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AMERICORPS/USDA



First Quarter Report

(September 12, 1994 - November 31, 1994)



Acting Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger meets with USDA AmeriCorps Members in California.

"All of you have taken government and made it your own. You've turned a concept into some solid, practical action ... It's people pulling together to solve community problems. This is what government should be about."

- Acting Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger, January 28, 1995

Executive Summary

The United States Department of Agriculture is sponsoring approximately 1,200 AmeriCorps Members serving in 38 states in urban and rural projects fighting hunger, protecting the environment, and re-building rural America. During only their first two and a half months of service --- from September 12 - November 31, 1994 --- the Members provided over 360,000 hours of service to their communities.

Members of the Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team cooked and prepared meals at soup kitchens, conducted nutrition and food safety workshops for the elderly, sorted goods at food banks, developed nutrition education programs for schools, provided outreach for the Women's, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, worked to increase the number of children receiving immunizations, began efforts to improve participation in the summer feeding program, located sites for revitalizing community gardens in low-income neighborhoods, assisted earthquake victims with emergency food information, and informed pantries about how their clients who are working but are still poor can boost their incomes by utilizing the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Members of the Public Lands and Environment Team working on Forest Service lands performed rehabilitation and watershed protection work, constructed stream structures for fish habitat, reforested fire-damaged lands, constructed and maintained trails for hiking and horseback riding, planted cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations, maintained and rehabilitated campgrounds and made campgrounds accessible for the disabled, completed timber stand improvements, restored historic sites, conducted threatened and endangered species habitat surveys, removed and installed fences, improved wildlife habitats, and hung erosion control netting on roads.

Members of the Public Lands and Environment Team working on private and local municipal lands repaired and restored flood-damaged areas, re-created fish habitats, conducted water quality monitoring, built community greenhouses, constructed urban, suburban, and rural nature trails, built playgrounds, restored windbreaks originally created by the Civilian Conservation Corps, revegetated coastal marshes, restored collections at the National Arboretum, created a safe-haven lot at a public housing development, landscaped at a public high school, cleaned up an urban wetland, revitalized historical sites, improved camping sites, protected stream banks, created community gardens, and cleaned out a public fountain.

Members of the Rural Development Team provided service on a wide range of projects related to running water and indoor plumbing, sustainable agriculture, emergency response and prevention, fisheries restoration, alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, community improvement and personal responsibility development, tourism to boost local economies, water quality protection, recycling promotion, American Indian tribal empowerment, water quality protection, rural housing improvement, and cultural resource preservation.

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" on Forest Service Lands

The following is a brief summary of first quarter accomplishments in the nine Public Lands and Environment Team projects managed by the USDA Forest Service in seven states. These accomplishments include activities from six of the eight camps operating on National Forest Land through the USDA direct grant and one camp operating through the Northwest Service Academy, which receives significant technical support from the Forest Service. Most of the camps through the USDA direct grant weren't fully operational until early October 1994 and the report covers only until November 30, 1994. The White Mountain and the Green Mountain National Forest camps started operations in January 1995. USDA AmeriCorps Members:

- * Performed rehabilitation/watershed protection work on 12,000 acres of fire-damaged land.
- * Constructed 25 stream structures for anadromous fisheries on .75 miles of stream and completed 10 acres of reforestation.
- * Maintained 61.3 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails and constructed 6 miles of new hiking trails, of which 1.2 miles were designed for the physically challenged.
- * Gathered and planted 45,000 willow and cottonwood cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations.
- * Maintained eight campgrounds, rehabilitated 10 campground sites, and provided handicapped access on six sites.
- * Completed 197 acres of timber stand improvement.
- * Restored two historic sites.
- * Completed threatened and endangered species habitat surveys on 900 acres, completed 355 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, installed two range waterlots, removed three miles of fence, and constructed 1.25 miles of new fence.
- * Protected 82 acres of huckleberry fields sacred to the Warm Springs Takima Tribal Nations by burning 12 acres of fields and by hand grinding and pruning conifer trees on another 70 acres.
- * Hung erosion control netting on 300 feet of steep Forest Service road cutbacks and helped clear 15 miles of road that provide critical access to water monitoring sites after an early winter snowstorm.

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" Fighting Against Hunger

The following is a summary of the first quarter accomplishments of the five USDA Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team projects managed by the USDA Food and Consumer Service through local partnerships with anti-hunger groups and youth service corps. Most of the projects started service in October 1994. This report does not include accomplishments from Vermont, since that project did not fully start until January of 1995. USDA/AmeriCorps Members:

- * Cooked and prepared meals for over 6,000 people at local soup kitchens.
- * Conducted a nutrition and food safety workshop for the elderly attended by 39 senior citizens.
- * Conducted nutrition outreach to senior citizens and aided 200 senior citizens in filling out food stamp applications.
- * Surveyed 60 low-income households about hunger insecurity and 29 of those homes have been referred to receive food assistance.
- * Sorted over 93,000 pounds of food at local food banks.
- * Developed educational skits teaching how "Healthy eating is fun" for ten elementary schools.
- * Four days a week, reached an average of 200 people with educational efforts regarding public services such as WIC.
- * Produced and distributed 20 informational posters, distributed 300 informational flyers, and made 150 reminder phone calls to relevant families to increase the number of children receiving immunizations.
- * Contacted 250 schools in five cities about the participating in the summer feeding program; distributed 500 flyers in targeted areas about the School Breakfast Program.
- * Located three sites for revitalizing community gardens in low-income neighborhoods.
- * Assisted 200 earthquake victims with emergency food information through an informational referral service.
- * Informed 130 local pantries about how their clients who are working but are still poor can obtain help through the Earned Income Tax Credit Program.

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" Helping the Environment

The following are highlights from the first quarter accomplishments of the 14 Environmental Team projects sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service on private lands in urban and rural areas and the one project sponsored by the USDA Agricultural Research Service at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Many projects did not start until October of 1994. USDA AmeriCorps Members:

- * Repaired and restored five reservoir flood-damaged recreation areas in Kansas by fixing 22 miles of fence, cleaning five miles of shoreline, removing 160 damaged trees, clearing three miles of trails, replanting 40 trees, re-creating fish habitats, repairing 50 picnic tables, restoring five restrooms, repairing one bridge, trimming 3 miles of trees on dikes, cleaning out one outdoor learning classroom, debris from 2 miles of roads, and posting signs on 19 miles of roads.
- * In and around Atlanta, Georgia, conducted water quality monitoring at thirty locations throughout the Big Creek Watershed. In one urban neighborhood, Members benefitted 400 residents by cleaning eight acres, mulching 1,000 feet of walking trails, placing three waterbars into trails, seeded a half acre, and carried away six dump trucks of trash. Built a greenhouse and began constructing a nature trail at the North Metro Technical Institute in Acworth.
- * Completed stream walks on four streams in New Jersey to categorize potential non-point pollution in the South Branch Raritan River Watershed. Desnagged and re-established reflectors in two streams to improve fish habitat and removed debris and reseeded 375 feet of streambank to improve water quality. Designed and flagged 500 feet of trail and built a playground set at Lake Hopatcong State Park.
- * In Western Oklahoma, restored 15 windbreaks originally created by the Civilian Conservation Corps on 7.5 miles of land in five counties.
- * In and around Baytown, Texas, cleaned and mowed five 10-meter by 75-meter ponds, vegetated two acres of marsh demonstration projects, harvested and threshed by hand 4 acres of smooth cordgrass seed, harvested by hand and then planted 800 mangrove seeds, harvested, threshed, and planted 3,000 Scirpus seeds. Members also assisted the Red Cross in flood relief efforts in the Houston area by loading and unloading trucks and delivering supplies to local flood victims.
- * At the National Arboretum, in Washington, D.C, Members completed the first two stages of restoring the Azalea Overlook, cut and removed sections of the Boxwood collection, and cleared weeds and vines to restore 150 yards of Juniper hedge.
- * In South Dakota, Members demonstrated to cattlemen the benefits of managing vegetation areas along waterways, including during periods of flooding.

* In Chicago, Members maintained and beautified streambanks and created a safe-haven lot at Lathrop Homes, cleaned up a lagoon in Washington Park, landscaped a public high school, remodeled and prepared a play lot at Kennicott Park, helped organize a "Neighbors Against Gang Violence - Day of Dead Memorial," remodeled the Donelly Youth Center, and planted bulbs at the Fellowship Youth Center.

* In Nebraska, Members designed three recreation trails, cleaned up an urban wetland "Heron Haven" owned by the local Audubon Club, revitalized the Lincoln Normal historical project, improved 20 miles of recreation trails, assisted in flood debris removal from 14 sites at the National Arbor Day Foundation headquarters, helped prepare an inspection and maintenance report of flood control facilities, maintained and improved historical sites, and performed recreation and conservation maintenance in Lower Elkhorn River area and Norfolk public parks.

* In areas damaged by the floods of 1993 in Central Illinois, Members developed 1.3 miles of hiking trails, improved five acres of camp sites, and pruned 5 acres of evergreen trees at a Pittsfield City park. Members also removed about 15 tons of debris (tires, appliances, automobiles, etc.) from half of mile of a stream that outlets into a city owned recreation lake for the City of Rushville. In Kampsville, Members replaced 75 feet of sidewalks damaged during the flood. Members in Quincy also renovated a brick road in an historic alley.

* In Portland, Oregon, Members at the Whitaker Pond Restoration improved 150 feet of pond bank by removing pest species including blackberries, night shade, and everlasting pea then revegetating the area. Members also revegetated three acres on the northern portion of Fairview Creek. The Members worked-side-by-side with 80 different community volunteers who served 450 volunteer hours.

* In East. St. Louis, Illinois, Members established nurseries at East. St. Louis Senior High School, Lovejoy High School, and Jones Park, removed debris and broken materials from the high school greenhouse, cleaned out a fountain in Jones Park, and assisted Operation NewSpirit in planting bulbs throughout the city. The Forest service also provided technical assistance to this project.

* Members in Goldendale, Washington, rebuilt a half-mile stretch of fence that protects a key riparian area along the Little Klickitat River. Members also protected water quality on one mile of stream by treating 300 acres with log check dams across steep slopes and installed eight sediment retention dams. They also protected Pine Creek by installing eight log check dams, built a new playground at a Head Start Center on the Yakima Indian Reservation, removed dozens of pick-up dead wood on public lands and provided them as firewood for low-income families.

* Members worked with the Izaak Walton League in Charles County, Maryland to complete four erosion control structures on a site that will be open to the public.

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" Rebuilding Rural America

USDA has fully embraced the vision --- held by both the President and the Corporation for National and Community Service --- that AmeriCorps be community-based, community-designed, and community-run. The USDA Rural Development Team has different community service objectives for each and every individual site, based on the needs of each local community. Consequently, the Rural Development Team Members are providing such a wide variety of services that they are nearly impossible to aggregate.

The best illustration of how the Rural Development Team is "getting things done," is a list of success stories in each of the following areas: running water and indoor plumbing, sustainable agriculture, emergency response and prevention, fisheries restoration, alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, community improvement and personal responsibility development, tourism to boost local economies, water quality protection, recycling promotion, American Indian tribal empowerment, rural housing improvement, and cultural resource preservation.

Running Water and Indoor Plumbing

- * Member in Marion, Arkansas helped provide a rural water line that furnished seven households -- with 22 residents -- with running water for the first time.
- * Members in Louisiana and Mississippi assisted individuals in joining and developing rural water associations.
- * In Texas, Member in Brownsville helped 25 families without bathroom and kitchen plumbing obtain sanitary and safe plumbing facilities. Members in Hidalgo County have been responsible for the construction of nine bathrooms at homes previously without indoor plumbing; by the end of the quarter, three more installations were finalized but not yet built. Member in San Benito started work to provide indoor plumbing to 153 families without such plumbing. Member in Raymondville started work to provide indoor plumbing to 30 families without such plumbing.

Rural Economic Development

- * Member in Holmes County, Mississippi devised a plan to reduce employee turnover at the Durant Electric Corporation, the largest employer in the county --- with 600 employees and a payroll of \$8 million. The plan not only convinced the company to reverse its plans to move to Mexico, but allowed the company to plan to hire 400 new employees. Thus, the one USDA AmeriCorps Member directly saved or created 1,100 jobs.

* In Boone, North Carolina, Member is working with the local Enterprise Community (EC) applicant to implement their strategic plan for economic development. Working in cooperation with the Boone Housing Authority, the Member is organizing and making functional a Community Development Corporation (CDC) to assist the low-income residents of Boone. To date, over \$1.8 million has been awarded for water and sewer infrastructure and housing assistance as a result of her help.

* Members in West Virginia assisted with implementation of a business retention and expansion program including the production and distribution of a monthly newsletter that is intended to improve dialogue, link communities together, and provide funding opportunities; they also developed a computer program for the West Virginia Division of Forestry that allows small business owners to calculate costs of producing various materials for long term investment strategies.

* In Bell County, Tennessee, Member helped the local Industrial Foundation obtain a \$201,000 grant.

* In Cleveland, Mississippi, Member recruited new and emerging leaders in Bolivar County for a community and economic development leadership seminar and conducted a survey of an 18 county area as an integral part of the regional strategic plan. In another county of Mississippi, a Member produced a comprehensive report of available buildings, the labor supply, financial options, cost of utilities, etc. in an 18-county region in order to expand existing local businesses or attract new businesses.

* In Pittsfield, Illinois, Members completed a Small Businesses Research and Revitalization Project and are helping update the town's overall economic development plan. Their efforts have been praised by the Mayor.

* In Texas, one Member has begun grant applications to start a revolving loan fund to provide seed money to create new small businesses locally.

* In Allendale/Blackville, South Carolina, Member established a downtown redevelopment effort concentrating on an historical abandoned hotel. In Penn Center, South Carolina, Member is completing a survey of community land ownership to stabilize development and establish a plan for a cooperative effort for agriculture processing and development.

Sustainable Agriculture

* In Machias, Maine, Member received funding from the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission to set-up a state-wide series of best management practices for Blueberry Growers and began implementation of workshops.

Another Member in Maine assisted in the establishment of a pilot Integrated Pest Management Program for cranberry growers to help the growers economically reduce the amount of pesticides that end up in the groundwater, assisted with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's upland cranberry bed demonstration project, and has visited lands of thirteen cranberry growers to provide personal assistance.

- * In California, Member in Petaluma has begun water quality sampling on three adjacent dairies and has completed one conservation plan. In Santa Rosa, Member has trained one dairy operator to use a water quality test kit, is developing plans to provide such assistance to members of four different local organizations, and has completed inventory work for a watershed group.

- * In Minnesota, Members based in Hiawatha began work to improve forage/grassland conditions to the good or excellent category on 5,000 acres, affecting 50 farmers in 11 counties. Members based in Thief River Falls began work to improve water quality and reduce producer fertilizer input costs by developing and implementing animal waste nutrient utilization and management plans on 120 livestock operations.

- * In South Carolina, Members conducted waste water sampling of waste management facilities (lagoons) and prepared detailed summary reports for 16 individual farm systems; this testing procedure was the first in South Carolina and will serve as a model for other conservation activities. They also tested 600 different soil samples to determine croplands with high levels of phosphorus and acidity and prepared a report on their findings to local farmers. Members expanded inventory on data on farm grasslands to reflect 40,000 acres in order to reduce erosion and improve water quality of nearby streams and lakes.

- * In Redlands, California, Members have surveyed three dairies totaling 130 acres, eventually leading to recycling or eliminating 6,867 tons of waste once practices have been implemented. Each farmer saved an average of about \$9,000 by having the service performed by AmeriCorps members instead of private contractors. The Members also completed a survey of a five-acre ranch which will eventually lead to the recycling of 26.5 tons of waste a year.

- * Member in Pine Bluff, Arkansas developed farm and home plans for small and disadvantaged farmers to help them obtain loans to stay on their land.

- * In Western New York, Members have helped digitalize soil surveys and make that information accessible and practical to surrounding communities, including the Seneca Nation of Indians.

Emergency Response and Prevention

- * Members on the Vermont Fire Protection project contacted 48 Fire Departments in Vermont, installed one dry fire hydrant, performed 30 dry fire hydrant site surveys, and initiated and participated in meetings with Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Fire Safety Association, Vermont Fire Chiefs Association, and Vermont League of Cities and Towns.**
- * In Missouri, one Member began preparing guide sheets and a handbook to aid reclamation of two smaller tributaries of the Missouri River, another Member obtained existing floodplain management data to begin developing a Decision Support System computer model for floodplain management, another Member produced an informational fact sheet on flood recovery that was distributed by the Extension and also began collecting hydrologic and agronomic data in order to propose land-use alternatives for the area, another Member provided emergency program assistance to 32 landusers, another Member investigated local floodwater retarding dams to determine workload, another Member worked to assist sponsors to complete five dam safety reports and perform maintenance on 15 floodwater retarding dams, another Member completed maps of five farms of the sands deposits created by the floods of 1993, and another Member assisted five sponsors and 15 landowners to provide flood protection recovery through the Emergency Watershed Program.**
- * In Middlebourne, West Virginia, Member organized a dry fire hydrant in the area by working with fire departments and local communities to get access to water for rural fire protection.**
- * In South Carolina, Members helped local officials improve emergency response procedures by conducting a county road survey to inventory and update names and locations, as the first base procedure to reduce delays in 911 emergency responses. Over 600 miles of roads were recorded on base maps and entered into local computer software in order to maintain accurate files. The entire effort saved the county approximately \$20,000, and each AmeriCorps Member was presented a certificate of achievement from County Officials.**
- * Members in Monticello, Mississippi also sponsored a regional meeting, attended by 11 of the 13 counties in the area, to improve rural fire protection services. Members in Tupelo and Grenada have generated maps and use them in meetings with local fire coordinators to plan dry fire hydrants that will increase local fire protection. Members in Holy Grove, Mississippi began work to help community residents move out of a flood zone.**
- * Members in Louisiana made significant progress towards installing 35 dry fire hydrants per parish in order to aid rural fire protection.**

- * In Auburn, California, Members have made significant progress creating and implementing fuel reduction plans to reduce forest and other fires in the area. In Lancaster and Somis, California, Members have focused on areas previously impacted by fires and by flooding and have completed a mitigation plan for the Kinneola area and have completed field work for the Laguna mitigation plan.

Fisheries Restoration

- * In Maine, Member sorted 78 samples of ichthoplankton, identifying eggs and larvae in the samples, in order to aid in the restoration of striped bass through locating and protecting spawning areas in the Kennebec and Eastern Rivers. Transferred 20,000 individual shads from grow-out ponds into a re-stocking truck.
- * Another Member in Maine located and identified streams suitable for streamside installation of boxes for salmonoid spawning, rearing, and staging,
- * In Middlebourne, West Virginia the Member worked to develop a pond system for the production of striped bass on a commercial basis. He also began forming an organization of warm water fish producers in the area.

Alternative Uses of Natural Resources

- * In Minnesota, Members developed a public access TV show that explains a project being conducted by the RC&Ds to promote the development of a bio-fuels program in cooperation with the US Dept. of Energy.
- * In Louisiana, a Member worked on a bridge information summary for Mississippi Delta counties to prepare a bridge infrastructure report for possible timber bridge construction projects, and a Member in Mississippi completed one timber bridge application.
- * Members in Batesville, Arkansas made significant progress towards helping create a local woodland owners association.
- * Another Member in North Little Rock has identified 10 sites for Pellet Stove Demonstration Projects to stimulate demand for a new product that will boost industry in the region.
- * Members in Utah have begun a service conducting a comprehensive analysis of the potential for local resource-based, value-added industries in the region and assisting limited resource farmers in developing small-scale agriculture enterprises.

Environmental Education Facilities

- * In South Carolina, Members built a new front entrance gate and nature trails at the Adair Outdoor Learning Center, which is visited by 3,000 students each year.
- * Based in Waverly, Tennessee, Members have significantly improved and expanded the Humphreys County Spoil Conservation District environmental center, also known as the Blue Creek Nature Center. Members developed one new trail, improved existing trails, and conducted six nature tours involving 199 students and 63 adults.
- * Member in Pearl, Mississippi nearly completed two outdoor classrooms and a nature trail at Madison Elementary School.

Community Improvement and Personal responsibility Development

- * In West Virginia, Member served on the organization and implementation committee for Tug River Health Clinic and sent surveys to all employers, child care providers, and parents to collect data to apply for a grant to establish a clinic. Another Member in West Virginia organized a Community Service Day for the all Northern West Virginia AmeriCorps Members in which they worked at the Union Mission of Fairmont to help decorate for the youth holiday party, tape plastic to windows in the homeless shelter, and prepare information packets for a fundraising event. In Wilcoe, West Virginia, another Member sent surveys to prominent businesses in McDowell County that employ 25 people or more, in-home day care providers, private day care owners, and parents of Head Start children to collect data to include in grant applications to obtain funding for local day care programs.
- * Member in Natchez, Mississippi is working to reduce teenage pregnancy; she spoke personally about her efforts with Senate Majority Whip Trent Lott who "promised to support (her) efforts in Natchez and declared he would be in Natchez in any events that take place if his schedule permits." The Member has also formed a task force to work on reestablishing a YMCA center in Natchez.

Another Member in Natchez helped two different families obtain funds to repair their home. In her "free time" this member is volunteering for the Illiteracy Program at a local United Methodist Church. Another Member in Mississippi held two town meetings, attended by 80 local senior citizens, to inform them of common consumer fraud scams targeted at the elderly.

