, economic diversification, economic impact analysis, retention and expansion of existing commodity and noncommodity industries, amenity resource and tourism development, and entrepreneurship focusing on forest lands and rural communities;

(2) use Cooperative Extension System databases and analytical tools to help communities diversify their economic bases, add value locally to raw forest product materials, and retain revenues by helping to develop local businesses and industries to supply forest products locally; and

(3) use the full resources of the Cooperative Extension Service, including land-grant universities and county offices, to promote economic development that is sustainable and environmentally sound.

CHAPTER 2--NATIONAL FOREST-DEPENDENT RURAL COMMUNITIES

SEC. 2372. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the 'National Forest-Dependent Rural Communities Economic Diversification Act of 1990'.

SEC. 2373. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) Findings.-The Congress finds that-

(1) the economic well-being of rural America is vital to our national growth and prosperity;

(2) the economic well being of many rural communities depends upon the goods and services that are derived from national forests;

(3) the economies of many of these communities suffer from a lack of industrial and business diversity;

(4) this lack of diversity is particularly serious in communities whose economies are predominantly dependent on timber and recreation resources and where management decisions made on the national forests by Federal and private organizations may disrupt the supply of those resources;

(5) the Forest Service has expertise and resources that could be directed to promote modernization and economic diversification of existing industries and services based on forest resources;

(6) the Forest Service has the technical expertise to provide leadership, in cooperation with other governmental agencies and the private sector, to assist rural communities dependent upon national forest resources to upgrade existing industries and diversify by developing new economic activity in non-forest-related industries; and

(7) technical assistance, training, education, and other assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture can be targeted to provide immediate help to those rural communities in greatest need.

(b) Purposes.-The purposes of this chapter are-

(1) to provide assistance to rural communities that are located in or near national forests and that are economically dependent upon forest resources or are likely to be economically disadvantaged by Federal or private sector land management practices;

(2) to aid in diversifying such communities' economic bases; and

(3) to improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of rural America.

SEC. 2374. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter:

(1) The term "action team" means a rural forestry and economic diversification action team established by the Secretary pursuant to section 2375(b).

(2) The term "economically disadvantaged" means economic hardship due to the loss of jobs or income (labor or proprietor) derived from forestry, the wood products industry, or related commercial enterprises such as recreation and tourism in the national forest.

(3) The term "rural community" means-

(A) any town, township, municipality, or other similar unit of general purpose local government having a population of not more than 10,000 individuals (according to the latest decennial census) that is located in a county where at least 15 percent of the total primary and secondary labor and proprietor income is derived from forestry, wood products, and forest-related industries such as recreation and tourism; or

(B) any county or similar unit of general purpose local government having a population of not more than 22,550 individuals (according to the latest decennial census) in

which at least 15 percent of the total primary and secondary labor and proprietor income is derived from forestry, wood products, and forest-related industries such as recreation and tourism, that is located within the boundary, or within 100 miles of the boundary, of a national forest.

(4) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 2375. RURAL FORESTRY AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION ACTION TEAMS.

(a) Requests for Assistance.-Economically disadvantaged rural communities may request assistance from the Secretary in identifying opportunities that will promote economic improvement and diversification and revitalization.

(b) Establishment.-Upon request, the Secretary may establish rural forestry and economic diversification action teams to prepare an action plan to provide technical assistance to economically disadvantaged communities. The action plan shall identify opportunities to promote economic diversification and enhance local economies now dependent upon national forest resources. The action team may also identify opportunities to use value-added products and services derived from national forest resources.

(c) Organization.-The Secretary shall design and organize any action team established pursuant to subsection (b) to meet the unique needs of the requesting rural community. Each action team shall be directed by an employee of the Forest Service and may include personnel from other agencies within the Department of Agriculture, from other Federal and State departments and agencies, and from the private sector.

(d) Cooperation.-In preparing action plans, the Secretary may cooperate with State and local governments, universities, private companies, individuals, and nonprofit organizations for procurement of services determined necessary or desirable.

(e) Eligibility.-The Secretary shall ensure that no substantially similar geographical or defined local area in a State receives a grant for technical assistance to an economically disadvantaged community under this chapter and a grant for assistance under a designated rural development program, as defined in section 365(b)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, during any continuous five-year period.

(f) Approval.-After reviewing requests under this section for financial and economic feasibility and viability, the Secretary shall approve and implement in accordance with section 2376 those action plans that will achieve the purposes of this chapter.

SEC. 2376. ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) In General.-Action plans shall be implemented, insofar as practicable, to upgrade existing industries to use forest resources more efficiently and to expand the economic base of rural communities so as to alleviate or reduce their dependence on national forest resources.

(b) Assistance.-To implement action plans, the Secretary may make grants and enter into cooperative agreements and contracts to provide necessary technical and related assistance. Such grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts may be with the affected rural community, State and local governments, universities, corporations, and other persons.

(c) Limitation.-The Federal contribution to the overall

implementation of an act plan shall not exceed 80 per cent of the total cost of the plan, including administrative and other costs. In calculating the Federal contribution, the Secretary shall take into account the fair market value of equipment, personnel, and services provided.

(d) Available Authority.-The Secretary may use the Secretary's authority under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.) and other Federal, State, and local governmental authorities in implementing action plans.

(e) Consistency With Forest Plans.-The implementation of action plans shall be consistent with land and resource management plans.

SEC. 2377. TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

(a) Programs.-In furtherance of an action plan, the Secretary may use the Extension Service and other appropriate agencies of the Department of Agriculture to develop and conduct education programs that assist businesses, elected or appointed officials, and individuals in rural communities to deal with the effects of a transition from being economically disadvantaged to economic diversification. These programs may include-

- (1) community economic analysis and strategic planning;
- (2) methods for improving and retooling enterprises now dependent on national forest resources;
- (3) methods for expanding enterprises and creating new economic opportunities by emphasizing economic opportunities in other industries or services not dependent on national forest resources; and
- (4) assistance in the evaluation, counseling, and enhancement of vocational skills, training in basic and remedial literacy skills, assistance in job seeking skills, and training in starting or operating a business enterprise.

(b) Existing Educational and Training Programs.-Insofar as practicable, the Secretary shall use existing Federal, State, and private education resources in carrying out these programs.

SEC. 2378. LOANS TO ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED RURAL COMMUNITIES.

(a) In General.-The Secretary, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary shall establish, may make loans to economically disadvantaged rural communities for the purposes of securing technical assistance and services to aid in the development and implementation of action plans, including planning for-

- (1) improving existing facilities in the community that may generate employment or revenue;
- (2) expanding existing infrastructure, facilities, and services to capitalize on opportunities to diversify economies now dependent on national forest resources; and
- (3) supporting the development of new industries or commercial ventures unrelated to national forest resources.

(b) Interest Rates.-The interest rates on a loan made pursuant to this section shall be as determined by the Secretary, but not in excess of the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with remaining periods to maturity comparable to the maturity of such loan, plus not to exceed 1 percent,

as determined by the Secretary, and rounded to the nearest one-eighth of 1 percent.

SEC. 2379. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS AND SPENDING AUTHORITY.

(a) Authorization of Appropriations.-Except as provided in subsection (b), there are authorized to be appropriated-

(1) an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the sum of-

(A) the sums received by the Secretary from sales of timber and other products of the forests; and

(B) user fees paid in connection with the use of forest lands; and

(2) such additional sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(b) Limitation on Authorization.-Subsection (a) shall not in any way affect payments to the States pursuant to chapter 192 of the Act of May 23, 1908 (16 U.S.C. 500).

(c) Spending Authority.-Any spending authority (as defined in section 401 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) provided in this chapter shall be effective for any fiscal year only to such extent or in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts.

Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

Act of July 1, 1978 (P.L. 95-313, 92 Stat. 365 as amended; 16 U.S.C. 2101(note), 2101-2114, 16 U.S.C. 1606(note), 16 U.S.C. 1606).

Note--This Act was amended by PL 100-418 to add Section 15 (redesignated as Section 18 by PL 100-418); amended by PL 101-624, Title XII, to add new sections and change some existing sections, by PL 101-513 to conform with international provisions of the International Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990, and some technical amendments by PL 102-237.

Sec. 1. This Act may be cited as the "Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978." (16 U.S.C. 2101(note))

Findings, Purpose, and Policy

Sec. 2. (a) Findings.--Congress finds that--

(1) most of the productive forest land of the United States is in private, State, and local governmental ownership, and the capacity of the United States to produce renewable forest resources is significantly dependent on such non-Federal forest lands;

(2) adequate supplies of timber and other forest resources are essential to the United States, and adequate supplies are dependent on efficient methods for establishing, managing, and harvesting trees and processing, marketing, and using wood and wood products;

(3) nearly one-half of the wood supply of the United States comes from nonindustrial private timberlands and such percentage could rise with expanded assistance programs;

(4) managed forest lands provide habitats for fish and wildlife, as well as aesthetics, outdoor recreation opportunities, and other forest resources;

(5) the soil, water, and air quality of the United States can be maintained and improved through good stewardship of privately held forest resources;

(6) insects and diseases affecting trees occur and sometimes create emergency conditions on all land, whether Federal or non-Federal, and efforts to prevent and control such insects and diseases often require coordinated action by both Federal and non-Federal land managers;

(7) fires in rural areas threaten human lives, property, forests and other resources, and Federal-State cooperation in forest fire protection has proven effective and valuable;

(8) trees and forests are of great environmental and economic value to urban areas;

(9) managed forests contribute to improving the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields that are of broad benefit to society;

(10) over half the forest lands of the United States are in need of some type of conservation treatment;

(11) forest landowners are being faced with increased pressure to convert their forest land to development and other purposes;

(12) increased population pressures and user demands are being placed on private, as well as public, landholders to provide a wide variety of products and services, including fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetic quality, and recreational opportunities;

(13) stewardship of privately held forest resources requires a long-term commitment that can be fostered through local, State, and Federal governmental actions;

(14) the Department of Agriculture, through the coordinated efforts of its agencies with forestry responsibilities, cooperating with other Federal agencies, State foresters, and State political subdivisions, has the expertise and experience to assist private landowners in achieving individual goals and public benefits regarding forestry;

(15) the products and services resulting from nonindustrial private forest land stewardship provide income and employment that contribute to the economic health and diversity of rural communities;

(16) sustainable agroforestry systems and tree planting in semiarid lands can improve environmental quality and maintain farm yields and income; and

(18) the same forest resource supply, protection, and management issues that exist in the United States are also present on an international scale, and the forest and rangeland renewable resources of the world are threatened by deforestation due to conversion to agriculture of lands better suited to other purposes, over-grazing, over-harvesting, and other causes which pose a direct adverse threat to people, the global environment, and the world economy.