- * Member in Arkansas helped improve the quality of standard living for 950 low income families by the end of this quarter in obtaining Home Energy Assistance (HEAP) and to provide assistance through the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP).
- * Members in Holly Grove, Mississippi have also worked on helping start a "Dads Program," to focus attention on young boys without fathers in the home.
- * In Santee-Lynches, South Carolina, Member has been working to statistically document and then reduce the number of teenage pregnancies.

Tourism Development to Boost Local Economies

- * In Virginia, Member developed a video program showing natural resources on the National Forest, State and private lands to promote recreation resources, and tourism in the region. Other Members in Virginia prepared a plan for a local greenway trail.
- * Members based in Twin Valley worked on the Agassie Recreational Trail Project and designed a tourism brochure along with a logo created through a local contest, worked with the Ada City Council to integrate the trail project with community development, completed a grant proposal for the Heritage & Information Center, and judged at the Norman County East Science Fair for students.
- * In Tennessee, Members who are working on the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative interviewed 43 federal, state, and local tourism professionals, six independent consultants, and 64 local citizens to initially assess project feasibility, community attitudes, tourism development processes, and sources of funding or technical assistance. These Members the first-ever tourism advisor board in the region. They also began a community-based initiative in Hancock and Grainger Counties to provide technical assistance and "hands-on" service in the establishment and renovation of county museums.
- * In Kentucky, Member produced brochure to help increase tourism to the nearby Kentucky Craft Village. Member is also planning instruction workshops for 15 local craft producers.
- * Members in Hattiesburg, Mississippi began an inventory of tourism resources in an 18 county area of Southeast Mississippi.
- * Members in Iowa conducted outreach to increase the number of farmers in the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program. Members in Iowa have prepared maps and written materials to assist County Conservation Boards in Fremont Mills, Pottawattamie, Harrison, Monona, and Woodbury counties in locating areas for potential in recreation, tourism, economic development, and wildlife areas. They

also revised a brochure for Western Iowa and worked to develop bicycle loops for area cycling clubs. Additionally, Members updated tourism guides, wrote scripts for tours, restored a farmer's market, and took an inventory of resources in the African-American community to create an agricultural heritage area in Northeast Iowa.

Recycling Promotion

- * In Tennessee, a Member developed a marketing program for recyclable materials; a program called "Garbage Busters" was developed for second graders. Members wrote grants for various proposals and one was approved for a "Learn and Service America" program that focuses on recycling management for elementary students in a five-county area; prepared articles for local newspapers entitled "Trashy Talk"; and completed a presentation for a public education program on oil recycling in Tennessee.
- * In another part of Tennessee, Members have created a database to track the status of solid waste/recycling progress in each of 14 counties. Members also began a 14 county poster contest in local schools with the theme "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." Members successfully convinced 16 schools to start on-site recycling programs. Members have also presented eight environmental education programs to 400 students.
- * In Texas, a Member has made significant progress towards creating a 5,000 acre Regional Environmental Enterprise Zone to build and implement a comprehensive facility to meet the solid waste needs of the region for the next 75 to 100 years.

American Indian Tribal Empowerment

- * In North Carolina, a Member developed a Parks and Recreation Department proposal for the Cherokee Indian Reservation in NC.
- * In Waynesville, North Carolina, a Member is working towards establishing a good, trusting relationship with the Cherokee Indian reservation and to make the residents aware of various USDA home ownership and repair programs.
- * Members in Holbrook, Arizona began an assessment of small-scale agriculture needs on the Hopi and Navajo Reservations.
- * In San Juan, New Mexico, Members have begun to inventory private woodlands and started to conduct a resource and rangeland inventory on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

- * In Ukiah, California, a Member has formed client partnerships to aid two severely eroded streams, has helped the Round Valley Tribal Community treat two miles of stream, and signed up four local growers for a cost share program to convert to the water-saving drip irrigation program.

Water Quality Protection

- * In Houlton, Maine, a Member completed a sanitary survey on Shin Pound to help community residents make future decisions about how to best protect the health of their lake.

- * Members on the Winooski River Project in Vermont conducted a 21 mile reconnaissance survey from Jonesville to Essex Junction, Vermont to evaluate the state of erosion control and bioengineering measures installed in the late 1930's in order to improve current conservation measures.

- * In Kingwood, West Virginia, a Member performed soil nutrient content analysis and animal manure nutrient analysis in order to improve local water quality. In Morefield, West Virginia, the Member performed nutrient and pesticide management activities to improve the local water quality. The two members have provided assistance on a combined total of 1,000 acres.

- * Members based in the Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council in Tennessee have dewatered 2.5 million gallons of waste from the storage facilities of five local landowners, and collected soil samples at those sites to ensure safe discharge.

- * In Louisiana, Members performed over 100 pre-assessment surveys that benefited over 100 rural families by identifying threats water quality on their home and farmsteads. They made presentations on the water quality program to 240 high school students.

- * In Ohio, Members completed a filed map of Pickaway County to help protect the Darby Creek watershed, completed survey and design work to implement Best Management Practices in rural areas, identified local landowners who want trees to be planted on riparian areas, and began identifying places on the Big and Little Darby Creeks where point and non-point pollution enters the stream system.

- * In Michigan, Members conducted quality assessments and provided water quality protect plans to 29 farm families.

- * Members based in Cloquet, Minnesota developed a public participation plan for the Nemadji River Basin Project and completed a watershed roadside erosion inventory.

Rural Housing Improvement

- * In Williamson, West Virginia, a Member assisted in helping 30 families apply for rental housing assistance.
- * In Hendersonville, North Carolina, Member is helping finance home improvements for very low income families in Ashe County. To do so, he established relationships with the Housing Assistance Corporation and the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission so that they will now package applications for FmHA housing loans. He also met with several individuals to educate them about the USDA programs, and processed two loans to make repairs to low income individuals.
- * In Mississippi, a Member helped five families with poor credit histories turn their credit around so they could obtain housing loans.
- * In Webb, Mississippi, a Member helped six low-income citizens obtain single self-help housing units. Member has also provided counseling to the families that have homes under construction to acquaint them with the responsibilities that go along with home ownership. In Indianola, Mississippi, a Member began providing a "Home Buyer's Education Program" for 932 individuals.
- * In Texas, a Member in Brownsville helped 16 families remodel their homes to remove health hazards such as broken windows, old roofs, insulation, etc and helped two families obtain new homes that are now under construction. A Member in Laredo made significant progress towards rehabilitating 42 housing units. A Member in El Paso helped two elderly women obtain funds to repair their homes, and for a third women ineligible for government loans, recruited a volunteer plumber to repair her bathroom and volunteers through the Salvation army to winterize her home.
- * Members in El Centro, California have been conducting outreach to expand usage of the 504 program to prove grants and loans for low income families to repair their homes; by the end of the first quarter, two applications for repairs had been approved and the work was completed, two more had just been approved, and four more were in the process of being approved.
- * A Member in Gallup, New Mexico conducted on training on loan packaging for 19 community residents including representatives from local non-profit groups, church leaders, and Native American Community leaders.

* In Pendleton, Oregon, a Member helped two low-income individuals receive a loan and one individual to receive a grant to repair their homes. In Elgin, Oregon, Member assisted HELP, inc. in Housing Preservation Grant that allowed 11 low income and very low income families to repair and rehabilitate their homes. The Member verified eligibility, determined preservation needs, identified environmental effects, and awarded bids to housing contractors.

Cultural and Historic Resource Preservation

* In Kentucky, Members developed an infrastructure database; served as project manager for the historic Stearns building renovation project and administered the Folk Life Study on historical buildings, people, and local folklore in KY.

* Based in Morgantown, West Virginia, a Member performed an archaeologist inventory on five major sites in economically depressed sites around the state in order to provide cultural resource protection through inventory, investigation, and documentation of sites. At one site, he discovered three historic and one pre-historic sites that he will be documenting. He also worked with another AmeriCorps member to develop Fort Randolph -- a Civil War fort in Point Pleasant -- for public use.

* In Baker City, New Mexico, a Member has recruited three property owners who have agreed to use their properties as pilot locations for historic renovations.

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" Educating Americans

Many USDA AmeriCorps environmental and rural development projects have educational components. Educational achievements related to hunger are detailed in the hunger section above. In the first quarter, USDA AmeriCorps Members:

- * In Redlands, California, a Member helped coordinate and teach an Nature Discovery Program that benefited 690 local elementary students.
- * In Maine, Members worked with 12 teachers to begin implementing an "Adopt-a-Stream curriculum in their classrooms. Members in another part of the state collected, revised, adapted, copied, and distributed a 20 page packet of educational materials including lesson plans on water quality, the water cycle, water conservation, and preventing surface and groundwater pollution to 16 Soil and Water Conservation District. In still another part of Maine, a Member facilitated three cooperative agreements between University of Maine at Machias, University of Maine Orono Cooperative Extension, and Maine Department of Environmental Resources in order to integrate hands-on water quality testing and shoreline sampling experience into the Environmental Chemistry and Special Topics in Environmental Sciences courses.
- * Member in Yazoo City, Mississippi, coordinated a program in which the Mississippi State Health Educator talked to 900 high school students about teenage pregnancy and abstinence.
- * Member in Louisiana assisted with the development of a tutoring program for individuals to obtain their GED and improve ACT test scores and an education program for adults
- * In South Carolina, Members conducted a "Junior Palmetto Leadership Training Course" for 30 high school students; another Member established an after-school tutorial project.
- * Members provided environmental education to 600 students visiting Forest Service lands.
- * In South Dakota, Members helped conduct 10 sessions in elementary classrooms on American Indian Heritage Month.
- * In Arkansas, Members motivated volunteers to assist with the "Educate the Children Project" which distributes educational material to school districts and some non-profit organizations.

- * Member in Madison County, Mississippi recruited 46 local high school students and two teachers to participate in a series of money management workshops. Another Member in Madison and Jefferson Counties, Mississippi conducted financial management classes in six senior high school classes reaching 135 students.

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" Fighting Crime

Some USDA AmeriCorps also have public safety components. In the first quarter, USDA AmeriCorps Members:

- * In Logan County, West Virginia, Member assisted the organization of nine local rural communities so they can bring resources together to effectively reduce certain criminal activities.
- * Member is working in Jackson, Mississippi to create a "peer Helpers' group to reduce crimes committed by teenagers.
- * On the Texas/Mexico border, one Member is helping create a community crime watch program.
- * In Greater Orangeburg, South Carolina, Member is seeking to reduce the number of vacant buildings used for illegal activities by helping identify those premises and working with the city to demolish or improve those buildings.

What Citizens Are Saying About AmeriCorps/ USDA

(Unique Successes and Great Stories)

Getting Things Done

"Its going to be a wonderful boon to us in the area of the environment, especially keeping Lake Champlain the gem that it is."

- Senator James Jeffords (R-VT), October 17, 1994

Describing USDA AmeriCorps Rural Development Project on the Winooski River

"Rural Development is really a national concern we have - environmental concerns are extraordinary and one of the priorities of AmeriCorps really is environmental development - the natural environment, the neighborhood environment. We learn these lessons so we can do what is most important about national service --- which is getting things done."

- Eli J. Segal, CEO, Corporation for National and Community Service

October 17, 1994, also commenting on USDA AmeriCorps Rural Development Project on the Winooski River

"The AmeriCorps program has been essential in our area. Through the use of our effluent discharge program, landowners have been able to reduce the impact on non-point source pollution problems. They have also become more aware of their responsibilities for water quality through our educational efforts."

Chris Hays, Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council
Jackson, Tennessee

"As a result of his diligent efforts... we have decided to remain in full operation in Durant, Mississippi (and) we are presently hiring and training additional employees."

Mark Lauritzen, President, Durant Electric Corporation

Explaining how a USDA AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Member helped prevent his company with 600 employees and a \$8 million payroll from relocating to Mexico

"It's hard to know whether (critics of AmeriCorps) are opposed to national service programs in general, or because AmeriCorps is one of the few unambiguous successes President Clinton can point to in his first two years ... There are 38 young men and women at a work camp in the Applegate Ranger District this winter, working in the woods as well as renovating structures in Butte Falls and Prospect. So far, AmeriCorps is a success in America's forests and urban areas."

- Editorial, Medford, Oregon *Mail-Tribune*
October 18, 1995

"I never thought that being an AmeriCorps Member would have such an impact on someone's else's life, meaning that knowing that I had the power to help an elderly lady receive a grant to repair her home. One of the County Supervisors and I went to inspect the house and the lady was in a bad situation. When everything was processed and she was qualified, I felt as if I had helped someone to a brighter future. By being in this position, I was able to help someone, and that is what it is all about."

- AmeriCorps member Wydette Williams
Lake Providence, LA

"The first two weeks of the projects were the roughest. There was a surplus of remaining plants from a previous project. It was hot and muddy. Many of the Members had never worked that hard in their lives but, they all stayed with it and transplanted the plants that would not have survived much longer in their six-inch pots."

- Geoff Sanders, Natural Resources and Conservation Service
Texas Shoreline Protection Project Manger

While Building Community ...

"In addition to completing worthwhile projects, (Northwest Service) Academy participants will learn civic responsibility while serving their communities."

- Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-OR)
June 23, 1994

"The communities that we have visited have invited us to come back and get more involved with their community. AmeriCorps was the glue the brought the agencies and the communities to start communicating and working together."

- AmeriCorps Member Anabelle Alvarez
El Centro, California

"I have had the opportunity to meet many different people since I started working with AmeriCorps. I must admit that I have changed my attitude a great deal on how to look at things. I say that because I have worked with many people who have a substandard living standard. They pay their bills and have no money left to enjoy.... It is comforting to know that I have had an opportunity to help these individuals to secure grants to get the help they needed."

-AmeriCorps Member Lee Woodridge
Working in Winnsboro, LA on rural housing outreach

"I've found that just being in the community and talking to people about the project has made a difference. The public wants to be involved in what happens to their economy and their environment, as my position will affect both these factors, I've found people willing to talk, listen, and argue with me about the fishway project and my role in it ... The professionals -- school teachers, archive directors, librarians, town managers, etc. --- seemed especially appreciative of what I'm trying to do, and have extended offers to help and provide information. I also foresee myself being able to help the towns accomplish goals which have fallen by the wayside; for instance, many of the towns have tried to get funding for public access sites a number of times in the past few years, but have never been successful. They believe I can help them realize this goal, and I plan to live up to their expectations."

- AmeriCorps Member Pierson Smith-Hatch
Presque Isle, Maine

"One of the great stories about AmeriCorps people is that when we have our cluster meetings, there has been the bond of a close-knit family."

- AmeriCorps Member Henry Rosenthal
Alexandra, LA

"The five (AmeriCorps members) we have been communicating directly on a nearly daily basis with the full support of the agency and have gotten together not only professionally but also socially on a frequent basis. You see among them a real pride and excitement about what they are doing. It is an excitement and pride that is unique to the program."

- Patrick Bowen, Natural Resources and Conservation Service
AmeriCorps Project Director for West Virginia

"We would not have as credible a monitoring program without the assistance of the Clean Water Program and AmeriCorps Members who provide training, organizational, and technical assistance to our community."

- Bill Mook, Chairman
Darmariscotta River Tidewater Watch, Maine

Boosting Opportunity

"The impact of AmeriCorps is far greater than work being accomplished or public service in the communities. AmeriCorps is about growing up and becoming a productive citizen in our community. One of our Members, a 20 year old male, is supporting a wife and four children. He has been on the welfare program for 10 years and saw AmeriCorps as an opportunity to get out of the welfare vicious circle. He does not want his family to experience the same hardships he has had to experience. He has now completed his GED.... Another Member, a Native American female, is being portrayed as a role model in her tribe. Her native tribe fully supports the AmeriCorps program, and wants her to return to her tribal community after the completion of the program to teach the importance of education."

- **Mindy Martin**

Rogue River National Forest

"Members of the Port Townsend Community have opened their homes to Members who were staying at the Fort Warden Camp over the Thanksgiving Holiday. All Members were invited to have dinner and spend the day with local families."

- **David Johnson, Forest Service Project Manager**

Olympic National Forest

"Not only has AmeriCorps opened the doors of higher education to Sonoma County residents, it has given new life to meaningful new programs in our communities that have been neglected too long."

- **Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)**

September 27, 1994

And Promoting Personal Responsibility

"The further the Members have to hike to get to their work site, the worse the weather, and the more difficult the type of service, the more the Members enjoy the service and the harder they work."

- **Crew Leader**

Rogue River National Forest AmeriCorps Site

"I hope you feel good about being pioneers --- you should."

**- Congressman Doug Bereuter (R-NE)
Speaking to AmeriCorps Members in Nebraska**

"Mr. Lott (Republican Senator and Majority Whip) called me personally and promised to support my efforts (to combat teen pregnancy) in Natchez and declared he would be in Natchez in any events that take place if his schedule permits."

- AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Member Susan Foutz-Lowe

"I believe I speak for the Hormon Lake Ranger District and the Cocino National Forest in extending to you our thanks for the many projects the AmeriCorps crews were able to accomplish. Each week I witnessed a closer and more cohesive group. They listened well, worked hard, and received the benefit of knowing they did needed work to a high quality standards."

**- David E, Michael, Work Supervisor
Cocino National Forest**

"I personally want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and deep appreciation for the work your crew accomplished at the Palatki Cliff-dwelling complex in Sedona. The crew that worked at Palatki not only repaired the existing trails, they upgraded them in bad areas and in sensitive areas as well as obliterating old trails and disguising them in a sensitive and effective manner. The job they did looks terrific and I am very impressed by their work ethic and the professionalism and commitment they showed on this project."

**- Mareitta Davenport, Zone Archaeologist
USDA Forest Service**

"Members are making personal accomplishments as well.. For many, this is the first time they have opened their own checking accounts. They have learned how to get along with a wide variety of people and work cooperatively."

**- Geoff Sander, Natural Resources and Conservation Service
Texas Shoreline Protection Project Manager**

AmeriCorps/USDA is Reinventing Government

The USDA/AmeriCorps program is helping USDA reinvent government by delivering USDA services in ways that work better but cost less. The program based on eight principles highlighted by Vice-President Gore and the National performance Review, and outlined by author David Osborne in his book *Reinventing Government*:

1) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Catalytic Government by Steering Rather Than Rowing.

Instead of managing programs from Washington, USDA has successfully created unique public/private partnerships at the local level to design and run the programs. For instance, to create anti-hunger projects, USDA brought together existing anti-hunger groups and existing youth service corps, provided them with the national vision of USDA and AmeriCorps, and then gave them great freedom to design and implement projects that best meet the unique needs of their local areas.

USDA provides seed money -- sometimes the bulk of the funds in this first year of AmeriCorps operation -- but also, as rightfully mandated by the National and Community Service Act of 1993, requires matching money from all sub-grantees.

In effect, the USDA is acting as a venture capitalist by funding the best local proposals and providing a general structural framework and philosophical guidelines which local groups can follow while meeting their own local needs.

2) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Community-Owned Government by Empowering Rather Than Serving.

All proposals for service at local USDA AmeriCorps sites around the country were created at the local level, not by Washington-based bureaucrats. All programs are conceptualized, designed, implemented, and monitored at the local level but are provided additional funds and technical assistance by USDA. The USDA program is partnered with a wide variety of non-Federal institutions; community colleges, Soil Conservation Districts, non-profit organizations, youth corps, school districts, etc.

Rather than trying to directly provide service ourselves out of Washington, USDA has empowered local communities by providing them with the resources to solve their own problems. While this creates many logistical difficulties for USDA --- such as the challenge that the program design for each of our projects is entirely different at each of our hundreds of sites spread throughout in 38 states -- the benefits have far outweighed the difficulties.

3) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Competitive Government by Injecting Competition Into Service Delivery.

The USDA AmeriCorps program has cultivated free and open competition at every step of the way.

First, each USDA agency involved in the program held tough internal competitions to select the best proposals to determine which USDA sites would be funded. For every USDA site funded, at least two others were rejected.

Then, USDA participated in a highly unusual process in which Federal agencies had to actually submit a detailed and comprehensive application to the Corporation for National and Community Service in order to be considered for a grant. In other words, USDA and other Cabinet agencies were required to go through a process similar to those we require of others. (In fact, our application to the Corporation for National and Community Service required a strategic plan similar to the types of strategic plans that USDA and HUD required in Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community applications).

Unlike the way government usually operates, no one agency was guaranteed funding by a set formula. As a consequence of this open competition, Federal agencies ---- including USDA --- were forced to work harder and more creatively to develop quality programs in their applications.

Lastly, USDA AmeriCorps Members were selected through a tough, nationwide, competition. Given that approximately four people applied for every open slot, USDA was able to select incredibly qualified Members from a wide variety of educational, racial, economic, and gender backgrounds.

4) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Mission-Driven Government by Transforming Rules-Driven Organizations.

USDA has erased the artificial boundaries between itself and other Federal Departments working in similar areas by partnering on AmeriCorps projects at the local level with Department of Interior in California, the Environmental Protection Agency in Maine, the Department of Education in Oregon, and the Department of Energy in Minnesota.

Focusing on many of the Department Of Agriculture's multiple missions, the USDA/AmeriCorps program fulfills the goals of key initiatives pushed by the Clinton Administration such, as:

- * Integrating nutrition education information into the delivery of aid through U S D A feeding programs;

- * Bridging the false choice between environmental protection and economic growth by promoting ecosystem management and multiple uses on National Forest lands;
- * Providing long-term strategic planning assistance to rural communities;
- * Promoting sustainable agriculture that protects water and soil quality while allowing farm families to make good incomes;
- * and, Implementing Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community designations in rural areas to bring together a wide variety of government services to work in tandem to promote community development.

5) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Results-Oriented Government by Funding Outcomes, Not Inputs.

The USDA/AmeriCorps program is requiring specific performance measures for each and every site that are agreed upon before the project starts and are measured and evaluated at quarterly intervals throughout the year. While it is sometimes difficult and painful to measure concrete and specific accomplishments every few months, such measurements are a cornerstone of the Department's program.

In cases where sites have accomplished far more than one fourth of their yearly community service objectives in the first quarter, we know those projects are highly successful. For instance, in West Virginia, a project sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service, the Members completed most of their community service objectives for the year in just the first month and a half of the program and then began completing more ambitious projects. In some cases, where less progress was made towards the objectives in the first quarter, we can immediately assess the project to see how changes and improvements can be made before it is too late.

6) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Customer-Drive Government by Meeting the Needs of the Customer, Not The Bureaucracy.

All our programs are focused on results for the community, even if this means changing the culture of the USDA bureaucracy. One USDA project managers reported that Federal employees in his agency are still adjusting to reality that AmeriCorps Members "are working in different areas that we do not normally address which are more appropriate to a national service program." However, he reported that, "With time the rank and file employees will be more comfortable with the AmeriCorps project and the Members and that their challenge and charge is different."

Other cultural changes in the Federal culture are occurring as well. In Utah, two of our sometimes competing agencies formed a close partnership to jointly administer all aspects of the project. The Department has created a new way to transfer funds, a new way to payroll AmeriCorps Members, a new operations handbook, new ways of calculating budgets on spreadsheets--- all with the aim of reducing bureaucracy to best support the AmeriCorps Members and "get things done in communities." Some specific examples of administrative changes enacted for the USDA AmeriCorps program:

- * Worked with the USDA National Finance Center to devise a unique payroll system for AmeriCorps Members that has served as a model for the Federal government.
- * Created and implemented unique new systems to transfer funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA and from USDA to non-profit groups. The Executive Director of the Milwaukee Community Service Corps -- who sits on the Board of his state commission on national and community service -- reports that USDA transferred money to his organization more quickly than did his own state government.
- * Created different, complex, and constantly changing budgets for all our AmeriCorps projects. Created unique Lotus spreadsheets to manipulate budgets.
- * Chaired a task force of agency personnel that created and implemented all personnel, financial, budgetary, and administrative procedures used by USDA AmeriCorps projects.
- * Scrapped existing personnel regulations in favor of new ones we are creating for AmeriCorps participants.

6) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating an Enterprising Government by Earning Rather Than Spending.

Many USDA projects are, in effect, performing fee for service by obtaining funding from sponsors for whom they are performing work.

7) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Anticipatory Government by Focusing on Prevention Rather Than Cures.

By focusing on nutrition programs that keep senior citizens healthy, promoting WIC programs which prevent diseases for young children and for mothers, fire protection programs for rural areas, and sustainable agriculture projects that protect water quality, the USDA AmeriCorps program is stopping problems before they occur and thus saving taxpayer dollars.

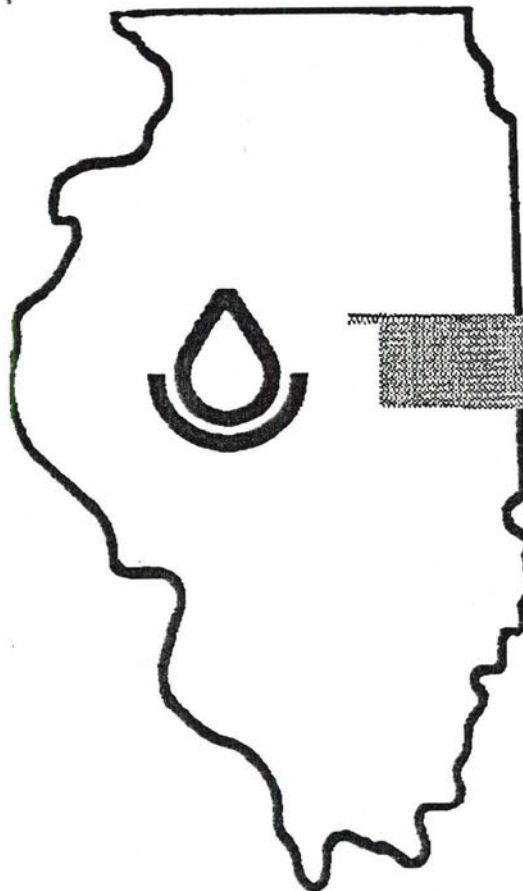
8) The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is Creating a Decentralized Government by Moving From Hierarchy to Participation and Teamwork.

The USDA AmeriCorps program has empowered front line workers by allowing career civil servants in Washington to play key leadership roles in implementing this program.

The project managers at the state and local level have been given a great deal of flexibility in project planning and implementation, with the Washington office providing mostly "steering" to ensure that projects meet the requirements of both the law and the AmeriCorps vision.

In response to input from local managers, USDA and the Corporation for National Service have changed many requirements in only the first few months of operations, such as rules for recruitment and rules for replacing Members who leave the program.

The USDA program has seriously reviewed all the challenges described by local managers in the first quarter reports, and has taken extensive steps to meet those challenges. Breaking down the many levels of bureaucracy that stand between Washington and the field, the USDA Director of National Service communicates frequently and directly with project managers at the local level through site visits, telephone calls, and conference calls.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

1902 Fox Drive

Champaign, Illinois 61820

Fax No.: 217-398-5310

Telefax

Date: _____

Attn: Paula C. Jones

NRCS, NHQ Room 5238-S

Location: Washington, D.C.

Fax No.: 202-690-0639

From: James B. Johnson

Ph. No.: 217-398-5293

Cover + _____ Page(s)

Message:

Attached is the First Quarter Report for
the East St. Louis AmeriCorps Project

cc:

Parker, ASTC

Please Respond:

☐ URGENT

☐ ASAP

☐ FYI

☐ By: _____

☐ No Response

☒ Per Your

Time: _____ AM/PM

Necessary

Request

First Quarter AmeriCorps Report
East St. Louis Environmental and Flood Restoration Project

1. Number of members enrolled at the time of launch. 30
2. Number of members enrolled at the end of first quarter. 30
3. Total number hours of direct service performed. $400 \times 30 = 12,000$
4. Total number of hours in training. $240 \times 30 = 7,200$
5. Progress towards meeting community service objectives (please refer to attachment).
6. Primary accomplishments (please refer to attachment).
7. Project Outcomes for Next Quarter

During the second quarter, we will: (1) complete the selection of all lot and garden sites; (2) complete the renovation of both greenhouses; (3) complete action plans for the 20 lot renovation sites; (4) complete garden plans for the 15 community gardens; (5) complete the planting of the trees purchased by the Nation Tree Trust; (6) complete the landscape plan for state community college; (7) complete work on East O'Fallon Drive; (8) complete work on Mt. Pleasant Drive in Belleville; (9) and complete flood survey work for the city of Belleville.

8. Primary Challenges

The local project office has expressed concerns about the following items: (1) assembling heavy equipment (tractors, back hoes, dump trucks, etc.); (2) Lack of uniforms; (3) managing a multi-task project while providing support and training to persons who are not entirely comfortable with self-directed multi-task type activities; (4) training the members, especially gaining commercial driver licenses and heavy equipment skills without offending unions (5) not enough involvement of NRCS persons with local community groups; and (6) developing a better communication network between the local project site and the area and state offices. We will begin to work more closely with the local project office in solving the above items during the second quarter.

First Quarter AmeriCorps Report
Progress and Accomplishments
East St. Louis Environmental Project

Progress Toward Meeting Community Service Objectives:

The East St. Louis Environmental Project of AmeriCorps has made the following progress during the First Quarter, September 12 - November 30, 1994:

- ☐ officially began the project on time on October 3, 1994
- ☐ AmeriCorps members developed site analysis form for lot renovation
- ☐ 100% of members trained in how to conduct site analysis
- ☐ 100% of members trained in how to draw scale landscape plan
- ☐ 100% of members trained in how to make presentation to public
- ☐ AmeriCorps members solicited lots from citizens, churches, and community groups through a mass mailing, word of mouth, article in local paper, and TV presentation
- ☐ received over 30 applications for lot renovation
- ☐ AmeriCorps member teams conducted an on-site analysis of 100% of the lot
- ☐ AmeriCorps member teams reviewed and selected lots for consideration
- ☐ AmeriCorps members prepared detailed pencil drawing of 100% of lots selected for consideration
- ☐ AmeriCorps members took information from pencil drawings and put into CAD drawing for presentation to Ecosystems Council for final selection (90% complete)
- ☐ AmeriCorps member team put together packet on each lot for presentation to Ecosystems Council for selection (90% complete)
- ☐ AmeriCorps member has verified 80% of owners of lots
- ☐ AmeriCorps teams have established three nurseries (East St. Louis Senior High School, Lovejoy High School, and Jones Park)
- ☐ AmeriCorps team has completed an evaluation of the renovation needs of Greenhouse at East St. Louis Senior High School, removed 90% of debris and broken materials from the greenhouse, completed a CAD drawing to scale, and completed two possible layout plans.
- ☐ AmeriCorps team has completed an evaluation of the renovation needs of greenhouse at Jones Park, removed 100% of debris and broken materials, completed an inventory of supplies, prepared a needs assessment and list of needed materials and supplies, and inspected the heating system.
- ☐ AmeriCorps team has cleaned out fountain in Jones Park.
- ☐ AmeriCorps team has begun solicitation of community gardens (50% of garden sites have been identified and 15% have been assigned to a member to begin developing detailed scale drawing.
- ☐ AmeriCorps team has begun Landscape plans for State Community College.

First Quarter AmeriCorps Report
Progress and Accomplishments
East St. Louis Flood Restoration Project

Progress Toward Meeting Community Service Objectives:

The East St. Louis Flood Restoration Project of AmeriCorps has made the following progress during the First Quarter, September 12 - November 30, 1994:

- ☐ officially began the project on time on October 3, 1994
- ☐ AmeriCorps members gained skills in design survey
- ☐ 100% of members trained in how to conduct site analysis
- ☐ 100% of members trained in how to draw scale landscape plan
- ☐ 100% of members trained in how to make presentation to public
- ☐ completed construction layout on channel work on Mt. Pleasant Drive
- ☐ 100% of members skilled at breakdown of field notes
- ☐ 100% of members trained on placing survey data on profile paper
- ☐ AmeriCorps member team developed cut and fills techniques
- ☐ AmeriCorps member team prepared detailed list of materials and equipment to complete work on Mt. Pleasant Drive
- ☐ AmeriCorps members took information from pencil drawings and put into CAD drawing
- ☐ AmeriCorps member team developed alternative methods using labor intensive options versus mechanical assisted options.
- ☐ AmeriCorps member has verified 80% of owners of lots
- ☐ AmeriCorps member team met with Belleville City Engineer and determined goals for Mt. Pleasant Drive project

Primary Accomplishments

The project has made giant strides in the areas of community service, community development, and member growth. Aside from the basic training necessary to complete the projects, members have been provided training in computer aided design or CAD, personal development, and leadership development. Members have enthusiastically embraced the concept of service and eagerly taken on tasks that directly help the community. They have taken three days to assist Operations NewSpirit in planting bulbs throughout the East St. Louis community, visited greenhouses on their own, banded together to get CAD drawing done for each lot under consideration for renovation, taken the initiative to explain AmeriCorps and how they might be eligible to have a lot renovated or a community garden planted; and requested more direct responsibility for the community activities. Members have met with all the local mayors, several local ministers, the chamber of commerce, and the ecosystems council. They have conducted all the site evaluations and will be conducting the site selection meeting with the Ecosystems Council.

Items left over from the First quarter that will be finished during the second quarter are the completion of the Landscape plans for State Community College, greenhouse renovations at Jones Park and East St. Louis Senior High School, and solicitation and selection for the community garden sites. In addition, we will finish the training necessary to grow and plant flowers and vegetables, prepare lot renovation plans for each of the lots selected for renovation, prepare garden plans for each community garden, conduct community group meetings for those selected to have either gardens or lots, do the preparatory work for the lagoon work in Jones Park, and complete the

training necessary to operate and maintain all the power equipment we will be using in the spring months. Completion of the Mt. Pleasant Drive Project, the East O'Fallon Drive Project, and completion of the training necessary to operate and maintain all power equipment they will be using in the spring months.

I have received many good reports from program partners about the AmeriCorps members and their ability to get things done.

7. Project Outcomes for Next Quarter

We hope to develop more hiking trails, rehab more public buildings, make more progress toward updating the Overall Economic Development Plan for the area, begin compiling the results of the Conservation Reserve Program contract holders and complete more of the Small Business Research and Revitalization Projects.

8. Primary Challenges

In the beginning the challenge was getting enough transportation to get the AmeriCorps team members to the job site. This has been worked out through the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Illinois. They pulled 5 vehicles from the "to sell list" for us to use for one year. We still have not received sweatshirts for our team members which were promised back in September. I feel that there wasn't enough money available in the budgets to cover things like the transportation, mileage, and training. This should have been finalized before we started hiring team members. This is taking more of my time than originally anticipated. I'm spending 40% of my time on AmeriCorp which leaves 60% to spread over 8 RC&D projects that I have in my Plan of Work.

9. Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs

Rod Atterberry, AmeriCorps Regional Facilitator, has been providing leadership on obtaining training for the AmeriCorps members. We have utilized the Western Illinois University, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Cooperative Extension Service.

10. Media Coverage

We have had a lot of newspaper, TV and radio coverage both before and during the program.

11. Other Creative Documentation

Attached are before, during and after photographs of some of the work that has been carried out in the Two Rivers area.

Pittsfield, IL

Participant: Loyda I. Stith
First Quarter Americorp Report
Batesville, AR.

1. Number of members enrolled at this time of launch
2. Number of members enrolled at the end of the quarter
3. Total of numbers of hours of direct service performed
385
4. Total number of hours in training - 40.5
- 5 & 6. Progress towards meeting community service objectives:

During the first quarter of this project I was able to accomplish the following objectives as planned.

- A: Make a Budget for the project.
- B: Develop a mailing list of woodland owners down to 20 acres within the area.
- C: Develop a logo for the association.
- D: Develop a letter/questionnaire for mailing to woodland owners.
- E: Prepare an information article on the local newspaper.
- F: Begin development of the first newsletter.
- G: Initiate planning for a workshop to be held in march.

Since I started working with the project, we have been very busy. I have attended 4 different meetings concerning the project. I have met with the Independence County Conservation District Board, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Ext. Service, The National Landowners Association and various landowners.

7. Project outcome for the next quarter:

For the next quarter, I plan to finalize and mail the newsletter, finalize the agenda for the workshop, tour the site of the workshop with the speakers, develop signs, seek sponsors for a meal and door prizes, Prepare the site for the workshop, prepare a certificate for the participants wishing to become associates members. Start to develop a fact sheet, we are going to report the progress of the association. I plan to continue writing the newsletter and plan a field day where the members of the association can share their success stories and bring their concerns to the association leaders.

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages ► 2

To <i>Bruce Leggitt</i>	From <i>Loyda Stith</i>
Dept./Agency	Phone #
Fax # <i>758-7052</i>	Fax # <i>793-7829</i>
NSN 7540-01-317-7388	5099-101
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	

8. Primary challenges:

At this moment, I haven't had any troubles or disappointments. Everything is working like it should. About the challenges, it is a positive challenge working here. I learn something different every day which helps me to be more organized with the things that I do.

9. Primary Training and Technical Assistance Need:

In my opinion, we can use all the help we can get from the USDA and the NRCS, because they have the experience and the skills to solve different problems that we confront. Also NRCS can provide the basics of forestry management, helping me to acquaint myself with the terminology that's used in this industry.

10. Media Coverage:

I have had 2 different articles published, one in the local Batesville newspaper and the other one in the Independence County Conservation District Newsletter. One radio interview was conducted on association development.

FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
AUDRIA COLEMAN, AMERICORP MEMBER, HOLLY GROVE
RENEE SPURLOCK, AMERICORP MEMBER, HOLLY GROVE

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED

Audria Coleman- 128 hours (Start date: 11/7/94)
Renee Spurlock- 426 hours (Start date: 9/12/94)

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING

Audria Coleman- 16 hours
Renee Spurlock- 60 hours

PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

We have gone out into the community and surveyed homes which are in the 100 year flood zone. We have discussed with these people the possibility of FEMA and the City of Holly Grove coming in and buying their homes and in turn building housing or complexes for them on much higher land.

Renee Spurlock has surveyed all committee members to find out if they are still on the committees that were formed two years ago. Also, she has discussed the accomplishments of each committees planned actions.

There has also been a non-profit organization formed through the Holly Grove churches. This organization is in the process of helping the community and committees obtain their goal.

We are also working in conjunction with the Holly Grove Homecoming Club to organize a program fully funded by the Kellogg Foundation. This program, called The Dads Program, is set up to identify young boys in the community from ages 9-16 with or without fathers in the home. After identifying these young boys the program will focus on meeting the needs of the boys and to help them become role models where needed.

Plans are also underway in forming a 4-H Club for the children of Holly Grove. There can be 3 different clubs set up: The Cloverbuds, ages 5-8, The Jr. 4-H, ages 9-14, and The Sr. 4-H, ages 14-19. The goal of this club is to build Purple Martin Bird Houses to alleviate some of the mosquito problem in the City of Holly Grove.

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

After completing the surveys, We have compiled a spreadsheet that includes the number of the house according to the NRCS office, the person's name and

type of housing they would prefer, and the ground elevation of the house to determine how high the house would have to be moved to stay in the flood zone. Also from the surveys, we have made a list of the people that would like to serve on a committee to improve the City of Holly Grove.

Last month, the citizens of Holly Grove were very excited to see the AmeriCorps members working diligently to clean up the mall in the center of the city and also decorate the city for the Christmas holidays.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER

We will continue to work on the FEMA buyout and the new housing for the citizens. Hopefully after the first of the year the money will be available for us to begin. Many of the citizens who are in great need of new housing are very excited about the work we have done and will continue to do until the people are in houses out of the 100 year flood zone.

We also plan to work at least twice a month cleaning up the mall to make the town look alot nicer for the people of Holly Grove. The committees will also start meeting at the first of the year to find out all the different needs of the city and we will work with them to meet the needs and accomplish the goals previously set by the committees.

PRIMARY CHALLENGES

The primary challenge we have had is getting the funding necessary to go ahead with the buyout and buy the land to build the new housing. FEMA has agreed to the buyout but only on a 50/50 agreement, which means the City of Holly Grove would have to come up with the second 50%. The city does not have that kind of money so another letter has been sent to FEMA to ask them to change the percentages to 75-25.

Another challenge we have faced is that the committees that were formed two years ago have dissolved and we have had to go back in and reform the committees piece by piece.

PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

Grant Writing course, Computer Workshops, and any type of training to help us get the community involved and keep them involved.

Now that we have exchanged information, are there any concerns you have that we need to go over together?

<u>2</u> Social Security	<u>2</u> ADC	\$ 247 /mo
<u> </u> Social Security Disability	<u>2</u> Medicaid	204
<u> </u> Veterans Administration	<u> </u> Other	421
		203
		33
		32
		\$1138/mo
		x 12
		\$13656 yr.

(Please specify)

Now that we have exchanged information, are there any concerns you have that we need to go over together?
Write in the actual remarks below.

When it rains he has to open up doors and let the water run through the house ^{yearly}. Home is financed with FHA and is in constant contact with Judge. Has a 1/2 acre and wants a 1/2 acre. Bartlett Moving in Marrell says it can't be moved and water damage is all through out house.

Now that we have exchanged information, are there any concerns you have that we need to go over together?
Write in the actual remarks below.

Just wants a new place to live. She needs 3^{or 4} bedrooms. If she does move in new housing complex she will need transportation to town. Her daughter is sick she stays with her. The house is falling in. You can see outside through the cracks in the house. She cannot find another place to live right now.

\$81.00

☒ Social Security Disability

☒ Medicaid

☐ Veterans Administration \$90

☐ Other SSI
(Please specify)

The following are comments
that were made by the
citizens of Holly
grove that live in
the 100yr flood zone.

#160 Food Stamps

Now that we have exchanged information, are there any concerns you have that we need to go over together?
Write in the actual remarks below.

Takes every penny to pay bills. Walks to Holly
Grove and back. Mobil Home is in bankruptcy.
When it rains her yard is covered with water.
Would like to move mobil home to higher
ground. Has not been able to pay rent on
land.

"Do you think that _____ fear concern confusion

I am in desperate need of a decent place to stay. fear concern confusion
Where I'm living is old - there's faulty wiring, dark alleys
crack heads just fill. Landlord doesn't repair anything. fear concern confusion

_____ " fear concern confusion

_____ " fear concern confusion

I'm afraid about the drug problem in the area that I live

AMERICORPS PROGRAM REPORT

First Quarter - 1994-1995

Marion, AR. - Cedric Brown

1. One (1)
2. One (1)
3. 432 hours of direct service
4. Forty four (44) hours provided by the LMDDC and fifty six (56) hours from cluster meetings and conferences.

5. Employee has initiated collection of data targeted by the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center. He has developed and mailed a total of 104 letters to Chambers of Commerce in the seven state region requesting various data concerning the Delta. As responses have come in, he has placed the information on a data base on the office computer.

Employee has separated by county and cataloged educational information received at the Center from the State of Tennessee. He has researched the archives of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission that are on file at the University of Memphis library and developed a list of what this data is and where it was obtained. This information will be used to contact various sources to obtain updated data needed by the LMDD Center.

Employee has assembled tourism information into booklet form for one of the Delta states (Arkansas) as a beginning information gathering for the LMDD Center's Tourism Program. Much of the information used in this project came from the earlier requests sent out by the AmeriCorps employee.

All of these accomplishments are building toward the overall goal of developing and updating data that the LMDD Center will use to assist various interests in the region as they work to improve the overall economic conditions of the Delta.

6. In addition to the work outlined above, the AmeriCorps employee has assisted the public by receiving and responding to phone calls to the LMDD Center office. Feedback concerning the presence of someone being at the office more hours has been positive and several have commented about the pleasant manner that their calls were taken and responded to by the employee. All of the work accomplished in item 5 above will lead to the LMDD Center being able to respond more completely when asked for information about the 219 county/parish region.

7. It is expected that sources will be contracted to provide up-to-date information and data to the Center over the next

AmeriCorps First Qtr. Report
Page 2

quarter and that the AmeriCorp employee will catalog this information and file it for future use. He is expected to continue developing tourism information for the other six states as the Tourism Coordinator works toward completion of the LMDD Center's overall tourism program.

8. One of the biggest problems that has been encountered is the lack of response to the LMDDC's requests for information. This presents a major problem because of the size of the area and the numbers of organizations that must be involved. The Center staff, including the AmeriCorps employee, will follow-up with calls, other letters and personal contacts to assure improved responses.

9. No NRCS, USDA or CNCS training, other than the kinds that have been conducted to date, can assist with this project being more successful. Any data and up-to-date information received and cataloged will be of benefit to the Center and to the Region's users, so it will be hard for the project not to show success. It can be more more fully successful as participation increases.

10. No specific newspaper or magazine clippings or coverage has been sought or obtained for this project to date. The Center does plan to begin a newsletter soon and will publicize this work in this medium. It is expected that some news sources will pick this up and develop publicity for the work being done.

11. No particular items are available at this time to support this item.

First Quarter Americorps Report

Jody Pagan - North Little Rock, AR.

Time Period: September 12 - December 30, 1994

Date: December 8, 1994

1. -

2. -

3. 464 hours

4. 80 hours

5. Reports involving species of federal concern for seventeen (17) counties have been completed and mailed to the respective counties. This represents 22 percent of the goal. Reports have also been provided to Biologist at Natural Resource Conservation Service, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The member has conducted one presentation concerning data collected during the first quarter. This information was presented to representatives of city and county governments, Conservation District officials, members of other governmental agencies, leaders of local financial institutions, and local landowners.

6. Communities may now use these reports (endangered and threatened species information) in preparing assessments to meet permit requirements for needed community improvements involving construction. Also, utilization of data collected should increase due to the awareness of the project.

7. Eighteen (18) additional reports have been prepared but have not been quality control (QC) checked. These reports will be QC'd and mailed to the respective counties within the next month. Additional counties are being mapped and reports prepared. At least two meetings will be scheduled through local RC&D Councils for presentation of data during the next quarter.

11. Letter from Natural Heritage Commission.



ARKANSAS NATURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

1500 TOWER BUILDING
323 CENTER STREET
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201



Harold K. Grimmer
Director

Jim Guy Tucker
Governor

Date: December 8, 1994
Subject: AmeriCorps Program

Mr. Bob Price
Natural Resources Conservation Service
5404 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Bob,

Since September of this year the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission has participated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in a project utilizing a member of the AmeriCorps program. This letter is written to express our satisfaction with this project and the work of the AmeriCorps member, Jody Pagan.

The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission is a state agency charged with identifying and protecting elements of the state's natural diversity. Towards this end the agency maintains a database of information on locations of rare species. One way we seek to accomplish our mission is by making this data available for use in land management planning. However, staff and resource constraints limit our ability to make this information widely accessible. Through the work of the AmeriCorps member we are making available information on rare species to all the counties in the Arkansas Delta. This is especially significant because of the dramatic landscape changes which have occurred in the Delta. Through District Conservationists data on Federal Concern species will be available to assist with farm and rural development projects. The availability of such information will protect the resource, allow for appropriate development and avoid expensive conflicts. The economic well-being of this region is tied to the conservation and careful management of its diminishing natural resources.

Jody Pagan is the AmeriCorps member chosen for this project. His progress so far has been outstanding. His enthusiasm is contagious. He is a hard worker and his education makes him very well suited to the task. He is gaining computer, research, oral and written communication skills, as well as knowledge of rare species biology. Mutual benefits will be realized by all participants in this project. The AmeriCorps program has provided a unique opportunity to serve the people of Arkansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Osborne".

Cindy Osborne
Data Manager

FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
FOR WILLIE CHAPPLE - MARION, AR.

TIME PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 12 - DECEMBER 30, 1994
DUE DATE: DECEMBER 13, 1994

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH
2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER (DEC.30)
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED. 640 hours worked through 12/30/94.
4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING. 72 hours in training.
5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Rural water line have been provided to 7 households that will assist 22 people with rural water for the first time.

There have been 35 applications submitted to FmHA for processing. Data is still being collected on 13 of the 35 applications and 3 have been rejected.

East Central Arkansas Economic Development Corporation at Forrest City, Arkansas has been contacted to seek financial assistance to residents to have their homes repaired. At the time of the contact there was no one on staff in Crittenden County. The Forrest City office said contact them again in about a week.

After a phone call to Barbara Hickingbotham of Green Thumb, a letter was written to her by Mozell Williams requesting help in the area of construction. She said she thought one worker could be placed to assist with the Crittenden County project.

Two other possible sources of funding are currently being looked into. (Forest Service and EPA).

6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS. With the installation of the water lines, it is expected that new homes will be constructed, quality of life will be improved, homes will be improved and that will reduce the amount of utility costs and add value to homes repaired.
7. PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER. Another water system is expected to be installed at Bulk Lake which is an extension of the Crawfordsville water system that will connect 10 - 13 homes and businesses. It is also possible that the city of Gilmore could begin

construction on their system during the next quarter.
Home improvement repair could begin next quarter.

6. PRIMARY CHALLENGES. The challenges has been working with other agencies and companies that do not have the same priorities as members of Americorps. It takes time to work through the system.

9. PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS.
Computer training and media relations training is needed.

10. MEDIA COVERAGE. Television and newsmidia coverage when the project began. Three television station and a local newspaper. Coverage was local, state wide and the surrounding states.

11. OTHER CREATIVE DOCUMENTATION. We have pictures and slides before the project started.

PARTICIPANT NAME: Marvin Johnson

AMERICORPS SITE: University of
Arkansas at Pine Bluff

FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH.

2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER(Nov 30).

3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED.
404

4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING.
60 Hours including two day seminar conference in Little Rock.

5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES.

My objective is to enhance the standard of living of limited resource farmers in particular and the overall well-being of rural communities in Arkansas and the lower Mississippi Delta Region. This region comprises: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. Information is being gathered to identify the farmers, processors, and co-ops and find out the high valued products in the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. Some of the data have been collected and sample surveys will be given to determine the identification of the high valued products grown in the four states.

6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cataloging information on the computer and learning a lot about agriculture and rural development from attending meetings in Fargo AR with the rest of the Americorps Participants. Attended a two-day seminar in Little Rock AR entitled "Valuing Differences in the Work Place: Building Quality Teams" and "Strategies for Resource Development". One interview has been conducted with a county extension agent, but others should follow in the next quarter. Data collection has been the major part of the project along with making phone calls and setting up interviews. One interview has been postponed to a later date with a statistics surveyor in Little Rock.

7. PROJECTED OUTCOME FOR NEXT QUARTER

Expected outcomes: Will have interviewed at least 80 farmers in the four states, etc. Will have gathered or collected more secondary data for the project. Will have entered more data and information on the computer. Will have learned more about the Mississippi Delta Region.

Participant Name: Marvin Johnson

Site: University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, AR

8. PRIMARY CHALLENGES

The primary challenge is to keep this program going so that others will have the opportunity to work as I have and to help them gain experience that will help them later in life. The problem I have and hopefully can be corrected is that the report format is coming out too late and is putting more pressure on me to provide the information promptly. The report format should be given to us early so that we may complete the report in a timely manner.

9. PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

More training and assistance should be given in learning how to write proposals for grants and loans. Also, training should be given so that all the new members would be able to understand how the program works (i.e., Americorps Program).

10. MEDIA COVERAGE

There was no media coverage on my project. My project is not the type that attracts media attention.

FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
North Little Rock, ARKANSAS

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH
(1)
2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER
(1)
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED
(404)
4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING (60)
5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES:
 - a. The objective of the Pellet Stove Demonstration Project is to increase the public awareness of pellet fuel technology and to increase the demand for wood pellet fuel to stimulate a new industry in the region that makes use of locally produced sawdust. Progress is being made towards these objectives. By the end of the 1st quarter, 10 sites had been identified in the Central Arkansas RC&D Council area. The sites were visited, reports written and then submitted to the state coordinator for the project. We are presently awaiting bids to provide and install the stoves at the identified demonstration sites.
 - b. The objective of the Workplace Skills Enhancement Program is to identify skill needs of employees and provide training that would allow them to perform their jobs more effectively. Progress is being made towards meeting this objective. Employees at the Boys, Girls and Adults Community Development Center in Marvell have been interviewed and observed in their daily work environments to determine skill needs. The first of four training workshops has been designed and prepared.
6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In addition to the above mentioned work, I assisted in collecting demographic data for the project in Holly Grove, Arkansas to relocate residents from the Dials Creek floodplain to higher elevations.

7. PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER

- a. It is anticipated that the pellet stoves will be installed at the identified demonstration sites during the next quarter. Display boards demonstrating the technology of pellet fuel will be prepared and placed at each site. Preparation will begin for the public demonstrations to be conducted at each site.
- b. The first training workshop will be conducted at the community center early in the next quarter. Work will then begin on preparation for the next workshop to be conducted to enhance the skills of the employees.

8. PRIMARY CHALLENGES:

As an AmeriCorps worker, I have not encountered any challenges, problems, or disappointments that were not resolved.

PARTICIPANT NAME: Harrison Locke

AMERICORPS SITE: Arkansas Land and Farm
Development Corporation
(ALFDC)
Rt. 2 Box 291
Brinkley, AR 72021

THE FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT

by: Mr. Harrison Locke

1. The number of members enrolled in the Integrated Farming System at ALFDC is .

2. The number at the end of the quarter is .

Total number of hours of direct service performed is 312 hours.

4. The total number of hours in training is 80

5. We at ALFDC are in the process of stressing the importance of alternative crops to limited resource farmers. The number is increasing because the information about production and markets are available in the communities.

6. During the Annual Conference, a tour on ALFDC demonstration farm was conducted. We took advantage of the farmers and the USDA officials attending the conference to show the Shiitake mushrooms. We also scheduled the pea harvesting machine demonstration. We had planted some of our Fall and Winter crops such as cabbage, collards, mustard, turnip greens, kale, broccoli and cover crops.

Professors from UAPB and ASU assisted in explaining the uses of chicken litter, rice hulls and gin trash, and trap crops to help control insects. The need for irrigation was also discussed. A compost demonstration will be provided at ALFDC demonstration farm.

7. A number of IFS farmers will start for the spring operation during the winter months. There will be more young farmers participating next year than this year.

8. The challenges or problems faced earlier was getting financed. ALFDC and Delta CDC is financing small loans for beginning alternative farmers.

9. Various workshops and meetings will be conducted at ALFDC during the winter months for those interested in the program.

10. Newspapers, magazines, radio, and newsletters along with videotapes and cassettes are available to show at meetings.

11. Field trips and visits to Agri. Universities will play an important roll in motivating Limited Resource Farmers.

PARTICIPANT NAME: Pertina White

AMERICORPS SITE: University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, (UAPB)

FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT

TIME PERIOD: September 12- November 30, 1994

DUE DATE: December 15, 1994 (SMALL FARMER PROJECT)

- 1.
- 2.
3. 1156
4. 8
5. The following progress toward meeting the objective is listed below:
I have met with approximately 15 of the 20 farmers, developed information on alternative crops, attended four meetings after working hours of the Southeast-Arkansas Vegetable growers Cooperative, made several farm visits to meet farmers, examine crops, and take soil sampler, and I have worked on computer in developing farm plans.
6. Primary Accomplishment:
The following progress has helped the project meet its objectives:
Developed information fact sheet on greens, and southern peas production that was given to co-op members. Developed a economic fact on greens and southern peas. Developed farm and home plans (part of FmHA Application) for farmers. Developed a yearly cash flow analysis for a proposed packing shed for the vegetable co-op. Took soil samples on fields where vegetables are planned to be grown. Examine the conditions of several farmers vegetables on routine farm visits. These activities will help meet the objectives of helping farmers increase their income by improving their management and adding alternative crops to their operator.
7. For the second quarter I will be helping farmers put together more production plans and loan applications. Several loan applications will be completed and submitted to FmHA. Many of these loans will be youth loans. I will be gathering materials for the workshops and make overhead slides that will be presented.
8. The two most disappointments that come to mind is the fact that we are not given ample time to work on these reports we are required to do. The plan of work and our first quarter report are two reports that I feel we should have had at least a month to prepare for. I personally feel that my reports are not as good as they could be had I known I had to do these ahead of time. I realize this is a new program and everyone is doing

PARTICIPANT NAME: Pertina White

AMERICORPS SITE: UAFB, (Small Farmer Project)

the best they can. I just hope the next reports will be done in a timely manner.

9. My goal is to learn how to put farm plans into the computer without having any problems. In order, for me to do this I will need to receive training from their personnel with FmHA. This agency will be able to help me more with training because this is something they do almost everyday.

Participant Name: Pertina White

Americorps Site: University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
1200 North University Drive
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT

TIME PERIOD: September 12 - November 30, 1994

DUE DATE: December 15, 1994 (EXTENSION 5 PROGRAM)

1.

2.

3. 72

4. 8

5. The recruitment of Jefferson County Elementary Schools with fifth grade students has been successfully completed. The total number of student involved in the Extension 5 Program in Jefferson County are 1,170. Several skits and plays have been written on drug abuse, pregnancy, and other peer pressures. Lessons plans have been made up to go along with the fifth graders lessons in their books. Comic books have been distributed to fifth graders on Motivation to learn. The second set of comic books will be distributed in December. The schools have already been contacted when and where to pick them up at.

7. The next big accomplishment will be on April 25, 1995. There will be a multi-conference on Juvenile Crime Prevention and Increase Parental Involvement. We are expecting 5,000 fifth graders and over 200 parents to attend the conference. This conference will consist of students and parents not only from Jefferson county, but Phillips County as well.

8. The disappointments that come to my mind is the fact that we are not given ample time to work on these reports we are required to do. The plan of work and our first quarter report are two reports that I feel we should have had at least a month to prepare for. I personally feel that my reports are not as good as they could be had I known I had to do these ahead of time. I realize this is a new program and everyone is doing the best they can. I just hope the next reports will be done in a timely manner.

9. My goal is to learn how to put farm plans into the computer without having problems. In order, for me to do this I will need to receive training from other personnel with FmHA. This agency will be able to help me more with training because this is something they do almost everyday.

JANA COLEMAN
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
HELENA, ARKANSAS

FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
TRI-COUNTY OUTREACH

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE. As of December 13, 1994, I have worked 536 hours.

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING. Of those 536 hours, 80 hours would be considered training.

PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES. My overall objective is to improve the standard of living for people in small towns and rural communities within Monroe, Phillips, and Lee counties. I am doing this by finding out the problems and needs in the tri-county area by meeting with county and city governments as well as non-profit groups. I, then, provide possible grant and funding sources to each rural community based on their individual problems and needs and the priorities that they have identified.

I have identified and cataloged all units of government and non-profit organizations in Monroe, Phillips, and Lee counties. This has been done by collecting names, addresses, and phone numbers for the three county judges and the quorum court members for each county as well as seventeen mayors and the city councilmen and recorders for each of those communities. This also includes contacts at community organizations and non-profit groups within the tri-county area. Most of this information was gathered via the phone and was time consuming. It has been updated since the recent election and compiled into a twenty-four page report. This was Goal 1 of my objective plan and has been met.

The second phase of my project is to find out the problems and needs of these communities within the three counties. I have begun with Monroe County and five towns within the county. I have spoken to Monroe County Judge Tom Catlett, who is very enthused about the Americorps program. I attended the last Fargo City Council Meeting where they helped me to make a list of their community problems and needs. Currently, I'm checking into possible funding and grant sources and am scheduled to go back to their next meeting. I am also scheduled to attend the upcoming city council meetings for Roe, Clarendon, and Brinkley as well as a Committees Meeting in Holly Grove. Each of these meetings will take place in January when the new aldermen take office. While I have not met with the other two counties, I have been in touch with individuals who serve as county and city officials in Phillips and Lee counties and who will be in attendance at those meetings once they are scheduled.

The third and final phase of my tri-county outreach program is to provide sources of funding to the city and county governments. The possibilities that I've been looking into include federal, state, and private grants as well as low-interest loans. I've cataloged these resources and their concentration areas into a file for future reference.

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS. Another important community service I have performed has been in my hometown of Holly Grove. I was able to go out into the community, along with four other Americorps members, to talk to the residents who are living in the one-hundred year floodplain. We surveyed a family member from each household from a standardized interview form. Our primary goal was to find out the level of interest in moving and their preferences of single family housing verses multi-family housing. We also discussed renting and buying options outside of the floodplain zone that are available to them.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER. By the end of the second quarter, I hope to have met with each and every community and small town in the three county territory. With their lists of problems and needs in hand, I'll continue to research all sources of funding and match them to the problems identified.

PRIMARY CHALLENGES. I have not experienced any problems that could have been prevented by any person or agency. The only obstacle I have encountered has been with the local elections. The big turnover in county and city government officials prevented me from getting out in the communities sooner.

PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. The training I am most interested in at this time is grant writing. I would like to learn how to fill out the actual grant papers once they are obtained. Then, I would not only be able to provide a list of available grants to small towns, but assist them in filling them out as well.

GETTING THINGS DONE

On December 1, 1994 a group of AmeriCorps members from the United States Forest Service and the USDA's Rural Economics and Community Development, formerly Farmers Home Administration, joined together to get things done. These members set out to help the homeless by taking the time to serve hot meals to people at the Haven of Mercy in Johnson City. Along with their other community projects throughout the year these members along with four other members from their cluster plan on volunteering at least one day a month helping others in the community. Other activities planned include a streambank clean up, a river trash pick-up, and helping with Habitat for Humanity.

This is a list of some of the topics which will be discussed at the Media Training. Mr. Larry Blick, NRCS, will with us from Nashville to conduct the training session.

Please call Roy Settle's office 615-854-9621 or 615-854-0923 or fax 615-282-6451 whether or not you will be able to join us by DECEMBER 2, 1994. Inclosed you will find a map to the office where the training will be.

MEDIA TRAINING

AmeriCorps Cluster Meeting Agenda

December 6, 1994 9:00 a.m.

Greeneville, TN SCS Office

Topics

Developing:

- Press Releases
- Media Advisories
- Press Kits

Getting Media Interested in:

- Coming to your event
- Promoting your event

TV/Radio Relations:

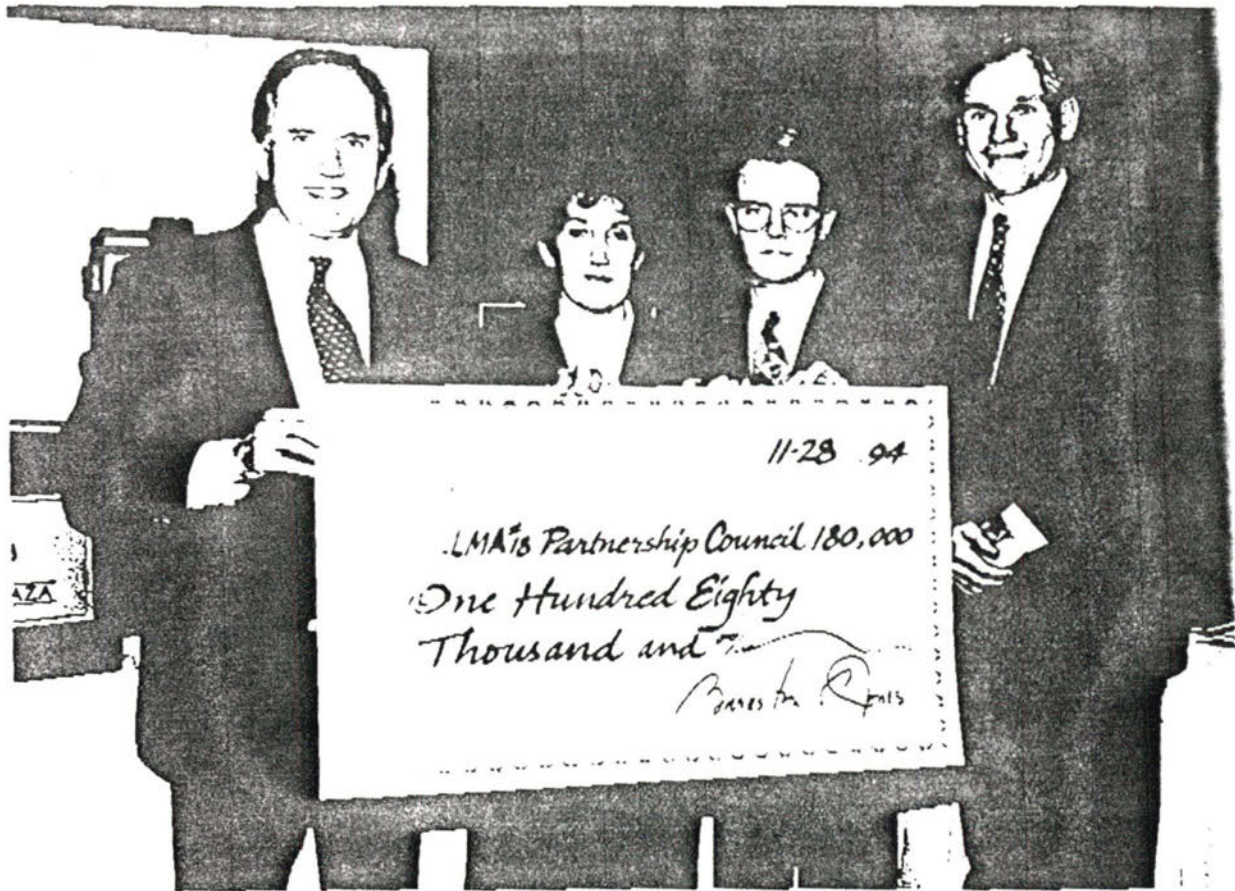
- Live and recorded Interviews
- TV/Radio Talk Shows
- Confrontational Reporters/Situations

If time allows information on developing brochures or fact sheets may be included.