Note.-- P.L. 101-513 incorrectly referred to section 2(a) paragraph (16), (17) and added new paragraph (18). It should have referred to (15), (16), and added new paragraph (17). The result is that there now is no paragraph (17).

(b) **Purpose.**--It is the purpose of this Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary"), with respect to non-Federal forest lands in the United States, and forest lands in foreign countries, of the United States, to assist in--

(1) the establishment of a coordinated and cooperative Federal, State, and local forest stewardship program for management of the non-Federal forest lands;

(2) the encouragement of the production of timber;

(3) the prevention and control of insects and diseases affecting trees and forests;

(4) the prevention and control of rural fires;

(5) the efficient utilization of wood and wood residues, including the recycling of wood fiber;

(6) the improvement and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat;

(7) the planning and conduct of urban forestry programs;

(8) broadening existing forest management, fire protection, and insect and disease protection programs on non-Federal forest lands to meet the multiple use objectives of landowners in an environmentally sensitive manner;

(9) providing opportunities to private landowners to protect ecologically valuable and threatened non-Federal forest lands; and

(10) strengthening educational, technical, and financial assistance programs that provide assistance to owners of non-Federal forest lands in the United States, and forest lands in foreign countries,.

(c) **Policy.**--It is the policy of Congress that it is in the national interest for the Secretary to work through and in cooperation with State foresters, or equivalent State officials, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector in implementing Federal programs affecting non-Federal forest lands.

(d) **Construction.**--This Act shall be construed to complement the policies and direction under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.). (16 U.S.C. 2101)

Rural Forestry Assistance

Sec. 3. (a) Assistance to Forest Landowners and Others.--The Secretary may provide financial, technical, educational, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials, and State extension directors, to enable such officials to provide technical information, advice, and related assistance to private forest land owners and managers, vendors, forest resource operators, forest resource professionals, public agencies, and individuals to enable such persons to carry out activities that are consistent with the purposes of this Act, including--

- (1) protecting, maintaining, enhancing, restoring, and preserving forest lands and the multiple values and uses that depend on such lands;
- (2) identifying, protecting, maintaining, enhancing, and preserving wildlife and fish species, including threatened and endangered species, and their habitats;
- (3) implementing forest management technologies;
- (4) selecting, producing, and marketing alternative forest crops, products and services from forest lands;
- (5) protecting forest land from damage caused by fire, insects, disease, and damaging weather;
- (6) managing the rural-land and urban-land interface to balance the use of forest resources in and adjacent to urban and community areas;
- (7) identifying and managing recreational forest land resources;
- (8) identifying and protecting the aesthetic character of forest lands;
- (9) protecting forest land from conversion to alternative uses; and
- (10) the management of resources of forest lands, including--
 - (A) the harvesting, processing, and marketing of timber and other forest resources and the marketing and utilization of wood and wood products;
 - (B) the conversion of wood to energy for domestic, industrial, municipal, and other uses;
 - (C) the planning, management, and treatment of forest land, including site preparation, reforestation, thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural activities designed to increase the quantity and improve the quality of timber and other forest resources;
 - (D) ensuring that forest regeneration or reforestation occurs if needed to sustain long-term resource productivity;
 - (E) protecting and improving forest soil fertility and the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields; and
 - (F) encouraging the investment of a portion of the proceeds from the sale of timber or other forest resources in stewardship activities that preserve, protect, maintain, and enhance their forest land.

(b) State Forestry Assistance.--The Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters, or equivalent State officials, to--

- (1) develop genetically improved tree seeds;
- (2) develop and contract for the development of field arboretums, greenhouses, and tree nurseries, in cooperation with a State, to facilitate production and distribution of tree seeds and seedlings in States where the Secretary determines that there is an inadequate capacity to carry out present and future reforestation needs;
- (3) procure, produce, and distribute tree seeds and trees for the purpose of establishing forests, windbreaks, shelterbelts, woodlots, and other plantings;
- (4) plant tree seeds and seedlings on non-Federal forest lands that are suitable for the production of timber, recreation, and for other benefits associated with the growing of trees;

(5) plan, organize, and implement measures on non-Federal forest lands, including thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural activities designed to increase the quantity and improve the quality of trees and other vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, and water yielded therefrom; and

(6) protect or improve soil fertility on non-Federal forest lands and the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields therefrom.

(c) Implementation.--In implementing this section, the Secretary shall cooperate with other Federal, State, and local natural resource management agencies, universities and the private sector.

(d) Authorization of Appropriations.--There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section. (16 U.S.C. 2102)

Forestry Incentives

Sec. 4. (a) The Secretary is authorized to develop and implement a forestry incentives program to encourage the development, management, and protection of nonindustrial private forest lands. The purposes of such program shall be to encourage landowners to apply practices that will provide for afforestation of suitable open lands, reforestation of cutover or other nonstocked or understocked forest lands, timber stand improvement practices, including thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural treatments, and forest resources management and protection, so as to provide for the production of timber and other forest resources associated therewith.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the term "private forest land" means land capable of producing crops of industrial wood and owned by any private individual, group, Indian tribe or other native group, association, corporation, or other legal entity.

(c) Landowners shall be eligible for cost sharing under this program if they own one thousand acres or less of private forest land, except that the Secretary may approve cost sharing with landowners owning more than one thousand acres of such land if significant public benefits will accrue. In no case, however, may the Secretary approve cost sharing with landowners owning more than five thousand acres of private forest land.

(d) The Secretary shall administer this section in accordance with the regulations the Secretary shall develop in consultation with the committee described in section 13(c) of this Act. Regulations issued under Title X of the Agricultural Act of 1970, as added by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, to the extent not inconsistent with the provisions of this section, shall remain in effect until revoked, or amended by regulations issued under this subsection. The regulations issued under this subsection shall include guidelines for the administration of this section at the federal and State levels, and shall identify the measures and activities eligible for cost sharing under this section.

(e) Individual forest management plans developed by the landowner in cooperation with and approved by the State forester or equivalent State official shall be the basis for agreements between the landowner and the Secretary under this section. The Secretary shall encourage participating States to use private agencies, consultants, organizations, and firms to the extent feasible for the preparation of individual forest management plans.

(f) In return for the agreement by the landowner, the Secretary shall agree to share the cost of implementing those forestry practices and measures set forth in the agreement for which the Secretary determines that cost sharing is appropriate. The portion of such cost (including labor) to be shared shall be that portion that the Secretary determines is necessary and appropriate to implement the forestry practices and measures under the agreement, but not more than 75 percent of the actual costs incurred by the landowner. The maximum amount any individual may receive annually under the program authorized by this section shall be determined by the Secretary in consultation with the committee described in section 13(c) of this Act.

(g) The Secretary shall, for the purposes of this section, distribute funds available for cost sharing among the States only after assessing the public benefit incident thereto, and after giving appropriate consideration to (1) the acreage of private commercial forest land in each State, (2) the potential productivity of such land, (3) the number of ownerships eligible for cost sharing in each State, (4) the need for reforestation, timber stand improvement, or other forestry investments on such ownerships, and (5) the enhancement of other forest resources.

(h) The Secretary may, if the Secretary determines that doing so will contribute to the effective and equitable administration of the program authorized by this section, use an advertising and bid procedure in determining the lands in any area to be covered by agreements under this section.

(i) In implementing this section, the Secretary may use the authorities provided in sections 1001, 1002, 1004, and 1008 of the Agricultural Act of 1970, as added by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973.

(j) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be needed to implement this section, including funds necessary for technical assistance and expenses associated therewith.

(k) The program developed by the Secretary under this section shall terminate on December 31, 1995. (16 U.S.C. 2103)

Forest Stewardship Program

Sec. 5. (a) Establishment.--The Secretary, in consultation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, shall establish a Forest Stewardship Program (hereafter referred to in this section as the "Program") to encourage the long-term stewardship of nonindustrial private forest lands by assisting owners of such lands to more actively manage their forest and related resources by utilizing existing State, Federal, and private sector resource management expertise and assistance programs.

(b) Goal.--The goal of the Program shall be to enter at least 25,000,000 acres of nonindustrial private forest lands in the Program by December 31, 1995.

(c) Definition.--For the purposes of this section, the term "nonindustrial private forest lands" means rural, as determined by the Secretary, lands with existing tree cover, or suitable for growing trees, and owned by any private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian tribe, or other private legal entity.