To: Louis Elliot, USDA, Room 202

From: Joel Berg 

2 pages

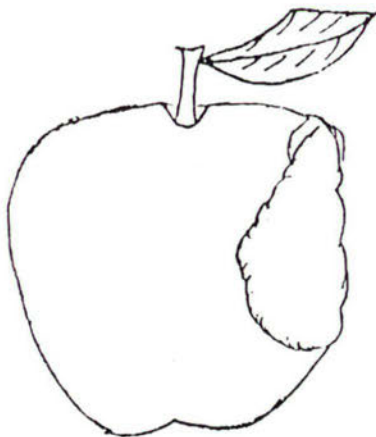


THE PROPER NUTRITION PROJECT IS

A nutrition education program that has been developed by the USDA's Anti-Hunger Team. The Anti-Hunger Team is comprised of 12 young women and men between the ages of 17-22. They are members of the D.C. Service Corps and President Bill Clinton's National Service Corporation, Americorps (an initiative started September 12th, 1994).

MISSION

The mission of the Anti-Hunger Team is two-fold: (1) to make people who are in need aware of food sources and (2) to provide nutrition education to elementary school children in the metropolitan D.C. area.



GOAL

- To convey the importance of nutrition to elementary school children so that they may make food nutrition an integral part of their daily lives.

GOALS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED

- Through basic nutrition education

PRESENTATIONS

- rap songs
- stories
- puppet shows
- games
- group participation

OBJECTIVES

- To teach the 5 basic food groups.
- To target students who are eligible for the D.C. Public Schools free Lunch & Breakfast Program.

The Anti-Hunger Team

Team Coordinator - Karla Van Pragg

Mark Bey	}	
Stephanie Hammel	}	Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd
Reco Smith	}	
Samona Wilson	}	

Jeffrey Ellis	}	
Robert Shelton	}	3rd & 4th
LaShawn Walls	}	
Angela Whiting	}	

Nikki Harris	}	
John Henderson	}	5th & 6th
Kyle Terry	}	
Kelly Williams	}	

D.C. Service Corps Staff

Deputy Director - Jim Hirt
Accountant - Curtis Carr
Grant Developer - Stephanie Teleen
Executive Secretary - Elaine Thompson
Education Director - Cara Fulton
Logistics Coordinator - Karl Gaddy

Special Thanks

Theresa H. Richardson
Db/a and Home Study - Director

THE D.C. SERVICE CORPS/ AMERICORPS

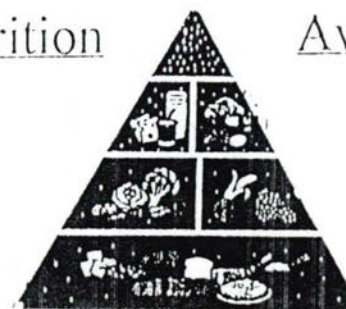
Proper Nutrition Project

in collaboration with the
Department of Agriculture

PRESENTS

Nutrition

Awareness



GETTING THINGS DONE

On December 1, 1994 a group of AmeriCorps members from the United States Forest Service and the USDA's Rural Economics and Community Development, formerly Farmers Home Administration, joined together to get things done. These members set out to help the homeless by taking the time to serve hot meals to people at the Haven of Mercy in Johnson City. Along with their other community projects throughout the year these members along with four other members from their cluster plan on volunteering at least one day a month helping others in the community. Other activities planned include a streambank clean up, a river trash pick-up, and helping with Habitat for Humanity.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

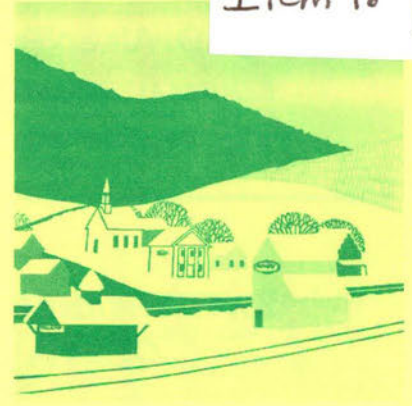


"Helping to Make Things Happen"

VERMONT

RC&D MESSENGER

Since 1964 the Resource Conservation and Development Program has promoted wise use and development of natural resources to improve the local economy and people's standard of living. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization comprised of a network of people dedicated to helping local citizens meet their needs.



August 1994
Volume 2

Issue 2

AMERICORP PROVIDES VT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION TECHNICAL TEAM

What is Americorp? Americorp is a new national service program that allows diverse groups of young people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs. Participants in the program will work for a year earning a stipend, as well as health and child care benefits, and then receive an educational award.

The educational benefit can be used to pay for college or graduate school in advance, or to repay student loans. It can also be used to pay for vocational school or job training programs approved by the Departments of Labor or Education. The education award will be paid directly to the holder of a loan or to a school and must be used within seven (7) years of the completion of service.

The Vermont Rural Fire Protection Technical Team project is a collaborative effort of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and Vermont's two RC&D Councils. The Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force is a strategic partner in this initiative. SCS will hire three (3) Americorps members to staff the team.

The goal of the project is to reduce loss of life and property, improve personal security and reduce costs for fire insurance in rural areas of Vermont.

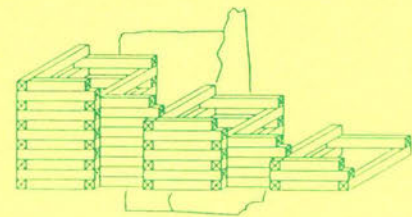
Objectives: The following Phase I objectives will be completed within 12 months.

1. To provide the skills and technical information to help 40 rural fire departments in Vermont develop innovative fire protection plans for their communities.

2. To have 40 rural fire departments in Vermont fully understand water supply needs and management principles.
3. To assist 20 rural Vermont communities in finding innovative ways to carry out planned improvements.
4. To have 10 fire departments in Vermont create and implement a comprehensive educational fire prevention plan with their citizens.

(Continued on Page 2)

STANDARD TIMBER RETAINING WALL DESIGN



INNOVATIVE TIMBER WALL DESIGN PROMOTES USE OF LOCAL RESOURCES

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils of New Hampshire and Vermont identified the need for an innovative timber retaining wall for both private and municipal applications. A wall that would provide an engineer certified flexible design suitable to a broad range of projects. (Continued on Page 2)

01-12-95 06:21PM FROM FMHA

P09

Office

PAGE 10 THE JACKSON TIMES, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1994

What's news at the Senior Citizens?

BY IRENE SLUSHER

A beautiful drawing was presented to the Senior Citizens' Center during the past week. The Biblical drawing, 'The Three Wise Men' was drawn by a former Jackson City School student, Glenn Price, son of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Price.

Glenn, a resident of Prestonsburg, is employed by the Prestonsburg School System. He not only teaches, but does many art displays for the school system, the churches, and other requests of the locality.

Glenn and his two daughters reside in Prestonsburg. Kristen is a student of Morehead University and Shelley attends the Prestonsburg High School.

Each senior citizen and other visitors to the center are really enjoying the gift and extend their appreciation to Glenn for the bulletin board display.

Thanksgiving has come and gone - everyone enjoyed the 'big Thanksgiving dinner' served by the kitchen crew. In fact, approximately 80 people were present to enjoy the food and fellowship with those attending.

The center, with the help of all the employees, is decorated with all of the Christmas array. Everyone is enjoying 'the spirit of Christmas' and looking forward even to Santa. (However, his/her bank balance after the holidays will wake each one up, I'm sure).

However, our Christmas dinner will be on Thursday, Dec. 22. Come and celebrate with us.

During the past week, a representative from KMHA, Rural Housing Programs, Ms. Rebecca Estep, vis-



Rebecca Estep, KMHA Representative.

ited the center. She discussed the loan purpose, who may qualify, rates/terms and other information regarding the program. A follow-up is to be made soon.

Wilfred T. Grenfield said:

Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men, but from doing something worthwhile for others.

Many thanks go to all the contributors who help the center and the citizens who attend.



Americorps Newsletter

December 1994 Edition

FmHA Dispatches Americorps Volunteers

[Press release from Farmers
Home Administration]

Nine Americorps members recently began their service in Kentucky's Appalachian Region after being sworn in at the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) state office in Lexington.

Thomas G. Fern, state FmHA director, conducted the ceremony and challenged the members to "become leaders in the community which they will be working."

The nine members attended a two day orientation/training session in London, and have now reported to their respective communities to begin work.

The participants in the Kentucky Appalachian Region will facilitate community strategic planning and assist in implementing programs to improve or develop needed community facilities. Team members will also engage in outreach activities to assist economically and socially disadvantaged citizens in rural areas in accessing FmHA grant and loan programs.

Site locations for the Kentucky Appalachian Region include Middlesboro (Laura

Duncan), Barbourville (Gail Fee and Rebecca Davidson), London (John Mills and Michelle Humfleet), Hazard (Matthew Hall), Prestonsburg (Lara May and Rebecca Estep), and Somerset (Tina Elza).

Americorps Volunteers Receive Training

by Laura Duncan

The Kentucky Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD, formerly known as FmHA)

Americorps team has recently participated in various training sessions throughout Kentucky.

The initial training session was held at the Cumberland Valley Area Development District in London, KY on October 6th and 7th and was attended by all nine participants.

RECD employees who assisted with training at this session were Louis Elliott, Vickie Gross, Denver Parks, Linda Chadwell, Don Johnson, Russ Thomason, Kenneth Arterburn and Jerry Valentine. Jim Davenport from KCEOC in Barbourville, KY assisted with training as well. Americorps



participants received instruction in several areas including training in federal employee ethics and civil rights, completion of 502 and 504 loan and grant applications, techniques for community outreach, and developing a plan of work for Americorps as well as overviews of Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community programs and existing community and business programs.

The second training session, held in Hazard, KY at Kentucky River Area Development District, was attended by nine Americorps participants, including Mona Powell who replaced Gail Fee at KCEOC in Barbourville. Training for this session focused primarily on the development of program plans for the six participants working with community development. Kevin Antle from the Prestonsburg RECD office assisted the other three participants by discussing 502 and 504 loan application processes with them.

An informal training session was held in Corbin, KY on November 22nd. The session was attended by Laura Duncan and Mona Powell. The purpose of this session was to update Ms. Powell, who is new to our program, by covering information she had missed at Please see TRAINING, page 2

TRAINING (continued)

an earlier session.

On November 28 and 29, 1994, a third training session was held at the Marriott in



Lexington, KY. Participants attended the RECD state meeting and had the opportunity to hear Michael Dunn, Acting Administrator of Rural Housing Community and Development Service, and Dayton Watkins, Acting Administrator of Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service, address the conference. In addition, the participants attended conference sessions on civil rights, presented by Jerry Valentine, and Stress Management, presented by Rick Roepke. Members also attended a training session for making e-mail and internet connections presented by Gordon Davis, RECD Information Resources Manager. Mr. Davis also assessed individual site needs based on information provided by participants and began work on creating a plan to meet the needs of each member at his/her site.

Site Program Plans Established for Each Participant

by Laura Duncan

Americorps participants, along with their site supervisors, were asked to create a plan of action that would best serve the needs of the individual communities in which they are working. Because each community is so different, the plans which were established at each site are extremely diverse.

There are, however, three participants who are performing similar functions in their communities. Rebecca Davidson (Barbourville), Rebecca Estep (Prestonsburg), and Tina Elza (Somerset). All three work in RECD offices and help with processing 502 and 504 loan and grant applications. By offering this assistance, these volunteers are helping elderly and low income families to be able to live in safe, healthy environments. Tina Elza is quick to point out, though, that she feels her role is much broader than this one task. She feels strongly about working to give the whole community a positive attitude about Americorps and the role she plays as one of the programs participants.

All Americorps members, like Elza, are working to foster strong relationships within their communities, but the approach that each one is taking in accomplishing this task is vastly unique.

Lara May, who is located in Prestonsburg, is assisting with the creation and develop-

ment of a summer youth recreation program in Maggoffin County, KY. Lara feels that a program such as this will be beneficial to the youth of this area because presently there are "no services and/or facilities dedicated to teenage youth" in Magoffin County. She feels that recreation activities will help alleviate some of the serious problems facing these young people, such as lowering teen pregnancy, migration, and high school dropout rates.

Michele Humfleet in London is working to improve services provided to families throughout the state by attempting to prioritize services provided. In an attempt to "identify the diverse needs of families", she is conducting telephone surveys and personal interviews and leading focus group meetings. Family services which Michele's work will impact include housing, transportation, social services, health care, educational opportunities, and employment.

John Mills, also located in London, is working on updating an inventory of Kentucky Highlands' investments. John is working on the preliminaries of several KHIC projects in preparation for possible EZ/EC designation in his area. He will be "coordinating and preparing public relations activities", preparing a community assets list, and assisting with grant writing and information gathering for grant applications.

Laura Duncan, in Middlesboro, is helping with the preliminary processes for the Please see Plans, page 3

PLANS (continued)

construction of an industrial park in Bell County. She will facilitate these processes by completing grant applications, attending public hearings and pre-construction conferences, in addition to assisting with procurement of construction contracts, engineering services, and environmental permits for the site.

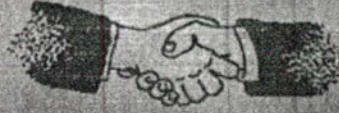
Matthew Hall, located in Hazard at Kentucky River Area Development District (KRADD), will work with the initiatives of KRADD's EZ/EC proposal. His plan involves working with several subcommittees in areas such as economic development, leadership, healthcare, housing, education, human resources, youth, and environment.

Mona Powell, who is with KCEOC in Barbourville, plans to work with 15-20 targeted low-income families. By providing education and teaching craft and marketing skills to these families, Mona hopes to help these families become more self-sufficient. She also intends to help some of these families apply for loans for affordable housing.



Partners

by Laura Duncan



Recently, I had the opportunity to have lunch with Steven Trent, an Americorps volunteer from Tennessee. In Tennessee, Steven, like many of us, works with community development. In fact, Steven is located in Hancock County, TN, one of Bell County's partners in the Cumberland Gap Empowerment Zone proposal. Should the Cumberland Gap area be designated as an Empowerment Zone, I will be working closely with Steven to implement Empowerment Zone projects in his area. I was interested to know (and thought you might be also) what was going on with Steven's Americorps program.

Although Steven works with several other Americorps volunteers throughout the state he is the only one who is involved with community development. The other members of his team, including five RECD participants, work in diverse areas. In fact, part of his team works with the forestry department.

Steven has spent a good deal of the last three months working to get community involvement with his projects, especially from the teenagers in the area. Like many rural communities the population of Hancock County, TN has been reduced tremendously in recent

years. Part of Steven's mission is to get input from the young people in the area and find out what would keep them from leaving the area. If he can get answers to this question, he can plan future projects to benefit Hancock County and its youth and begin to start implementing these projects. One project he has already initiated with Hancock County high school students involves making a road sign for the Virginia/Tennessee border which says "Welcome to Tennessee." By involving the students in projects like this, Steven hopes to keep the students interested in their community.

Although at the moment Hancock County's top priority is the construction of a new elementary school, Steven is working with various projects besides the elementary school project. He is working with economic development projects like the Hancock County Industrial Park project, and the creation of a recreation facility which would include a walking/biking path and picnic areas to enhance the scenic beauty of Hancock County. He also hopes to work with developing the infrastructure of the area, particularly the roadways.

I plan to keep in contact with Steven, and I will let you know how things are progressing with him throughout the year.

Elliott and Gross Honored

by Laura Duncan

While attending the training session in Lexington, Kentucky, Americorps members recognized the contribution of Louis Elliott, coordinator of the KY RECD Americorps team, and Vickie Gross, RECD Human Resource Manager. Vickie and her staff have assisted Americorps members with numerous personnel matters. Louis Elliott has been responsible for finding, hiring, training and supervising Americorps participants. The Americorps team especially appreciate the efforts and patience of Mr. Elliott with developing and maintaining the KY RECD Americorps project. Americorps participant Tina Elza presented Ms. Gross and Mr. Elliott tokens of esteem from Team Americorps.

Americorps Profile: Mona Powell

by Laura Duncan

Mona Powell has a mission. Her goal is to make Knox County a better place to be. Knox County has been an intricate part of Mona's past, and she wants to be part of the county's future. After all, Mona has lived in Corbin for the last twenty years and her daughters (ages 12 and 6) are growing up there. Mona was actually born in Louisville, but like most children in military families, she had to move a great deal and never attended one school very

long. Her travels allowed her to live in a variety of places. For instance, she lived in Spain for three years, and while she did learn some Spanish there, she says she has forgotten most of it.

Mona is first and foremost a mother. Her daughters, she says, are the most influential people in her life. She spends a great deal of time with her children going to church functions, festivals, bazaars, and the movies. One recent trip with her children was to St. Anne's Convent, where Rain Man was filmed, near Covington, KY.

Her goals for the future revolve around being a good role model for her children. That is one reason that she decided to return to school in 1991. After graduating from high school, Mona became a wife and mother. It was two children, a divorce, and several years later that Mona enrolled in college classes at Eastern Kentucky University. She expects to graduate in December 1995 with a major in sociology and a major or minor in psychology. She plans to eventually get a masters degree in sociology.



Mona Powell, Americorps member, at work in her office

It was at ECU's Corbin campus, where she attends classes and works, that Mona heard about Americorps. She saw flyers and posters sent to ECU by KCEOC. She picked up an application for the U.S. Dept. of Labor's Americorps scheduled to start in early 1995 and filled it out. When Gail Fee unexpectedly had to resign her Americorps position in Barbourville, Mona's application was reviewed, and she was asked to fill the vacant position.

Mona likes her Americorps position because it is the first job she has had which allows her to use her area of expertise, sociology. She also is excited about the fact that Americorps offers a chance for her to meet a wide range of people and assess how educational and economic opportunities will impact their lives.

Her work with Americorps also has gotten her involved with several community-based organizations and committees. She has attended meetings of the Enterprise Community Committee, the tourism commission, the solid waste commission, and the Tri-County Industrial Foundation since becoming an Americorps volunteer. She is also working with an incentive program to attract new businesses to Knox County.

Mona thinks that the Americorps program has tremendous potential, and although she is new to the program, she feels that she can make a difference in Knox County. That's her dream. And Americorps gives her a chance to accomplish it.

A Helping Hand

by Tina Elza



Americorps member, Tina Elza, providing Ms. Jasper a helping hand with a 504 loan application

A few weeks ago, I received a call from a social worker at St. Joseph's hospital in Lexington. She had called an area development center in Pulaski County that I had contacted as part of my outreach. At the center, she was told about Americorps and FmHA 504 loans. Once this social worker explained how she had found out about the program, she began to tell me about Ms. Jasper.

Ms. Jasper is a 77-year old woman who lives alone, has never been married, and has no living relatives other than an elderly sister. Ms. Jasper had fallen and broken her hip. As a result, she would have to learn to walk all over again.

Ms. Jasper had no indoor plumbing and needed a bathroom installed desperately. After I received the call, I went out with the Assistant County Supervisor, Gary Crockett, to make an inspection, and he determined that this was a case that needed immediate attention to ensure Ms. Jasper had a safe,

healthier place to live.

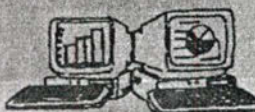
Due to Ms. Jasper's condition, she was unable to come into the office to fill out the necessary paperwork. When she returned home from the hospital, I went out to her home to fill out the paperwork and collect the documentation needed to process the loan.

Once back at the office, Mr. Crockett and I along with Ms. Ramsey took the steps necessary to process the loan. We were able to get the funding to build a bathroom and install a septic tank at Ms. Jasper's residence.

Ms. Jasper was very happy that she was going to get her home repaired. She was amazed that someone would actually come out to her home and do the paperwork for her. She just couldn't say enough good things about Americorps and FmHA. The fact that I was able to help Ms. Jasper made me realize that as an Americorps participant I have the opportunity to make a real difference in my community.