(d) Implementation.--In carrying out the Program the Secretary, in consultation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, shall provide financial, technical, educational, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials, including assistance to help such State foresters or equivalent officials to provide financial assistance to other State and local natural resource entities, both public and private, and land-grant universities for the delivery of information and professional assistance to owners of nonindustrial private forest lands. Such information and assistance shall be directed to help such owners understand and evaluate alternative actions they might take, including--

(1) managing and enhancing the productivity of timber, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, wetlands, recreational resources, and the aesthetic value of forest lands;

(2) investing in practices to protect, maintain, and enhance the resources identified in paragraph (1);

(3) ensuring that afforestation, reforestation, improvement of poorly stocked stands, timber stand improvement, practices necessary to improve seedling growth and survival, and growth enhancement practices occur where needed to enhance and sustain the long-term productivity of timber and nontimber forest resources to help meet future public demand for all forest resources and provide the environmental benefits that result; and

(4) protecting their forests from damage caused by fire, insects, disease, and damaging weather.

(e) Eligibility.--All nonindustrial private forest lands that are not in management under Federal, State, or private sector financial and technical assistance programs existing on the date of enactment of this section are eligible for assistance under the Program. Nonindustrial private forest lands that are managed under such existing programs are eligible for assistance under the Program if forest management activities are expanded and enhanced and the landowner agrees to meet the requirements of this Act.

(f) Duties of Owners.--To enter forest land into the Program, landowners shall--

(1) prepare and submit to the State forester or equivalent State official a forest stewardship plan that meets the requirements of this section and that--

(A) is prepared by a professional resource manager;

(B) identifies and describes actions to be taken by the landowner to protect soil, water, range, aesthetic quality, recreation, timber, water, and fish and wildlife resources on such land in a manner that is compatible with the objectives of the landowner; and

(C) is approved by the State forester, or equivalent State official; and

(2) agree that all activities conducted on such land shall be consistent with the stewardship plan.

(g) Stewardship Recognition.--The Secretary, in consultation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, is encouraged to develop an appropriate recognition program for landowners who practice stewardship management on their lands, with an appropriate, special recognition symbol and title.

(h) Authorization of Appropriations.--There are hereby authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1991 through 1995, and such sums as may be necessary thereafter, to carry out this section.

(16 U.S.C. 2103a)

Stewardship Incentive Program

Sec. 6. (a) Establishment.--The Secretary, in consultation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, shall establish a program within the Forest Service, to be known as the "Stewardship Incentive Program" (hereafter referred to in this section as the "Program"), to meet the objectives and goals of section 5.

(b) Eligibility.--

(1) In general.--Owners of nonindustrial private forest lands shall be eligible for cost-sharing assistance under the Program if such owners--

(A) have developed an approved forest stewardship plan pursuant to section 5(f);

(B) agree to implement approved activities pursuant to paragraph (4) in accordance with the plan for a period of not less than 10 years unless the State forester or equivalent State official approves a modification to such plan; and

(C) own not more than 1,000 acres of nonindustrial private forest land, except that the Secretary may approve the provision of cost-sharing assistance to landowners that own more than 1,000 acres of such land if the Secretary determines that significant public benefits will accrue from such approval.

(2) Limitation.--

(A) Secretary.--The Secretary shall not approve of the provision of cost-sharing assistance to any landowner owning in excess of 5,000 acres of nonindustrial private forest land.

(B) Landowner.--A landowner shall not receive cost-share assistance for management on acreage under this section if such landowner receives cost-share assistance on the same acreage under section 4.

(3) State priorities.--The Secretary in consultation with the State forester, or equivalent State official, other State natural resource management agencies, and the State Coordinating Committee established pursuant to section 19(b), may develop State priorities for cost sharing under this section that will promote unique forest management objectives in that State.

(4) Approved activities.--

(A) Development.--The Secretary, in consultation with the State Coordinating Committees established pursuant to section 19(b), shall develop a list of approved forest activities and practices that will be eligible for cost-share assistance under the Program within each State.

(B) Type of activities.--The Secretary, in developing a list of approved activities and practices under subparagraph (A), shall attempt to achieve landowner and public purposes including--

(i) the establishment, management, maintenance, and restoration of forests for shelterbelts, windbreaks, aesthetic quality, and other conservation purposes;

(ii) the sustainable growth and management of forests for timber production;

(iii) the protection, restoration, and use of forest wetlands;

(iv) the enhanced management and maintenance of native vegetation on other lands vital to water quality;

(v) the growth and management of trees for energy conservation purposes;

(vi) the management and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat;

(vii) the management of outdoor recreational opportunities; and

(viii) other activities approved by the Secretary.

(c) Reimbursement of Eligible Activities.--

(1) In general.--The Secretary shall share the cost of developing and carrying out the forest stewardship plan under section 5(f), and in implementing the approved activities that the Secretary determines are appropriate and in the public interest, with a landowner who has entered in an agreement to place the forest land of such owner into the Program.

(2) Rate.--The Secretary, in consultation with the State forester, or equivalent State official, shall determine the appropriate reimbursement rate for cost-share payments under paragraph (1) and the schedule for making such payments.

(3) Maximum.--The Secretary shall not make cost-share payments under this subsection to a landowner in an amount in excess of 75 percent of the total cost to such landowner of developing the forest stewardship plan and implementing eligible activities under the plan. The maximum payments to any one landowner shall be determined by the Secretary.

(d) Recapture.--

(1) In general.--The Secretary shall establish and implement a mechanism to recapture payments made to a landowner in the event that the landowner fails to implement any approved activity specified in the forest stewardship plan for which such owner received cost-share payments.

(2) Additional provision.--The provisions of paragraph (1) are in addition to any other provision available.

(e) Distribution.--The Secretary shall distribute funds available for cost sharing under this section among the States only after assessing the public benefit incident to such distribution and after giving appropriate consideration to--

- (1) the total acreage of nonindustrial private forest land in each State;
- (2) the potential productivity of such land;
- (3) the number of owners eligible for cost sharing in each State;
- (4) the need for reforestation in each State;
- (5) the opportunities to enhance nontimber resources on such forest lands; and
- (6) the anticipated demand for timber and nontimber resources in each State.

(f) Authorization of Appropriations.--There are authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1991 through 1995, and such sums as may be necessary thereafter, to carry out this section.

(16 U.S.C. 2103b)

Forest Legacy Program

Sec. 7. (a) Establishment and Purpose.--The Secretary shall establish a program, to be known as the Forest Legacy Program, in cooperation with appropriate State, regional, and other units of government for the purposes of ascertaining and protecting environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to nonforest uses and, through the use of conservation easements and other mechanisms, for promoting forest land protection and other conservation opportunities. Such purposes shall also include the protection of important scenic, cultural, fish, wildlife, and recreational resources, riparian areas, and other ecological values.

(b) State and Regional Forest Legacy Programs.--The Secretary shall exercise the authority under subsection (a) in conjunction with State or regional programs that the Secretary deems consistent with this section.

(c) Interests in Land.--In addition to the authorities granted under section 6 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 515), and section 11(a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1956 (7 U.S.C. 428a(a)), the Secretary may acquire from willing landowners lands and interests therein, including conservation easements and rights of public access, for Forest Legacy Program purposes. The Secretary shall not acquire conservation easements with title held in common ownership with any other entity.

(d) Implementation.--

(1) In general.--Lands and interests therein acquired under subsection (c) may be held in perpetuity for program and easement administration purposes as the Secretary may provide. In administering lands and interests therein under the program, the Secretary shall identify the environmental values to be protected by entry of the lands into the program, management activities which are planned and the manner in which they may affect the values identified, and obtain from the landowner other information determined appropriate for administration and management purposes.

(2) Initial programs.--Not later than November 28, 1991, the Secretary shall establish a regional program in furtherance of the Northern Forest Lands Study in the States of New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine under Public Law 100-446. The Secretary shall establish additional programs in each of the Northeast, Midwest, South, and Western regions of the United States, and the Pacific Northwest (including the State of Washington), on the preparation of an assessment of the need for such programs.

(e) Eligibility.--Not later than November 28, 1991, and in consultation with State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committees established under section 19(b) and similar regional organizations, the Secretary shall establish eligibility criteria for the designation of forest areas from which lands may be entered into the Forest Legacy Program and subsequently select such appropriate areas. To be eligible, such areas shall have significant environmental values or shall be threatened by present or future conversion to nonforest uses. Of land proposed to be included in the Forest Legacy Program, the Secretary shall give priority to lands which can be effectively protected and managed, and which have important scenic or recreational values; riparian areas; fish and wildlife values, including threatened and endangered species; or other ecological values.

(f) Application.--For areas included in the Forest Legacy Program, an owner of lands or interests in lands who wishes to participate may prepare and submit an application at such time in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may prescribe. The Secretary shall give reasonable advance notice for the submission of all applications to the State forester, equivalent State official, or other appropriate State or regional natural resource management agency. If applications exceed the ability of the Secretary to fund them, priority shall be given to those forest areas having the greatest need for protection pursuant to the criteria described in subsection (e).

(g) State Consent.--Where a State has not approved the acquisition of land under section 6 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 515), the Secretary shall not acquire lands or interests therein under authority granted by this section outside an area of that State designated as a part of a program established under subsection (b).

(h) Forest Management Activities.--

(1) In general.--Conservation easements or deed reservations acquired or reserved pursuant to this section may allow forest management activities, including timber management, on areas entered in the Forest Legacy Program insofar as the Secretary deems such activities consistent with the purposes of this section.

(2) Assignment of responsibilities.--For Forest Legacy Program areas, the Secretary may delegate or assign management and enforcement responsibilities over federally owned lands and interests in lands only to another governmental entity.