Get Yourself Connected: Getting Started

by Laura Duncan



This is the first, I hope, in a series of articles about accessing the internet. As I find out more about the process of gleaming information from the internet, I'll let you know.

What is the Internet?

The internet is a network linking thousands of computers throughout the world, many of them located in academic and research institutes. It is used to obtain an infinite amount of information, most if it critical to any business. You can get and send e-mail, access databases, and download files. To get full access, you should contact a provider service. Digital Express Group (301-220-2020), NetCom (408-554-8649), and Panix (718-832-1525) all provide a direct link to the internet. The costs for using these services vary, but \$10-\$20 per month is an average rate. In addition, you must pay long distance charges for dialing the access number. Normal long distance rates apply for each minute that you are connected to the internet. There are 20-30 million active internet users, growing 160,000 per month.

What you need

At a minimum, you will need a computer with a modem, a phone line, and either online software (provided by your online service, and usually free of charge when you subscribe), or basic communications software (Qmodem, ProCom, and Terminal for Windows for Workgroups 3.11).

Online Services

One of the most common ways of accessing the internet is by using one of the available online services. The Please see CONNECTED, p. 6

CONNECTED (continued)

four best online service internet providers are America Online (AOL), Compuserve, Delphi, and GENie. In addition to monthly membership charges, which range from \$10-\$20 per month, some online services charge an hourly rate for internet use. All of these online services are accessible by modem using a local access number. Unfortunately, in rural areas the local access number is provided from a larger calling area, and therefore, some long distance charges may apply. You can call the numbers listed below to subscribe or inquire about local access numbers.

Helpful numbers

America Online: 800-827-6364
Compuserve: 800-848-8199
Delphi: 800-695-4005
GENie: 800-638-9636
DEG: 301-220-2020
NetCom: 408-554-8649
Panix: 718-832-1525

Happy Birthday

Mona Powell.....October 30
Becky Davidson....November 11
Tina Elza.....December 24

Dedication

I would like to dedicate this first issue of The Americorps Newsletter to all those who have made the program possible, the Americorps site supervisors, and those who helped with our training:

Thomas Fern
Louis Elliott
Vickie Gross
Denver Parks
Linda Chadwell
Don Johnson
Russ Thomason
Kenneth Arterburn
Jerry Valentine
Jim Davenport
Kevin Antle
Gordon Davis
Paul Hall
Jim Cass
Gale Edwards
Robert Dunn
Jerry Rickett
Roger Recktenwald
Dallas Hargis

Special Thanks to those who helped me put this first edition together:

Tina Elza
John Mills
Mona Powell
Gale Edwards
Steven Farmer



All materials for the January edition of the newsletter are due by December 23, 1994.

Mail them to:

*Laura Duncan
Bell County Chamber of
Commerce
P. O. Box 788
Middlesboro, KY 40965*

or fax them to:

606-248-8851

*After the deadline, you
will need to contact me at
606-848-1431 to see
where you need to fax or
mail materials.*

Suggested Captions for Photo

SCHOOL-TO-WORK GRANT AWARDED - Governor Brereton Jones and William Huston, secretary of Kentucky's Cabinet for Workforce Development, recently presented school-to-work grants to local labor market areas across the state. Representing Local Labor Market Area number # 18, which received a check for \$180,000, was/were _____. The program is a joint effort of business and industry, labor, education and government in the area, and is designed to help students make a successful transition from school to the workplace.

#

NEW JERSEY AMERICORPS SITES

Site Manager	AmeriCorps Members	Duty Station	County
Janice Reid	Marva Collier	Bridgewater	Somerset 1
	Wendy Kresge	Bridgewater	Somerset/Morris/ 2
	Kimberly Nye	Bridgewater	Hunterdon 3
	Doris Ignatow	Bridgewater	Hunterdon 4
	Kathy Leck	Bridgewater	Monmouth 5
Dan Jones	Mary Barfield	Bridgewater	Middlesex 6
	Scott Crimmel	Hackettstown	Monmouth/Mercer 7
	Donna Symancek	Hackettstown	Warren-Sussex 8
	Tom Servas	Hackettstown	Warren-Sussex 9
Gail Bartok	Don Donnelly	Flemington	Hunterdon/Sussex
	Matthew Denberg	Flemington	Hunterdon/Sussex
	Chris Markham	Flemington	Hunterdon/Sussex
Kent Hardmeyer	Dadma LaFrance	Morristown	Morris
	Dave Gabourel	Morristown	Morris
	Steve Kellman	Morristown	Morris
Leon Brooks	Brian Embley	Hamilton Square	Morris
	Laurie Goldstein	Hamilton Square	Morris
	Michelle Kubin	Hamilton Square	Morris
	Marie Larson	Hamilton Square	Morris
	Barbara Renk	Hamilton Square	Morris
Ken Taaffe	Janel Decker	Mt. Holly	Morris
	Michele Bellinger	Mays Landing	Morris
Marybeth Sorrentino	Reginald Easley	Mays Landing	Morris
	Linda Gray	Mays Landing	Morris
	Russell Holst	Mays Landing	Morris

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages ▶

To <i>Sec</i>	From <i>Charles Henning</i>
Dept./Agency <i>USA 10/005</i>	Phone <i>908 246-1171</i>
Fax <i>202 690 0639</i>	Fax <i>908 246-2358</i>

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

JANUARY 1995

SUN.	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.																																																																																				
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 1	2 HOLIDAY 2	3 3	4 10:00am ANTHONY H ₂ O DIST. PAT BARRERAS/LOREN SCHROEDER 4	5 5	6 6	7 7																																																																																				
8 8	9 3:00pm JERRY LUSAN HERE 9	10 2:00pm 10:00am MTG w/ PAT BARRERAS/LOREN SCHROEDER 10	11 7:00pm CABALLERO 4-H ALBERT LYON 894-23711 12	12 12	13 13	14 14																																																																																				
15 2:00pm Chambino H ₂ O District Mtg 15	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY 16	17 10:00am Romero about Applicants 5:00pm Hurley City Council 6:00pm Central City Council 17	18 9:00am Dioces Task Force 18	19 10:00am - 11:00am SWISS PRISCILLA 11:00 - 11:30am SILVER CITY SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER 19	20 20	21 21																																																																																				
22 22	23 10:30am EL PASO Co Office Cluster MTG. 23	24 24	25 2:00pm Colonia's Task Force 4:00pm Meet w/ LYNN GONGORA of COB from Santa Fe 25	26 12:15 GILA SENIOR CITIZENS Mtg. 26	27 27	28 SALA 5:00pm Sill Applications w/ RUBEN 28																																																																																				
29 29	30 10:00 ANTHONY H ₂ O DIST 7:00pm HATCH w/ CDG JERRY LUSAN 30	31 31	DECEMBER 1994 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	FEBRUARY 1995 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28					NOTES:
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JANUARY 1995

7540-01-337-4701
For 1995 7540-01-337-4702

QUALITY BEGINS WITH YOU

OPTIONAL FORM 87
ery AD-300) 5067-124

September 30, 1994

Used as a day without pay.

October 3, 1994

Today was our first reporting day. There are two of us Americorps working here. Paula Montez and Susan Burns. Paula is age 20, happily married to Martin and has a 3 year old son Joshua; Paula is originally from Las Cruces, but has just moved back from Washington state. Susan is 25, single and has a brother who lives in New Mexico named Stan; Susan is from Kansas and has just moved here too.

Today we met the office personnel: Georgia Perry is the County Supervisor, Lynn Muncy is the Assistant County Supervisor, and Linda Ledesma is also an Assistant County Supervisor, Liz Duran is the clerk as well as the office supervisor, Paula Massey is the office trainee and only works on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Our first project was to become familiar with the FmHA programs. To accomplish this we began by reading the regulations. This took all of the day. We also observed how the office worked.

October 4, 1994

Today we worked on copying various pamphlets in preparation for a Colonias Task Force Meeting this afternoon.

The task force meeting was held at the library. We met Clyde Hudson at the meeting, he is in charge of Multi-Family housing and is the Assistant District Director.

At the meeting we obtained a list of task force members that we can use as contacts. Not much seemed to be accomplished during this meeting, it seemed as that everyone was more concerned about what each other was doing instead of concentrating on helping the people of the colonias.

October 6, 1994

Today we read some more on the regulations and toured the southern portion of Dona Ana county.

We went Mesquite, Vado, Mesilla, La Mesa, Anthony, and Sunland Park. We learned that it is really pretty easy to distinguish a FmHA, because they are all about the same style and size.

October 7, 1994

Spent the whole day reading pamphlets and regulations and asking questions.

October 11, 1994

Today Ana Rodriguez started. She is 27, has a degree in accounting and is originally from Sunland Park.

In the afternoon all three of us went with Linda and Lynn to do a framing inspection of the group of self-help housing that is being built.

The framing inspection takes place after the footing inspection. This consists of looking at the walls, studs, plumbing, electricity, and roof to make sure they are up to FmHA standards. We were taught about hurricane straps, and FmHA straps. We were shown how to check to see if the studs were straight. We also learned about metal spacers in the roof. We also learned that at this stage you must check to make sure the windows were installed correctly so taht they open and close and of course are level. We were also told to check to make sure that there was insulation behind the tub/shower and also in the corners. Linda and Lynn explained to us that there were city inspectors who checked the plumbing and the electrical wiring so all we have to look for is the inspection stickers.

October 13, 1994

Today we worked on learning the 8 position docket and the filing system.

We also have not recieved a health care card and Paula has not recieved anything on the child care allotment. We called 1-800-94-ACORP we talked with a gentleman who promised that someone would return our call within 48 hours.

October 17, 1994

Today Paula had to attend a funeral so she was gone all day.

I went with Paula Massey to do a chattle check on three different borrowers. This took us all day, partially because the maps we had were 30+ years old and the names of the roads had changed or new roads had been added. Upon returning we requested that some new maps be purchased. Quote of the day "All roads lead to Snow Road."

October 18, 1994

Today we went with Georgia and looked around the Las Cruces area at FmHA houses.

Today we also called the Americorps at 1-800-94-ACORP from the District Office, because we had not recieved a call within the 48 hours as promised. This time all three of us spoke with the enumerator and again we were promised a call within 48 hours.

October 24, 1994

Kimberly Barnes-O'Connor called at 8:30 this morning. She said that she was working on trying to find someone who would or could answer our questions. She asked us to write a letter and send it to her in care of Nancy Kassebaum in Washington D. C. as soon as we could. After hanging up we quickly drafted a letter and sent it off during our lunch.

October 25, 1994

Today there was a sale of a house that we had foreclosed on. We were told that nobody but FmHA usually showed up, but today there were 4 other bidders there and the house was sold for \$8500.00 which was several hundred dollars over what our bid was.

October 26, 1994

Today we had housing with Georgia. This is a time when Georgia clears her day and reserves it just for an in depth study. This time the concentration of the study was on the rural housing part of FmHA. This took all day, but it was worth it we really learned a ton.

We also made plans to make a video tape that would be both educational and could be used for outreach. We had been talking about making a video so we asked Georgia about it; she said it sounded like a tremendous idea and that we could begin working on it when ever we wanted to. We decided to begin it the next day, by going out and taking some video of the self helpers, and some acceptable and unacceptable lots, some recent and older FmHA houses, etc.

October 27, 1994

Today we spent all day out working on our filming. We went to Mesquite, Anthony, Vado, La Mesa, Mesilla and all around Sunland Park.

Upon returning to the office we were told that a gentleman from Americorp had called to talk to us, and that he would call back at 8:00 the next morning.

October 28, 1994

We arrived early expecting a call we waited and waited. While we waited we worked on the never ending pile of filings. Finally Mr. David Gibson from the Agriculture Department of the Americorp called. The call came through at around 11:00 which was 3 hours later than he had said. He asked what our complaints were so we explained to him about the child care, the insurance, the educational award, and about the misleading pamphlets. He then said he would be here in person on the following Tuesday. He said he would catch a plane and fly into El Paso and then drive up here.

We told Georgia of his planned arrival. Then we called Ana and told her and asked her to pass it on to Clyde and Mr. Martinez. Then we called John Thomas's office in Albuquerque to tell him, but we were told he was not there and would be away on annual leave all of the following week.

October 31, 1994

Today we had to go to inspect the self-help for the insulation inspection. At 9:00am a Jim Coyle from Washington D.C. called to tell us that David Gibson's plane would be landing at 11:00am. We had already made plans for the inspection so we tried to make it back before he arrived. We didn't make it. When we arrived

he was sitting chatting with Liz. We sat here for the next hour and made plans to go to dinner with him. Paula said that she wouldn't be able to attend because tonight is Halloween and she had a birthday party for her aunt that she had already made plans to attend and afterward she had promised to take her little boy trick or treating.

Last night Ana and I went to dinner with David Gibson. He explained to us the chain of command of the Americorp and he also told us that we should be receiving \$12500.00 for the year. He basically swore that we should be receiving that amount. We also made plans to go to Demming and meet with the Americorp members there the next day.

November 1, 1994

Today we left at 8:00am to go to Demming. At Demming we met Laurence and Lourdes. We first met in and wrote down what questions we had. Then we had a conference call with a gentleman named Ron Demunbrun in Washington D.C., his answer to our educational grant was that if we would not use it for 5 years then they would have everything settled. We told him that, that was not feasible, we wanted to use the award as soon as we received it to pay off some of the principle on our loans. He told us that we must be the exception because all the rest of the americorps would use this award for future costs of college. Which really seemed odd to us because Mr. Gibson had just explained to us that the reason we were receiving more than \$9000 was because we had all gone to college. Later on that afternoon Mr. Gibson told us that we were only suppose to get \$12000.00 for the year.

This day was a day of contradictions. Not only did David Gibson contradict himself, but also Mr. Demunbrun also contradicted Mr. Gibson. When asked by Georgia if we had learned any answers today we said NO. *note we audio taped the entire meeting at Demming*

November 2, 1994

Today Mr. Gibson met with Georgia and Clyde. We think that instead of meeting with us separately he should have met with all of us together, We mean that we tell Georgia everything and she tells us what they discussed. It seemed that this way we would be able to tell each group something else.

November 3, 1994

Today we worked on making copies for the Disability program we are presenting on November 9 which is next Thursday. We made packets and started on the lessons.

November 7, 1994

Today we finished our speeches and worked on filing again. We also tried calling and making some more dates to give the program. We stuck out, Mrs. Castinetas of Tombaugh was the only one who seemed to be interested.

November 8, 1994

Worked on filing and dockets all day. We really would like to go out and do some filming soon.

Last night we were at Ana's for about 2 1/2 hours we went over that speeches first and then put the lessons together with the video.

November 9, 1994

Today we left our office at 7:45am and picked Ana up at the district office and drove across town to Tombaugh Elementary School arriving there at 8:10am. We talked to 3 different groups of 5th graders. Each group consisted of 2 classes which made for groups of 35 to 50 kids each. By the end of the last group we could give our speeches from memory and recite the dialog to the entire video. We presented each class a poster about Disability awarness month. At the end of the day we gave the video and lesson booklet to Mrs. Castinetas she said that she would be interested in any other programs that we had to offer.

We had a great day today. We think that the kids really enjoyed our presentation and we enjoyed presenting it.

November 14, 1994

Today we went farming with Georgia. This is another one of those in depth study sessions this took most of the day. The rest of the day we spent calling 4-H leaders and FFA leaders trying to set up some outreach.

November 15, 1994

Today Paula had paid leave this morning. Also this morning was a Farmer Program Training presented by a gentleman from Oregon and one from Idaho. *everyone in the district was here. It lasted all day.

November 16, 1994

Today Eric from the state office lead a guaranteed rural housing training. This lasted from 9:00 til lunch. This meeting was intended to be for lenders, but there were realitors, and contractors also present.

The rest of the day we talked with Eric about the Water and Waste Disposal Grants for colonias.

November 18, 1994

Spent the entire day preparing for the Colonias Task Force sponsored meeting in Hatch on Monday at 6:00pm.

We designed a pamphlet about Water and Waste Disposal Grants. Eric and Gil G. had told us that there was not a pamphlet. We also wrote our speech in English and Spanish.

November 21, 1994

Today we finished getting ready for the presentation that we put on at Hatch. We made copies of appropriate pamphlets.

November 22, 1994

Last night we went to Hatch for a Colonia meeting. We presented a 10 minute program and were overwellemmed by the reaponse that we recieved. We gave out all of the pamphlets, applications, and business cards we had brought with us. This was a good meeting, we made several good contacts with water district leaders and colonias leaders.

Today we had a suprise baby shower for Georgia at lunch, the district office came over too.

November 23, 1994

Today we listened to a Conference call from the State Director. This lasted for over an hour. The call pertained to the reorganization but no questions really were answered.

November 27, 1994

We are leaving today to drive to Albuquerque tonight and then on to Mancos, CO for a three day meeting with other Americorp Members.

November 28-30, 1994

Attended Meeting in Mancos, CO. Learned alot about team building. We seemed to be the only ones who had been on board for a while. We also gave a speech about what types of outreach we have been doing. John Thomas also looked through our docket and kept a copy of our journal. We arrived back in Las Cruces at 2:00pm. Washed Gil's Truck and returned it to Gil at the District Office. Gil also mentioned that a lady, Laraine Clements from Temple, Texas will be in El Paso on Monday and would like to meet with us at 1:00pm in the El Paso County Office.

December 1, 1994

Today we returned calls. Arnold Wilson from Grants wanted a copy of our action plan faxed to him so we did that. We read all of the thank you notes from Tombaugh Elementary school and copied them and sent them to the State Office.

December 2, 1994

Today we called the El Paso County Office to find out directions to get to their office.

December 5, 1994

Today we left at 10:30 to travel to the El Paso County office to meet with Loraine Clements. At the meeting we met 2 more AmeriCorps members from El Paso. The meeting was very informal we just talked about what we were doing and about the information we had been receiving on AmeriCorps. We returned to Las Cruces at 5:00pm.

December 6, 1994

Today we made application packets and made copies of pamphlets. We also set up an appointment to meet with Clyde to learn about his programs.

December 8, 1994

Martinez came over and talked with the office staff about the reorganization. At 1:30pm we went to the District Office and met with Clyde. He gave us several hand outs and told us a lot of information on watersystem programs. We returned tot he office at 4:30.

December 12, 1994

Today we worked on filing and also setting up suspense dockets. We also tried to contact people about setting up some meetings. I talked with Albert Lyon the Extension Agent for Sierra County. He said that he would talk to some 4-H clubs and get back to us.

December 13, 1994

Today we had an Americorp meeting in our meeting room. The meeting was called by Clyde. Dave, Lourdes and Lawrence from Deming, Jess Garcia and two of his Americorps members, Clyde and Ana, Danny Asbill from the state office, and of course Linda and ourselves. The meeting was mainly about the Water and Waste Disposal Grants, and the Home Repair and Improvement Loan Grants. We were again told that there was 2 million dollars available for people in colonias for water and waste disposal. We were also informed that there was no grant money available in the 504 so to really push the loans. We were again asked to tell what we had been doing so we said that we had done the same things as last time. The people from El Paso talked about the outreach they had been doing by working with Toys For Tots. They also told about a car show that they are co-sponsoring to raise toys for kids in colonias. The people from Deming and Ana from the District Office had still have not done much in the way of outreach.

December 14, 1994

Worked on setting up meetings. We gave Ana 1/2 of the names and numbers that we had she managed to get in touch with Hanover. The Hanover water system is having a meeting on Friday the 16th. I tried to get in contact with Leon Romero from the New Mexico Rural Water Association but he was not in the office so I left a message. At about 2:30pm Ana called to say that she had set up a meeting in Hanover for Friday at 11:00am. At 3:00pm Mr. Romero called from the District Office to tell me that there was a Water Association meeting in Hanover on Friday. So since we were told twice I think that we will attend. We agreed to meet Mr. Romero at the Central City Hall at 10:30am on 12/16/94.

December 15, 1994

Today at 9:30am we met with Fred Varney from GSA. He talked to us about the use of government cars. We also learned what to do and who to call in case of an accident or in case of a break down. We finished up at about 11:00am.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Federal Building, Room 152
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866

Subject: PER - First Quarter AmeriCorps Report

Date: December 15, 1994

To: Lloyd E. Wright
Director
Community Assistance and Resource Development

File Code: 360

Below is the first quarter AmeriCorps report from Nebraska:

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH (09/12/94))

10 members of 20 total enrolled by 09/12/94

2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER (11/30/94)

18 members of 20 total enrolled by 11/30/94

3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED

Omaha	1,250
Lincoln	800
Tecumseh	1,650
Norfolk	<u>300</u>
TOTAL HOURS	<u>4,000</u>

4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING:

Omaha	80
Lincoln	300
Tecumseh	300
Norfolk	<u>50</u>
TOTAL HOURS	<u>730</u>

Lloyd E. Wright
December 15, 1994

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5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Omaha: AmeriCorps members will present resource conservation and flood plain management to eight local communities in areas of the 1993 flood. Members will coordinate public work projects in eight communities to do maintenance in water courses and to promote flood plain management techniques.

Members have not made any public presentations to community groups. They have been very active in local conservation/recreation area improvements and maintenance at nine different sites.

Lincoln: AmeriCorps members will gather biological data for resource inventories and assist in developing environmental and cultural resource assessment reports to present at six community meetings in the Rock Creek and Nemaha watersheds impacted by the 1993 floods. Member will coordinate community based clean-up activities in six water course or public access areas.