(i) Duties of Owners.--Under the terms of a conservation easement or other property interest acquired under subsection (b), the landowner shall be required to manage property in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which the land was entered in the Forest Legacy Program and shall not convert such property to other uses. Hunting, fishing, hiking, and similar recreational uses shall not be considered inconsistent with the purposes of this program.

(j) Compensation and Cost Sharing.--

(1) Compensation.--The Secretary shall pay the fair market value of any property interest acquired under this section. Payments under this section shall be in accordance with Federal appraisal and acquisition standards and procedures.

(2) Cost sharing.--In accordance with terms and conditions that the Secretary shall prescribe, costs for the acquisition of lands or interests therein or project costs shall be shared among participating entities including regional organizations, State and other governmental units, landowners, corporations, or private organizations. Such costs may include, but are not limited to, those associated with planning, administration, property acquisition, and property management. To the extent practicable, the Federal share of total program costs shall not exceed 75 percent, including any in-kind contribution.

(k) Easements.--

(1) Reserved interest deeds.--As used in this section, the term "conservation easement" includes an easement utilizing a reserved interest deed where the grantee acquires all rights, title, and interests in a property, except those rights, title, and interests that may run with the land that are expressly reserved by a grantor.

(2) Prohibitions on limitations.--Notwithstanding any provision of State law, no conservation easement held by the United States or its successors or assigns under this section shall be limited in duration or scope or be defeasible by--

- (A) the conservation easement being in gross or appurtenant;
- (B) the management of the conservation easement having been delegated or assigned to a non-Federal entity;
- (C) any requirement under State law for re-recording or renewal of the easement; or
- (D) any future disestablishment of a Forest Legacy Program area or other Federal project for which the conservation easement was originally acquired.

(3) Construction.--Notwithstanding any provision of State law, conservation easements shall be construed to effect the Federal purposes for which they were acquired and, in interpreting their terms, there shall be no presumption favoring the conservation easement holder or fee owner.

(1) Appropriation.--There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section. (16 USC 2103c)

Forest Health Protection

Sec. 8. (a) In General.--The Secretary may protect trees and forests and wood products, stored wood, and wood in use directly on the National Forest System and, in cooperation with others, on other lands in the United States, from natural and man-made causes, to--

- (1) enhance the growth and maintenance of trees and forests;
 - (2) promote the stability of forest-related industries and employment associated therewith through the protection of forest resources;
 - (3) aid in forest fire prevention and control;
 - (4) conserve forest cover on watersheds, shelterbelts, and windbreaks;
 - (5) protect outdoor recreation opportunities and other forest resources;
- and
- (6) extend timber supplies by protecting wood products, stored wood, and wood in use.

(b) Activities.--Subject to subsections (c), (d), and (e) and to such other conditions the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may, directly on the National Forest System, in cooperation with other Federal departments on other Federal lands, and in cooperation with State foresters, or equivalent State officials, subdivisions of States, agencies, institutions, organizations, or individuals on non-Federal lands--

- (1) conduct surveys to detect and appraise insect infestations and disease conditions and man-made stresses affecting trees and establish a monitoring system throughout the forests of the United States to determine detrimental changes or improvements that occur over time, and report annually concerning such surveys and monitoring;
- (2) determine the biological, chemical, and mechanical measures necessary to prevent, retard, control, or suppress incipient, potential, threatening, or emergency insect infestations and disease conditions affecting trees;
- (3) plan, organize, direct, and perform measures the Secretary determines necessary to prevent, retard, control, or suppress incipient, potential, threatening, or emergency insect infestations and disease epidemics affecting trees;

(4) provide technical information, advice, and related assistance on the various techniques available to maintain a healthy forest and in managing and coordinating the use of pesticides and other toxic substances applied to trees and other vegetation, and to wood products, stored wood, and wood in use;

(5) develop applied technology and conduct pilot tests of research results prior to the full-scale application of such technology in affected forests;

(6) promote the implementation of appropriate silvicultural or management techniques that may improve or protect the health of the forests of the United States; and

(7) take any other actions the Secretary determines necessary to accomplish the objectives and purposes of this section.

(c) Consent of Entity.--Operations under this section to prevent, retard, control, or suppress insects or diseases affecting forests and trees on land not controlled or administered by the Secretary shall not be conducted without the consent, cooperation, and participation of the entity having ownership of or jurisdiction over the affected land.

(d) Contribution by Entity.--No money appropriated to implement this section shall be expended to prevent, retard, control, or suppress insects or diseases affecting trees on non-Federal land until the entity having ownership of or jurisdiction over the affected land contributes, or agrees to contribute, to the work to be done in the amount and in the manner determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(e) Allotments to Other Agencies.--The Secretary may, in the Secretary's discretion, and out of any money appropriated to implement this section, make allocations to Federal agencies having jurisdiction over lands held or owned by the United States in the amounts the Secretary determines necessary to prevent, retard, control, or suppress insect infestations and disease epidemics affecting trees on those lands.

(f) Limitation on Use of Appropriations.--

(1) Removing dead trees.--No amounts appropriated shall be used to--

(A) pay the cost of felling and removing dead or dying trees unless the Secretary determines that such actions are necessary to prevent the spread of a major insect infestation or disease epidemic severely affecting trees; or

(B) compensate for the value of any property injured, damaged, or destroyed by any cause.

(2) Insects and diseases affecting trees.--The Secretary may procure materials and equipment necessary to prevent, retard, control, or suppress insects and diseases affecting trees without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5), under whatever procedures the Secretary may prescribe, if the Secretary determines that such action is necessary and in the public interest.

(g) Partnerships.--The Secretary, by contract or cooperative agreement, may provide financial assistance through the Forest Service to State foresters or equivalent State officials, and private forestry and other organizations, to monitor forest health and protect the forest lands of the United States. The Secretary shall require contribution by the non-Federal entity in the amount and in the manner determined appropriate. Such non-Federal share may be in the form of cash, services, or equipment, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(h) Authorization of Appropriations.--There are authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsections (a) through (g).

(i) Integrated Pest Management.--

(1) In general.--Subject to the provisions of subsections (c) and (e), the Secretary shall, in cooperation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, subdivisions of States, or other entities on non-Federal lands (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the 'cooperator')--

(A) provide cost-share assistance to such cooperators who have established an acceptable integrated pest management strategy, as determined by the Secretary, that will prevent, retard, control, or suppress gypsy moth, southern pine beetle, spruce budworm infestations, or other major insect infestations in an amount no less than 50 percent nor greater than 75 percent of the cost of implementing such strategy; and

(B) upon request, assist the cooperator in the development of such integrated pest management strategy.

(2) Authorization of appropriations.--There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually \$10,000,000 to implement this subsection.

(16 U.S.C. 2104)

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance

Sec. 9. (a) Findings.--The Congress finds that--

(1) the health of forests in urban areas and communities, including cities, their suburbs, and towns, in the United States is on the decline;

(2) forest lands, shade trees, and open spaces in urban areas and communities improve the quality of life for residents;

(3) forest lands and associated natural resources enhance the economic value of residential and commercial property in urban and community settings;

(4) urban trees are 15 times more effective than forest trees at reducing the buildup of carbon dioxide and aid in promoting energy conservation through mitigation of the heat island effect in urban areas;

(5) tree plantings and ground covers such as low growing dense perennial turfgrass sod in urban areas and communities can aid in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, mitigating the heat island effect, and reducing energy consumption, thus contributing to efforts to reduce global warming trends;

(6) efforts to encourage tree plantings and protect existing open spaces in urban areas and communities can contribute to the social well-being and promote a sense of community in these areas; and

(7) strengthened research, education, technical assistance, and public information and participation in tree planting and maintenance programs for trees and complementary ground covers for urban and community forests are needed to provide for the protection and expansion of tree cover and open space in urban areas and communities.

(b) Purposes.--The purposes of this section are to--

(1) improve understanding of the benefits of preserving existing tree cover in urban areas and communities;

(2) encourage owners of private residences and commercial properties to maintain trees and expand forest cover on their properties;

(3) provide education programs and technical assistance to State and local organizations (including community associations and schools) in maintaining forested lands and individual trees in urban and community settings and identifying appropriate tree species and sites for expanding forest cover;

(4) provide assistance through competitive matching grants awarded to local units of government, approved organizations that meet the requirements of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or other local community tree volunteer groups, for urban and community forestry projects;

(5) implement a tree planting program to complement urban and community tree maintenance and open space programs and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, conserve energy, and improve air quality in addition to providing other environmental benefits;

(6) promote the establishment of demonstration projects in selected urban and community settings to illustrate the benefits of maintaining and creating forest cover and trees;

(7) enhance the technical skills and understanding of sound tree maintenance and arboricultural practices including practices involving the cultivation of trees, shrubs and complementary ground covers, of individuals involved in the planning, development, and maintenance of urban and community forests and trees; and

(8) expand existing research and educational efforts intended to improve understanding of--

(A) tree growth and maintenance, tree physiology and morphology, species adaptations, and forest ecology,

(B) the value of integrating trees and ground covers,

(C) the economic, environmental, social, and psychological benefits of trees and forest cover in urban and community environments, and

(D) the role of urban trees in conserving energy and mitigating the urban heat island.

(c) General Authority.--The Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials for the purpose of encouraging States to provide information and technical assistance to units of local government and others that will encourage cooperative efforts to plan urban forestry programs and to plant, protect, and maintain, and utilize wood from, trees in open spaces, greenbelts, roadside screens, parks, woodlands, curb areas, and residential developments in urban areas. In providing such assistance, the Secretary is authorized to cooperate with interested members of the public, including nonprofit private organizations. The Secretary is also authorized to cooperate directly with units of local government and others in implementing this section whenever the Secretary and the affected State forester or equivalent State official agree that direct cooperation would better achieve the purposes of this section.

(d) Program of Education and Technical Assistance.--The Secretary, in cooperation with State foresters and State extension directors or equivalent State officials and interested members of the public, including nonprofit private organizations, shall implement a program of education and technical assistance for urban and community forest resources. The program shall be designed to--

(1) assist urban areas and communities in conducting inventories of their forest resources, including inventories of the species, number, location, and health of trees in urban areas and communities, identifying opportunities for the establishment of plantings for the purposes of conserving energy, and determining the status of related resources (including fish and wildlife habitat, water resources, and trails);

(2) assist State and local organizations (including community associations and schools) in organizing and conducting urban and community forestry projects and programs;

(3) improve education and technical support in--

(A) selecting tree species appropriate for planting in urban and community environments and for promotion of energy conservation;

(B) providing for proper tree planting, maintenance, and protection in urban areas and communities;

(C) protecting individual trees and preserving existing open spaces with or without tree cover; and

(D) identifying opportunities for expanding tree cover in urban areas and communities;

(4) assist in the development of State and local management plans for trees and associated resources in urban areas and communities; and

(5) increase public understanding of the energy conservation, economic, social, environmental, and psychological values of trees and open space in urban and community environments and expand knowledge of the ecological relationships and benefits of trees and related resources in these environments.

(e) Procurement of Plant Materials.--The Secretary, in cooperation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, shall assist in identifying sources of plant materials and may procure or otherwise obtain such plant materials from public or private sources and may make such plant materials available to urban areas and communities for the purpose of reforesting open spaces, replacing dead and dying urban trees, promoting energy conservation, and providing other environmental benefits through expanding tree cover in urban areas and communities.

(f) Challenge Cost-Share Program.--

(1) In general.--The Secretary shall establish an urban and community forestry challenge cost-share program. Funds or other support shall be provided under such program to eligible communities and organizations, on a competitive basis, for urban and community forestry projects. The Secretary shall annually make awards under the program in accordance with criteria developed in consultation with, and after consideration of recommendations received from, the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council established under subsection (g). Each State forester or equivalent State official may make recommendations to the Secretary for awards under the program for project proposals in their State which meet such criteria. Awards shall be consistent with the cost-share requirements of this section.

(2) Cost-sharing.--The Federal share of support for a project provided under this subsection may not exceed 50 percent of the support for that project and shall be provided on a matching basis. The non-Federal share of such support may be in the form of cash, services, or in-kind contributions.

(g) Forestry Advisory Council.--

(1) Establishment and purpose.--The Secretary shall establish a National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Council') for the purpose of--

- (A) developing a national urban and community forestry action plan;
- (B) evaluating the implementation of that plan; and
- (C) developing criteria for, and submitting recommendations with respect to, the urban and community forestry challenge cost-share program under subsection (f).

(2) Composition and operation.--

(A) Composition.--The Council shall be composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary, as follows:

- (i) 2 members representing national nonprofit forestry and conservation citizen organizations,
- (ii) 3 members, 1 each representing State, county, and city and town governments,
- (iii) 1 member representing the forest products, nursery, or related industries,
- (iv) 1 member representing urban forestry, landscape, or design consultants,
- (v) 2 members representing academic institutions with an expertise in urban and community forestry activities,
- (vi) 1 member representing State forestry agencies or equivalent State agencies,
- (vii) 1 member representing a professional renewable natural resource or arboricultural society,
- (viii) 1 member from the Extension Service,
- (ix) 1 member from the Forest Service, and

(x) 2 members who are not officers or employees of any governmental body, 1 of whom is a resident of a community with a population of less than 50,000 as of the most recent census and both of whom have expertise and have been active in urban and community forestry.

(B) Vacancy.--A vacancy in the Council shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(C) Chairperson.--The Secretary shall select 1 member, from members appointed to the Council, who is not an officer or employee of the United States nor any State, county, city, or town government, who shall serve as the chairperson of the Council.

(D) Terms.--

(i) In general.--Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph, members shall be appointed for terms of 3 years, and no member may serve more than 2 consecutive terms on the Council.

(ii) Staggered terms.--Of the members first appointed--

(I) 5, including the chairperson and 2 governmental employees, shall be appointed for a term of 3 years,

(II) 5, including 2 governmental employees, shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, and

(III) 5, including 2 governmental employees, shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, as designated by the Secretary at the time of appointment.

(iii) Continuation.--Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term of the member's predecessor shall be appointed only for the remainder of such term. A member may serve after the expiration of the member's term until the member's successor has taken office.

(E) Compensation.--

(i) In general.--Except as provided in clause (ii), members of the Council shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for reasonable costs incurred while in the actual performance of duties vested in the Council.

(ii) Federal officers and employees.--Members of the Council who are full-time officers or employees of the United States shall receive no additional pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of their service on the Council.

(iii) Financial and administrative support.--The Secretary shall provide financial and administrative support for the Council.

(3) Urban and community forestry action plan.--Within 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection and every 10 years thereafter, the Council shall prepare a National Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan. The plan shall include (but not be limited to) the following:

(A) An assessment of the current status of urban forest resources in the United States.

(B) A review of urban and community forestry programs and activities in the United States, including education and technical assistance activities conducted by the Department of Agriculture, and other Federal agencies, the State forestry organizations, private industry, private nonprofit organizations, community and civic organizations and interested others.

(C) Recommendations for improving the status of the Nation's urban and community forest resources, including education and technical assistance and modifications required in existing programs and policies of relevant Federal agencies.

(D) A review of urban and community forestry research, including--

- (i) a review of all ongoing research associated with urban and community forests, arboricultural practices, and the economic, social, and psychological benefits of trees and forest cover in urban and community environments being conducted by the Forest Service, other Federal agencies, and associated land grant colleges and universities;
- (ii) recommendations for new and expanded research efforts directed toward urban and community forestry concerns; and
- (iii) a summary of research priorities and an estimate of the funds needed to implement such research, on an annual basis, for the next 10 years.

(E) Proposed criteria for evaluating proposed projects under the urban and community forestry challenge cost share program under subsection (f), with special emphasis given to projects that would demonstrate the benefits of improved forest management (including the maintenance and establishment of forest cover and trees) in urban areas and communities.

(F) An estimate of the resources needed to implement the National Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan for the succeeding 10 fiscal years.

(4) Amendment of the plan.--The plan may be amended by a majority of the Council members. Such amendments shall be incorporated into the Council's annual review of the plan submitted to the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(5) Review of the plan.--The Council shall submit the plan to the Secretary and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate upon its completion. Beginning no later than one year after the plan is submitted and annually thereafter, the Council shall submit a review of the plan to the Secretary no later than December 31. The review shall consist of--

- (A) the Council's assessment of prior year accomplishments in research, education, technical assistance, and related activities in urban and community forestry;
- (B) the Council's recommendations for research, education, technical assistance, and related activities in the succeeding year; and
- (C) the Council's recommendations for the urban and community forestry challenge cost share projects to be funded during the succeeding year.

The review submitted to the Secretary shall be incorporated into the annual report required under section 3(d) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(d)).

(6) Detail of personnel.--Upon request of the Council, the Secretary is authorized to detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the Department of Agriculture to the Council to assist the Council in carrying out its duties under this Act.

(h) Definitions.--For the purposes of this section--

- (1) the term 'Council' means the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council established under subsection (g);
- (2) the term 'plan' means the National Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan developed under subsection (g) (3); and
- (3) the term 'urban and community area' includes cities, their suburbs, and towns.

(i) Authorization of Appropriations.--There are hereby authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1991 through 1995, and such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year thereafter, for the implementation of this section. (16 U.S.C. 2105)

Rural Fire Prevention and Control

Sec. 10. (a) Congress finds that--

- (1) significant accomplishments have been made by the Secretary and cooperating States in the prevention and control of fires on forest lands and on nonforested watersheds for more than fifty years;
- (2) progress is being made by the Secretary and cooperating States and rural communities in the protection of human lives, agricultural crops and livestock, property and other improvements, and natural resources from fires in rural areas;
- (3) notwithstanding the accomplishments and progress that have been made, fire prevention and control on rural lands and in rural communities are of continuing high priority to protect human lives, agricultural crops and livestock, property and other improvements, and natural resources;
- (4) the effective cooperative relationships between the Secretary and the States regarding fire prevention and control on rural lands and in rural communities should be retained and improved;
- (5) efforts in fire prevention and control in rural areas should be coordinated among federal, State, and local agencies; and
- (6) in addition to providing assistance to State and local rural fire prevention and control programs the Secretary should provide prompt and adequate assistance whenever a rural fire emergency overwhelms, or threatens to overwhelm, the firefighting capability of the affected State or rural area.

(b) Notwithstanding the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, the Secretary is authorized, under whatever conditions the Secretary may prescribe, to--

- (1) cooperate with State foresters or equivalent State officials in developing systems and methods for the prevention, control, suppression, and prescribed use of fires on rural lands and in rural communities that will protect human lives, agricultural crops and livestock, property and other improvements, and natural resources;
- (2) provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials, and through them to other agencies and individuals, for the prevention, control, suppression, and prescribed use of fires on non-federal forest lands and other non-federal lands;
- (3) provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials in cooperative efforts to organize, train and equip local firefighting forces, including those of Indian tribes or other native groups, to prevent, control, and suppress fires threatening human lives, crops, livestock, farmsteads or other improvements, pastures, orchards, wildlife, rangeland, woodland, and other resources in rural areas. As used herein, the term "rural areas" shall have the meaning set out in the first clause of section 306(a) (7) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act; and
- (4) provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials, and through them to other agencies and individuals, including rural volunteer fire departments, to conduct preparedness and mobilization activities, including training, equipping, and otherwise enabling State and local firefighting agencies to respond to requests for fire suppression assistance.

(c) The Secretary, with the cooperation and assistance of the Administrator of General Services, shall encourage the use of excess personal property (within the meaning of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949) by State and local fire forces receiving assistance under this section.

(d) To promote maximum effectiveness and economy, the Secretary shall seek to coordinate the assistance the Secretary provides under this section with the assistance provided by the Secretary of Commerce under the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974.

(e) (1) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be needed to implement paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b) of this section.

(2) (A) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually \$70,000,000 to carry out subsection (b) (4). Of the total amount appropriated to carry out subsection (b) (4) --

(i) one-half shall be available only for State foresters or equivalent State officials, and through them to other agencies and individuals, of which not less than \$100,000 shall be made available to each State; and

(ii) one-half shall be available only for rural volunteer fire departments.

(B) The Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out with funds made available pursuant to this paragraph may not exceed 50 percent of the cost of that activity. The non-Federal share for such activity may be in the form of cash, services, or in kind contributions.

(f) There shall be established in the Treasury a special rural fire disaster fund that shall be immediately available to and used by the Secretary to supplement any other money available to carry out this section with respect to rural fire emergencies, as determined by the Secretary. The Secretary shall determine that State and local resources are fully used or will be fully used before expending money in the disaster fund to assist a State in which one or more rural fire emergencies exist. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be needed to establish and replenish the disaster fund established by this subsection.

(g) As used in this section--

(1) the term "rural volunteer fire department" means any organized, not for profit, fire protection organization that provides service primarily to a community or city with a population of 10,000 or less or to a rural area, as defined by the Secretary, whose firefighting personnel is 80 percent or more volunteer, and that is recognized as a fire department by the laws of the State; and

(2) the term "mobilization" means any activity in which one firefighting organization assists another that has requested assistance. (16 U.S.C. 2106)

Management Assistance, Planning Assistance, and Technology Implementation

Sec. 11. (a) To aid in achieving maximum effectiveness in the programs and activities conducted under this Act, the Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials for the development of stronger and more efficient State organizations that will enable them to fulfill better their responsibilities for the protection and management of non-federal forest lands. Assistance under this subsection may include, but will not be limited to, assistance in matters related to organization management, program planning and management, budget and fiscal accounting services, personnel training and management, information services, and recordkeeping. Assistance under this subsection may be extended only upon request by State foresters or equivalent State officials.

(b) To ensure that data regarding forest lands are available for and effectively presented in State and federal natural resources planning, the Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials in the assembly, analysis, display, and reporting of State forest resources data, in the training of State forest resources planners, and in participating in natural resources planning at the State and federal levels. The Secretary shall restrict assistance under this subsection to the implementation of the forestry aspects of State and federal natural resources planning conducted under other laws. This subsection shall not be construed, in any way whatsoever, as extending, limiting, amending, repealing, or otherwise affecting any other law or authority.

(c) To ensure that new technology is introduced, new information is integrated into existing technology, and forest resources research findings are promptly made available to State forestry personnel, private forest landowners and managers, vendors, forest operators, wood processors, public agencies, and individuals, the Secretary is authorized to carry out a program of technology implementation.

(1) In implementing this subsection, the Secretary is authorized to work through State foresters or equivalent State officials, and, if the State forester or equivalent State official is unable to deliver these services, the Secretary is authorized to act through appropriate United States Department of Agriculture agencies, subdivisions of States, agencies, institutions, organizations, or individuals to--

(A) strengthen technical assistance and service programs of cooperators participating in programs under this Act by applying research results and conducting pilot projects and field tests of management and utilization practices, equipment, and technologies, related to programs and activities authorized under this Act;

(B) study the effects of tax laws, methods, and practices on forest management;

(C) develop and maintain technical information systems in support of programs and activities authorized under this Act;

(D) test, evaluate, and seek registration of chemicals for use in implementing the programs and activities authorized under this Act;

(E) conduct other activities, including training of State forestry personnel whom the Secretary deems necessary to ensure that the programs and activities authorized under this Act are responsive to special problems, unique situations, and changing conditions.

(2) The Secretary may make funds available to cooperators under this Act without regard to the provisions of section 3648 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 529), which prohibits advances of public money.

(3) The Secretary shall use forest resources planning committees at National and State levels in implementing this subsection.

(d) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be needed to implement this section. (16 U.S.C. 2107)

Consolidated Payments

Sec. 12. (a) To provide flexibility in funding activities authorized under this Act, the Secretary may, upon the request of any State, consolidate the annual financial assistance payment to that State under this Act, in lieu of functional cost sharing mechanisms, formulas, or agreements. However, consolidated payments shall not include money appropriated under section 4 of this Act or money from any special Treasury fund established under this Act.

(b) Consolidation of payments made under this section shall be based upon State forest resources programs developed by State foresters or equivalent State officials, and reviewed by the Secretary.

(c) Consolidated payments to any State during any fiscal year shall not exceed the total amount of non-federal funds expended within the State during that year to implement its State forest resources program. However, the Secretary may make payments that exceed the non-federal amount expended for selected activities under the program, if the total federal expenditure during any fiscal year does not exceed the total non-federal expenditure during that year under the State forest resources program.

(d) The Secretary may make consolidated payments on the certificate of the State forester or equivalent State official that the conditions for federal payment have been met.

(e) The Secretary shall administer this section to ensure that the use of consolidated payments does not adversely affect or eliminate any program authorized under this Act.

(f) Subject to applicable appropriation Acts, the total annual amount of financial assistance to any participating State after the enactment of this Act shall not be less than the base amount of financial assistance provided to that State under all the provisions of law specified in section 16 of this Act during the fiscal year in which this Act is enacted. However, financial assistance for special projects of two years or less duration shall not be included in determining the base amount for any participating State.

Note.-- Subsection (h) was added by P.L. 101-313 at the end of Section 12. It should have been added as subsection (g) since the last subsection in Section 12 was (f).

(h) In addition to the authority provided elsewhere in this Act, the Secretary may provide assistance to other countries with respect to the activities described in paragraphs (1) through (10) of section 3(b), paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 7(b), and paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 9(b). For the purposes of providing assistance to other countries under this subsection, the term "non-Federal forest land" shall mean any forest land and related renewable natural resources in such countries. In providing the assistance authorized under this subsection, the Secretary shall coordinate with other Federal officials, departments, agencies, or international organizations, as the President may direct. The references to "State foresters or equivalent State officials" in this Act shall not apply to the assistance provided by the Secretary to other countries under this subsection.

(16 U.S.C. 2108)

General Provisions

Sec. 13. (a) In implementing this Act, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable--

(1) work through, cooperate with, and assist State foresters or equivalent State officials;

(2) encourage cooperation and coordination between State foresters or equivalent State officials and other State agencies that manage renewable natural resources;

(3) use and encourage cooperators under this Act to use, private agencies, consultants, organizations, firms, and individuals to furnish necessary materials and services; and

(4) promote effectiveness and economy by coordinating the direct actions and assistance authorized under this Act with related programs the Secretary administers, and with cooperative programs of other agencies.

(b) Money appropriated under this Act shall remain available until expended.

(c) Requirements for the development of State forest resources programs and State participation in management assistance, planning assistance, and technology implementation, the apportionment of funds among States participating under this Act, the administrative expenses in connection with activities and programs under this Act, and the amounts to be expended by the Secretary to assist non-State cooperators under this Act, shall be determined by the Secretary in consultation with a committee of not less than five State foresters or equivalent State officials selected by a majority of the State foresters or equivalent State officials from States participating in programs under this Act. However, the Secretary need not consult with such committee regarding funds to be expended under emergency conditions that the Secretary may determine.

(d) For the purposes of this Act--

(1) The terms "United States" and "State" shall include each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the territories and possessions of the United States;

(2) The term "forest resources" shall include esthetics, fish and wildlife, forage, outdoor recreation opportunities, timber, and water; and

(3) The term "urban forestry" means the planning, establishment, protection, and management of trees and associated plants, individually, in small groups, or under forest conditions within cities, their suburbs, and towns.

(e) The Secretary may prescribe rules and regulations, as the Secretary deems appropriate, to implement the provisions of this Act.

(f) The Secretary is authorized to make grants, agreements, contracts, and other arrangements the Secretary deems necessary to implement this Act.

(g) This Act shall be construed as supplementing all other laws relating to the Department of Agriculture and shall not be construed as limiting or repealing any existing law or authority of the Secretary, except as specifically cited in Section 16 of this Act. (16 U.S.C. 2109)

Statement of Limitation

Sec. 14. This Act shall not authorize the Federal Government to regulate the use of private land or to deprive owners of land of their rights to property or to income from the sale of property, unless such property rights are voluntarily conveyed or limited by contract or other agreement. This Act does not diminish in any way the rights and responsibilities of the States and political subdivisions of States. (16 U.S.C. 2110)

Reports

Sec. 15. To ensure that Congress has adequate information to implement its oversight responsibilities and to provide accountability for expenditures and activities under this Act, section 8(c) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 is amended by--

- (1) inserting immediately before the period at the end of the last sentence "and in cooperative State and private Forest Service programs"; and
- (2) adding a new sentence at the end thereof as follows: "With regard to the cooperative forestry assistance part of the Program, the report shall include, but not be limited to, a description of the status, accomplishments, needs, and work backlogs for the programs and activities conducted under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978." (16 U.S.C. 1606(note), 1606)

Repeal of Other Laws; Existing Contracts and Agreements;
Appropriations

Sec. 16. (a) The following laws, and portions of laws, are hereby repealed:

- (1) sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Act of June 7, 1924, known as the Clarke-McNary Act (43 Stat. 653-654, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 564, 565, 566, 567);
- (2) the Act of April 26, 1940, known as the White Pine Blister Rust Protection Act (54 Stat. 168; 16 U.S.C. 594a);
- (3) the Forest Pest Control Act;
- (4) the Cooperative Forest Management Act;
- (5) section 401 of the Agricultural Act of 1956;
- (6) Title IV of the Rural Development Act of 1972; and
- (7) section 1009 and the proviso to section 1010 of the Agricultural Act of 1970, as added by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973.

(b) Contracts and cooperative and other agreements under cooperative forestry programs executed under authority of the Acts, or portions thereof, repealed under subsection (a) of this section shall remain in effect until revoked or amended by their own terms or under other provisions of law.

(c) Funds appropriated under the authority of the Acts, or portions thereof, repealed under subsection (a) of this section shall be available for expenditure for the programs authorized under this Act. (16 U.S.C. 2111)

Effective Date

Sec. 17. The provisions of this Act shall become effective October 1, 1978. (16 U.S.C. 2101(note))

Cooperative National Forest Products Marketing Program

Sec. 18. (a) Findings and Purposes.--

(1) Findings.--Congress finds that--

- (A) the health and vitality of the domestic forest products industry is important to the well-being of the economy of the United States;
- (B) the domestic forest products industry has a significant potential for expansion in both domestic and foreign markets;
- (C) many small-sized to medium-sized forest products firms lack the tools that would enable them to meet the increasing challenge of foreign competition in domestic and foreign markets; and
- (D) a new cooperative forest products marketing program will improve the competitiveness of the United States forest products industry.

(2) Purposes.--The purposes of this section are to--

- (A) provide direct technical assistance to the United States forest products industry to improve marketing activities;
- (B) provide cost-share grants to States to support State and regional forest products marketing programs; and
- (C) target assistance to small-sized and medium-sized producers of solid wood and processed wood products, including pulp.

(b) Program Authority.--

(1) In general.--The Secretary shall establish a cooperative national forest products marketing program under this Act that provides--

- (A) technical assistance to States, landowners, and small-sized to medium-sized forest products firms on ways to improve domestic and foreign markets for forest products; and
- (B) grants of financial assistance with matching requirements to the States to assist in State and regional forest products marketing efforts targeted to aid small-sized to medium-sized forest products firms and private, nonindustrial forest landowners.

(2) Interstate cooperative agreements.--Grant agreements shall encourage the establishment of interstate cooperative agreements by the States for the purpose of promoting the development of domestic and foreign markets for forest products.

(c) Limitations.--

(1) Cooperation with other federal agencies.--In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall cooperate with Federal departments and agencies to avoid the duplication of efforts and to increase program efficiency.

(2) Domestic program.--The program authorized under this section shall be carried out within the United States and not be extended to Department of Agriculture activities in foreign countries.

(d) Authorization for Appropriations.--There are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1988 through 1991, to carry out this section.

(e) Program Report.--The Secretary shall report to Congress annually on the activities taken under the marketing program established under this section. A final report including recommendations for program changes and the need and desirability of the reauthorization of this authority, and required levels of funding, shall be submitted to Congress not later than September 30, 1990. (16 U.S.C. 2112)

Note--This section was added as Section 15 by P.L. 100-418 and renumbered as section 18 by P.L. 101-624, Title XII)

Federal, State, and Local
Coordination and Cooperation

Sec. 19. (a) Department of Agriculture Coordinating Committee.--

(1) Establishment.--The Secretary shall establish an intradepartmental committee, to be known as the 'Forest Resource Coordinating Committee' (hereafter referred to in this section as the 'Coordinating Committee'), to coordinate forestry activities.

(2) Composition.--The Coordinating Committee shall be composed of representatives, appointed by the Secretary, from the Agricultural Research Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Extension Service, Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service.

(3) Chairperson.--The Secretary shall designate the Chief of the Forest Service as chairperson.

4) Duties.--The Coordinating Committee shall--

- (A) provide assistance in directing and coordinating actions of the Department of Agriculture that relate to educational, technical, and financial assistance concerning forest land to private landowners;
- (B) clarify individual agency responsibilities concerning forest land of each agency represented on the Committee; and
- (C) advise the Secretary of intradepartmental differences regarding the implementation of this Act, and any other Act related to the authority of the Secretary concerning non-Federal forest lands.

(b) State Coordinating Committees.--

(1) Establishment.--

- (A) In general.--The Secretary, in consultation with the State forester or equivalent State official of each State, shall establish a State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (hereafter referred to in this section as the 'State Coordinating Committee') for each such State.

(B) **Composition.**--The State Coordinating Committee shall be chaired and administered by the State forester, or equivalent State official, or the designee thereof, and shall be composed, to the extent practicable, of--

(i) representatives from the Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and Extension Service;

(ii) representatives, to be appointed by the State forester or equivalent State official, representative of--

(I) local government;

(II) consulting foresters;

(III) environmental organizations;

(IV) forest products industry;

(V) forest land owners;

(VI) land-trust organizations, if applicable in the State;

(VII) conservation organizations; and

(VIII) the State fish and wildlife agency; and

(iii) any other individuals determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(C) **Terms.**--The members of the State Coordinating Committee appointed under subparagraph (B) (ii) shall serve 3-year terms, with the initial members serving staggered terms as determined by the State forester or equivalent State official, and may be reappointed for consecutive terms.

(D) **Existing committees.**--Existing State forestry committees may be used to complement, formulate, or replace the State Coordinating Committees to avoid duplication of efforts if such existing committees are made up of membership that is similar to that described in subparagraph (B) (ii), and if such existing committees include landowners and the general public in their memberships.

(2) **Duties.**--A State Coordinating Committee shall--

(A) consult with other Department of Agriculture and State committees that address State and private forestry issues;

(B) make recommendations to the Secretary concerning the assignment of priorities and the coordination of responsibilities for the implementation of this Act by the various Federal and State forest management agencies that take into consideration the mandates of each such agency;

(C) make recommendations to the State forester or equivalent State official concerning the development of a Forest Stewardship Plan under paragraph (3); and

(D) make recommendations to the Secretary concerning those forest lands that should be given priority for inclusion in the Forest Legacy Program established pursuant to section 7.

(3) **Forest stewardship plan.**--The State forester or equivalent State official of each State, in consultation with the State Coordinating Committee of such State, shall develop a Forest Stewardship Plan that shall--

(A) provide baseline data on the forest resources of the State;

(B) outline threats to the forest resources of the State;

(C) describe economic and environmental opportunities that are linked with the forest resources of the State;

(D) address management problems, opportunities, and objectives associated with intermingled Federal, State, and private land ownership patterns within the State; and

(E) make planning recommendations for Federal, State, and local implementation of this Act.

(4) **Other plans.**--Other State forest management plans may be used as the basis for or in lieu of establishing a plan for the State under paragraph (3) if such plans fully conform to the objectives of this section.

(5) **Termination.**--The State Coordinating Committees shall not terminate.

(6) Rule of construction.--Nothing in this section shall be construed to compel action by any State official. (16 U.S.C. 2113)

Administration

Sec. 20. (a) In General.--The Secretary shall administer this Act in accordance with regulations that the Secretary shall develop.

(b) **Guidelines.**--The regulations promulgated under this Act shall include guidelines for the administration of this Act at the Federal and State levels and shall identify the measures and activities that are eligible for cost sharing under this Act.

(c) **Existing Mechanisms.**--Existing mechanisms shall be used to the extent possible to make payments and deliver services to the landowner under this Act.

(d) **Land Grant Universities.**--The Secretary, in consultation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, may provide assistance directly to other State and local natural resource management agencies and land grant universities in implementing this Act in cases in which the State foresters or equivalent State officials are not able to make fund transfers to other State and local agencies. (16 U.S.C. 2114)

**FOREST SERVICE CONTRIBUTION
TO USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM PROPOSAL**

INTRODUCTION

The Forest Service, as an integral member of Team USDA, supports President Clinton's national service initiative known as AmeriCorps. The following Forest Service proposal focuses on the Rural Development Team portion of AmeriCorps, as part of the larger USDA program application to the Corporation for National Community Service.—

SUMMARY

The Forest Service pledges a total of \$2,599,700, which includes both direct funding and agency in-kind contributions. This level of funding creates 74 AmeriCorps positions. The \$2,599,700 consists of \$1,775,000 from the agency's Rural Community Assistance efforts, \$337,000 from Urban and Community Forestry's recycling efforts, \$275,000 from the Wood In Transportation program, and \$213,000 from the Forest Products Conservation and Recycling program. The particular projects selected for AmeriCorps are described in the following section.

ASSUMPTIONS

The following are a list of assumptions used throughout this proposal:

- (1) All funding dollars include Forest Service in-kind contributions.
- (2) An AmeriCorps person would cost a minimum of \$20,000.
- (3) A strong political need exists to link AmeriCorps projects with Empowerment Zones/Enterprize Communities (EZ/EC Zones)
- (4) The Forest Service will work within its existing authorities and initial PBMI for Fiscal Year 1995 and will not reallocate funds from one Region to another.
- (5) The Forest Service proposal is an integral part of the overall USDA strategy and should not be seperated from the Department's efforts.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

Within each of the projects, objectives, number of AmeriCorps members, skills, and funding levels are addressed. The number of Americorps members and associated funding by Forest Service program appropriation is provided on the attached table.

South Carolina

South Carolina has the second highest minority population in the Southern region, composed primarily of African Americans. Current program efforts have had difficulty reaching these communities due to cultural differences. Leadership and sustainable economic development skills are essential for these communities. Developing and identifying community leaders in disenfranchised 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 and state agencies to accomplish this objective.

Persons with a diverse background and understanding of African American culture would be desirable candidates. Interpersonal skills, ability to listen and facilitation skills would be required. Some of these skills can be developed through mentoring with agency personnel. A series of Economic Development Specialists could be assigned to rural sites throughout the state.

The Forest Service commits \$132,000 of its Rural Community Assistance (RCA) dollars to fund 5 AmeriCorps members, with college degrees, who are specialists in either leadership or economic development.

Mississippi Delta

This area includes the following counties: MS Counties: Desoto, Tunica, Panola, Coahoma, Bolivar, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Washington, Sunflower, Carrol, Charkey, Holmes, Humphreys, Yazoo, Wassren, Issaquena, Claiborne, and Jefferson. AR Counties: Crittenden, Lee, Phillips, Desha, and Chicot. LA Counties: East Carroll, West Carroll, Madison, Tensas, and Concordia.

The Governor of Mississippi recently signed legislation to authorize replacement of over 6,000 unsafe bridges. Opportunities exist to promote "Wood in Transportation" by having qualified Engineering students working through AmeriCorps to provide technical assistance to communities wanting to install timber bridges. These AmeriCorp participants could also transfer the bridge technology to areas where potential projects could be duplicated and demonstrate the advantages of wooden bridges.

An opportunity exists to transfer recycling technology from the Franklin County Recycling Project to other sites. Development of recycling programs following this model could be duplicated in other areas of the Delta region in order to create jobs for disabled persons.

By working with partnerships developed from ongoing RCA activities, the Forest Service could provide AmeriCorps participants to work with local community leaders in meeting specific community needs, particularly with ongoing social programs, education and infrastructure needs. For example, local leaders developed from the Copiah County leadership development workshops may be able to utilize a Business major to assist citizens in establishing small businesses. In addition other federal agencies, such as the Small Business Administration, could provide technical and financial assistance, furthering agency efforts.

Ongoing outreach efforts can be enhanced by collaborating with 1890 institutions and black colleges. Alcorn State has capacity grants for education programs from day care kindergarden 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 AmeriCorp participant would work with community leaders to develop practical solutions.

Other predominately black colleges such as Rust have provided leadership workshops for minority communities to build capacity. AmeriCorp participants could work side by side with rural sociologists and other experts in these fields to develop and disseminate this information. Additionally a study could start which addresses the social changes needed to improve the economy of the region and implementations plans for practical solutions begun.

The Forest Service allocates \$384,000 to fund 15 AmeriCorps positions in the Mississippi Delta as follows: (1) \$73,000 of Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) funds for 3 AmeriCorps positions requiring college degrees to transfer recycling technology regarding urban forest residual management, (2) \$73,000 of Wood In Transportation (WIT) dollars funding 3 AmeriCorps positions, two of which are graduate degrees and one undergraduate, to assist communities address their timber bridge needs, and (3) \$238,000 of RCA funds, creating 9 AmeriCorps undergraduate degreed positions to perform outreach to 1890 schools, conduct leadership and economic development, and begin a "Delta Social Changes" study.

Alaska

The objectives listed for AmeriCorps participants are need and feasibility. Additionally, these activities are complementary to the activities planned by the Alaska Community Services Commission, the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, and of equal importance our sister agencies in TEAM USDA.

The Forest Service allocates \$155,000 to fund 5 positions in Alaska. The dollars are distributed as follows: (1) \$62,000 of U&CF funds, creating 2 positions, requiring undergraduate degrees, to assist selected communities throughout the State of Alaska in developing U&CF recycling plans and/or produce prototypes, (2) \$31,000 of RCA program dollars for 1 AmeriCorps member, with a graduate degree, to provide rural community assistance to timber-dependent Southeastern Alaska communities for economic diversification, (3) \$31,000 of RCA program dollars for 1 AmeriCorps member, requiring an undergraduate degree, to provide rural community assistance to help forest and farm owners in South-Central Alaska develop markets and/or cooperatives, and (4) \$31,000 of RCA program dollars for 1 AmeriCorps member, a college graduate, to provide rural community assistance to help Alaska Native Villages by delivering program opportunities to remote Native communities.

Appalachia

(1) Southern Region Component:

This includes the following States: TN, KY, GA, VA, and NC.

Rural tourism efforts are underway in this region and feature recreational and aesthetic opportunities. Local partners have needs for tour guides with interpretive skills. Recreation planners, tourism surveys, and marketing are needed. AmeriCorps participants could work with the Appalachian Regional Commission and other partners to develop regional tourism plans.

Another identified need is hiring professional Economic Development Coordinators who would seek business development opportunities for this area. Business students could work with these professionals and local communities.

Environmental students could work in these areas to identify issues of environmental concern with related new business ventures.

Working with state forestry organizations can provide opportunities for AmeriCorps participants to work with professional Wood Utilization Foresters. The objective would be to promote alternative wood products and value added manufacturing technologies.

The Black Belt studies initiated at North Carolina State University could provide opportunities to implement social changes needed to improve the economy of the region.

The Forest Service targets \$450,000 to the Appalachian States of TN, KY, GA, VA, and NC to fund 20 AmeriCorps positions as follows: (1) \$113,000 from Forest Products Conservation and Recycling (FPC&R) for 5 AmeriCorps members with undergraduate degrees to perform wood utilization activities, and (2) \$337,000 of RCA dollars, creating 15 AmeriCorps positions, three requiring graduate and the rest undergraduate degrees, to engage in rural tourism, economic development, and Black Belt Studies.

(2) Northeastern Area Component:

This section addresses the needs of the State of WV.

Initial Forest Service efforts are directed to those counties eligible for participation in the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community program. Corps members will carry out sustainable natural resource-based economic development activities identified by local communities and planned cooperatively by the communities, the West Virginia Division of Forestry, the West Virginia University Appalachian Hardwood Center, and the Northeastern Area's Economic Action Program. This concept is supported by the West Virginia Rural Development Council.

The program's objective is to assist communities in planning for and implementing sustainable economic development strategies based on forest resources with an emphasis on value-added enterprises. Value-added forest based enterprises include, but are not limited to:

- Secondary Wood Products Manufacturing
- Tourism Development
- Gathering and Marketing Special Forest Products
- Manufacturing Recycled Products Based on Wood Fiber

The Forest Service commits \$380,000 (including funds for project related activities) to this section of Appalachia to fund 6 AmeriCorps positions as follows: (1) \$102,000 from U&CF funds for 1 AmeriCorps member, a wood processing specialist with a graduate degree, (2) \$176,000 of RCA program dollars for 3 AmeriCorps people, one a business development specialist with a graduate degree, one a travel and tourism specialist with a graduate degree, and one a marketing specialist with an undergraduate degree, and (3) \$102,000 of WIT money for 2 AmeriCorps positions, a environmental engineer with a graduate degree and one a civil engineer with an undergraduate degree.

Four Corners

This area includes the States of AZ, CO, NM, and UT.

Prior to the initiation of the regional agency and community "Strengthening Partnerships for Active Rural Communities" (SPARCS) collaboration, the Forest Service was actively working with many partners in the 4 Corners area, including a dozen Community Action Teams, and projects with the Navajo, Zuni and Jicarilla Apache tribes. The intent of SPARCS was to build on the existing partnerships, as well as initiate actions that are of regional scope for the entire 4-Corners area that have broad-based community support. The agency's desire under the Americorps program, is to strongly support both its longer term partnerships at the individual community level, as well as to accelerate the projects identified in the last six months within the SPARCS process.

The 4 Corners Site is defined for the Americorps proposal as the lands contained within the boundaries of the 4 RC&D areas that touch at the 4 Corners Monument. Included within the area are the lands or influence zones of the San Juan, Rio Grande, Manti-La Sal, Carson, Cibola, Santa Fe, Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

The Forest Service plans to use AmeriCorps members to work on four projects as follows:

(1) Devise social, economic and demographic shared data bases to support sustainable economic development. Specifically these data bases are needed to establish baseline information regarding current local conditions and trends. They will be used to suggest and validate strategies for diversifying or strengthening local economies.

(2) Train people for community capacity building and leadership development throughout the 4-Corners region by conducting regional workshops and local seminars; increasing preparedness and skill to support sustainable rural economic development; and promoting dialogue and collaborative learning activities organized around regional development concerns, such as value-added forestry, agriculture and tourism.

(3) Develop a tribal tourism and 4 Corners Heritage Council throughout the 4-Corners area, with emphasis on tribal lands. All of the Tribes within the 4-Corners are pursuing tourism development as an economic development strategy. The Heritage Council was commissioned by the Governors of the four affected states with a charter to develop locally-based heritage tourism opportunities, with an emphasis on providing an economic boost to the tribes and rural communities. They have 4 mutual objectives (projects) for 1994-97:

- a. Community Tourism Development Plans on the Navajo Reservation
- b. Tourism / Recreation Facilities Site Plans on the Navajo Reservation.
- c. Train Native American Resource Interpreters
- d. Archeaeological Research, Guided Tours, and Ruin Stabilization on the Ute Mtn Ute Tribal Park.