Members have carried out a historical/cultural inventory and assessment of locally significant homes in Lincoln normal neighborhood. Members have not made any public presentations to community groups. They have been very active in local recreation area improvements and maintenance at two different sites.

Tecumseh: AmeriCorps members will prepare natural resource inventory reports to present natural resource inventory reports to present at six community meetings in the Nemaha Watershed impacted by the 1993 floods. Members will coordinate community based environmental clean-up activities in public access areas in six communities.

Members have not made any public presentations to community groups. They have been very active in local conservation clean-up and area improvements and maintenance at three different sites. They are assisting a new 'bio-engineering' project with the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Norfolk: AmeriCorps members will identify target audiences in nine rural communities and present information on resource treatment of soil erosion and sedimentation, riparian area protection, and water quality protection. Members will organize and coordinate community work projects in nine communities to do water course clean-up.

This team is still in start-up phase with only three of the five members on board. Members have not made any public presentations to community groups. They have been active in local conservation/recreation area improvements and maintenance at two different sites.

Lloyd E. Wright
December 15, 1994

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6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Omaha:

- A. 400 acres of boundary marker (BIA - Winnebago Tribe)
- B. 160 acres of timber marking (BIA - Winnebago Tribe)
- C. 3 recreation trails designed for Resources District
- D. Recreation Trails mulched and maintained - Chalco
- E. Public recreation and access area improvements
 - 1. Zorinsky Lake
 - 2. North Omaha Freeway
 - 3. Orchard Park
 - 4. Elkhorn River
- F. Conservation practice application
 - 1. Omaha area
 - 2. Fremont area
- G. Heron Haven - Urban wetland clean-up - Audoban
- H. "Cans for Corps" - started recycling project
- I. Groundwater level monitoring - NRCS
- J. Outdoor conservation class - Christ King Omaha
- K. Outdoor demonstration farm - Gretna

Lincoln:

- A. Revitalization of Lincoln Normal historical preservation project
- B. Recreation trail improvements - MoPac
- C. Signage on MoPac trail - 20 miles
- D. Conservation practice assistance - urban areas
- E. Public promotion on Shop SMART (Saving Money and Reducing Trash)
- F. Developing education program to promote recycling
- G. Coordinating on developing 3 recycling drop-offs

Tecumseh:

- A. Assisted the National Arbor Day Foundation in the assessment and debris removal from South Table Creek in Nebraska City. (Chief Johnson and Joel Berg were at the site). Removal has been accomplished on about 1/2 of the 29 sites damaged in the 1993 floods.
- B. Coordinated with the Nemaha NRD in the inspection and maintenance report of flood control structures and public recreation areas impacted by the 1993 floods.
- C. Provided support for communities in accomplishing their goals for historical preservation of cultural resource sites. At Brownville, the team carried out maintenance and improvement of the Captain Bailey Museum in the historical district and on the National Landmark Merriweather Lewis Dredge at a recreation area. About 1/4 of both projects are complete.

Lloyd E. Wright
December 15, 1994

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Norfolk:

- A. Recreation and conservation maintenance in Lower Elkhorn River area
- B. Maintenance and improvements at Willow Creek State Recreation area
- C. Recreation and conservation maintenance Norfolk public parks area
- D. Promotional assistance to "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" public project
- E. Making contacts to assist Stanton County Roads Department to assist on conservation measures to control critical area of erosion and sedimentation

7. PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER

Plan to have all teams concentrate on achieving about 40% of community service goals related to relief efforts of the 1993 floods. (See Community Service Objectives)

8. PRIMARY CHALLENGES

Promoting the mission of AmeriCorps: Need to be better able to explain how the AmeriCorps mission compliments the NRCS mission in Nebraska. Many people feel that the AmeriCorps program should be designed to assist NRCS in carrying out its mission of providing technical assistance to land users in the planning and application of conservation systems. The missions of both NRCS and AmeriCorps need to be publicized, promoted, and clarified both internally and externally.

RECOMMENDATION:

A regional workshop with Midwest states AmeriCorps program directors and staff from USDA and NRCS should be scheduled. It would be best to do this now in order to review initial progress and problems in FY 95, and to discuss program direction before FY 96 AmeriCorps project proposals are developed.

Direct Supervision Problems: Our AmeriCorps project site managers for the NRCS in Nebraska are field office liaison district conservationists (LDCs). They are very challenged with existing workloads and time constraints that interfere with effectively supervising and directing the AmeriCorps teams on a day-by-day basis.

RECOMMENDATION:

Nebraska NRCS will discuss the possibility of identifying a staff person on each of the LDC project manager's staffs to provide direction and guidance to AmeriCorps teams on a day-by-day basis.

Lloyd E. Wright
December 15, 1994

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Team Problems and Member Attrition: All of the teams have had some problems in member relations, taking direction, acting professional, and acting courteous and well mannered. This is a somewhat diverse group and getting them to accept each other to achieve our goals has been difficult. We have lost 4 members due to resignation in the Nebraska program. We have had problems with team members getting along with each other, and problems between the crew leaders and team members.

RECOMMENDATION:

We will need to continually coach the AmeriCorps members on the positive aspects of doing community service work, on team building, and on professional manners.

Child care and benefits: It has been difficult to accommodate all of the individuals needs for child care and to meet the members' expectations for this benefit. Problems with the income guidelines, certified care providers, and non-work days have been difficult to overcome.

RECOMMENDATION:

In hindsight, it may have been a mistake to become involved administratively with individuals income, choice of day care providers, and other problems.

AmeriCorps Supplies: We need to provide the AmeriCorps members with their T-shirts, a sweatshirt, and cold weather clothing if we want them to maintain the program identity and look like a team. We received the T-shirts in September, but we need more in Large and X-Large sizes. The members would also like buttons, pins, and other program identification items.

9. PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

As mentioned earlier, it would be advisable to organize a regional workshop with Midwest states AmeriCorps program directors and staff from USDA and NRCS. It would be best to do this now in order to review initial progress and problems in FY 95, and to discuss program direction before FY 96 AmeriCorps project proposals are developed.

Lloyd E. Wright
December 15, 1994

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10. MEDIA COVERAGE

All of the Nebraska media articles have been sent to NHQ as they were published in our local papers.

11. OTHER CREATIVE DOCUMENTATION

We sent to USDA a video of Joel Berg at Nebraska City and Omaha that was featured on local TV.

I hope that this information will assist your efforts to administer the AmeriCorps program. Please contact Craig Derickson, Nebraska Project Director, at 402/437-5878, if you have questions or need additional information.


RONALD E. MORELAND *Acting*
State Conservationist

cc:

Craig R. Derickson, Project Director, GenAd, NRCS, Lincoln SO



AmeriCorps/USDA Quarterly Report #1
DC Service Corps

1) Progress toward meeting community service objectives

a) **Objective #1: Community outreach.** Meet the information and referral needs of Washington, DC's low-income population through door-to-door, school-based and on-the-street distribution of informational flyers, phone banking, and person to person assistance.

Accomplishments:

- Produced and distributed 20 posters on immunization and the location of WIC express clinics
- Distributed 300 informational flyers on immunizations for children and WIC express clinics
- Made 150 reminder telephone calls to parents regarding immunizations for their children
- Assisted 200 senior citizens in filling out food stamp applications
- Distributed 500 flyers on the School Breakfast Program (SBP)

b) **Objective #2: Homelessness Assistance.** Assist the Homeless in meeting their nutritional needs.

Accomplishments:

- Sorted over 70,000 pounds of food for a regional food bank
- Assisted in the mailing of over 7,000 fundraising letters for the food bank
- Served over 1,000 people in direct service at soup kitchens
- Cooked and prepared meals for over 6,000 people at DC Central Kitchen

2) Number of members enrolled at end of quarter vs. number who enrolled at the time of the launch



DC Service Corps

AmeriCorps/USDA Quarterly Report #1 DC Service Corps

- 3) Total numbers of direct service performed and total number of hours in training

2526/632

- 4) Any major staff or structural changes you have made.

Our Executive Director, Keith Canty, resigned on November 18, 1994. We expect to fill his position by January 30, 1995.

- 5) Primary accomplishments

At the outset of the program, we held a week-long orientation in the Virginia wilderness. Corpsmembers participated in team-building exercises (physical and intellectual), group discussions, and direct service projects. In addition, they took part in numerous workshops, including those on program rules, teamwork, diversity, leadership, and community.

In the following weeks, the USDA team worked with and learned about the variety of organizations which are involved in hunger-related work, including the Capital Area Community Food Bank, DC Hunger Action, DC Central Kitchen, Save Our Strength (SOS), So Others May Eat (SOME), Martha's Table, the Children's Defense Fund and Bread for the City. In their service days with the Capital Area Community Food Bank, Corpsmembers assisted in a holiday fundraising mailing, they sorted and stacked food, and they assisted in its delivery to local soup kitchens and religious agencies. In a one-day trip organized through the Food Bank, the Corpsmembers also had a chance to compost and to plant fruits and vegetables on an organic farm. Working with SOME and DC Central Kitchen, the Corpsmembers learned how to both prepare and serve food to people in need.



DC Service Corps

AmeriCorps/USDA Quarterly Report #1 DC Service Corps

Of the first quarter, the most successful service project by far was the food stamp assistance project led by DC Hunger Action. After receiving training on how to fill out food stamp applications, we spent our Wednesdays visiting elderly housing complexes working with the Senior Citizens in that respect. The Corpsmembers found that this work was especially positive. The direct interaction with the Seniors has been described as "enlightening," "inspirational," and "informative." The team continues to look forward to the day of the week set aside for this project.

6) Primary challenges

Full funding for our program has not been forthcoming. This has dampened morale since staff members have missed paychecks, the purchase of uniforms has been delayed, and building upkeep and supplies have not been adequate.

Most challenging, however, is a lack of pre-planned service projects. As a result, the team's schedule has changed week to week, and sometimes day to day. This has, in the past, had an effect on their expectations of this year. In the future, however, we expect that these problems will dissipate as staff works on putting long term programs into place.

7) Primary training and technical assistance need

The Corpsmembers knowledge of nutrition is limited, and they could use some additional training in this respect, i.e. meeting regularly with a nutritionist. Furthermore, they could utilize materials on nutrition and the problems of hunger in America in order to educate themselves as well as to assist them in their presentations to children and elders. For example, videos, periodicals, reports, brochures, and examples of successful lesson plans would be desirable.

8) Media coverage

There has been no media coverage this quarter.



AmeriCorps/USDA Quarterly Report #1
DC Service Corps

9) Other documentation

We have attached a copy of a brochure the Corpsmembers created. In it, they announce and briefly describe the nutrition education programs they present to elementary schools.

January 23, 1995

Mr. Joel Berg
Director of National Service
USDA/Office of Communications
Room 542-A Administration Building
Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

Dear Mr. Berg:

Here are the items that you requested. We are only enclosing the main parts of our journal. We are also enclosing a copy of the quarterly report we sent to the New Mexico State Director, a copy of our January calendar, and copies of two letters that we have received from agencies that we are working with. We would like to thank you for taking time out of your schedule to call us. If you have any further questions or suggestions please contact us directly.

Sincerely,

 
Paula J. Montez & Susan J. Burns
2507 N. Telshor Suite 3C
Las Cruces, NM 88011
(505) 522-6031
(505) 521-3905 fax

Quarterly Summary of AmeriCorp Outreach

October 3, 1994 was the first day that we as AmeriCorps reported to work. Our first outreach was on October 4, 1994 when we attended a Colonias Task Force meeting held at the Branigan Memorial Library here in Las Cruces. The meeting was attended by 27 individuals representing many different colonias concerns. At this meeting the we made contacts with many people that we will be working in cooperation with. This meeting lasted from 2:00pm to 4:30pm.

On November 9, 1994 we met with Ana Rodriguez from the District Office and went over our presentation of a Disability Awareness Program which we would be presenting the next day at Tombaugh Elementary. This took us about three hours to refine it enough that we felt comfortable with the program.

On November 10, 1994 we arrived at Tombaugh Elementary School at 8:00am. We met with 3 different groups that consisted of 2 fifth grade classes each. By the end of the school day we had met with about 150 students. We arrived back at the office at about 3:00pm.

Our next outreach was done on November 21, 1994. For this outreach we traveled to Hatch, NM for a meeting for colonias in cooperation with the Border Research Institute. The meeting began at 6:00pm. There were approximately 40 people in attendance. Many of these people were residents of colonias. We did meet several people that could help us with our outreach there. We had taken 30 applications with us that we had marked with a highlighter so as to identify them as application that had been generated by our efforts. At this meeting we gave out all of our applications and most of our pamphlet. The attendees were very interested in the programs that were available through FmHA, and would like us to return to their communities in January to help them fill out the applications.

December 16, 1994 took me, Susan, to Hanover, NM which is in Grant County. (we are covering Grant County since there are no AmeriCorp members in the Silver City county office). This meeting was prescheduled by Ana Rodriguez from the list of contacts that we had given her. Ana and I left at 8:15am to travel to Central, NM to meet with Leon Romero whom I had previously met at the meeting in Hatch. Mr. Romero is a technician for the New Mexico Rural Water Association. We arrived in Central and met Mr. Romero and was introduced to a Mrs. Priscilla Lucero who is a community planner with the Southwest Council of Governments in Silver City, NM and Mr. Marcos Parra also with the New Mexico Rural Water Association. Then went to Hanover to attend the Water District Meeting. This meeting started at 11:00am and

finished at approximately 12:45pm with only about 10 people in attendance. We had lunch with Mr. Romero and Mrs. Lucero where we discussed our programs. We were asked to attend a water district meeting in Chamberino, NM the next day at 2:00pm. We arrived back in Las Cruces at about 4:45pm.

Also on December 16, 1994 Paula attended a Christmas get together hosted by Tierra Del Sol. At this meeting she made a few contacts.

On Saturday December 17, 1994 I, Susan, attended the meeting in Chamberino, NM. The meeting began at 2:00pm. I really didn't give a presentation at this meeting, the people just wanted to ask me questions concerning our programs. Also at this meeting I met Jerry Lujan who is on the Council of Governments and also the leader of the Colonias Task Force. This meeting lasted until 4:00pm. There was only about 25 people present and a meeting was scheduled on January 15, 1994 and I was asked if we would attend that meeting also.

On December 19, 1994 we drove to Bayard to attend the City Council meeting. We also had scheduled to meet with Mrs. Priscilla Lucero at 4:00pm to discuss an contacts that she might have that we could use to help in our outreach. Mrs. Lucero was very helpful, she gave us many names and phone numbers and even offered to personally introduce us to them. At 5:00pm we attended the Bayard City Council meeting. We gave our program and it was well received. The council people said that they were very interested in promoting our programs and would be in contact with us. We left the meeting at 6:00pm and arrived back in Las Cruces at 8:00pm.

On December 27, 1994 we met Mr. Marcos Parra and Mr. Leon Romero, both of the New Mexico Rural Water Association, for lunch. During the meal we discussed what the purpose of the Rural Water Association was and what our goals as Americorps Members were. We developed some ideas on how we could work with the New Mexico Rural Water Association to reach our goals as well as helping them to reach theirs. We also were promised a list of local Rural Water Association contacts, as well as to be kept informed of any Rural Water Association meetings in the area.

On December 29, 1994, Mrs. Priscilla Lucero came to our office to have a meeting with us. We invited Ana Rodriguez to attend also. During this meeting we explained our programs in depth to her and provided her with copies of the procedures for the 306c and 504. This meeting lasted for about 2 hours and then we went to lunch with Priscilla.

After lunch we went to the district office where we met Clyde Hudson to drive to Deming to attend a status meeting with the Village of Columbus. There were 8 people in

attendance, besides us there was Lourdes Vigueria an Americorp Member in Deming, the Mayor and secretary of Columbus, an engineer, and a lawyer. Clyde ran the meeting and went over the letter of conditions to find out the status of the various documents. This meeting lasted for only an hour.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

John Hanson Business Center
339 Branch's Frontage Road, Suite 301
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-4334

NUMBER OF PAGES BEING FAXED INCLUDING COVER: 5

TO: Paula Cole Jones DATE: 02/03/95

FAX NO: 202-690-0639

FROM: Linda Elben Adams

PHONE: 410-757-0861

FAX NO: 410-757-0687

- ① New FY95 Proposal
(8 Members)
- ② 1st Qtr. Report.

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The Soil Conservation Service
is an agency of the
Department of Agriculture

I) Other Creative Documentation:

Evaluation forms have been created for both Members and project sponsors. The evaluation form for Members covers the basic information for each project such as the objective, the location, the contact, the tools used, and the work involved. It covers these areas so that each Member, who will receive a copy of the completed form, can remember the specifics of each project for resumes and applications. It also covers how the Members feel about the project and how much they got out of it for their future. For instance, Members evaluate and record whether or not they were exposed to a new career field or to anything that interested them as far as future studies. It also covers their feelings on the logistical support, the safety precautions, the quality of the work and the quantity of work.

The evaluation form for project sponsors will be included in a post-project letter of appreciation for each sponsor. The letter will be a cover for the evaluation that they will send back to us. The form asks about their satisfaction with our work, our professionalism, and our attitude. It asks if they liked us enough to recommend us to others, and to use us again.

Another document that has been created is a monthly newsletter for the San Bernardino N.F. It has a standard format and is in the planning stages for a third issue. Its primary function is to keep up good relations with our internal publics on the forest that see us and work with us on many occasions.

A Member newsletter is now in the planning stages. It will be a conduit of information from the staff to the Members. Anything they need to know about, such as an upcoming training or anything they are interested in, such as articles on some of their stated career directions, will fill the issues. Each crew will know what the others are up to and also what is in store for them. Hopefully, the Members will participate in it as well. Articles will be solicited from the Members themselves on whatever they might want to contribute.

Letterhead for our program has been developed. It has the national symbol for AmeriCorps in the upper left hand corner. It is boxed in with lines that run from the that corner to the right and to the bottom. It has "AmeriCorps" written on the top above the line that goes to the right. It also has our address and the Forest Service shield in the lower left margin. Our official letters will be put on paper with this letterhead.

AMERICORPS/USDA QUARTERLY REPORT
Six Rivers National Forest

First Quarter Report

A) Number of Members enrolled at end of quarter vs. number who enrolled at the time of launch:

25/23. Six Rivers successfully recruited 120 applicants for our project. From this applicant pool we hired 25 Members. Our crew composition is composed of 54% women, 54% minority, and 4 % handicap. The ethnicity of the group represents 24% Native American, 12% Asian, 8% Black, 12% Hispanic, and 44% white. To date we have 23 Members, two Members have been released. One Member was released for compelling personal reasons, the other Member was released from the program for cause.

B) Total numbers of hours of direct service performed by Members and total number of hours Members were in training:

To date enrollees have have performed 5466 hours of direct service and 1366 hours of training.

C) Any major staff or structural changes you have made:

To date we have made no major staff or structural changes. Our original program format is working well with some minor adjustments. At the inception of our program implementation, the Project Director worked with a recruiting specialist to ensure that we obtained an applicant pool which was representative of the general population and also to meet the objectives of our recruitment plan which included targeting displaced timber worker families. As noted in response A, we were able to recruit 120 applicants and meet our recruitment plan objectives. Two weeks before the start of the program, we hired a crew supervisor who had the requisite skills in order to lead and direct a diverse group of AmeriCorps Members. This supervisor provides the direction and supervision to the crew Members on all project work. In accordance with our partnership arrangement, the College of the Redwoods provides college level instruction and training during the course of project work. AmeriCorps Members accumulate college level credit which leads to a Natural Resource Conservation Technician Certificate. We also have an assistant crew leader that is an AmeriCorps Member. This individual was selected based on his ability to provide guidance and leadership in the capacity of a crew leader. This Member is paid at higher pay rate in accordance with AmeriCorps guidelines.

D) Progress towards meeting community service objectives:

In our original objectives we planned a strategy for community and economic revitalization for our area by first developing a recruitment plan which targeted the families of displaced timber workers. During the last few years our locality has been economically depressed because of the decrease logging activities which has resulted in a large unemployment rate for Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte Counties. By being awarded an AmeriCorps grant we were able to recruit family Members of displaced timber workers to be part of our AmeriCorps project. Simultaneously we planned projects which support our ecosystem management practices and to enhance opportunities for tourism and recreation.

Fisheries - The projects which we have accomplished have given direct benefit and will provide sustainable long term benefits to the communities. One of our major projects was a fisheries/riparian/vegetation project on the Smith River. Our AmeriCorps crew went through an experiential learning exercise whereby they received college credit for an anadromous fisheries class and completing the class by working on on a fisheries project. Under the direction of Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Fisheries Biologist, they installed 16 instream structures (large woody debris and boulders) to restore critical salmon and steelhead habitat in the Smith River. Approximately .5 mile of anadromous fisheries habitat was rehabilitated. This project required labor intensive activity to anchored these structures. The benefit to the community will hopefully result in an increase of salmon population which will in turn stimulate community and also help to protect the salmon species.

Reforestation - The crew completed a reforestation project consisting of 10 acres of an old gold mine "waste" area to restore riparian vegetation, increase wildlife habitat, erosion control etc. on Red Cap Creek. This activity will benefit the community by supporting ecosystem management and public service conservation.

Trail maintenance - The AmeriCorps completed 3.5 miles of trail rehabilitation on the Little Bald Hills Trail. This trail is a major trail which connects to the Jedediah State Park. This trail is used by recreationists using all-terrain vehicles, horseback and foot traffic.

Watershed - Collection and processing of 15,000 willow cuttings for propagation at the USFS Nursery for future riparian revegetation projects.

Intern Projects - One of the AmeriCorps interns is working on water systems evaluation, water quality monitoring, and facilities design. To date we now have a contract prescription for Panther Flat Campground. This campground is utilized by many tourists and local community Members. This work is of such high priority but yet underfunded that this project would have not been done for several years without the AmeriCorps Program.

Meetings have been held to obtain input from other branches of the Forest Service as well as input from county school representatives.

County school representatives have been kept updated as to progress on the program and their input is actively sought on different aspects of the program

Advertisements for the programs available in January are being sent to teachers in the local area.

In progress, AmeriCorps Members from other crews are being interviewed to determine their ability to work well on the ed. team.

In progress, classes are being scheduled to review programs.

In progress, on going bi-monthly training sessions for Members and others interested in environmental education and the forest.

F) Primary Challenges:

GSA? Our biggest challenge is getting the Members where they need to go. Right now we must continue to rent vans from a private company at an expensive rate. We also must borrow vehicles from other agencies such as the BLM. These vehicles must be returned on request when that agency needs them. The rental vans are not equipped with four wheel drive, snow chains, or enough cargo capacity to carry equipment needed to complete projects. Most of the equipment must be brought up in a chase vehicle that is borrowed and in very high demand among the crews.

Southern California is very dependent on individual vehicles. Our communities are very spread out and our projects take us many miles in different directions. We need our own vehicles. The GSA has not delivered the vehicles we ordered months ago. We have made numerous attempts to get them to give us our vehicles. No attempts have been successful to date.

Education Team

Office space for our environmental education teams has been hard to come by, we are still working on meeting our physical space requirements.

Computer? A personal computer is needed in order to make our handouts look professional. Education Team Members will be required to create their own programs which will entail handouts for teachers.

G) Primary training and technical assistance needs:

Crew Supervisors

Time management training (training scheduled for December 12)
Supervisory training (40 hour Basic Supervision scheduled for Feb 13)
Sexual Harassment Training (Planned, but not scheduled)
Gov't drivers license training (Planned, but not scheduled)
Computer CEO Training (Some training planned for week of Dec 12)
Personal Computer Training (Some training planned for week of Dec 12)
Chainsaw Training (Planned for Jan'95)

FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM & ENVIRONMENTAL CORPS
(RDT) (EC)

Location: Goldendale, Washington

Time Period: September 19 - November 30, 1994

1.) NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH

<u>RDT</u>	<u>EC</u>
5	8

2.) NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER

<u>RDT</u>	<u>EC</u>
5	9

3.) TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED

<u>RDT</u>	<u>EC</u>
1,680 HRS	2,944 HRS

(A total of 336 hours of paid holiday time was used)

4.) TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING

<u>RDT</u>	<u>EC</u>
320 HRS	576 HRS

5.) PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Rural Development Team Objective #1

- 5 - Projects Planned, Designed
- 3 - Projects Completed
- 1 - Project Being Implemented
- 5 - Landowners Assisted
- 1 - Forest Fire Burned Area Treated
- 1.75 Miles - Stream Benefited
- 2 - Additional Projects Planned & Designed

New requests for assistance have increased 100% for this time period as a direct result of highly visible AmeriCorps projects being implemented.

TO: Lloyd E. Wright
Director
Community Assistance and
Resource Development Division
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington, DC

PLEASE NOTE:

The attached correspondence was previously sent to you via FAX on December 15, 1994 by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 3737 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Peaks
Ranger District

5075 N Highway 89
Flagstaff, AZ 86004
602-526-0866
FAX 602-527-8288

File Code: 1830

Date: November 28, 1994

Americorp Program Manager
Gary Burden
Fort Huachuca
Sierra Vista, AZ

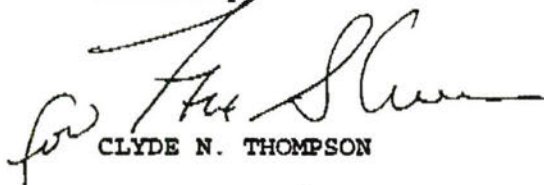
Dear Mr. Burden,

I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about our experience with the first crews of the Americorp project. I assigned our Volunteer Coordinator, Sheri Fox to working with the crews, and she kept me informed on their progress. Sheri was extremely impressed with their ability to adapt to new situations, take on any projects and complete them in a timely manor. In the short three weeks the crews were on the Peaks Ranger District, they completed twenty-five chains of cable fence, a quarter mile of barbed wire fence, approximately two and a half miles of re-construction on aspen regeneration fencing, hand obliterated two miles of road, 70 acres of thinning and slash piling, approximately 300 acres of burn prep, plus some clean-up in a badly needed area. In addition to all their efforts, we were able to give ten of the crew members two days of saw training which allowed us to use them on the thinning project. These young people are to be commended for their hard work and enthusiasm.

One suggestion I do have, we were able to give each crew some type of briefing or history of the area they were working in, what each project was about, and why it was important. They showed good interest and asked lots of questions. By doing this I believe it gave them a sense of ownership in each project.

It is my understanding that the crews will be returning to Northern Arizona in the spring. We are looking forward to working with them, and have already begun lining out projects.

Sincerely,



CLYDE N. THOMPSON

s.fox

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mormon Lake
Ranger District

4825 S. Lake Mary Rd
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(602) 527-3650

Date: November 28, 1994

Mr. Gary Burden
Program Manager
Team USDA Arizona-AmeriCorps
Ft. Huachuca, Arizona

Dear Gary:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my feelings concerning my recent involvement with the AmeriCorps program. Since my introduction to human resource programs in 1977 I've had many choice experiences. Characteristic of most programs are hectic start-ups, varied projects, meaningful interpersonal relationships with fine participants and a sense of sadness at good-byes. My experience for the past two or three months has followed a similar pattern. How grateful I am for it.

It has been a delightful experience working with the corpsmembers, yourself and your staff. I believe I can speak for the Mormon Lake Ranger District and the Coconino National Forest in extending to you our thanks for the many projects the AmeriCorps crews were able to accomplish. Each week I witnessed a closer and more cohesive group. They listened well, worked hard and received the benefit of knowing they did needed work to a high quality standard. Truly growth was taking place for all of us.

I was privileged to work with your crews on several fence projects involving both construction and removal. Additionally, we worked together on some site rehabilitation and trail projects.

I wish you personally and each member of your program my sincere best wishes for a successful tour at Ft. Huachuca. I look forward to seeing you back at Camp Navajo in the Spring.

Sincerely,



DAVID E. MICHAEL
Coconino Work Supervisor

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AMERICORPS/USDA QUARTERLY REPORT
WINOOSKI RIVER PROJECT, VERMONT

A) Number of Members enrolled at the end of quarter versus number enrolled at time of launch.

2/2

B) Total numbers of direct service performed by Members and total number of hours Members were in training.

1,040/120 hours.

C) Any major staff or structural changes you have made.

none

D) Progress towards meeting community service objectives.

Our data collected for erosion control evaluation will be shared with community members in the Winooski River Project Final Report.

E) Primary accomplishments:

A 21 mile reconnaissance survey of the Winooski River from Jonesville to Essex Jct., Vermont has been conducted since September 12, 1994. Research along the river banks and at upland sites has included inventorying and evaluation of erosion control and bioengineering measures installed in the late 1930's. Our investigation of Project Vermont included use of a GPS receiver, GIS mapping systems, pre and post Project Vermont aerial photographs and historical photographs documenting the installation of the erosion control measures. Currently, river bank cross section maps are being prepared using surveying techniques. Information from this Americorps project has been shared with USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Northeast National Technical Center, State of Vermont Fish and Wildlife, State of Vermont Agency of Transportation and the United States Geodetic Survey.

F) Primary challenges:

A short field season due to program start date; lack of specialized training; and insufficient historical information for Project Vermont.

G) Media coverage:

Television stations WPTZ, WCAX and WBNY interviewed Americorps members on September 12, 1994. U.S. Senator Jeffords was in attendance.

Television stations WPTZ, WCAX and WBNY news conference of the Winooski River Project on October 17, 1994, sent to HQ. U.S.

Senators Leahy and Jeffords as well as Joel Berg and Eli Segal were in attendance.

Burlington Free Press photograph of news conference was printed on October 18, 1994 and used in Jim Jeffords campaign literature.

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DATE: December 15, 1994

TO: Mr. Joel Berg
USDA-Director of National Service

FROM: Dennis Borchardt, Executive Director
George D. Aiken RC&D Area
AmeriCorps Project Manager

SUBJECT: AmeriCorps Quarterly Report for the
Vermont Fire Technical Support Team (VFTST)

- A) Number of members enrolled at the end of quarter vs.
number who enrolled at the time of the launch.

3 / 3

- B) Total number of hours of direct service performed by
members and total number of hours members were in
training (through December 16, 1994).

1571 / 107

- C) Any major staff or structural changes you have made.

None

- D) Progress towards meeting community service objectives.

The following were the initial objectives:

1. To provide the skills and technical information to
help 40 rural fire departments in Vermont develop
innovative fire protection plans for their
communities.
2. To have 40 rural fire departments in Vermont fully
understand water supply needs and management
principles.
3. To assist 20 rural Vermont communities find
innovative ways to carry out planned improvements.
4. To have 10 fire departments in Vermont create and
implement a comprehensive educational fire
prevention plan with their citizens.

The following are the revised objectives:

1. To have 40 rural fire departments in Vermont fully
understand water supply needs and management
principles.

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2. To develop innovative fire prevention water management plans with 15 communities.
3. To assist 40 rural fire departments/communities develop marketing strategies and identify potential funding resources.
4. To improve communication among fire departments; fire departments and regulatory agencies; and their communities.

E) Primary Accomplishments.

- * Contacting and beginning to work with 48 of the 241 fire departments in Vermont (20% of all fire departments in Vermont).
- * Organized job tasks; developed forms, brochures, business cards, information packets, map diagrams, engineering drawings, performed research and site surveys.
- * Actively marketing the Vermont Fire Technical Support Team and the dry hydrant program through the multi-media.
- * Participated in 1 installation of a dry hydrant.
- * Have performed 30 of dry hydrant site surveys.
- * Have participated in 10 initial meetings with fire departments/communities to get the program started with those towns.
- * Have initiated and participated in meetings with VT Emergency Management, VT Fire Safety Association, VT Fire Training Council, the Vermont Fire Fighters Association, The Vermont Fire Chiefs Association the Vermont League of Cities and Towns,
- * The VFTST is an active participant with the Vermont Fire Protection Task Force; the Northern Vermont and the George D. Aiken Resource Conservation & Development Councils.

F) Primary Challenges.

- * Prioritizing the work...we now have many more requests for assistance than we can provide. We rely on the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force to prioritize our work.
- * Reaching broader interest groups and involving them in the initiative.
- * Developing funding opportunities to install planned improvements.
- * Expanding technical assistance to include newly identified needs of fire departments.

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G) Primary training and technical assistance need.

- * Grantsmanship Training
- * Insurance Service Office (ISO) Rating Training
- * Basic Photo Interpretation Training
- * U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Wetlands Training
- * Computer - AutoCAD

H) Media Coverage.

- Item 1. August 1994: Vermont RC&D Messenger Newsletter article
- Item 2. September 12, 1994: AmeriCorps kick-off at he Vermont College. Attended by major Vermont political, educational and civic leaders, as well as the multi-media with coverage in Vermont, New York and New Hampshire.
- Item 3. October 3, 1994: Press release to all media announcing the formation of the VFTST.
- Item 4. October 5, 1994: Radio talk show "Morning Coffee Break" with WVNR- Poultney, VT.
- Item 5. October 5, 1994: VFTST photograph taken for a feature article by "The Herald" printed October 20, 1994.
- Item 6. October 11, 1994: Mr. Eli Segal/Mr. Joel Berg (AmeriCorps), Senators Patrick Leahy and James Jeffords reviewed the 2 AmeriCorps programs in Vermont. Covered by the multi-media.
- Item 7. November 1994: Vermont Emergency Management's newsletter has article on the VFTST and how program is helping communities in Vermont.

I) Other Creative Documentation.

- Item 8. VFTST business card
- Item 9. VFTST brochure
- Item 10. Vermont map showing communities the team is working with.
- Item 11. Vermont map showing the lack of fire protection throughout most of the state as indicated by the ISO rating information.

First Quarter AmeriCorps Report

Dry Fire Hydrant Project

Louisiana

Time Period: September 12-November 30, 1994

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH

4

2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER (NOVEMBER 30)
--

4

3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED
--

884 Service Hours Recorded

4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING

Of the 884 hours of service time, approximately 264 were spent in training (30 percent of service time).

5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
--

- A. *Develop the knowledge and skills of four AmeriCorps members within six weeks in order to provide technical assistance necessary to carry out the dry fire hydrants program.*

AmeriCorps members have received extensive on-the-job training to develop skills to coordinate the dry fire hydrant program in Louisiana. AmeriCorps members understand the fire protection problems of rural homeowners and have developed working relationships with Natural Resources Conservation Service district conservationists, landowners, state and federal agencies, and local police juries and fire departments.

- B. *Complete planning activities for the installation of 35 dry fire hydrants per parish.*

AmeriCorps members have worked with RC&D councils, soil and water conservation district personnel, police juries/parish councils, volunteer fire fighters, Natural Resources Conservation Service

employees, state and local governments, and concerned citizens in the coordination of the State Dry Hydrant Program. Several parishes have located possible sites for dry fire hydrants.

6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The first quarter of this program was primarily devoted to training and development of a network of contacts to aid in coordination of the dry fire hydrants project.

During the first quarter the following accomplishments were achieved: brochures were developed to educate the public on the benefits of dry fire hydrants; preliminary work was accomplished on development of a video to support the dry hydrants program statewide; assistance was provided to area fire chiefs performing needs assessments for rural fire fighting; support was provided to the Trailblazer Associate Sponsor/Resource Distribution Program; assistance was provided in planning activities for the dry hydrants field day; preliminary development of a dry hydrants field manual was accomplished; development and manning of an RC&D exhibit was accomplished for the state agricultural fair to inform the public about all RC&D activities in Louisiana including information on the dry fire hydrants program and AmeriCorps; members attended council meetings to promote the dry hydrant program; members organized current dry fire hydrant information to help each parish track their progress; six-member dry hydrant committees were established in 13 parishes composed of an RC&D council representative, a soil and water conservation district supervisor, a police jury/parish council representative, volunteer fire fighters, and Natural Resources Conservation Service employees; and USGS quad sheets were secured for each parish.

Other accomplishments of these AmeriCorps members include: assistance was provided to the Rural Community Giving Program in the Northeast RC&D area; assistance was provided to the Franklin Guest Home for their annual Fall Festival; assistance was provided to the Louisiana Shiitake Association with their annual meeting; and assistance was provided to the Louisiana State Association of RC&D Councils' for their trade show.

7. PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER

Parish meetings have been scheduled with local fire departments, police juries, and local concerned citizens to discuss the dry fire hydrants program.

Additional brochures, a video script, and the field manual will continue to be developed and completed during in the next few months.

Additional news releases will be developed and published to promote the various activities of the dry fire hydrant program.

Planning activities for the installation of 35 dry hydrants per parish within the Capital RC&D area will be accomplished.

8. PRIMARY CHALLENGES

Implementation of the statewide dry fire hydrant program administered by the Trailblazer RC&D Council has been delayed because of negotiations between the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the Trailblazer RC&D Council. Until the contract for this program is signed, no dry hydrants can be installed. It is anticipated the contract will be signed in January 1995. Our members have used this first quarter to publicize the dry hydrants program, form dry hydrant committees, coordinate federal/state/local involvement in the dry hydrant program, and located dry hydrant sites. As soon as the contract is signed, dry hydrants will be installed. Because of this delay, work on the dry fire hydrant program will carry over into fiscal year 1996.

In Louisiana, we have Natural Resources Conservation Service AmeriCorps members working side-by-side with Forest Service AmeriCorps members. The USDA/AmeriCorps program in Louisiana has been a great Team USDA effort. However, the Team USDA concept has not always been clear to AmeriCorps members especially when one agency requires one method of accomplishing something and another agency has another method. Agency differences in travel authorizations have caused some problems. Although members are receiving good information from both agencies, it sometimes appears contradictory because the methods/availability of funds differ. Employees of both agencies have learned to work through the differences in agency policy to get things done, and AmeriCorps members are learning to accomplish this also.

Some supervisors of AmeriCorps members feel the number of cluster meetings the members are required to attend should be reduced. This would lead to more productive time in the field to achieve the required goals and objectives.

Organizing parish committees is difficult at times for our AmeriCorps members. Recommendations are sought from district conservationists and police jury/parish councils for committee memberships, and then each member is contacted by phone to set a suitable meeting time and place for the committee's first meeting. Most committee members require contact after normal working hours. With persistence, our AmeriCorps members have been able to make follow-up phone calls and establish parish committees.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

3737 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana
71302

Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Quarterly Report - Louisiana
1st Quarter
September 12-November 30, 1994

Date: December 15, 1994

To: Lloyd E. Wright
Director
Community Assistance and
Resource Development
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington, DC

File: 360

Attached are the first quarter reports for the USDA/AmeriCorps dry fire hydrant and Farm*A*Syst projects in Louisiana. This first quarter has been very productive for both programs, and we look forward to accomplishing even more as the year progresses.



Billy R. Moore
Assistant State Conservationist/Programs
AmeriCorps Project Director

Enclosures

cc: Donald W. Gohmert, State Conservationist, NRCS, Alexandria, LA

First Quarter AmeriCorps Report

Farm*A*Syst Project

Louisiana

Time Period: September 12-November 30, 1994

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH

3

2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER (NOVEMBER 30)
--

2

(A new member was enrolled on December 1, 1994, to replace a member who dropped on November 18.)

3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED
--

578 Service Hours Recorded

4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING

Of the 578 hours of service time, approximately 254 were spent in training (44 percent of service time).

5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
--

- A. *Develop the knowledge and skills of three AmeriCorps members within six weeks in order to provide technical assistance necessary to carry out the Farm*A*Syst Program.*

Members have attended a Farm*A*Syst satellite training session and a training session conducted by the University of Wisconsin on pre- and post-assessment surveys. The members have performed over 100 pre-assessment surveys. The majority of these surveys were conducted independently with no supervision. Over 100 rural landowners have benefited from the pre-assessment surveys conducted during this quarter. The University of Wisconsin is incorporating the results of these pre-assessment surveys in their analysis of the program.

REFERENCE SLIP

12-16-94

TO

Paula Jones
NHG☐ ACTION☐ NOTE AND RETURN☐ APPROVAL☐ PER PHONE CALL☒ AS REQUESTED☐ RECOMMENDATION☐ FOR COMMENT☐ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF☐ FOR INFORMATION☐ RETURNED☐ INITIALS☐ SEE ME☐ NOTE AND FILE☐ YOUR SIGNATURE

REMARKS

Attached is the
Inclosure Quarterly
Report as requested.

FROM

Ricki Spinning

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

**TEAM USDA / AMERICORPS
FOUR CORNERS REGIONAL
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Where Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico & Utah join together.

Submitted to:

THE AMERICORPS CORPORATION

Submitted by:

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

and

THE FOUR CORNERS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA'S:

HUB RC&D AREA, INC. (New Mexico)

SAN JUAN RC&D AREA, INC. (Colorado)

CASTLELAND RC&D AREA, INC. (Utah)

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER PLATEAU RC&D AREA, INC. (Arizona)

**April 11, 1994
and revised June 1994 & October 1994**

SMOOTH CORDGRASS



BENEFITS OF COASTAL WETLANDS

Coastal Wetlands play an important role in the productivity of Galveston Bay. Ecosystems and the economics of the bay area depend on these "estuarine emergent wetlands" and their stands of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) for bird and fisheries habitat, water quality, and erosion and storm protection.

MARSH CREATION

Because the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has documented the loss of more than 30,000 acres of coastal wetlands in the Galveston Bay system since the 1950's, the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program has identified the creation and restoration of this habitat as a priority. The restoration of coastal wetlands is now possible because the major causes of destruction, such as coastal development, have greatly slowed and are not expected to cause any significant future problems.

HISTORY OF OBTAINING PLANTS



Smooth cordgrass, which tolerates a wide range of salinities, soil types and water levels, has been selected as the plant species best suited for creating or restoring coastal wetlands in the Galveston Bay system.

In the past, the majority of marsh creation projects relied on transplanting smooth cordgrass from native stands. However, this process not only limits created marshes to areas with convenient access to native stands of the plant and restricts the size of created marshes, it also risks the health and viability of the native stands being harvested.

SMOOTH CORDGRASS CULTIVATION

In order to protect these native stands, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is cultivating new sources of smooth cordgrass. Cultivation begins with harvesting seeds from plants in the natural marshes. The seed source selected for the Galveston Bay project was Vermillion Bay, La., where plants were determined to be a hardier and more vigorous strain that resists the *Rhizoctonia* fungus that has damaged cordgrass in the Galveston Bay system.

Harvested seeds are potted in soil trays in the greenhouse for germination, which occurs within 10 to 20 days. Then seedlings are transplanted into small, individual pots that are placed in gravity flow ponds where they will grow to transplanting size. Plants are ready for transplanting into the creation marshes during May, after which, under ideal conditions, full plant coverage is usually achieved within one growing season. The process is repeated using seed harvested from the new crops.



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION