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United States
Dept. of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

KS-IRM-5
Rev. 12/94

Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

Date: 3/8/95

Transmittal + _____ pages

To: Joel Berg
USDA/OFFICE of Communications
Natl' Service Division
14th & Independence SW
Room 540-A
Washington, DC 20250



Phone: 202 720 6350

FAX: 202 720 4614

From: Jim Meisenheimer Kansas MaeriCorps Regional Facilitator

Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, KS 67401-4642

Phone: _____

FAX: (913) 823-4540
Transmittal Problem - Call (913) 823-4515

Message: Attached is the item referred to in my Feb. 13 report

Looking at the copy again makes me wonder if I misrepresented

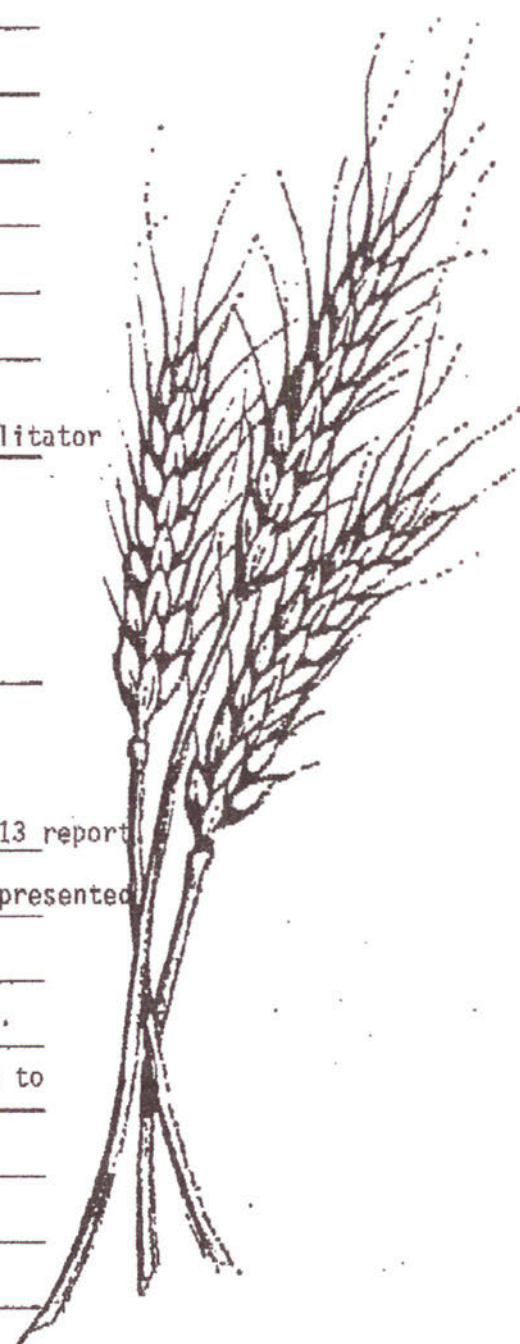
the statement to you. The producer may have been

only refering to the wetland program, not AmeriCorps.

When I first saw the note, I thought he was refering to
AmeriCorps.

Hope that I did not mislead you!

Jim



OPTIONAL FORM NO 10 (7-88)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages 1

To <i>Jim Meisenheimer</i> <small>Dist. Manager</small>	From <i>Lance Hockett</i> <small>Phone #</small>
Fax # <i>913-823-4540</i> <small>NBR 7548-01-317-7268</small>	Fax # <i>913-628-3654</i> <small>FORM-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION</small>

(913) 425-5316

Patricia R Wendling
Rt 1 Box 51
Zurich, KS 67676

Please return to: Natural Resources Conservation Service
506 Main
Stockton, KS 67669

Please check the appropriate box:

- I grant permission to conduct a riparian transect on my land.
- I do not grant permission to conduct a riparian transect on my land.

Pat Wendling 2-8-95
Owner/Operator Signature
NE 4 35-10-24

I think Programs like this is great in our County

Pat

2/14/95

This has been faxed.

To: Joel Berg
AmeriCorps/USDA
V: 202-720-6358, FX: 202-720-4614

Date: April 6, 1995

From: Rick Block
Regional Facilitator
V: 503-465-6442, FX: 503-465-6483

RE: Reports and Updates

WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT:

Week of April 3 - 7, 1995

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

To _____ From _____ # of pages = 13

Dept./Agency _____ Phone # _____

Fax # _____ Fax # _____

NSN 7540-01-917-7388 5000-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

I was invited and attended a cluster meeting of the Western Oregon RECD cluster in Eugene, OR on March 31, 1995. It was announced and led by Kimberly O'Brien, AmeriCorps member located in Oakridge, OR. In attendance was one other RECD member and a RARE member stationed in Sweet Home. The week the members spent in Memphis, TN was reviewed. All in all, the training received a good evaluation. However, they felt this should have been done sooner, which would have allowed some of the ideas for certain extensive projects to be pursued. It was also mentioned that some of the training lacked the substance needed for on-site economic development strategies, public involvement and community outreach. I relayed some of the agenda from the State Program Director's meeting held on March 30th.

The State Commission for National and Community Service has committed the training funds necessary to conduct the April 19-20 seminar in Eugene, OR I have mentioned in past reports. The lodging will be at no cost due to finding Returned Peace Corps Volunteer homes for the participants. 8 AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers and their director will also be attending the seminar along with 17 USDA AmeriCorps members from the RECD, NRCS'S RC&D, EnviroCorps and Northwest Service Academy. David Povey and his staff from the University of Oregon (AmeriCorps' RARE) will be conducting training modules including public involvement, land use planning, strategic planning, project management and economic development. There will also be break-out crossover group discussions during the seminar to discuss member projects. On April 21st, most of the participants will be attending a RARE cluster meeting in Oakridge, OR. This seminar and cluster meeting will further the objectives you stated in your co-memorandum with Meg Maguire dated February 24, 1995.

I visited EnviroCorps and Northwest Service Academy projects on April 5, 1995 in Portland, OR. Accompanying me was Larry Frey, District Director, who is assisting with facilitator duties for these two AmeriCorps groups. Larry was a great help in explaining the CFSA and gave an agriculture background of the surrounding area, specifically the Tualatin Valley. The following is a brief description of the tour:

EnviroCorps' full time program director, Jennifer Thompson of Metro Parks and Greenspace, accompanied us on a visit to three sites. The first site included all of the full time AmeriCorps members working on trails in a natural area park near Beaverton, OR. Two members gave Larry, Jennifer and I a walking tour of the type of work already done including closing off trails, re-routing trails and converting brushy areas to wildlife habitat. We ended our tour of the park at the work site of the other members. The next two sites were along the Columbia River's estuaries where brushy and inaccessible areas are being converted back to wildlife habitat. These sites will be used as interpretive centers for schools and the general public. All sites toured had visible improvements with a great deal of work accomplished. The last site viewed will

ENVIROCORPS

An environmentally focused group participating in President Clinton's AmeriCorps program

This is our first Newsletter. Quite a bit is happening on both the full and part-time crews, so here is a brief description of a few major projects we are working on during our year of service in the AmeriCorps program.

•Part-time crew•

Team leader Tamra Cochran is involved in all the activities which the part-time crews participate in.

•Roosevelt team•

Beth Polidoro, Jonathan Mugglestone, Cassandra Rutherford, and Katherine Demsky, the part-timers involved with Ms. Dunster's class at Roosevelt High School, drafted a proposal to include her students in an upcoming event at Smith and Bybee Lakes on April 29th.

The Roosevelt students and EnviroCorps members have gathered cuttings from plant species found in the wetlands around the lakes and are rooting them in a greenhouse adjoining Ms. Dunster's classroom. On April 29th, at the Smith and Bybee Lakes Day, the students will demonstrate how to transplant the newly rooted cuttings and then assist anyone who wishes to join in and help plant them.

As the project progresses Ms. Dunster and the EnviroCorps crew will teach the students something about the ecology of the Columbia Slough watershed system in which the cuttings they have rooted are to be planted. It should be a rewarding experience for all concerned.

•Alberta Park team•

The other group of part-time members; Alexandria Le, Grayson Hashida, Robert Smith Jr., Richard Melo, and Avis Dunas have drafted a proposal for a multi-faceted project in Alberta Park, located in the Vernon neighborhood of Northeast Portland.

The park is an ideal spot to design naturescaped areas in which native plants are grown to attract birds and other species of small animals. It is also a good location to develop a community garden, which will afford students from nearby Vernon Elementary School a safe place to grow flowers and vegetables.

RECEIVED

MAR 27 1995

CLATSOP COUNTY CFS&P

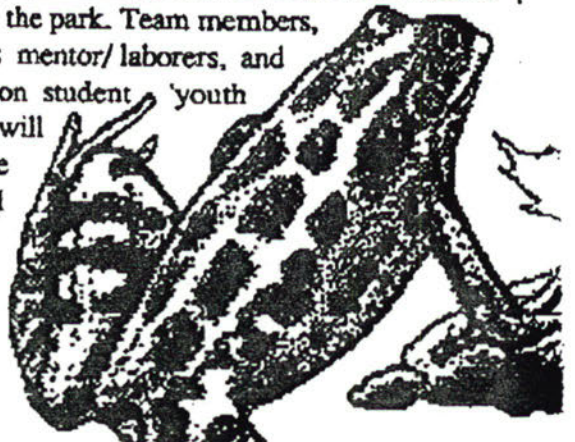


There is a possibility that building an 'urban tree house' can be incorporated into the plans as well. The tree house will serve as an outdoor classroom where community residents can participate in educational and cultural workshops on a wide variety of topics, geared towards experiential learning.

The EnviroCorps team is coordinating efforts with Mr. Yamashida from the Parks Department to discuss and refine plans for the proposed project. In early March a public forum was held at Vernon Elementary School giving people interested in the park an opportunity to voice ideas and concerns they held about any proposed changes in, or additions to, their neighborhood greenspace.

People living nearby definitely want more lights installed. We will provide the Parks Department with information about the expressed needs of the community in the hopes of gaining the city's support to make necessary improvements in the park a reality.

When we arrive at a mutually agreed upon course of action students from Jefferson High School will join EnviroCorps team members for a six week summer session in the park. Team members, serving as mentor/laborers, and the Jefferson student 'youth partners', will provide the brains and the brawn needed to get the job done.



have a major clean-up party of garbage and debris on Earth Day, April 22nd. April 8th, Arbor Day, will involve re-vegetation of a 17-acre wetland in Gresham, OR. National Service Day, April 25th, will entail demonstrations to several high-risk youths of basic agricultural and environmental lessons on an educational farm near Portland. Please note the newsletter enclosed with this report.

We were met by Jon Stewart, NWSA director, Joe ParvanKin, NWSA Metro director, and Tricia Long, NWSA Education Coordinator at George Middle School in Portland. John Jackson, NWSA crew leader, and other AmeriCorps members were working with students inside and outside the classroom. Environmental and wildlife habitat topics were being discussed in the classroom. The members were facilitating the students in planning the development of re-enactments and construction of an ecosystem using native vegetation, a re-cycling stream and other improvements within the courtyards and other areas. The team was actively inter-reacting and supervising the students, as other curious students not involved in the project caught glimpses of the activity. The students appeared to be genuinely interested and knew "what's" and "why's" of the project. They had already been working on the project for three hours before we arrived. Jon, Joe and Tricia then led Larry and I to Markam Park Natural Interpretive Center, another site in southern Portland where another NWSA AmeriCorps crew were working. This crew, led by Sherry Jackson, was establishing a 1-mile trail in the park to allow the existing trail to have a loop. "Friends of Markam Park", a local group, were very and grateful and highly supportive of the NWSA's efforts. There are 4 other NWSA crews actively involved in projects which could not be visited that day.

Upcoming NWSA events are varied and plentiful. One involves the NWSA's partnership with the Oregon Forestry Education Program, the eighth grade students and teachers of Binnsmead Middle School. In this project, students will have a rare chance to develop and apply professional skills and knowledge involving forestry management. Tools such as a Biltmore stick, a Merritt Hypsometer and a diameter-breast-height tape will be constructed and used on field trips to the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm near Portland. Vegetation maps, tree growth rate and plant identification are among the research stations at the farm. On June 1st, the students will present their findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors of the Hopkins Farm. Please see the enclosed information for more NWSA events and budget updates.

TRAVEL ITINERARY:

None for the week of April 10th.

MONTHLY EXPENSE REPORT:

\$114.90 spent in April so far. Total so far in FY '95: \$1495.98.

FACILITATOR'S TIME INVOLVEMENT IN AMERICORPS:

23 hours so far in March. Total so far in FY '95: 282 hours.

OTHER CONCERNS:

I am continually asked about the news media package kit which you said would be provided. Also, I have not received the guidelines requested for AmeriCorps interviews with the media.

CC: Charles Sims, OIA
Jack Sainsbury, SED, OR STO
Barbara Roberts, AO, OR STO

ENVIROCORPS'

internship program commenced after the New Year, providing team members the opportunity to work individually with various Portland environmental and educational agencies.

Though designed primarily to enhance the diversity of the team members' education, which they in turn later apply to future EnviroCorps projects, the internship program also establishes working relationships with the Portland-area environmental community.



PHOTO - RYAN BOND

Internships include working with such groups as; The Nature Conservancy, The Wetlands Conservancy, The Audubon Society, and The Oregon Natural Resources Council. Other internships include taking environmentally minded classes and working with young students in the classroom.

True to the design of many of the EnviroCorps projects during the team's first year, the internship program provides team members ample educational opportunities while performing service activities.

The internship program continues through June.

RICHARD MELO



• **Whitaker Ponds** is a large project that the EnviroCorps teams are working on in stages. The entire plan for the area will take years to fully implement, but our crews have worked steadily to plant indigenous grasses, trees, and shrubs around sections of the ponds. We plan to organize more work parties and a summer project which will focus on restoration efforts in the area.

• **AmeriCorps Video Project** •

Several of the EnviroCorps members are involved in documenting the myriad projects that other AmeriCorps teams around Oregon are working on.

We are interested in meeting the people from the diverse programs throughout the state and recording their stories. The experiences which they share with us about their year of service will be added to an ever growing testimonial that we hope will show the value of these national service projects all around the country.

The list of projects in which we are involved goes on and on. We have worked in cooperation with many other groups and each of us fortunate enough to have been here at the beginning of this 'new' idea for service will come away with something worthwhile to ponder.

Thanks to our management team for their often behind the scenes support. You know who you are.

There are many events coming up in the next few months. To find out additional information about these events, the AmeriCorps program, or other questions you may have please write or give us a call. Thanks for your interest.

ENVIROCORPS



East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
2115 SE Morrison Street
Portland, OR 97214
503/725-5582 FAX 503/231-2271

East Mult. Soil & Water Con. Dist.
2115 SE Morrison Street
Portland, OR 97214



Rick Block
USDA Rural Development Team
55-C Oakway Center
Eugene OR 97401



NorthWest Service Academy

An AmeriCorps Program

Learning civic responsibility by providing service to the community and the environment.

First quarter report for the Northwest Service Academy

An AmeriCorps program targeting communities in the Pacific Northwest.
Sponsored by the Western Rural Development Center at Oregon State University

90 AmeriCorps members, 18 years and older, from all incomes, races and education levels use the Northwest Service Academy to target community projects along the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington. Thirty members from rural communities are based at a residential site in Trout Lake, Washington while another 60 members meet daily in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area.

Emphasis is placed on hands on stream restoration projects, but AmeriCorps members meet other critical local needs as well. Almost 50,000 hours of AmeriCorps service supported 35 different community and natural resource initiatives since September 1994. A few of the community based projects in Oregon include:

—Imagination Station Play Structure: Sixty AmeriCorps members teamed up with hundreds of Troutdale community volunteers by leading in the construction of the largest children's play structure in the State of Oregon.

—Metro Greenspace Eco Curriculum Guide: A four way partnership with Metro Greenspace, OMSI, the John Inskoop Environmental Learning Center and AmeriCorps identified and habitat mapped over 5,000 acres of metropolitan greenspaces. This information is the basis for a site specific curriculum guide developed by AmeriCorps members for K-12 teachers to use for school based environmental education. It will save local schools thousands of dollars in transportation costs by bringing teachers and students to their local greenspaces for science based learning activities.

—ADA Accessible Community Gardens: Members constructed three waist high handicapped accessible beds plus nine additional raised beds for a community garden in NE Portland. This restored a community park serving 3,000 low income residents by short circuiting the drug trade that dominated the park.

—Women's Shelter Rehabilitation at Bradley-Angle House: Members completely rehabilitated an existing home as a shelter for battered women in the metro area that opened in January 1995. Over \$20,000 worth of work in landscaping, painting, carpentry and plastering plus creating a colorful mural in the basement was accomplished working with community volunteers.

Metro Center:
31520 SE Woodard Road
Troutdale, Oregon 97060
(503) 695-2276
FAX (503) 695-2296

Mt. Adams Center:
Trout Lake, Washington 98650
(509) 395-2501
FAX (509) 395-2260

-Kelly Creek Restoration: AmeriCorps members completely restored a 16 acres suburban park in Gresham, Oregon by involving local school children in the restoration, created a brochure that was distributed to 1,200 homes and helped build a neighborhood association to support the park. Gresham Parks Planner Laura Price remarked in an Oregonian feature story "we are really happy to see this kind of partnership in our backyards...the restoration project will be a model for the city...the school kids and the Academy have shown how the community can be effective stewards of this area."

-Cascade Streamwatch Education: Members maintained three miles of interpretive salmon trails and hardened six riverside sites, while, as the project sponsor Bill Adler of Wolf Tree, Inc. said: "Probably the important 'fruits of their labor' are 500 well-informed, inspired and motivated Portland Middle School and High School students for whom they instructed on the Salmon River banks."

-Community Energy Project: Teams are helping reconstruct 12 energy-efficient homes for low income families in SE Portland.

-Restoration of Human Solutions Urban Shelter: Members helped keep shelters for the abused in good livable condition which included completely painting 6 apartments.

-Floyd Light Middle School; AmeriCorps members eradicated graffiti, removed 4 pick up loads of garbage, planted 200 shrubs, constructed 1/4 mile of interpretive trail and put up wildlife boxes while founding a school based ecology club to manage and oversee the four acre community park

-AmeriCorps People; Community based projects create special opportunities for members to use their skills in very creative ways. One example is Kristi Mergenthaler, a 28 year old single mother who worked her way through college. With a degree in natural resources she is finding a creative niche developing Kindergarten through 12th grade field based curriculum for the Oregon Museum Science and Industry. She hopes to expand her experiences into a graduate thesis when she uses her post service award next year.

-Funding: The federal government is investing \$2.4 million in the Northwest Service Academy. The economic impact in the Pacific Northwest is expected to exceed \$6,000,000 with \$250,000 coming from local communities to support the AmeriCorps members through local fee-for-service projects and community donations.

INCOME TO DATE FOR THE NWSA

3/29/95

Fee for Service Projects for the Forest Service

Name of Project	Center	Completed	Billed	Amount	Paid
White Pine Blister Rust	Mt. Adams	X	X	\$ 3,510	X
Sawtooth Berryfields	Mt. Adams		X	\$ 3,744	
Whistle Punk Trail	Mt. Adams	X	X	\$ 3,510	
Access Travel Mngt.	Mt. Adams			\$ 38,800 ?	
Rho Ridge Trail	Mt. Adams	X	X	\$ 3,984	X
Weits Island Wildlife	Mt. Adams	X	X	\$ 3,404	
Multnomah Falls	Mt. Adams	X		\$ 2,505	
Seed/Fertilizer - Clackamas	Metro	X		\$ 3,276	
Snag Survey - Clackamas	Metro			\$ 9,360	
EP Fence Removal - Estacada	Metro	X		\$ 1,412	
Chevy/Geo Tree Planting	Metro			\$ 3,000	
Zig Zag Special Products	Metro			\$ 12,500 ?	
EP Brushing - Clackamas	Metro			\$ 2,000	
Little White Salmon Fish Viewing Platform	Mt. Adams			\$ 3,744	
Wyeth Bench Wildlife Restoration	Mt. Adams	X	X	\$ 1,872	
Klickitat River Information Signs	Mt. Adams	X	X	\$ 1,872	
Tree Planting at Mt. Pleasant	Mt. Adams	X	X	\$ 702	
Johnson Ridge Tree Planting	Mt. Adams			\$ 2,656	
Hemlock Lake Restoration	Mt. Adams	X		\$ 1,872	
Subtotal				\$ 103,723	

Rural Fee for Service Projects

Name of Project	Completed	Billed	Amount	Paid
15 Mile Creek Riparian Fence - Oregon Fish & Wildlife	X	X	\$ 3,180	
Wasco County - Buck Hollow	X	X	\$ 1,056	X
Subtotal			\$ 4,236	

Urban Fee for Service Projects

Name of Project	Completed	Billed	Amount	Paid
City of Gresham/Kelly Park	X		\$ 6,700	
Markum Park Community Assoc.			\$ 2,500 ?	
Forest Park, Portland Parks	X		\$ 4,000	
Springwater Corridor			\$ 4,000	
City of Troutdale Parks/Tree Planting	X		\$ 2,500	
City of Troutdale Parks/Park Restoration	X		\$ 14,000	
WA State University/Shumway Middle School			\$ 1,500	
City of Troutdale/Watershed Restoration			\$ 1,500	
City of Tualatin/Nature Park			\$ 1,500	
Subtotal			\$ 38,200	

Private Donations

Name of Project	Completed	Billed	Amount	Paid
Bill Blount/Oregon Community Foundation		X	\$ 25,000	X
Forschner Group		X	\$ 2,000	X
Bank of Tokyo		X	\$ 50	X
The Human Race		X	\$ 38	X
Joel Berg		X	\$ 100	X
Subtotal			\$ 27,188	

Northwest Service Academy

1. The NWSA may receive as much as \$2,908,320 from the Commission and now the Corporation of National Service from August 1, 1993 through July 31, 1994. \$336,000 was for the planning year and \$2,572,320 is tentatively slated for the present operational year.

2. Required match:

\$173,347 estimated to this time against approximately \$215,000 required for 1/2 the post service award under the Commission for National and Community Service Guidelines

Leveraged match:

\$468,700 is the required match requirements of which approximately \$370,000 has been raised.

3. A short list of our community partners:

Agency partners

USDA Forest Service

ESD 112

Oregon Department of Fish and
Wildlife

Bonneville Power Administration

Western Rural Development Center

OSU Extension

County partners

Wasco County

Klickitat County

Non profit partners

GMSI

Urban League of Portland

Wolf Tree Inc.

Community Foundation of SW Washington

Hope's Place

Holly House

Bradley Angle House

Mid Columbia Medical Centers

Marquam Parks Association

Forests Forever

Friends of Trees

Habitat for Humanity

Cascade Streamwatch Foundation

National Forest Foundation

John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center

Human Solutions

Direct school partnerships

Multnomah County ESD

Mt. Hood Community College

George Middle School

Shumway Middle School

Floyd Light Middle School

Trout Lake School

Columbia Gorge Community
College

Floyd Light Middle School

Municipal partners

City of Gresham

City of Troutdale

Portland Parks Bureau

City of White Salmon

Trout Lake Water

District

Dalles Civic Auditorium

Government partners

METRO

Yakima Tribal Nation

WA State Parks and Recreation

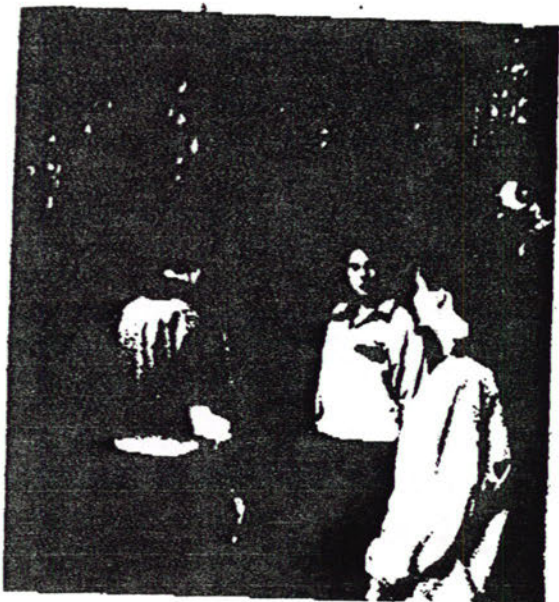
Hood River County Farmers

Irrigation District

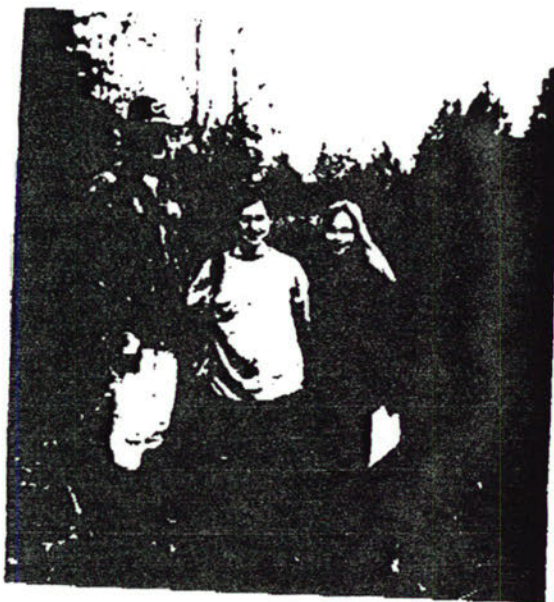
4. AmeriCorps Members; Full Time; Metro 54, Mt. Adams 22

Part Time; Metro 6, Mt. Adams 6

Totals.....Metro 60, Mt. Adams 28 for a total of 88 on Mar. 30,
1995



ENVIROCORPS MEMBERS AT
PARK SITE NEAR PORTLAND



ENVIROCORPS MEMBERS IN AREA
BRUSHED OUT AND RE-PLANTED
JENNIFER THOMPSON IS AT FAR RIGHT



ENVIROCORPS MEMBERS ON COLUMBIA
ESTUARY AT BYBEE LAKE - BRUSH
CLEARED, SEDGES AND TREES PLANTED



ENVIROCORPS MEMBERS AT WORK ON
SITE NEAR PORTLAND



NWSA MEMBERS SUPERVISING AND INSTRUCTING STUDENTS IN PREPARATION OF SITE FOR HABITAT PROJECT



NWSA MEMBER INSTRUCTING STUDENTS ON ECOSYSTEM TOPICS AT MIDDLE SCHOOL IN PORTLAND



NWSA MEMBERS CONSTRUCTING A TRAIL AT MARKAM PARK IN PORTLAND

**AMERICORPS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
&
LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA**

CASE STUDY

**CLINCH-POWELL
RESOURCE CONSERVATION &
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Prepared for Congressman Van Hilleary

February 6, 1995

**Clinch-Powell RC&D Council
Rt. 2, Box 423
Rutledge, Tennessee 37861
Phone: 615/828-5927 FAX: 615/828-5212**

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AmeriCorps Case Study - Clinch-Powell RC&D Council

AmeriCorps Member Highlights

AmeriCorps Job Descriptions - Clinch-Powell RC&D Council

AmeriCorps Work Sample

Tennessee AmeriCorps Program Synopsis

Learn and Serve Youth Leadership Council - Clinch-Powell RC&D Council

**AMERICORPS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

**CASE STUDY
CLINCH-POWELL RC&D COUNCIL**

**AMERICORPS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

CASE STUDY

CLINCH-POWELL RC&D COUNCIL

BACKGROUND

The Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D) is an authorized USDA program that is initiated and directed at the local level by volunteers representing local governments, multiple communities, grassroots organizations and citizens at large. The Secretary of Agriculture provides a full-time RC&D Coordinator to help individual RC&D Councils find various resources needed to carry out plans of action which have been locally directed and developed. This combination of local leadership and coordination of state, federal, local and private resources is an efficient and effective way for communities to cooperatively support and achieve local goals.

The Clinch-Powell RC&D Council was authorized in February 1990 with the *mission of working together in bold leadership for rural development through natural and human resource management in Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties, Tennessee, emphasizing self-help, self-direction and harmony in community development and utilization of the environment.* The RC&D operates an aggressive program working toward these goals identified through an extensive public input process:

- Improve solid waste management to provide for a growing population.
- Expand public utilities to serve all citizens and industries.
- Protect and restore natural resources for long-term benefits to the environment.
- Improve the social well-being of the area with increased community services.
- Create economic development by broadening the economic base of the area.

Since authorization in February 1990, this RC&D has been directly responsible for attracting more than **\$1.4 million** for projects **critical** to reaching these goals. In 1994, about \$31 was brought into the area for every \$1 of local investment in RC&D. Perhaps, more importantly, these projects represent activities **initiated** and **carried out** by **local citizens**. The impacts and implications can be better understood when you consider some key statistics of this RC&D region.

CATEGORY	STATISTIC	NOTES
Total Regional Population	111, 526	
Largest City	4,500	
Avg. Unemployment Rate	5.2%	
Housing	25% in mobile homes	
Education	49% of population below 12th grade education	
Per Capita Income	Average - \$10,500 Low - \$8,160	41% below nat'l avg
Persistent Poverty Counties	4 of 5 in region	
Population Living in Poverty	26%	One county high of 40%
Agriculture Based Employment	Average 40%	One county high of 77%

Resources for the Clinch-Powell RC&D Council come from a healthy and diversified mix of federal, state, local and private sources.

AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The AmeriCorps Rural Development Team has **launched** the RC&D into a new dimension in terms of our ability to **provide crucial assistance** to our rural, economically disadvantaged communities. Five very talented AmeriCorps Members sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service have **made it possible** for the RC&D to:

- **Supply essential technical assistance** in solid waste management to communities that **cannot afford to pay private sector rates** for comparable services.
- **Conduct and manage** a comprehensive specialty recreation and nature based tourism initiative to include an assessment, analysis of opportunities and a set of recommendations for a regional advisory committee organized for **economic development** in the region.
- **Enhance and enrich environmental education** reaching 4,000 students and teachers per year in the 45 rural schools of our region. Ours is the only environmental education program working to **arm students** with the facts needed to make them fair, responsible and action-oriented adults.

AmeriCorps Members were recruited specifically for skills and talents key to each of the programs described above. Each has a Bachelors Degree and three have graduate work just short of a Masters Degree. Members work independently and as a team to carry out responsibilities outlined in their Plans of Work and in their Job Descriptions.

Members, most of who are from an urban/suburban background, are gaining **invaluable experience, understanding and appreciation for the rural situation**, condition and way of life. Our AmeriCorps Members battle daily with the complexities, the realities and the dilemmas of **building sustainable rural communities**.

Our communities are being **rejuvenated** with the assistance of these energetic and creative AmeriCorps Members. Small groups and individuals in our communities, guided and aided by AmeriCorps Members, are making **REAL progress** toward their goals.

IMMEDIATE VALUE OF AMERICORPS TO COMMUNITY

A quick study of the AmeriCorps **program accomplishments** in the Clinch-Powell RC&D area reveals an **AMAZING cost/benefit analysis**. The table below compares the cost of AmeriCorps to the cost of the services provided if they were purchased on the open market. The value and cost savings of AmeriCorps is real, significant and obvious. Most importantly though, many of the services which are **IMPORTANT** to making our communities sustainable would not be provided **WITHOUT** AmeriCorps. Our communities simply would go without because they cannot afford to pay the market price for similar services.

AMERICORPS SOLID WASTE SPECIALIST (One member sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service)

Accomplishments (4 months)	Cost to Community if Service Purchased on Open Market*	Cost as Provided Through AmeriCorps	Savings to Community Through AmeriCorps
Assist Hancock County with Convenience Center Design, Permitting and Funding Grant	\$3,400		
Assist Hancock County with completion of 10 year Solid Waste Management Plan as required by state law.	\$8,500		
Preparation of Bid Specs and package for Recycling Equipment for the City of Harrogate.	\$1,700		
Preparation of Bid Specs and Package for Transfer Station for Claiborne County.	\$2,550		
Preparation of Bid Specs and Package for Grainger County Recycling Center	\$2,125		
Design and Layout of Solid Waste Education Brochure	\$1,400		
Preparation, development and writing of four grant proposals for outside funding of important solid waste projects.	\$4,000		
TOTAL	\$23,975 (estimate)	approx. \$7,272	\$16,703

* Estimated costs based on the known 'going price' in the RC&D region.

SPECIALTY RECREATION AND TOURISM INITIATIVE (three members sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Accomplishments (4 months)	Cost to Community if Service Purchased on Open Market*	Cost as Provided Through AmeriCorps	Savings to Community Through AmeriCorps
Inventory, Development of Regional Committee, Setup of Tourism Network, Preliminary Funding Search, Eco-Tourism Feasibility Study, Wilderness Road Draft and Design of Regional Tourism Database	\$50,400 (estimate)	approx. \$20,000	\$30,400

* Estimated costs based on the known 'going price' in the RC&D region.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Following are highlights of the Clinch-Powell RC&D AmeriCorps program as prepared by AmeriCorps Members and a sample of work (Eco-Tourism Study) for your review. **WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT THE CLINCH-POWELL RC&D COUNCIL TO SEE THE AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM IN ACTION.**

**AMERICORPS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

**CLINCH-POWELL RC&D COUNCIL
MEMBER PREPARED HIGHLIGHTS**



Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative Fact Sheet- Progress Evaluation Through January 31, 1995

The first four (4) months of this AmeriCorps project have produced a myriad of accomplishments. From the partnerships established to develop the Wilderness Road to the redesign of the Hancock County Jail towards a Melungeon Cultural Heritage Museum, AmeriCorps has been working hard to ensure a better quality of life for rural areas. Although there is a great deal of work still left to do, AmeriCorps is quickly moving towards the community-based goals of this region by pledging simply to "get things done." The major accomplishments of this program through January 31, 1995 are listed below.

HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH JANUARY 31, 1995

- Established the **first** regional tourism advisory body in the Clinch-Powell Region for the purpose of directing strategic planning and tourist development in the area. The committee has met twice since its inception. It has been attended by the heads of tourism development for the Tennessee Community Development Assistance Program, East Tennessee Development District, First Tennessee Development District, Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association and the Middle East Tennessee Tourism Association.
- Established a partnership with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and the Tennessee 200 Bicentennial Committee to forge the Daniel Boone Wilderness Road. This project was begun in 1983 by the National Park Service and will be expanded by AmeriCorps and its two partners as part of the 1996 Tennessee Bicentennial Celebration.
- Established a partnership with the Hancock County Historical Committee, Hancock Chamber of Commerce, and the Tennessee Historical Commission to renovate the Hancock County Jail and redesign the space for a Melungeon Cultural Heritage Museum. This project has been in the pre-planning stages since 1991, but with the technical and hands-on assistance provided by AmeriCorps the architectural redesign and preservation of this historic building is quickly becoming a reality.
- Established a partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to develop canoe and camping access sites along the Powell River. This project is the beginning of an effort to increase recreational facilities in the region for the development of an ecotourism industry.
- Providing technical marketing and promotional assistance to the Grainger County Tomato Festival Committee. This festival is dedicated as the main fundraising opportunity for community groups, non-profits, and schools of Grainger County.
- Constructed a historical and natural resources inventory for the five-county area. This inventory is currently being designed into a larger tourism-related database. This database will be located at the Clinch-Powell RC & D and be available to all community groups, government organizations, and private citizens. This up-to-date regional database is vital for future planning efforts and the development of small business entrepreneurship in the area. Partnerships with the Tennessee Valley Authority, University of Tennessee, and Walter State Community College may allow for an on-line accessibility to the database.

Americorps - Rural Development Team

Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative

Clinch-Powell Resource, Conservation, and Development Council

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Team Members:

Mikhail DeLong - BA. - Geography

University of Tennessee-Knoxville, June 1991

Undergraduate work in archeology

Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan, 1/86 to 5/86

Graduate work in applied physical geography & hydrology -

University of Victoria, British Columbia, 9/91 to 5/92

Mary Russell - BA. - Economics

University of Tennessee-Knoxville, December 1990

Jeremy Williams - BA. - Geography

University of Tennessee-Knoxville, August 1991

Graduate work in geography

University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 8/91 to present

Congressional Report - Background

Congressional Report

The purpose of our **Americorps** project is to stimulate regional economic development in the 5-county Clinch-Powell area while preserving the rural culture and values of the small town. It covers the period from October 3, 1994, to July 31, 1995. Our 3-member team is developing a nature-based tourism strategy that includes environmentally-sensitive outdoor recreation activities. It aims at attracting more visitors to the area by building an appreciation of the area's natural beauty and unique biodiversity. Several driving tours are being created, based on the crafts, history, festivals, nature areas and cultural heritage of the region. Our skills in technical assistance are also being applied to the renovation of a historical site, design of a heritage museum, and construction of a canoe access site to the Powell River. We are working on these projects in cooperation with county governments, small businesses, local craft persons, historical/heritage societies, and local as well as state-level tourism advocates. Each of these projects are helping to build a foundation for "locally-owned" tourism that is based on slow but steady growth. In this way the human and natural resources of the area can be put to their best use.

Our Objectives:

- 1: To initiate a forum for the interchange of ideas and attitudes on the development of regional tourism. This is to be done by building networks and coalitions with existing recreation and tourism groups, and by the formation of a talented regional advisory committee.
- 2: To conduct a comprehensive regional recreational and tourism assessment to identify the status of existing opportunities. This is to include an inventory and evaluation of current conditions, attitudes, abilities and resources.
- 3: To stimulate community awareness and participation in the development process.
- 4: To prepare a final report to include a set of recommendations for future tourism initiatives and infrastructure development. This will be based on the regional inventories compiled, and on input from local and regional tourism advocates.

Accomplishments:

- We built the first grassroots advisory committee in the Clinch-Powell region by gaining the participation and support of 30 regional tourism advocates and local community leaders, including the heads of the East Tennessee Development District, First Tennessee Development, and Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association.
- We coordinated our first Tourism Advisory Committee meeting, with speaker Diane Hayes presenting information on the Tennessee Community

Development Assistance Program, and with facilitator Larry Blick from NRCS assisting the group in establishing and prioritizing goals. Our second meeting included presentations of our reports on the potential for regional ecotourism, and related funding possibilities. These reports included: (1) A natural and recreational resource inventory for each county; (2) An outline for development of the Wilderness Road; (3) Opportunities and constraints for ecotourism development in the Clinch-Powell region; (4) Inventories for area lodging, restaurants, food stores, craft and art studios, and retail stores featuring local artists and craft people.

- We began work on integration of the Americorps ecotourism project with the two existing state tourism councils in our area, the United States Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.
- We forged partnerships with the Tennessee Department of Tourism Development and with TVA for provision of future technical and financial assistance.
- We conducted about 120 interviews with representatives from government agencies, historical societies, business associations, academic institutions, and the community to assess current levels of participation, awareness, and support for tourism development in the region.
- We are currently building a coalition for the development of a visible regional tourism project based on the historic Wilderness Road. This coalition coordinated the newly-formed Tennessee Bicentennial Committees for the five county area, the existing Cumberland Gap wilderness road effort, and state technical assistance from the Community Development Assistance Program.
- We are compiling a regional tourism newsletter to encourage networking and to supply information on ecotourism and area projects to local tourism advocates.
- We are providing technical assistance and "hands-on" service to the community-based initiatives in both Hancock and Grainger Counties for the establishment and renovation of county museums. We met with historical renovation experts to assess the Hancock County site (listed on the historic register), and established specific funding sources.
- We are attending county commissioner meetings to explain the role of Americorps and encourage community input into the planning process.
- We are meeting with each county historical society to determine their needs on community projects, and to plan a regional historical society meeting to be held in conjunction with the East Tennessee Historical Society and the Clinch-Powell RC&D, to encourage regional partnerships among individual county historical organizations, and will provide the opportunity to exchange information and new ideas, to coordinate project plans for the Tennessee Bicentennial, and to build a stronger regional coalition of tourism advocates.

**AmeriCorps
Rural Development Team
U.S. Forest Service
Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and
Development Council**

AmeriCorps Member:

Liz Upchurch, Solid Waste Specialist

Background

BA Geography, Univ. of Tennessee, 1994

AmeriCorps Start Date

September 12, 1994

As an AmeriCorps Solid Waste Specialist, I have provided many critical services for Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins, and Union counties, TN and the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council. Since the beginning of my term in September of 1994, the necessity of my service has gained more and more clarity. I provide services and assistance that quite simply would not get done if I didn't provide them. The communities that I serve are classified as 100% rural, have significant populations below the poverty level, are financially strapped and lack the resources to provide many services for themselves. During my 4 1/2 months of service, I have accomplished the following:

Accomplishments To Date

- Written 3 grant proposals totaling over \$100,000 to help bring in both public and private sources of funding to provide critical aid to my financially strapped communities. These communities lack the resources to write these grant proposals themselves. To date, we have received one grant from the East Tennessee Foundation.
- Planning of the first ever Earth Day Festival in Grainger County, made possible by my submission of a grant proposal to the East Tennessee Foundation. This festival will serve as a community enlightening and centering activity to celebrate the beautiful and unique environment here in East Tennessee.
- Organized 5 Household Hazardous Waste collections (1 in each of our counties), to collect household hazardous wastes, thereby providing a safer way to dispose of possibly hazardous wastes.
- Facilitated donation and delivery of 2 Wal-Mart roll-off recycling containers (1 to Hancock County, 1 to Claiborne County) to provide recycling capabilities **where there previously were none.**
- Aided citizens of Hancock County in completion of the Hancock County 10 Year Municipal Solid Waste Plan, mandated by the State of Tennessee.
- Provide on-going technical assistance in registration and finishing of the Hancock County solid waste collection center (convenience center) to provide a facility to handle the counties' residential solid wastes, as mandated by the State of Tennessee. (This county previously had **no solid waste collection**)
- Provide critical solid waste education through the creation of a brochure on solid waste, to be distributed to county citizens, businesses, and government.

AmeriCorps
Rural Development Team
U.S. Forest Service

Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council

Americorps Member:
Sarah Buchanan, Environmental Educator

Background: BS Agriculture, Austin Peay State University, 1994

I joined the Rural Development AmeriCorps Team because it enabled me to do what I enjoy, work with the youth of rural areas. I have always enjoyed working and teaching youth, I chose to pursue a career which would give me the opportunity to work with young people teaching them about the environment and the importance of protecting and preserving it. My work in the AmeriCorps program has been a continuation of work I have done since high school. It has given me the ability to reach a wide range of students both in age and interests. I know I have done my job when a student begs me to come back to his class and tell him more about how he can clean up the earth or a little girl draws a picture of us cleaning up the park together.

Since beginning my service on September 12, 1994 I have worked to fulfill the education goal of the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council Environmental Education Program which is to give youth the knowledge, skills, and abilities in natural resource conservation to become well informed, action oriented adults.

Accomplishments

- developed a second grade solid waste curriculum for five counties in East Tennessee that have an average per capita income of \$11,000 (compared to the national average of \$18,000). This education is mandated by the state but counties cannot afford to implement without help. To date 500 students have participated in the program with 300 more to participate by the end of the school year.
- The Clinch and Powell Rivers have been identified in the top ten threatened rivers by American Rivers. They are globally important for the richness in the number and variety of species. The environmental education program focuses on this importance in the programs I work with.
 - Water quality curriculum was revised and distributed to 800 third grade students. These nine lessons focus on issues critical to the Clinch and Powell Rivers.
 - Enviro2000 a teacher inservice on incorporating environmental issues into the classroom available to 400 teachers.
 - Environmental Resource Center to provide environmental education tools not readily available to teachers otherwise. These materials have reached 300 students in the region.
 - Envirothon, a high school team competition on environmental issues provides students the opportunity to use knowledge learned in the classroom firsthand. Each team is comprised of 3 to 5 students with two teams allowed from each high school (10 schools eligible) and one county 4-H team.
 - Conservation Camp for 1500 sixth graders in the five county region. Students spend a day on the Clinch River learning first hand the importance of conserving their environment.
- Two presentations on the council's education program to Knoxville Chamber of Commerce and the Facilitator Conference hosted by the office of Conservation Education.
- Represent these rural counties on the Tennessee Environmental Stewardship Task Force which is focusing on the development of a state environmental education program.
- 4-H program on endangered species to 30 Bean Station Elementary students.

**AMERICORPS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

**JOB DESCRIPTIONS
CLINCH-POWELL RC&D COUNCIL**

Position Description

SCS AmeriCorps Enrollee Specialty Recreation and Tourism Team

A. Introduction

This position is located in the Clinch-Powell RC&D Office in Rutledge, TN. The employee will be primarily working in the five county RC&D area including Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties. The purpose of the position is to provide assistance to the RC&D economic development agenda. Three AmeriCorps enrollees will work as a team on this project.

B. Objective

The objective of this team effort is to conduct a comprehensive regional tourism assessment resulting in a Regional Specialty Recreation and Tourism Feasibility Study, measured by addressing accessibility, anchors, accommodations, attractions, activities, appreciation and advertising, presented to and approved by a regional advisory committee established for Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties, Tennessee.

C. Major Accomplishments

The major accomplishments will be any and all appropriate for the successful completion of the feasibility study, including but not limited to:

- Recruitment and formation of a talented regional advisory committee for the project.
- Crafting a project mission statement and the strategic and creative planning necessary for project success.
- Building networks and coalitions with existing recreation and tourism related groups and organizations.
- Inventory and evaluation of current conditions, attitudes, abilities and resources.
- Implementation, revision and refocusing of plans as project develops and unfolds.
- Innovation in resources, research and development of possibilities, and recruitment and involvement of publics.
- Specifics in terms of actions, publics, timeframes, marketing and finances.
- Clear direction for future actions.

D. Supervision

Overall performance and general day to day and administrative activities of this position are supervised by the RC&D Coordinator. This position is an intricate part of the Clinch-Powell RC&D program. The RC&D office is primarily supported by the USDA Soil Conservation Service. AmeriCorps team members are responsible for and restricted by all applicable rules and regulations.

Performance Activities

Performance and project progress will be reviewed monthly.

Dress and Appearance

The employee is the representative of the organization. As such, public presentation of self is a critical element and directly affects the public image of the organization. Therefore, dress and appearance will be

appropriate for the image of a company representative. Adherence to the norm of the area is key to success. Casual business will be the standard but dress will be appropriate for the occasion at all times. No shorts will be appropriate. If there are any questions, ask your supervisor. Jeans may be worn if the work schedule warrants and there are no scheduled visits or meetings.

Vehicle Use

GOV - The employee is approved to use an SCS vehicle if one is available. Employee must adhere to all rules and regulations for official use. Under NO circumstances can personal business be conducted on official time. Employee must maintain standards and conduct in a manner appropriate for a government employee. There is no reimbursement for travel in a GOV.

POV - Use of your personal vehicle for official business will be reimbursed at a mileage rate of 25 cents per mile when necessary for official business.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in any SCS occupied building. This ban applies to all areas in the workplace and includes space which is owned or leased by SCS. The workplace includes: general office space, storage, closets, breakrooms, auditoriums, classrooms, conference rooms, elevators, medical facilities, restrooms, lobbies, and Government vehicles.

Phones

Phones are for official business. Brief personal calls may be made or accepted if needed but should be kept short and limited. Long distance calls should be kept as brief as possible but should cover necessary business.

D. Equal Employment Opportunity

The RC&D programs are offered to all persons on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, religion, sex, national origin, marital status or disability. Every effort will be made to conduct the RC&D program in such a way as to be representative of the community and offer all the opportunity to participate and share in leadership.

Employee Date

Clinch-Powell RC&D Council, Inc. Date

Coordinator, Clinch-Powell RC&D Council, Inc. Date

Position Description

USFS AmeriCorps Enrollee **Solid Waste and Recycling Specialist**

A. Introduction

This position is located in the Clinch-Powell RC&D Office in Rutledge, TN. The employee will be primarily working in the five county RC&D area including Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties. The purpose of the position is to provide staff assistance in solid waste management and recycling in the Clinch-Powell RC&D Council area.

B. Objective

The primary objective of this position is to provide technical assistance in solid waste management and recycling to communities in Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties, Tennessee, resulting in a 10 percent increased recycling rate and improved solid waste management through three grant proposals and two recycling program start ups as outlined in the Ten Year Regional Solid Waste Management Plans approved by the State of Tennessee.

C. Major Accomplishments

The major accomplishments will be any and all appropriate for the successful completion of an effective solid waste assistance program. Including but not limited to:

- Developing recycling/waste diversion programs.
- Biweekly Trashy Talk for news papers and radio.
- Assist county solid waste boards as needed.
- Drafting materials specifications and bid packages.
- Research and draft position descriptions for solid waste workers as needed.
- Develop and draft training program for convenience center attendants.
- Work with business and industries to monitor recycling/diversion and promote and increase participation.
- Develop exhibits and displays.
- Carry out education and promotion campaign designed to increase recycling and source reduction.
- Craft grant proposals for services, equipment, etc.
- Develop a Buy Recycled campaign.
- Organize workshops/seminars quarterly.
- Organize/develop office solid reference files.
- Integrate and coordinate with KAB and environmental education programs.
- Produce an RC&D newsletter/Annual Report

D. Supervision

Overall performance and general day to day and administrative activities of this position are supervised by the RC&D Coordinator. This position is an intricate part of the Clinch-Powell RC&D program but is primarily supported by the USDA Forest Service. The RC&D office is primarily supported by the USDA Soil Conservation Service. AmeriCorps team members are responsible for and restricted by all applicable rules and regulations.

Performance Activities

Performance and project progress will be reviewed monthly.

Dress and Appearance

The employee is the representative of the organization. As such, public presentation of self is a critical element and directly affects the public image of the organization. Therefore, dress and appearance will be appropriate for the image of a company representative. Adherence to the norm of the area is key to success. Casual business will be the standard but dress will be appropriate for the occasion at all times. No shorts will be appropriate. If there are any questions, ask your supervisor. Jeans may be worn if the work schedule warrants and there are no scheduled visits or meetings.

Vehicle Use

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D. Equal Employment Opportunity

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AmeriCorps Enrollee _____
Date

Clinch-Powell RC&D Council, Inc. _____
Date

Coordinator, Clinch-Powell RC&D Council, Inc. _____
Date

Position Description

USFS AmeriCorps Enrollee Environmental Educator

A. Introduction

This position is located in the Clinch-Powell RC&D Office in Rutledge, TN. The employee will be primarily working in the five county RC&D area including Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties. The purpose of the position is to provide leadership in implementation of existing environmental education programs and development of new programs in the Clinch-Powell RC&D Council area.

B. Objective

The primary objective of this position is to conduct or arrange 150 environmental education presentations (written and verbal) resulting in increased knowledge of citizens as measured by pre and post program quizzes and interviews, with program quality judged by teachers and increased participation in environmental education programs of 15 percent in the region of Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties, Tennessee.

C. Major Accomplishments

The major accomplishments will be any and all appropriate for the successful completion of an effective environmental education program. Including but not limited to:

- Networking and approval of Boards of Education, Superintendents, Principals and Teachers for program success.
- Development, promotion, arrangements and instruction of solid waste program targeted to second graders but incorporating seventh and eight graders in instruction if possible.
- Revision, promotion, arrangements and follow up of Water Wizards program for third graders.
- Arrangements, contacts, organization and instruction for Healthy Water, Wealthy World Conservation Camp for sixth graders in conjunction with other staff.
- Revision, arrangements, recruitment, training for regional Envirothon.
- Development, arrangements, design, recruitment for Enviro2000 In-Service Workshop.
- Expansion, promotion, monitoring of Environmental Education Resource Center in conjunction with other staff.
- Development, design, fund raising, promotion, distribution of an environmental calendar done by students (target 4th graders) in conjunction with other staff.
- Produce schools newsletter to be distributed monthly or every six weeks.
- Produce a flyer/brochure promoting RC&D environmental education programs.

D. Supervision

Overall performance and general day to day and administrative activities of this position are supervised by the RC&D Coordinator. This position is an intricate part of the Clinch-Powell RC&D program but is primarily supported by the USDA Forest Service. The RC&D office is primarily supported by the USDA Soil Conservation Service. AmeriCorps team members are responsible for and restricted by all applicable rules and regulations.

Performance Activities

Performance and project progress will be reviewed monthly.

Dress and Appearance

The employee is the representative of the organization. As such, public presentation of self is a critical element and directly affects the public image of the organization. Therefore, dress and appearance will be appropriate for the image of a company representative. Adherence to the norm of the area is key to success. Casual business will be the standard but dress will be appropriate for the occasion at all times. No shorts will be appropriate. If there are any questions, ask your supervisor. Jeans may be worn if the work schedule warrants and there are no scheduled visits or meetings.

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AmeriCorps Enrollee

Date

Clinch-Powell RC&D Council, Inc.

Date

Coordinator, Clinch-Powell RC&D Council, Inc.

Date

**AMERICORPS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

**CLINCH-POWELL RC&D COUNCIL
ECOTOURISM STUDY
WORK SAMPLE**

Ecotourism in the Clinch-Powell Region: Opportunities and Constraints

Definition of ecotourism and its application in the Clinch-Powell Region as a means of stimulating economic development

Although numerous definitions abound, nature-based or ecotourism can primarily be defined as a form of responsible travel where the focus of activity is on the natural resources, ecology and cultural history of a region.

Outdoor recreation and historical-based tourism play significant roles in revenue generation for Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins, and Union counties, Tennessee. The vast majority of visitor activities currently center around Cherokee Lake, Norris Lake, Historic Rogersville and Cumberland Gap. However, with an overwhelming abundance of unique natural and cultural resources, unrealized potential exists for the development and packaging of the Clinch-Powell region as a competitive ecotourism destination. While ecotourism is not a "miracle cure" for the region's economic woes, it can become a healthy component of the regional economic base. For the Clinch-Powell region ecotourism should include relatively small groups of people visiting on a year-round basis to enjoy and learn about the natural and cultural resources of the area through a variety of recreational and educational activities. In order to ensure that both community values and the environmental integrity of the region are safeguarded, development should be carefully managed by local governments, existing development organizations and community groups.

Trends Toward Ecotourism

There are three primary factors influencing the demand for nature-based or ecotourism: overall growth within the tourism industry, growth in specialty recreation and travel, and an increasing awareness and concern for the natural environment. Tourism is expected to experience growth rates on the average of 4% annually over the course of the next decade due to such factors as population increases and rising incomes. Increasing emphasis on outdoor recreation, health and physical fitness is fueling the demand for specialty recreation and recreational-based travel. A growing public awareness of environmental issues and the perceived need for education and protection are the key factors driving the interest in ecotourism. The following figures emphasize the importance of the nature-based segment within the travel industry:

- **Between 4-6 million Americans travel overseas for nature-oriented tourism annually.**
- **A survey by the U.S. Travel Data Center determined that nearly 7% of U.S. travelers, or 8 million Americans, report having taken an eco-trip.**

- Nature tourists take longer trips and spend more money. A survey conducted by Discover America for a "Tourism and Environment" report estimated an average expenditure of \$264.00 per day.
- A survey by McKinsley & Company indicates that there are 275 nature tour operators in the U.S. who serve 108,000 travelers each year. Total revenues for 1991 were \$95 million. Their study further reported that 7 million American tourists are willing to pay \$2,000 to \$3,000 for a nature related tour.
- More than 76 million adults enjoyed non-consumptive wildlife recreation in 1991, such as feeding, observing and photographing wildlife.
- The Anderson Group, a Minneapolis tourism consulting firm reports that "ecotourism is the travel industry's most explosive growth area."
- Attendance is down 9-17% within national parks. "People are tired of going to overcrowded parks" and are seeking nature-based opportunities in less crowded, less developed areas.

Traditional Vs Ecotourism

Traditional tourism support facilities are contrasted below with those that are more resource oriented and heritage sensitive, and thus appealing to nature-based tourism markets.

<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Ecotourism</u>
Hotel	Bed and Breakfast
RV Campground	Primitive Tent Sites
Chain Fast Food	Family Style Restaurants
Shopping Malls	Artisan Craft Fairs
Supermarket	Farmer's Market
Highways	Rural Roads
Recreational Parks	Nature Trails
Water Parks	Rivers, Lakes and Streams
Man-made Attractions	Natural Features (caves etc.)

Profile of the Ecotourist

Recent studies have identified ecotourists in terms of their demographic, economic, sociological, psychological and geographical characteristics (Source: Partnership for the Sounds).

Affluent - averaging over 58,000 per household

Educated - most have graduate school

Experienced - most took more than 7 airline trips last year

Mature - over 30 with a mean of 37

Environmental - nearly all voluntarily recycle

Physical - vigorous outdoor activity oriented

Inquisitive - interested in intellectual and cultural discovery

Focused - travels more frequently and longer distances, visitations longer

Opportunities for Ecotourism in the Clinch-Powell Region

The Clinch-Powell region in northeast Tennessee is strategically located and blessed with an abundance of natural, aesthetic and cultural resources which reflect its unique position in the history of our nation and offers numerous opportunities for ecotourism and specialty recreation. Located within an hours drive of two of the nation's busiest travel corridors (I-75 and I-40) and with millions of tourists visiting east Tennessee annually, the area is prime for promotion. Proposed ecotourism activities will center around, but not be limited to, the following resources (see inventory for specifics):

- **Appalachian cultural history and human ecology**
- **Berry Island State Natural Area**
- **Blackwater E & W Spring**
- **Buffalo Springs Wildlife Management Area**
- **Cumberland Gap National Historic Park**
- **Cumberland Mountain**
- **The town of Cumberland Gap**

- Cherokee and Norris Lakes
- The Clinch, Powell and Holston Rivers
- Chuck Swan Wildlife Management Area
- Comby Ridge State Natural Area
- Numerous caves throughout the region (including Indian Cave)
- Clinch Mountain
- Ebbing and Flowing Spring
- Elrod Falls
- Fall foliage
- Unique geologic features and geologic history of the region
- Hemlock Bluff Small Wild Area
- History of mining and quarrying activities (coal, marble etc.)
- John Sevier Wildlife Management Area
- Local artisans, musicians, crafts and home products
- Monks Corner Small Wild Area
- The Melungeon Cultural Heritage
- Phipps Bend Waterfowl Refuge
- Historic Rogersville
- Rural lifeways and pastoral scenery, including working farms
- Stiner's Woods State Natural Area
- Unique plant and Animal species

While this list is not exhaustive it does provide an overview of some of the region's assets that could form the infrastructure for a thriving ecotourism industry. Through a cooperative and coordinated planning effort a number of educational and recreational activities could be developed that would maximize the economic value of these resources to the regional economy, while at the same time increasing both the quality and quantity of recreational opportunities available to local residents.

Potential Ecotourism Activities in the Clinch-Powell Region

A tentative list of ecotourism activities focusing on the natural and cultural resources of the Clinch-Powell region that could be developed include the following:

1. Driving tours

- A. Small tour buses and vans with local guides focusing on individual or a combination of themes (historical, geological, caves, plant and animal life, rivers, rural lifeways etc.)
- B. The proposed Wilderness Road (see handout).
- C. Heritage shopping tours focusing on local artisans, crafts and home products (self-guided or group tour with maps).
- D. Regional historical tours focusing on the history of human settlement in the region (self-guided or group tour with maps).
- E. Fall foliage tours (self guided or group tours with maps).
- F. Individual or combination natural resource tours focusing on the region's rivers, lakes, geology, caves and wildlife (self guided or group tours with individual maps).
- H. Photography tours concentrating on natural and cultural resources (self-guiding or group with individual maps).

2. Walking on backroads and hiking trails to enjoy and learn about:

- A. Nature and wildlife habitat
- B. History and cultural heritage
- C. Archeology, caves and bluff shelters
- D. Genealogy, including gravestone rubbings
- E. Geological formations

3. Educational/Interpretive programs

- A. Special seminars on natural sciences, river and forest ecology
- B. Interpretive programs on the history of human settlement in the region and interactions with the natural environment
- C. Interpretive programs on the history of mining and quarrying activities in the region, including visits to abandoned mines/quarries and TN. Luttrell
- D. Botanical and wildlife habitat excursions
- E. Tours of working farms
- F. Tours focusing on the region's tobacco industry including visits to a tobacco auction

4. Outdoor recreational

- A. Camping/backpacking
- B. Horseback riding and group campouts
- C. Canoeing on the Clinch, Powell and Holston Rivers (self-guided or with guide)
- D. Spelunking

- E. Hunting (self-guided or guided)
- F. Rock climbing/rappelling
- G. Fishing
- H. Mountain biking/bike touring

5. Special events

- A. Regional music festival showcasing local talent
- B. River festivals focusing on the ecology of the Clinch and Powell
- C. Fishing contests on Cherokee and Norris lakes
- D. Arts and crafts festivals focusing on traditional Appalachian products
- E. Farm festivals focusing on the agricultural heritage of the region
- F. Photography workshops and contests

This list provides specifics in terms of the types of activities that can be developed or expanded upon to both increase visitation to the region, and improve the quality of visitor experience. Many of the above mentioned activities already exist in some form and currently provide the focal point of experience for a number of visitors to the region. For the majority of these activities the necessary infrastructure is already in place, and it is merely a matter of coordinating and packaging existing resources to meet consumer demand. Where development is necessary, the required investment capital is relatively modest when compared with traditional tourism facilities development.

Current Needs/Constraints

While the basic components of a successful ecotourism industry in the Clinch-Powell region are already in place, there are certain needs/constraints that should be addressed prior to its implementation and/or promotional/marketing efforts. They include the following:

A. The lack of a cohesive regional identity to lure visitors. The development of a thematic concept for the Clinch-Powell region would greatly increase its attractiveness and visibility to potential visitors and would make marketing/promotional efforts more successful. The theme for the Clinch-Powell region should build upon its natural, cultural and historical character.

B. A lack of facilities to accommodate visitors for overnight or multiple day stays. The quantity of current accommodations is inadequate to support overnight and multiple stays for visitors to the region. This results in the loss of much needed revenues to the local economies and prevents visitors from experiencing all that the region has to offer. Development in this area should concentrate on less capital intensive operations such as bed and breakfasts and rental cabins which are more in line with the character of the region.

C. A lack of designated hiking trails. Although the region has excellent potential as a hiking destination, there are very few designated public access hiking trails. With the exception of Union and Claiborne counties, no public access hiking trails exist.

D. A lack of primitive camping facilities. Backpacking, river and lakeside camping all have great potential in the Clinch-Powell region but the availability of primitive facilities is almost non-existent with the exception of Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. Although there are numerous RV campsites along Cherokee and Norris Lakes, they have limited appeal to those individuals seeking a "wilderness" experience. The Clinch and Powell Rivers have excellent potential for multiple day floating and fishing trips but the lack of primitive camping facilities precludes such activities.

E. A lack of public canoe access sites on the Clinch and Powell Rivers. As mentioned above, the Clinch and Powell Rivers offer excellent opportunities for fishing and floating but a lack of public access sites currently inhibits such activities. Although two access sites have been developed in Hancock county at Kyles Ford and Sneedville, no facilities exist between the latter and 25E. No public canoe access sites exist on the free flowing sections of the Powell River within Tennessee.

F. The need for a long term strategic ecotourism plan for the region. Proper planning is essential to the success of a unified regional ecotourism endeavor. A blueprint for action should be developed prior to any capital dependent ventures and/or marketing efforts. Such a plan should include: resource identification and a map of regional assets, the identification of both short term tasks and long term actions, economic development strategies, an examination of potential environmental and social impacts, including carrying capacity analysis, and a comprehensive marketing plan.

Potential Economic Impacts

- While ecotourism will not serve as a "panacea" for economic growth in the region, it has the potential to become a healthy component of a diversified economic base and to distribute tourism revenues more evenly throughout the region. Many of the areas within the Clinch-Powell watersheds have poverty levels which exceed national averages, and through the proper utilization and development of local resources these numbers could be markedly reduced. Some of the potential economic benefits of an ecotourism industry would include:
 - **Increased jobs and career opportunities within the local communities**
 - **Incremental improvements in per capita income**
 - **Increased educational opportunities for the region**

- **A more diversified tax base less susceptible to national recessionary downturns**
- **Increased entrepreneurial opportunities for local citizens**
- **Spin off business development and multiplier effect**

Potential Environmental Impacts

Increased visitation and utilization of the region's natural resources has the potential to adversely affect sensitive and biologically critical wildlife habitats. A number of currently endangered and threatened animal species inhabit the biomes of the Clinch and Powell Watersheds. Certain stretches of the Clinch River within Hancock county have been designated as either globally outstanding or significant with respect to their aquatic biodiversity, and together the Clinch and Powell rivers remain as the greatest freshwater mussel sanctuary on the planet in terms of their species diversity. A number of rare and endangered cave species are also found throughout the watersheds and protection remains a critical issue. In order to ensure that ecotourism activities do not have a negative effect on the ecology of the region, and that visitors do not "love" these precious resources out of existence, an environmental impact analysis (EIA) should be conducted to determine the potential effects of each recreational or nature-based activity to be developed in critical wildlife habitat areas. Once carrying capacity analysis of specific eco-systems has been identified, development can proceed according to established guidelines. As a result, certain areas may in turn be designated as "off limits" due to their inability to absorb sustained human activity.

Ecotourism may also have the result of positively affecting the region's natural resources. The realization of economic benefits, as a direct result of increased visitation and use by tourists, may in turn serve to instill a conservation ethic in local citizens. An increased awareness of the economic value of the region's natural resources will only help to improve and protect both the quality and quantity of these environmental assets.

Potential Sources of Technical and Financial Assistance

The development of a successful ecotourism industry in the Clinch-Powell region will necessarily require technical assistance and cooperation from various federal, state and local agencies. The following is a list of potential sources of both technical and financial assistance that are available :

Federal Agencies

A. The Clinch-Powell Resource, Conservation and Development Council. The RC & D could potentially serve as the administrative body and planning agency for the

development of ecotourism activities. Such duties would fall under the auspices of the Americorps sponsored Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative. The RC & D also provides assistance in the areas of community development, environmental management, solid waste assistance, and environmental education and might be able to provide assistance and guidance in specific project development.

B. Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS). Could provide both technical and financial assistance for specific project development and supply trained consultants for environmental risk studies as they relate to project development.

C. The National Park Service (NPS). Could develop additional ecotourism activities (educational programs etc.) at the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park to help increase regional offerings.

D. United States Forest Service (USFS). The USFS could provide financial and technical assistance for forest-based recreational activities in the region such as the development of hiking trails and primitive campsites.

E. National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The NEA could provide funding for the documentation of folklife traditions and funding rural arts initiatives for various pioneer and heritage-based museums.

F. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Could provide land grants and technical assistance for the development of various recreational activities such as increasing canoe access sites on the Clinch and Powell Rivers and the development of hiking trails.

State Agencies

A. The Northeast Tourism Council (NETA). NETA will serve as the primary marketing agency for the promotion of ecotourism and specialty recreation activities in Hancock and Hawkins counties. NETA will play a key role in both the planning and development of any such activities.

B. Middle East Tourism Council (METC). METC will serve as the primary marketing agency for the promotion of ecotourism and specialty recreation in Claiborne, Grainger and Union counties. METC will play a key role in both the planning and development of any such activities.

C. First Tennessee Development District (FTDD). FTDD will play an integral role in coordinating the planning and development of an ecotourism industry in the Clinch-Powell region within the context of existing roles.

D. East Tennessee Development District (ETDD). ETDD will play an integral role in coordinating the planning and development of an ecotourism industry in the Clinch-Powell region within the context of existing roles.

E. Tennessee Department of Tourism Development. Could offer technical assistance to aid in the development of specific ecotourism projects as defined by the roles and objectives of The Community Development Assistance Program. Will serve as a primary sponsor of the Wilderness Road driving tour.

F. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). TDEC could aid in the development and administration of regional ecotourism activities. TDEC could provide technical assistance in preparing EIA's and monitor ecotourism activities to ensure compatibility between human use and conservation.

G. Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). TWRA could provide both financial and technical assistance for specific project development such as public access site acquisition and development as well as monitor activities impacts, aid in EIA preparation and provide qualified biologists for educational programs.

H. Tennessee Historical Commission. The Tennessee Historical Commission could provide funding and technical assistance to aid in the preservation of state identified historical structures that would serve as focal points for the historical components of an ecotourism industry.

Local agencies

A. Individual County Governments. Individual county governments within the Clinch-Powell Region will help to garner support for the development of ecotourism activities. Will assist in the upkeep and preservation of nature-based recreational sites.

B. Individual County Chambers of Commerce. Local chambers will serve in a consultation capacity and act as a liaison for individuals/organizations interested in investing in local ecotourism projects.

C. Individual County Service Organizations. County service organizations such as the Lion's Club, Rotary Club etc. could provide a community support base for activities such as beautification projects and community fundraising heritage festivals, which are an integral part of an ecotourism industry.

D. Friends of the Clinch and Powell Rivers. This group could provide assistance in preparing EIA's and developing recreational and educational activities in the Clinch-Powell Watersheds.

Private businesses

Private business groups and organizations could assist in financing and developing nature-based tourism opportunities within the Clinch-Powell Region.

Private Foundations.

A. The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy could provide technical assistance in the preparation of EIA's and serve in a consultation capacity for the development of ecotourism activities. The Nature Conservancy could also assist in the development of educational programs and provide qualified individuals to serve as instructors.

B. The Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund has expressed an interest in sponsoring an ecotourism pilot project within our region and could provide much needed assistance in the areas of strategic planning and specific project development.

**AMERICORPS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

**TENNESSEE NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE
PROGRAM SYNOPSIS**

**AMERICORPS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
TENNESSEE**

The AmeriCorps Rural Development Team in Tennessee is a professional corps consisting of members working from upper east to west Tennessee. In all, 21 members are assisting communities in sustainable economic development, resource protection, solid waste management and environmental education.

Clinch-Powell RC&D Cluster, Rutledge, TN

Three members are conducting a comprehensive regional assessment that will result in a Regional Specialty Recreation and Tourism Plan for Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties. This will enable these communities to develop a much needed sustainable, alternative economic development base.

Hull-York Lakeland RC&D Cluster, Cookeville, TN

Five members are providing planning and technical assistance to 14 units of county government to implement a solid waste and recycling program. They are also attempting to improve environmental awareness through development of an environmental awareness curriculum that will be used at 28 schools and civic clubs in the Upper Cumberland area.

Humphreys Soil Conservation District, Waverly, TN

Two members are developing, organizing and promoting county wide workshops, demonstration tours and nature tours of the Environmental Education Center in Humphreys County. This will also include development of environmental education materials and teacher in service programs on a variety of environmental and natural resource issues.

Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Cluster, Jackson, TN

Two members will be working with landowners in training them to use animal waste effluent discharge equipment through a traveling irrigation gun to promote safe discharge of waste on their land and to protect water quality. They will also be working in environmental awareness in the public schools system within an eight county region by developing environmental education training curriculum that will be made available to 49 elementary schools in the area.

Morristown Natural Resources Conservation Service Office, Morristown, TN

One member will assist the field office in collecting data in the Bent Creek watershed to assist them in assisting approximately 600 landowners in the watershed with natural resources issues. They will assist in the development of alternatives for land owners to protect, restore and prevent further degradation of the natural resources in the watershed by providing technical assistance, and training programs and materials to those land owners.

Whitley County Small Farms Project, Whitley City, KY

One member will be providing assistance to small farm families in the county to assess the needs and interest in beginning or expanding livestock production, in exploring alternative crops, intensive grazing methods, composting and other sustainable agricultural endeavors.

Woodland Community Land Trust, Campbell County, TN

Two members will address the need of sustainable economic development in rural Appalachia by assisting them to create viable economic opportunities from forest and forest related products and services. At the same time they will engage the rural communities and landowners in protecting and managing forest lands.

Henderson Settlement, KY

One member will identify available resources and provide sufficient information, counseling and support services to enable interested persons to utilize agriculture as a means of economic development for these families. They will provide assessment of county families resources and cultural practice and business management training for interested individuals to start up agricultural enterprises in the county.

Southeast Tennessee RC&D Cluster, Cleveland, TN

Three members will assist in programs to reduce non-point pollution in selected watersheds, implement dry hydrant program, develop opportunities for local craftsmen to market products made from TN forest products, assist in the development of conservation education material and develop recycling plans for counties in the area.

Tennessee Overhill Heritage Tourism Association, Etowah, TN

One AmeriCorps member will develop a children's guide to be used in environmental education activities, and work with planning and providing technical assistance to community based conservation groups.

**LEARN & SERVE AMERICA
YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

CLINCH-POWELL RC&D COUNCIL

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

CLINCH-POWELL RC&D COUNCIL

BACKGROUND

The Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council carries out numerous projects and programs aimed at building sustainable communities in our five county region. Activity direction and policy is guided by a board of directors composed of County Executives, Soil Conservation District representatives and citizens at-large appointed for the special skills and interests they bring to the Council board. The Council directs a collaborative effort among levels of government, driven by local interests, led by local initiative and leadership, and supported by a range of institutional structures. RC&D builds community, trust and respect among all players.

Leadership development is a **critical identified need** in the region. While rural communities are well known for people helping people in times of trouble, they lack the sheer numbers of people willing and able to assume leadership roles. The results are a small core of people who are spread too thin to be effective in many cases. Additionally, lack of opportunities for our youth to be involved in meaningful community activities is an identified need. Our region is experiencing a "brain drain" where the best and brightest students leave for college and never return because jobs are primarily low-skilled, low-tech and low-pay. This downward cycle can only be combated with an aggressive **program of leadership development** within our community.

CLINCH- POWELL LEARN & SERVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Our Learn & Serve Youth Leadership Council tackles both of these problems in a systematic and targeted manner. The RC&D has pulled together a diverse team for project oversight including school officials, community leaders, youth and staff to be involved. Up to 30 high school students (9th through 11th grade) are being selected for the initial Youth Leadership Council program from two high schools in pilot Grainger County. Students will develop and implement an aggressive program of leadership development through **community service learning** and the two locally critical environmental issues of solid waste management and water quality. **Highlights** of the program are:

- **Youth Leadership Conference**, February 13, 1995 to **build skills** in Problem Solving, Communications and Leadership Styles and Personalities.
- Individual and group Leadership **Plans focused on service learning** in-school and in-community.
- Activities built on the locally identified **critical environmental needs** of solid waste management and water quality.
- Youth and advisors will 'negotiate' a leadership contract to **carry out** two leadership activities per month.

- Youth will meet monthly to **share and discuss** successful and not so successful activities and build on their experiences.
- Youth will expand experiences through a series of field trips designed to **build on their leadership abilities.**
- **Youth will teach youth** as the initial group of high schoolers go to middle schools in year two to establish Youth Leadership Academies in grades 7 and 8.
- Two youth will be selected to **meet and fully participate** with the Clinch-Powell RC&D Council as Youth Directors representing this important segment of our population.

CONCLUSION

Learn & Serve America is making this exciting and very **worthwhile project** possible in the Clinch-Powell RC&D Council area. WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT OUR LEARN AND SERVE PROGRAM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO AMERICORPS EFFORTS:

"I am writing to express my appreciation for the work performed by the AmeriCorps Greenwood No. Two Volunteer team. I had submitted a proposal for the AmeriCorps volunteers to code SCDHEC's water classifications on hardcopy maps of the state's stream system for a nine county area. I had anticipated this work effort would take approximately three to four weeks. Work was to begin October 17, 1994, with a completion date of November 17th. The team finished the initial task within a week's time and continued to complete the water classification coding for the entire state. The process incorporated a rigorous quality assurance/quality control program that the volunteers adhered to diligently. In addition, the team labeled and sleeved 2,000 photographs associated with our National Aerial Photography Program, indexed and inventoried hundreds of topographic maps, keyed in historic data on our state's water classifications and accompanied staff biologists on sampling expeditions.

Each volunteer was a joy to work with and I cannot overstate how appreciative SCDHEC is of being the recipient of the work produced from the volunteer's effort. I believe the AmeriCorps program has established a wonderful beginning with this initial effort from the Greenwood Office and I wish the program continued success with future endeavors. You can be proud of the work the Greenwood No. Two Team has accomplished."

-Jeannie Pickett Eldson
Environmental Quality Manager
S.C. DHEC

" On behalf of the Saluda County Chamber of Commerce, I wish to express my thanks to the NRCS for their assistance in allowing us the opportunity to witness firsthand the services of AmeriCorps volunteers in our community from January 3 through January 25th.

The Newberry One team: Diggs Hill, Abby Gage, Karen Kinard, Madeline Cislo, and John Morgan III, exhibited sunny attitudes, abundant energy, and a willingness to work that will be hard to match by anyone else. Their work was so extremely significant to our project here for the implementation of the "911" program.

The information will now be assembled into revised maps of the county which will be distributed to the emergency and law enforcement personnel. The AmeriCorps Newberry One Team touched the lives of every resident of Saluda County with their work in a very short time, and we truly appreciate having met and known them all."

-Carol S. Williams
Executive Secretary
Saluda County Chamber of Commerce

"I would like to thank you and your staff, especially Jim Wilson, for the assistance provided to Wildlife Management Region II, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, by the Greenwood I AmeriCorps team. The team was eager and enthusiastic and, other than initial instructions, went about their tasks with little need for supervision by my staff. They posted about 100 miles of Wildlife Management Area boundary with about 900 signs, coded over 3,000 deer data cards, and used GPS technology to obtain location and size information on 30 of our permanent wildlife openings. Along with our personnel they helped in control burning about 300 acres to improve wildlife habitat and erected 24 new wood duck nest boxes.

The members of the team, Chris Bever, Angi Paulus, Susan Miller, Sherell Stevens, and Chad Weston showed considerable interest in and appreciation for the wildlife resources of the area, even though their career choices lay in other fields. Hopefully their brief exposure will help them be more aware of the need for natural resource conservation as they pursue their careers.

-Robert W. Gooding
Regional Wildlife Biologist
S.C. Department of Natural Resources

"This letter is to express the appreciation for the work performed by the AmeriCorps team in Edgefield county. The AmeriCorps volunteers for our county consisted of Chad Weston, Angi Paulus, Chris Bever, Sherell Stevens, and Susan Miller.

They did a road inventory to help us in the implementation of the 911 system here. There had been no accurate records updated as to all roads and road names in our county in a long time. Due to their efforts, we now are able to continue with the naming of the roads."

-Linda Priest and Mike Casey
E911 Coordinators for Edgefield County

"The Greenwood Team II performed beyond my expectations and I was very impressed with their professionalism."

-Farrell Saunders
Superintendent
Ninety-Six Historic Park
National Park Service

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

EST. Dec., 1994

APR. 95, VOL. 5

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE USDA/NRCS AMERICORPS TEAM...

...hometown, education, & why AmeriCorps?

"I joined AmeriCorps to do my part for the environment, so in the future I can tell my children that I tried."

Greg Maxwell, Columbia
Landscaping

"I joined AmeriCorps for the benefit of mankind and the environment. I also joined AmeriCorps for the intellectual benefits."

David E. Holcombe, Columbia
BS Natural Science Education



"Sacrifice- AmeriCorps is a year like no other in a person's life. Truly a life lasting experience."

Sherell Stevens, Saluda
BS Environmental Health

"I became an AmeriCorps volunteer in order to earn an education award while working on resource conservation projects."

Richard Eaton, Laurens
BS Elementary Education

"AmeriCorps is an adventure of opportunities in community service. For it's members, it has been an exciting trip into towns and communities in rural SC to make a positive impact by helping those in need. For those affected by AmeriCorps' accomplishments, it represents a sign of hope that someone cares."

Susan Miller, Lexington
BS Biology

"I believe that through our efforts we can establish a new precedence of life in America...A life where people care enough about each other to volunteer their services to make a difference in the lives of others. I believe in what we are doing and what AmeriCorps stands for."

Angi Paulus, Abbeville
BA English

"I saw AmeriCorps as a way for me to give back to the community...so my kids in the future will have a place to live. It was also a way for me to put back what my grandparents and their parents put into the community. I love doing community service."

Angela Brinkley, Columbia
English/Mathematics

"I joined AmeriCorps because I am interested in conservation and the environment. I felt that this was a good chance for me to do my part in helping the environment and wildlife in my home state."

Jay Henderson, Columbia

"I joined AmeriCorps to better my state and myself at the same time."

Dawn Kendall, Easley
Ad Design & Child Develop.

"To help people in need...to make a difference...to get things done."

Abby Gage, Cleveland
BS Political Science
Masters Environmental Mgt.

"AmeriCorps has given me the opportunity to grow as an individual while working in a team atmosphere geared toward improving our environment and our rural communities."

Karen Kinard, Columbia
BS Biology

"AmeriCorps has offered me the chance to experience a diversity of projects and the chance to experiment with volunteerism and community outreach. It's rewarding to help youths grow and learn about themselves and help them become responsible, caring, adults."

Madeline Cislo, Hopkins
Civil Eng./Bus. Adm.

"As the only Native American chosen to serve with our AmeriCorps team, I volunteered to serve my country with expectations to improve rural life in South Carolina."

Dan Johnson, N. Augusta
BS Biology/Photography

"AmeriCorps is a unique opportunity that has allowed me to use my talents to assist others. It has shown me what an exceptional group of people can accomplish when they all are focused on the goal- helping other people."

Chris Bever, Taylors
Secondary Education

"AmeriCorps allows dedicated individuals unique opportunities found nowhere else in the workforce. The chance to acquire educational awards while experiencing satisfaction through enhancing the quality of life of rural South Carolinians, is more than I hoped for."

John E. Morgan III, Society Hill
BS Aquacultures, Fisheries, Wildlife Biology

"Sweat, enthusiasm, patience and hope. AmeriCorps is applying these toward making our state a cleaner, safer place to live."

Chad Weston, Taylors
BS Biology / PreMed

"I am interested in the concept of a national service program as it relates to higher education through financial incentives and the experimental development process of students. It is also a step-out from graduate school to receive financial/educational/group health incentives and to develop interrelationship and problem-solving skills."

Mary Roe, Anderson
BS Sociology

"I have always believed in the concept of national service. I think it is the patriotic thing to do and the right thing to do. I feel that all citizens should be afforded an opportunity to serve their country and community in some manner. AmeriCorps has offered me that opportunity, and I have accepted the responsibility and the challenge."

James H. Holland, Aiken
BS Biology/Business Mgt.

"Being a volunteer for a year has allowed me to see the variety of things that South Carolina has to offer and where improvement is needed. AmeriCorps has made me a concerned, educated, and proud citizen and I will always carry with me a strong belief in the value of community service."

Amy Overstreet, Columbia
BA English

"AmeriCorps is my chance to help our most valuable asset...children. I joined AmeriCorps now...to help them grow strong for tomorrow."

Diggs Hill Jr., Greenville
Marketing

What have they been up to?

E-911 Road Inventory (Edgefield, Abbeville, McCormick, Saluda)
Grassland Surveys (Abbeville)
Water Quality Testing (Newberry)
Stream Coding for DHEC (State-wide)
Joe E. Adair Outdoor Ed. Center (Laurens)
Camp Long KATE program (Aiken)
Environmental Education Survey (Richland)
Grasslands Evaluation Survey (Abbeville)
Teacher/Farmer Curriculum (Newberry)
Watershed Database Modeling (Newberry)
Lynches Woods Educational Project (Newberry)
Dams Safety Inventory (Lexington, Aiken)
Dry Fire Hydrants (Richland)
Outdoor Education Center (Batesburg-Leesville, Aiken)
Wildlife Assessment & Enhancement (McCormick)
Urban Conservation Display (Greenville)
Environmental Conservation Survey (Richland)
E-911 Addressing Phase (Saluda)
Ninety-Six Historical Park (Greenwood)
John De la Howe School Construction (McCormick)
Greenwood State Park (Greenwood)
Lynches Woods/Park Campaign (Newberry)

What's coming up next?

May 1995

Grassland Evaluation Surveys (Abbeville)
Outdoor Education Classroom (Lexington)
Community Outreach (Greenville)
Wetlands Study
AmeriCorps Recruitment

***IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR AMERICORPS
PROJECTS OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMA-
TION ABOUT THE AMERICORPS PROGRAM
CONTACT US AT:***

***(803) 942-9743 OR
(803) 321-6226***



AMERICORPS IS A NEW NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO ADDRESS THE NATION'S CRITICAL NEEDS IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, HUMAN SERVICE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS. THE PROGRAM PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR A DIVERSE GROUP OF MEMBERS FROM VARIOUS AGES AND BACKGROUNDS TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY WHILE RECEIVING EDUCATIONAL AWARDS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING. SOUTH CAROLINA HOSTS THREE OF THE FORTY-SIX UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) TEAMS. THEY ARE SPONSORED BY THE RURAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (RECD), THE FORESTRY SERVICE (FS), AND THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS). THE USDA PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION IN ITS PROGRAM ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, RELIGION, AGE, DISABILITY, POLITICAL BELIEFS, AND MARITAL OR FAMILY STATUS.

**USDA/NRCS AMERICORPS
120 MAIN ST., RM 135
GREENWOOD, SC 29646**

**USDA/ Anti-Hunger Corps
202 N. Hayden Street
Belzoni, MS 39038**

Quarterly Report

period covering December 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995

Submitted by Ms. Sarah Hood, Project Coordinator

to

**Mr. Alfred Martin, Director
Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps
Jackson, MS**

March 31, 1995

**USDA/AMERICORPS
ANTI-HUNGER CORPS
202 N. HAYDEN ST.
BELZONI, MS 39038
... Serving Humphreys And Sunflower Counties**

QUARTERLY REPORT

Period Covering December 1, 1995 *through* March 31, 1995

- (A.) Number of Members enrolled at end of quarter vs number who enrolled at the time of launch:
10/14
- B.) Total number of hours of direct service performed by Members and total number of hours Members were in training:
9,456/254 (cumulative hours for all Corps members)
- C.) Any major staff or structural changes you have made:
No major staff or structural changes were made this quarter.
- D.) Progress towards meeting community service objectives:

Objective #1 Food Stamp Outreach:

One-hundred and twenty (121) residents contacted the Anti-hunger Corps office about food related needs. Upon request, Corps members and staff accompanied clients to the food stamp office. Seventy clients (70) were referred to the food stamp office. Corps members distributed 2,530 food stamp flyers throughout the target communities to encourage low-income residents to apply for food stamps and other services. Listed below are statistics from the Mississippi Department of Human Services regarding the number of food stamp participants in the target counties from August, 1994 to January, 1994.

	November '94	December '94	January '94
Humphreys	3,997	4,024	4,038
Sunflower	10,788	11,243	11,277

	August '94	September '94	October '94
Humphreys	4,187	4,021	4,076
Sunflower	11,214	11,086	11,228

To encourage clients to become self-sufficient, efforts are being made to develop strategies for assisting a selected number of low-income residents in Sunflower and Humphreys County to raise their gardens.

Objective #2 Senior Citizen Outreach:

AmeriCorps members and staff surveyed the directors of the elderly feeding sites to determine strategies to encourage elderly participation in the elderly feeding programs. Our findings revealed that twenty (20) additional elderly persons are needed before the grantee of the elderly feeding site can request additional funds through their Planning and Development District (PPD). PPD is the primary funding source for the grantee agency. Staff and Corps members are planning and developing strategies to identify and recruit the required number of additional elderly participants.

Objective #3 Summer Feeding Site Increase:

Corps members and staff members interviewed school officials regarding the procedures and regulations for increasing the number of summer feeding sites. School officials in both Sunflower and Humphreys County expressed an interest in increasing the number of summer feeding sites, but maintained that issues regarding school liabilities have hindered efforts to expand feeding sites. Staff and AmeriCorps members are planning and coordinating activities to meet with high school students to increase their support and participation in the school breakfast and school lunch programs. High school students will be encouraged to develop focus groups designed to increase overall student participation in the school feeding programs.

Objective #4 Nutrition Outreach:

During this period, Corps members have conducted in-school nutrition activities with a total of one-hundred and sixty-five (165) children attending daycare, headstart, and elementary schools in the target communities. Corps members developed and

implemented creative activities designed to teach the children about the four basic food groups. Corps members provided the children with creative nutrition activities which involved mathematics, creative arts, and language arts. Also, Corps members distributed five hundred and ninety-six (596) nutrition related pamphlets in the target communities.

Objective #5 Food Safety Outreach:

Corps members distributed three hundred and thirteen (313) pamphlets on food safety. Corps members and staff are planning activities to conduct a workshop on food safety in each of the target counties.

Objective #6 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Outreach:

A volunteer tax consultant conducted a workshop with Corps members regarding EITC. Each Corps member was offered assistance in applying for EITC. Also, Corps members canvassed the community and distributed seven hundred and thirty-two (732) flyers to encourage residents to apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit. As a service to the Anti-hunger Corps, WELZ radio station in Humphreys County provided public service announcements which began January, 1995 through April, 1995 regarding EITC.

E.) Primary Accomplishments:

During this quarter, AmeriCorps members and staff assisted and referred one hundred and twenty one (121) clients to the food stamp office and other food related programs. Upon request, Corps members and staff accompanied clients to the food stamp office. We believe that the increase in the number of food stamp recipients (see statement D) during November 1994 to December, 1994, and January, 1995 was in large part a result of AmeriCorps members and staff efforts locating and encouraging eligible clients to participate in the food stamp program. During a site visit of the Anti-Hunger Corps on March 27, 1995, Mr. Joel Berg, Director, USDA National Community Service, heard testimonies from clients of the Anti-hunger Corps. Six (6) clients told Mr. Berg about their appreciation of the work Corps members and staff are providing in the communities. Clients asked Mr. Berg for his continue assistance in ensuring that the Anti-hunger Corps remain in the community. Also, the owner and announcer of WELZ radio station in Belzoni came by the Anti-hunger Corps office and interviewed Mr. Berg and clients. Immediately following the interview, the announcer played the interview on the air, and has agreed to provide Mr. Berg with a copy of the interview.

After the live-broadcast, a pregnant, Caucasian female client told Mr. Berg that she feels the Anti-hunger Corps helped saved the life of her unborn child by assisting her in obtaining food stamps. Client stated that she was afraid to visit the food stamp office by herself because previously a food stamp worker tore up her food stamp

application, and tried to intimidate her. Ms. Hood accompanied client to the food stamp office. With the assistance of the Corps members and staff, the client received emergency food stamps, and receives food stamps on a monthly basis. Regarding the clients statement, Mr. Berg commented that Anti-hunger Corps and staff efforts certainly played a vital role in this case by helping this client to gain access to the food stamp program.

(F.) Primary challenges:

Our Primary challenge during this quarter involved our efforts to contact potential funders. However, we are planning and developing activities to obtain the required amount of matching funds. However, we are presently planning and coordinating our fundraising activities with Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps.

(G.) Primary training and technical assistance need:

The Corps members would benefit from specialized training fundraising, career planning, nutrition and related entrepreneurship training. Staff could also benefit from attending various workshops that are primarily conducted in Jackson, Mississippi and other neighboring cities. Staff will contact grantee agency to request more information about additional staff training.

(H.) Media coverage:

WELZ Radio station in Humphreys County and the Belzoni Banner newspaper (see attachments) of Humphreys County are our primary sources for broadcasting project activities. These two entities have been very supportive in advertising our project activities each time we requested their services. WELZ serves several of the neighboring counties which includes Sunflower County. During prime time, the project coordinator on numerous occasions announces project activities on WELZ "live" broadcast program.

Attachments

ANNOUNCEMENT

Your local Americorp Program, the USDA Anti Hunger Corps, would like to remind everyone that March is National Nutrition Month. The Anti Hunger Corps salutes everyone serving in federally funded nutrition programs like school breakfast, lunch, and summer feeding, WIC, commodities and food stamps. Thanks to everyone providing nutrition services in Humphreys County.

Parents, remember that it is important for you and your children to eat well-balanced meals which include the proper amounts of fruit, vegetables, meats, bread, and milk dairy products. Call your doctor, home economist, dietitian, or nutritionist if you have questions about your health and nutrition.

AMERICORPS TAKES
DRAAMA AND
STORYTELLING TO CLASS

The local Americorps program, USDA Anti-Hunger Corps, sponsored a nutrition session on Wednesday, January 25, 1995 at the Ida Green Lower Elementary School in Belzoni. A captive audience of 37 students in Miss Rosie Smith's third grade class watched six corps members present "The Lonely Peanut Butter Sandwich" skit. In the skit, a small boy learns to add variety and more nutrition to his regular lunch, a peanut butter sandwich and milk.

Licensed dietitian Stephanie Ollmore, from Mid-Delta Home Health, talked to the class about good eating habits and the food pyramid. Ollmore also told a delightful and informative story of the "Nutra Bird". A hero, the Nutra Bird eats healthy foods and encouraged others to be like him in order to live better and longer in his kingdom.

This session was the second of the Anti-Hunger nutrition workshops being held in Humphreys and Sunflower counties to promote good nutrition and health.

For more information about Americorps and the Anti-Hunger team, come to 202 N. Hayden St., Belzoni, MS or call (601) 247-1305.

The Belzoni Banner
February 1, 1995

TO: THE BELZONI BANNER

**FROM: USDA ANTI HUNGER CORPS
202 N. HAYDEN ST.
BELZONI, MS 39038
(601) 247-1305**

CONTACT: Sarah Hood, Project Coordinator

**AMERICORPS TAKES
DRAMA AND STORYTELLING TO CLASS**

THE LOCAL AMERICORPS PROGRAM, USDA ANTI-HUNGER CORPS, SPONSORED A NUTRITION SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1995 AT THE IDA GREEN LOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BELZONI. A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE OF 37 STUDENTS IN MISS ROSIE SMITH'S THIRD GRADE CLASS WATCHED SIX CORPSMEMBERS PRESENT "THE LONELY PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICH" SKIT. IN THE SKIT, A SMALL BOY LEARNS TO ADD VARIETY AND MORE NUTRITION TO HIS REGULAR LUNCH, A PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICH AND MILK.

LICENSED DIETICIAN STEPHANIE GILMORE, FROM MID-DELTA HOME HEALTH, TALKED TO THE CLASS ABOUT GOOD EATING HABITS AND THE FOOD PYRAMID. GILMORE ALSO TOLD A DELIGHTFUL AND INFORMATIVE STORY OF THE "NUTRA BIRD". A HERO, THE NUTRA BIRD EATS HEALTHY FOODS AND ENCOURAGES OTHERS TO BE LIKE HIM IN ORDER TO LIVE BETTER AND LONGER IN HIS KINGDOM.

THIS SESSION WAS THE SECOND OF THE ANTI HUNGER NUTRITION WORKSHOPS BEING HELD IN HUMPHREYS AND SUNFLOWER COUNTIES TO PROMOTE GOOD NUTRITION AND HEALTH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AMERICORPS AND THE ANTI HUNGER TEAM, COME TO 202 N. HAYDEN ST., BELZONI, MS OR CALL (601) 247-1305.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DATE

REFERENCE SLIP

4-10-95

TO

Deise Bennett

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACTION | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> PER PHONE CALL |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> INITIALS | <input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR SIGNATURE |

REMARKS

Here is a copy
if Joel did not
get the FAX.

FROM

Frank [Signature]
Haywood Co CFS-A
Waynesville, NC 28786

My Journey Home

I'm glad to have this opportunity to share my story with you and how I was able to face many of my fears and turn my back on feelings of helplessness. It's wonderful to know that I have a voice in the story of my life. After years of believing there was nothing I could do to change my life, I found hope on the road to family self-sufficiency. More importantly, my children, Michael, Misty, Megan, and RL are on this road with me.

When I was two weeks old, my parents moved from Libby, Montana to the mountains of Madison County, NC. Mother was anxious to return to her native home. I was a quiet child; some thought I lived in "a dream world" and was not too bright. Sometime around my sixth birthday, my parents divorced and I spent the next ten years living with one parent awhile then the other. Daddy was in the National Guard so we moved often. Adventures with Daddy are among the happiest memories of my childhood. When I was fifteen, I was placed in the custody of the department of social services. A few months later I went to live with my father in Kingsport, TN.

I was happy to be there because I was a daddy's girl. Still, I was behind in school and I was afraid that I would never be able to do pass. In addition, I felt different from the other kids in school and thought there was something wrong with me. Each day the challenge to walk into the building grew until, halfway through my junior year, I dropped out. Many childhood dreams shared in late night talks with my dad lay shattered before me as I left school one day believing that I would never return. I felt shame at my failure. My father, though loving and kind had no idea what to do with a troubled teen.

In one way I did live in a "dream world." Sometime early in my life, I created a fairy tale in which someone very kind and loving would come and get me, care for and protect me. He would reach out, touch my cheek and never would another tear flow there. I imagined him to be tall, strong, and brave. Finally, as if he was made to order, he walked into my life with all the attributes I thought I needed to survive. That is, all the ones I lacked. He was bigger, stronger, braver than anyone I had ever known. I felt safe with him. I never had to be afraid anymore. I thought.

He began filling in all the empty spaces in my life. He believed I was a good person, a lovable person. "There is no one like you in all of the world," he would say. Moreover he needed me. "What more is there," I reasoned, "than being needed and never being afraid anymore." He had a problem with alcohol, but I could fix that. I thought.

I wanted to be worthy of this answer to my dreams, so I became just what he needed - an all-loving, all-forgiving, good person. I would do anything for love and protection. When I first encountered the rage within him, I thought it was a small price to pay for love and protection. I clung to my burdensome dream through ten years of physical and emotional abuse and despair. I played my role well always believing that I had said or done something that caused him to lose control. As time passed, I became more afraid of leaving than of staying. "I'll find you no matter where you go. You will wake up and find me at your bedside." he told me. I believed him.

Then in the spring of 1988 I stumbled head on into reality. I remember the despair I felt when I looked in my children's faces and knew they depended on me. Daydreams and fairy tales would not protect them and provide for their needs. I wanted to offer them strength and courage and protect them from the hopelessness I felt. I lifted my head and began looking for a way out of the horrible world I had created for my children and myself.

Fortunately, I learned that there was no waiting list for public housing in Madison County. I was reluctant to return to the county that was the keeper of so many unpleasant memories for me. Nevertheless, we moved into an apartment a couple of weeks before school started. Michael - 10, Misty - 7, Megan - 5, and RL - 3, ran through the apartment exploring their new home as I took my first step toward independence.

A few weeks later I came home one day and found a pamphlet in my door that read, "Are you a parent, grandparent, or guardian of a three or four year old and do you want to learn to read or get your GED?" I wondered what having a three or four year old had to do with getting my GED, but I read on. The pamphlet mentioned "family," "parenting skills," and "self-esteem." I remembered signing up for GED programs before. I always found plenty of excuses not to go. Once again I was about to say "maybe someday" when I read that meals and transportation were provided.

I imagined myself going back to school, and taking RL, my three year old son, with me. Michael, Misty, and Megan were in school so I didn't need a baby sitter. I remember how excited I was when I went to a neighbor's house and called Mildred Shelton, the director of the Madison County Kenan Family Literacy Project. When I hung up the phone, I sat for a minute and thought, "Maybe no one will find out that I am not very bright, I will just go and do my best and maybe it will help me get a job."

3

I didn't know that the phone call I just made was to mark the beginning of a new life for my children and myself. Someday was emerging from behind the clouds and hope was in view. I walked home a bit taller and more confident. I stopped and sat on the steps leading up the hill to our apartment and asked RL, "Would you like to ride the big bus to school with your brother and sisters?" He grinned. I took a deep breath and thought, "All I have to do is get on the bus, just get on the bus."

By evening my confidence was gone. I leafed through the many pages of excuses I had for not going back to school. "There is no way I can go back to school, not after all these years," I thought. After thirteen years it was too late for me. What would I wear? What will people think of me riding the bus with children and going back to school? I was too old to do that. Most of all, I was afraid that I would fail again.

Once again fear was closing the door on my second chance, but on this unique occasion, I guess you could say opportunity not only knocked, it took me by the hand when I got a visit from the teachers of the family literacy program. I learned that RL would attend preschool class in the morning while I attended GED class. After we had lunch together, we would participate in PACT - parent and child interaction. The program would prepare RL for kindergarten. When they left I looked around our apartment furnished with only one chair and a foam mattress on which to sleep and thought, "It's up to me. I have to try."

I remember how nervous I was getting ready to go back to school that September morning in 1988. It was no small endeavor to get everybody ready. We were all excited. Though I was scared, really scared, I don't think I could have backed out if I had wanted. The children expected me to go. I heard Michael and Misty talking. "Mama and RL are going to ride the bus," they giggled. "We'll all be in school. Mama Too!" Finally we were ready to go. My hands trembled as I fumbled with the lock. Trying to calm myself I decided to pretend that I was just walking my children to the bus stop. They were beaming and I felt almost as if I had no control over what was happening. Four pair of hopeful eyes were leading me toward a better life.

It wasn't easy to stand there and wait for the bus with Michael, Misty, Megan, and RL. I wanted to leave, to walk away, turn my back on the feelings that arose in me, but I felt as if our lives depended on my being brave - for once in my life. I could barely breath as I stared down the road and watched for the bus. Finally it came. I took a deep breath and held RL very close as I got on the bus. "Besides," I thought, "I don't have to go back if I don't want to."

During the next nine months I made plans to quit several times. As I encountered personal problems, new ones as well as those from the past, I saw no solutions. Each time I told Mildred that I would not be able to continue in the program, she said, "What do you mean you are not coming back!" As I tried to explain I realized that I did not have to quit. There was a way. With Mildred there was always a way. Slowly I grew to believe in myself. With baby steps I continued toward "someday" and the hope of a better life.

So with Mildred's strength and the encouragement of my friend and teacher, Alegra Alyward, I completed the year and earned my GED. More importantly, I learned that I am my children's first and most important teacher. Prior to this program, I believed that we were low achievers because we were not as "smart" as others. What a relief to learn that individuals learn differently and everyone has potential. My praise and example would encourage my children to do well in school. Perhaps they would stay in school and not go the long way around as I did. Together we embarked on a new life of learning. Michael - 10 and Misty 8, received their first awards for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Reading that year. Megan, after a struggling beginning in first grade, went on to make, as her teacher phrased it, "remarkable progress" and was ready for second grade. And my shy little RL, who once hid behind his mother's skirt, began exploring his surroundings and learned that he can have an effect on his environment. Later he completed kindergarten with perfect attendance and a wonderful feeling of accomplishment. RL's attitude toward learning is illustrated by a comment he made one evening when I told him how well he was coloring. He looked up at me with eyes aglow and said, "I'm good at everything, ain't I Mama!" It was then, looking at his bright face I knew that believing in oneself is half the battle.

I remember the day I considered the possibility of going to college. As a young girl I would not walk across the campus at Mars Hill College. I thought college was a place where other people go who were either really smart or came from wealthy families. When Mildred suggested that I apply to Mars Hill College I looked at her in disbelief. I felt as if someone else was talking when I replied, "I would give anything to go to Mars Hill College."

College was much different than the family literacy program. No longer was I able to work at my own pace. Determined to do my best, I worked very hard my first year. You can imagine my surprise when I ^{received a} letter from the dean inviting me to attend Honor's Day. I walked across campus reading that letter over and over. Shortly after that, I earned an academic scholarship.

Some semesters were more difficult than others. My endurance was tested by many personal problems. Thankfully I found the resources I needed to deal with those problems and continue on this road toward family self-sufficiency. When the child support enforcement agency located my children's father, he decided that it would be less expensive if the children lived with him. So we went to court. I borrowed \$1000.00 to pay an attorney; he continued to pay no child support; I appeared for court; he did not. Finally I was granted full custody. When my children were sick, my car quit, my two year old niece destroyed my only copy of a major research paper, and the hamster died, it required great effort to stay in school. Much of the strength to continue came from the joy of learning that I can care for and protect my children and myself. Another motivating force was the many rewards and accomplishments that my family enjoyed.

In the spring of 1992 I was selected to serve as a college marshal as I was in the top eight of the junior and senior classes. In the fall of that year, I was invited and joined Alpha Chi National College Honors Scholarship Society. Although I didn't know what it was, it sounded good. I was invited to speak at the graduation ceremony for those who earned their GED in 1989. In addition, I visited area schools and talked to students about the importance of staying in school. I spoke at the first and third National Conferences on Family Literacy in Chapel Hill, NC and Louisville, KY respectively. I shared my experiences in family literacy and the JOBS program at the Third Annual JOBS Conference in NC. In 1989, I spoke at the Barbara Bush Symposium on Family Literacy where I met Barbara Bush. In addition to other educational groups and volunteer organizations, I addressed the Mars Hill College Board of directors and Mars Hill College Alumni and Friends. I was fortunate to speak at the commendation ceremony for the parents and children in the Kenan Family Literacy Project, of which I am a former student. On May 15, 1994, I graduated summa cum laude from Mars Hill College with a degree in Social Work.

I think about these accomplishments and compare that to the days when I curled my toes in my shoes, stared at the ground and wished I could disappear. I was not looking down on November 22, 1992. I was looking up at President Bush as he said, "Regina Lynn, you have always wanted to thank your father for his faith and support. What better way than by earning your college degree and using it to teach others the joys and rewards of learning. For overcoming shyness, fear, and the challenges of single parenthood, we salute your courage and strength by presenting you with this symbol of achievement." President Bush placed a gold medallion around my neck and kissed me on the cheek. The program, entitled "To Be Free: The National Literacy Honors" aired on national TV on December 26, 1992.

Michael is 17 now. These tumultuous teen years have taken their toil, but thankfully we have reached calmer waters. Michael is no longer in school. Words can't describe the anguish I felt when he dropped out of school. However, in time I began to understand that nothing I could say or do would change his mind. I had to allow him to experience it for himself. Instead of concentrating on his decision to drop out of school, I affirm him for being diligent, trustworthy, and considerate of our financial needs. I believe he will recognize the importance of a formal education and his story will include a chapter on going back to school.

Misty is now a freshman in high school. She enjoys writing poetry and drawing. Megan, in the 7th grade, has established a baby sitting business in our neighborhood. She does well in school. She plays clarinet in the band and is learning to play the piano. RL is in the 4th grade. He likes math and enjoys reading. His hobbies include collecting rocks and playing ball. He reminds me daily of the promise in all of us as he looks at me with big brown eyes convinced that there is nothing he can't do.

Graduation from college with a degree in social work brought much joy and a sense of accomplishment. However, I was anxious about ~~about~~ going to work. I wondered if employment would bring challenges for which I was not ready and again I feared failure. After I considered a budget based on the earnings I would receive from a few employment opportunities, I wasn't sure if I could afford to get off the AFDC roles. If an emergency arose that required spending beyond my budget, what would I do? At the same time, I was eager to find employment. I wanted to show, that given the opportunity, I could succeed. Moreover, if I did not become self-sufficient, then others like myself may not receive a second chance as I did. So with mixed feelings, I prepared for the next step of this journey.

Then I heard about AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps would allow me to pursue my goal of family self-sufficiency - one step at a time. Rather than entering the work world unprepared for the responsibilities involved in full-time employment, I would volunteer in return for a stipend. This would allow me to give back to my community and support others in their efforts to meet their needs and pursue their dreams. In addition, I would gain invaluable work experience. I was supported by public assistance much of my life and had virtually no work experience. AmeriCorps lessened the fear of letting go of a way of life and setting out on an unfamiliar path.

Since I began in early October 1994, I have received much training in the social work field. I worked with the In-Home-Services in which I provided case management for clients/families of Madison County. Through this program, individuals/families receive assist with home management tasks to enable them to avoid out of home placement.

When I began 13 families were being served. Seven additional families are being served through this program. Case management includes assessing client's functional abilities in the following areas: physical health, mental health, social support, activities of daily living, environmental conditions and financial situation. The goal includes coordinating delivery of needed services.

In addition to the above, I assessed 15 families and prioritized those according to need and placed on a waiting list or referred them to other agencies. I developed a letter to inform applicants of their position on the waiting list and when services may be provided. I worked with community members and agencies to build a ramp for an elderly man, locate a wheelchair for an elderly man, and identified resources to make improvements to an elderly couple's home. To further enhance services to those being served by the program as well as provide some services to those on the waiting list, I visited Mars Hill College and presented students with information about volunteer opportunities. I received some interest, and will continue trying to establish an ongoing volunteer network with the college.

In early January, 1995, I began working with agency heads, county schools, businesses, and community members to establish a family resource center for the families of Madison County. A family resource center provides a comprehensive array of family support programs, services, and activities uniquely designed to meet the needs of each community.

Our center, entitled LISTENING TO FAMILIES, will open in February. I developed and pretested a survey to determine the needs and interests of county residents. A professor at Mars Hill college is volunteering his time to advise me and will identify students to help enter the data into the computer. These surveys will be sent home with students from all county schools. Likewise, many county businesses will present surveys to their employees. I established agreements with 7 community businesses to place drop boxes in their businesses. Hopefully this will increase input from families in more remote areas of the county. A newspaper ad invited community support and involvement. Students in the family literacy program made survey drop boxes and posters to distribute throughout the county. Further, our local paper is providing a charitable subscription for a newspaper. I am currently working with parents, community agency employees, and a graphic artist at Mars Hill College to develop a logo. All are volunteering their time.

I left Madison County some years ago, in search of someone to make my life better. I found only broken dreams and despair. Hope emerged when I enrolled in Madison County's Kenan Family Literacy Project. Though it was difficult, I'm thankful for my journey home, for home is where I found hope.

April 10, 1995

TO: Steve

From: Joel

8 pages, including this cover

Attached is a long-winded, yet compelling story, of one of our Members who personally received an award from President Bush in 1992 for her efforts to combat illiteracy. She details how she can accomplish ever more through AmeriCorps.

You may want to share this with your public affairs shop.

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Fortunately, I learned that there was no waiting list for public housing in Madison County. I was reluctant to return to the county that was the keeper of so many unpleasant memories for me. Nevertheless, we moved into an apartment a couple of weeks before school started. Michael - 10, Misty - 7, Megan - 5, and RL - 3, ran through the apartment exploring their new home as I took my first step toward independence.

A few weeks later I came home one day and found a pamphlet in my door that read, "Are you a parent, grandparent, or guardian of a three or four year old and do you want to learn to read or get your GED?" I wondered what having a three or four year old had to do with getting my GED, but I read on. The pamphlet mentioned "family," "parenting skills," and "self-esteem." I remembered signing up for GED programs before. I always found plenty of excuses not to go. Once again I was about to say "maybe someday" when I read that meals and transportation were provided.

I imagined myself going back to school, and taking RL, my three year old son, with me. Michael, Misty, and Megan were in school so I didn't need a baby sitter. I remember how excited I was when I went to a neighbor's house and called Mildred Shelton, the director of the Madison County Kenan Family Literacy Project. When I hung up the phone, I sat for a minute and thought, "Maybe no one will find out that I am not very bright, I will just go and do my best and maybe it will help me get a job."

I didn't know that the phone call I just made was to mark the beginning of a new life for my children and myself. Someday was emerging from behind the clouds and hope was in view. I walked home a bit taller and more confident. I stopped and sat on the steps leading up the hill to our apartment and asked RL, "Would you like to ride the big bus to school with your brother and sisters?" He grinned. I took a deep breath and thought, "All I have to do is get on the bus, just get on the bus."

By evening my confidence was gone. I leafed through the many pages of excuses I had for not going back to school. "There is no way I can go back to school, not after all these years," I thought. After thirteen years it was too late for me. What would I wear? What will people think of me riding the bus with children and going back to school? I was too old to do that. Most of all, I was afraid that I would fail again.

Once again fear was closing the door on my second chance, but on this unique occasion, I guess you could say opportunity not only knocked, it took me by the hand when I got a visit from the teachers of the family literacy program. I learned that RL would attend preschool class in the morning while I attended GED class. After we had lunch together, we would participate in PACT - parent and child interaction. The program would prepare RL for kindergarten. When they left I looked around our apartment furnished with only one chair and a foam mattress on which to sleep and thought, "It's up to me. I have to try."

I remember how nervous I was getting ready to go back to school that September morning in 1988. It was no small endeavor to get everybody ready. We were all excited. Though I was scared, really scared, I don't think I could have backed out if I had wanted. The children expected me to go. I heard Michael and Misty talking. "Mama and RL are going to ride the bus," they giggled. "We'll all be in school. Mama Too!" Finally we were ready to go. My hands trembled as I fumbled with the lock. Trying to calm myself I decided to pretend that I was just walking my children to the bus stop. They were beaming and I felt almost as if I had no control over what was happening. Four pair of hopeful eyes were leading me toward a better life.

It wasn't easy to stand there and wait for the bus with Michael, Misty, Megan, and RL. I wanted to leave, to walk away, turn my back on the feelings that arose in me, but I felt as if our lives depended on my being brave - for once in my life. I could barely breath as I stared down the road and watched for the bus. Finally it came. I took a deep breath and held RL very close as I got on the bus. "Besides," I thought, "I don't have to go back if I don't want to."

During the next nine months I made plans to quit several times. As I encountered personal problems, new ones as well as those from the past, I saw no solutions. Each time I told Mildred that I would not be able to continue in the program, she said, "What do you mean you are not coming back!" As I tried to explain I realized that I did not have to quit. There was a way. With Mildred there was always a way. Slowly I grew to believe in myself. With baby steps I continued toward "someday" and the hope of a better life.

So with Mildred's strength and the encouragement of my friend and teacher, Alegra Alyward, I completed the year and earned my GED. More importantly, I learned that I am my children's first and most important teacher. Prior to this program, I believed that we were low achievers because we were not as "smart" as others. What a relief to learn that individuals learn differently and everyone has potential. My praise and example would encourage my children to do well in school. Perhaps they would stay in school and not go the long way around as I did. Together we embarked on a new life of learning. Michael - 10 and Misty 8, received their first awards for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Reading that year. Megan, after a struggling beginning in first grade, went on to make, as her teacher phrased it, "remarkable progress" and was ready for second grade. And my shy little RL, who once hid behind his mother's skirt, began exploring his surroundings and learned that he can have an effect on his environment. Later he completed kindergarten with perfect attendance and a wonderful feeling of accomplishment. RL's attitude toward learning is illustrated by a comment he made one evening when I told him how well he was coloring. He looked up at me with eyes aglow and said, "I'm good at everything, ain't I Mama!" It was then, looking at his bright face I knew that believing in oneself is half the battle.

I remember the day I considered the possibility of going to college. As a young girl I would not walk across the campus at Mars Hill College. I thought college was a place where other people go who were either really smart or came from wealthy families. When Mildred suggested that I apply to Mars Hill College I looked at her in disbelief. I felt as if someone else was talking when I replied, "I would give anything to go to Mars Hill College."

College was much different than the family literacy program. No longer was I able to work at my own pace. Determined to do my best, I worked very hard my first year. You can imagine my surprise when I ^{received a} letter from the dean inviting me to attend Honor's Day. I walked across campus reading that letter over and over. Shortly after that, I earned an academic scholarship.

Some semesters were more difficult than others. My endurance was tested by many personal problems. Thankfully I found the resources I needed to deal with those problems and continue on this road toward family self-sufficiency. When the child support enforcement agency located my children's father, he decided that it would be less expensive if the children lived with him. So we went to court. I borrowed \$1000.00 to pay an attorney; he continued to pay no child support; I appeared for court; he did not. Finally I was granted full custody. When my children were sick, my car quit, my two year old niece destroyed my only copy of a major research paper, and the hamster died, it required great effort to stay in school. Much of the strength to continue came from the joy of learning that I can care for and protect my children and myself. Another motivating force was the many rewards and accomplishments that my family enjoyed.

In the spring of 1992 I was selected to serve as a college marshal as I was in the top eight of the junior and senior classes. In the fall of that year, I was invited and joined Alpha Chi National College Honors Scholarship Society. Although I didn't know what it was, it sounded good. I was invited to speak at the graduation ceremony for those who earned their GED in 1989. In addition, I visited area schools and talked to students about the importance of staying in school. I spoke at the first and third National Conferences on Family Literacy in Chapel Hill, NC and Louisville, KY respectively. I shared my experiences in family literacy and the JOBS program at the Third Annual JOBS Conference in NC. In 1989, I spoke at the Barbara Bush Symposium on Family Literacy where I met Barbara Bush. In addition to other educational groups and volunteer organizations, I addressed the Mars Hill College Board of directors and Mars Hill College Alumni and Friends. I was fortunate to speak at the commendation ceremony for the parents and children in the Kenan Family Literacy Project, of which I am a former student. On May 15, 1994, I graduated summa cum laude from Mars Hill College with a degree in Social Work.

I think about these accomplishments and compare that to the days when I curled my toes in my shoes, stared at the ground and wished I could disappear. I was not looking down on November 22, 1992. I was looking up at President Bush as he said, "Regina Lynn, you have always wanted to thank your father for his faith and support. What better way than by earning your college degree and using it to teach others the joys and rewards of learning. For overcoming shyness, fear, and the challenges of single parenthood, we salute your courage and strength by presenting you with this symbol of achievement." President Bush placed a gold medallion around my neck and kissed me on the cheek. The program, entitled "To Be Free: The National Literacy Honors" aired on national TV on December 26, 1992.

Lynn

Michael is 17 now. These tumultuous teen years have taken their toll, but thankfully we have reached calmer waters. Michael is no longer in school. Words can't describe the anguish I felt when he dropped out of school. However, in time I began to understand that nothing I could say or do would change his mind. I had to allow him to experience it for himself. Instead of concentrating on his decision to drop out of school, I affirm him for being diligent, trustworthy, and considerate of our financial needs. I believe he will recognize the importance of a formal education and his story will include a chapter on going back to school.

Misty is now a freshman in high school. She enjoys writing poetry and drawing. Megan, in the 7th grade, has established a baby sitting business in our neighborhood. She does well in school. She plays clarinet in the band and is learning to play the piano. RL is in the 4th grade. He likes math and enjoys reading. His hobbies include collecting rocks and playing ball. He reminds me daily of the promise in all of us as he looks at me with big brown eyes convinced that there is nothing he can't do.

Graduation from college with a degree in social work brought much joy and a sense of accomplishment. However, I was anxious about ~~about~~ going to work. I wondered if employment would bring challenges for which I was not ready and again I feared failure. After I considered a budget based on the earnings I would receive from a few employment opportunities, I wasn't sure if I could afford to get off the AFDC roles. If an emergency arose that required spending beyond my budget, what would I do? At the same time, I was eager to find employment. I wanted to show, that given the opportunity, I could succeed. Moreover, if I did not become self-sufficient, then others like myself may not receive a second chance as I did. So with mixed feelings, I prepared for the next step of this journey.

Then I heard about AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps would allow me to pursue my goal of family self-sufficiency - one step at a time. Rather than entering the work world unprepared for the responsibilities involved in full-time employment, I would volunteer in return for a stipend. This would allow me to give back to my community and support others in their efforts to meet their needs and pursue their dreams. In addition, I would gain invaluable work experience. I was supported by public assistance much of my life and had virtually no work experience. AmeriCorps lessened the fear of letting go of a way of life and setting out on an unfamiliar path.

Since I began in early October 1994, I have received much training in the social work field. I worked with the In-Home-Services in which I provided case management for clients/families of Madison County. Through this program, individuals/families receive assist with home management tasks to enable them to avoid out of home placement.

When I began 13 families were being served. Seven additional families are being served through this program. Case management includes assessing client's functional abilities in the following areas: physical health, mental health, social support, activities of daily living, environmental conditions and financial situation. The goal includes coordinating delivery of needed services.

In addition to the above, I assessed 15 families and prioritized those according to need and placed on a waiting list or referred them to other agencies. I developed a letter to inform applicants of their position on the waiting list and when services may be provided. I worked with community members and agencies to build a ramp for an elderly man, locate a wheelchair for an elderly man, and identified resources to make improvements to an elderly couple's home. To further enhance services to those being served by the program as well as provide some services to those on the waiting list, I visited Mars Hill College and presented students with information about volunteer opportunities. I received some interest, and will continue trying to establish an ongoing volunteer network with the college.

In early January, 1995, I began working with agency heads, county schools, businesses, and community members to establish a family resource center for the families of Madison County. A family resource center provides a comprehensive array of family support programs, services, and activities uniquely designed to meet the needs of each community.

Our center, entitled LISTENING TO FAMILIES, will open in February. I developed and pretested a survey to determine the needs and interests of county residents. A professor at Mars Hill college is volunteering his time to advise me and will identify students to help enter the data into the computer. These surveys will be sent home with students from all county schools. Likewise, many county businesses will present surveys to their employees. I established agreements with 7 community businesses to place drop boxes in their businesses. Hopefully this will increase input from families in more remote areas of the county. A newspaper ad invited community support and involvement. Students in the family literacy program made survey drop boxes and posters to distribute throughout the county. Further, our local paper is providing a charitable subscription for a newspaper. I am currently working with parents, community agency employees, and a graphic artist at Mars Hill College to develop a logo. All are volunteering their time.

I left Madison County some years ago, in search of someone to make my life better. I found only broken dreams and despair. Hope emerged when I enrolled in Madison County's Kenan Family Literacy Project. Though it was difficult, I'm thankful for my journey home, for home is where I found hope.

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[Copy of Thank You Card
from Malesus Elementary
5th Graders]



Dear Chris and Charissa,

We really appreciate you coming to our school. Your program was excellent! We learned a lot.

Thank you,
Malesus Elementary
5th graders

Americorp Work Report

January - March 1995
Carla M. Garrison
San Juan National Forest

My Americorp position with the San Juan is affording some very interesting and exciting work. I took the year off from my graduate studies in natural resource management at Colorado State University to be in the program. It has already proven to be a wise decision.

I am working on the forest plan revision with the San Juan and the Office of Community Services through Fort Lewis College. A partnership has been created to try a new approach to community participation in the plan. The work being done in preparation for this plan revision is forging new ground for the agency. My work is encompassing a number of areas. The main focus is on a concept developed by the CO state demographer called Economic Design (I have written a concept paper on this which is attached). An additional partnership has been developed with the demographer's office which will allow me to work closely with him in the near future.

The important thing to note is that the Economic Design concept is allowing me to do a great deal of outreach for the agency into the communities of southwestern Colorado (this includes five counties) via on-site surveys. I am designing surveys to gather significant data on three major forest dependent industries: timber, agriculture, and tourism. I am currently working on the timber industry which is not in good shape in our region. Having a Forest Service representative take the time to come out and talk to these folks has immeasurable benefits. Recently, I meet with three generations of a family who has run a small logging and mill operation for 30 years. As I was leaving the patriarch, who had been a bit gruff at first, called me back and said "We really appreciate your taking the time to just come out here and listen to what we think." We must learn to account for this type of benefit (Lou, ask Susan Odell in the WO).

This is especially true when this industry, which is predominately made up of small family run businesses, is dying at a rapid rate mainly due to our policies. I could go into great detail about this issue and others related to our working with communities as an agency. I will spare you here. I have been working with the agency through contracts for the past two years and have developed some personal insights. There are some incredible individuals working for the Forest Service, but unfortunately a few create public opinion in some cases.

At any rate, the industry reports I generate will be used in study groups we are forming to educate and involve the public in forest planning. The information is also being used in various local outlets. I will be making a number of presentations as we go along. These reports will give the community a realistic view of the economic impacts each industry has in the region. This information will help them decide for themselves what community and economic development strategies are appropriate. I am also involved on a weekly basis in the planning for the formation of our study groups (see attached fact sheets).

In addition, I have teamed up with a local rancher who is a very progressive thinker to form a

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local Holistic Resource Management group. If you aren't aware of HRM, you should be. Contact me for details if needed. We have had two meetings to date which included reps from the FS, BLM, ranching, real estate, and general community. I am involved with the planning for a Sustainable Forestry Products conference. There are other Americorp members involved as well. I have been present at a number of community meetings, a national conference, and the CO Rural Development Councils regional meetings twice.

I am very busy and very visible not just in one, but a number of communities. I can say this for my Americorp colleagues in the four corners as well. There is a dynamic and intelligent group of people down here. The program is fortunate. And, yes we are "getting things done." We need acknowledgement that rural community development is a slow process requiring patience. It does not happen over night, and if it does something is wrong.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

YAZOO COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

P. O. BOX 290

YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI 39194

March 1, 1995

Press Release: USDA AmeriCorps Program to Aid Local Microenterprise

Yazoo Community Action, Inc. and the Yazoo County Chamber of Commerce will hold a press conference Wednesday, March 1, 1995 at 10:00 a.m. to kick-off the Yazoo Microenterprise Program at the Yazoo County Chamber of Commerce, 212 E. Broadway, Yazoo City, MS.

As part of the application process for recognition as an Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community, a broad based segment of the Yazoo community met to devise a plan of action. In October 1994, USDA appointed an AmeriCorps member to assist in developing and implementing programs which were created as a direct result of the strategic plan.

AmeriCorps is a program that engages diverse groups of Americans in performing critical service to meet human, environment, public safety, and educational needs in return for vouchers for education, vocational training, or loan repayment.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams, composed of approximately 1,200 members, at 42 urban and rural sites nationwide: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team.

According to Arthur James, Executive Director of Yazoo Community Action, Inc., the AmeriCorps*USDA member has been essential in getting this program off the ground. "LaDonna initially worked closely with Diane Meyerhoff who served as our consultant for the Microenterprise Program," he said. "She has coordinated the program, held several meetings with partners, went to training workshops around the State, designed the Yazoo Microenterprise brochure and numerous other things in preparation for the program," he said. "She will continue her role in the Program as a counselor and instructor," said James.

The Yazoo Microenterprise Program is one of the first programs established from the strategic plan. Designed to heighten the awareness of small businesses in the overall economic development plan, the Yazoo Microenterprise Program appeals to existing and potential new businesses. Individuals will learn business management techniques and participate in hands-on activities which will enable them to become more self-sufficient.

A partner in the program is the Mississippi Department of Community and Economic Development. The DECD will assist with workshops and offer one-on-one counseling. The workshops offer the basics for small business management and include topics such as recordkeeping, cash-flow concepts, writing a business plan, etc.

Other partners include: AmeriCorps*USDA (Rural Economic and Community Development), Bank Plus of Yazoo City, Bank of Yazoo City, Deposit Guaranty National Bank of Yazoo City, Mississippi Department of Human Services - Division of Community Services, Yazoo City Public Housing Authority, and the Yazoo Housing Resident Council.

For more information, call LaDonna Gulley, Yazoo Community Action, Inc. - AmeriCorps*USDA Volunteer at 746-5742 or Glo Baker, Yazoo County Chamber of Commerce, 746-1273.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

I would like to take a few minutes to report to you some observations from last Thursday's visit by Ann Warner (Sen. Mark Hatfield), Shari Hildreth (Sen. Slade Gorton), and Scott Patterson (Rep. Linda Smith), accompanied by Ken Stampler, the coordinator of USDA's AmeriCorps programs in Washington State.

The visit began with a "Sponsor's Forum" meeting at the Forest Service office in Hood River. Representatives of 8 sponsors came to support us. Joan Frey, Klickitat County Commissioner, introduced herself to the staffers as "a budget-cutting Republican rancher who doesn't support these types of programs generally. But this is a program with winners for all." She went to tell the staffers that NWSA was a program too important to Klickitat County to cut.

Terry Feleppa (Hope's Place) said "there is no way Hope's could get done without this incredible group" from NWSA.

Jim Tindall (Columbia Gorge CC) said that the retaining wall we built saved a great deal of damage being done in the big rains of late Jan/early Feb.

Pete Kingsley (Kid's Kamp) pointed out that NWSA members put their program together on their own time after only one day's training, and "comments from students and administrators showed they did their job very well." He asserted that Kid's Kamp could not have had its self-image enhancement component this year without NWSA.

Mike Ferris (CRGNSA) said NWSA was a "perfect program for the Forest Service."

Chris Tyndall (BIA) said NWSA "did 2 things: something to make young Indian kids equal to others in school, and restored the faith of those at Cook's Landing" that government would actually do something to help them, rather than something to hurt them. He continued "if it wasn't for AmeriCorps, this project simply would not have gotten done."

Reading over this partial list of comments, I regret that all of you were not able to be there, or that it wasn't video-taped, because there was a strong emotional component to these sponsors' endorsements that I am not able to capture adequately. In short, these people spoke out very forcefully on our behalf.

Before lunch, we toured the Cooks Landing project with Chris, who continued to laud our program, and the Spring Creek Hatchery project. Rebecca and Dan did a great job explaining the work there, and the staffers seemed to enjoy it. I'm sorry about the confusion in meeting place that kept the staffers from meeting the rest of you. I would have liked for them to be able to get other perspectives on the Academy from you, but the visit went well.

After lunch, the staffers visited our compound, looked over the displays from the summit, and finished the day at TL School with Silas' and Brent's Project.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Wild class. They enjoyed that, and Ann (a former teacher) was quite vocal in praising the success she observed in that class. I saw several of you talking with the staffers after the class...I hope they shared with you some of the positive comments they made later to me.

2.

There are many pressures on the political process, and we can not know for sure how NWSA or AmeriCorps will fare a year or two down the road in Congress. But we have done our part, and did it well, to display the strengths of national service serving real people on a personal level. Ken, the Dep't of Agriculture AmeriCorps Coordinator, summed that up as he was leaving (a few minutes early, as he had gotten up at 4:00 a.m. to get down to us from the Seattle area). He told me, "I came down here trying to figure what I need to do to make your project work. I can see now that the best thing I can do is get out of your way. You are doing great things. If you ever need any help dealing with the folks at Headquarters, let me know. I'd be glad to run interference for you any time."

I got the pleasure of hearing all those compliments last Thursday, but you are the folks who earned them. My compliments to you all. And have a great Valentine's Day!



2-9-95

Gunner Family's "sweat equity"
on their house



2-9-95

Gunner Family's "sweat equity"
on their house

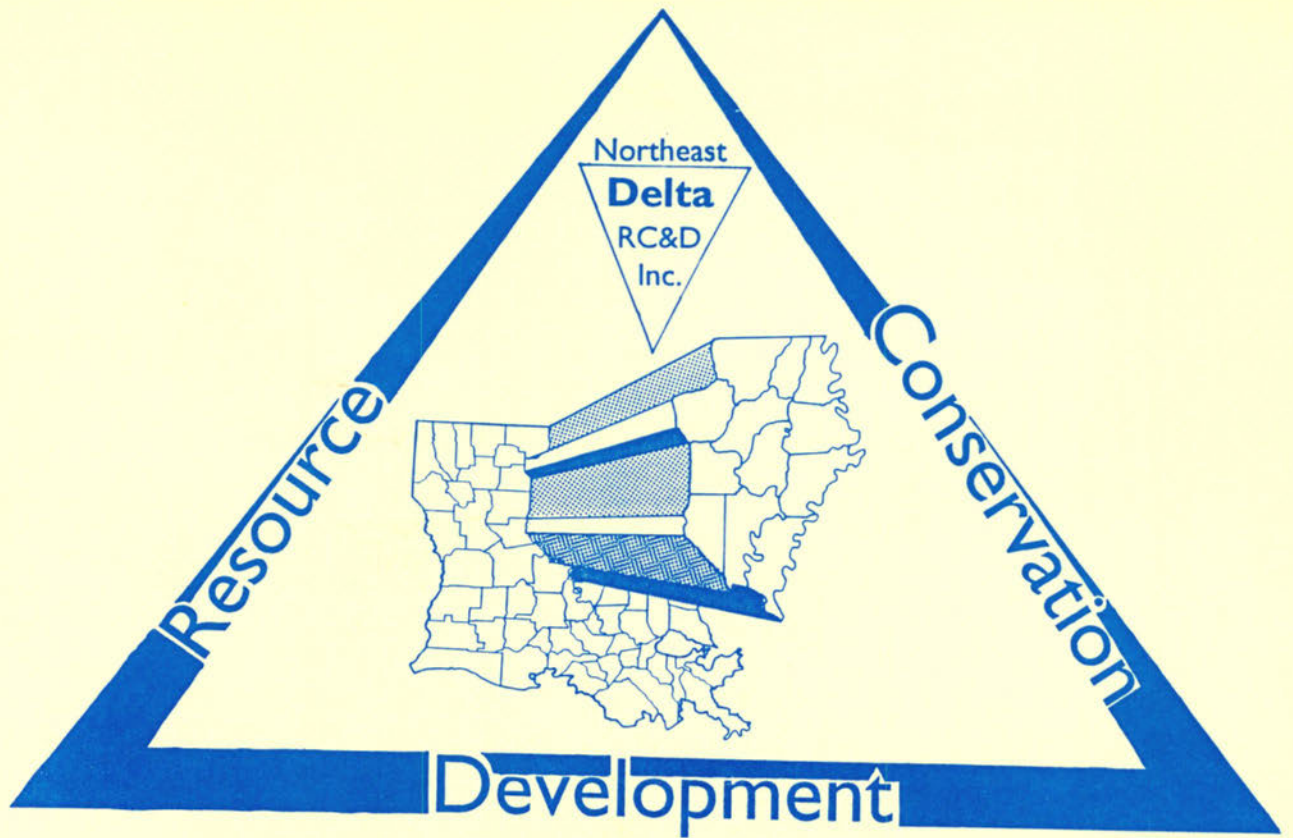


2-9-95

Gunner Family's "sweat equity"
on their house



2/13/95



**Northeast Delta
Resource Conservation and Development
Area, Inc.**

**Annual Report
1994**

NORTHEAST DELTA RC&D AREA, INC.
P.O. BOX 848
WINNSBORO, LA 71295



Words From The RC&D President

Nineteen Ninety-four (1994) ended with an up-beat note at Northeast Delta Resources Conservation and Development (RC&D). Our board of directors have worked faithfully on several projects. With continued support from our Full Council and citizens of our RC&D Area, we can only look forward to even greater accomplishments in Nineteen Ninety-five (1995). The Full Council for the year 1994 were as follows:

CALDWELL PARISH: Edward Malcomb*
Reggie Smith
Chifton Burns

LaSALLE PARISH: Bobby Francis*
Virgil Terral
Charles Williams
Bobby Joe Ganey

CATAHOULA PARISH: Glendon Hutchins*
H.C. Peck, Jr.
Cecil McGuffee, Sr.
Charlotte Aarons

MADISON PARISH: Irving Hopkins*
Thomas Joe Williams
Bobby Joe Lee
W.A. Windham
Barbara Wilkins (alternate)

CONCORDIA PARISH: Melvin Ferrington*
Clarence Singleton
Andy Anders

MOREHOUSE PARISH
John Shackelford, III
Harry Reese, Sr.
Hersey Goodwin

EAST CARROLL PARISH: W.L. Payne*
Verdia Mae Loyd
Danny Crawford
L. Whitlock

OUACHITA PARISH: Glenn Edwards*
Thad Spurlock

FRANKLIN PARISH: Glen Williams*
Leroy Scott
John Stapp
Ricky Campbell

RICHLAND PARISH: J.W. McGlothlin, Jr.*
Morgan Moss
Billy Joe Watkins
O. G. Morris

TENSAS PARISH: R.H. "Bud" Acker*
Richard Netterville
James Davis

WEST CARROLL PARISH: Dianne Sistrunk*
Willie Boyd
Leonard Harper
Harry Henderson

Officers for 1994 are as follows:

President
Vice-President
Secretary-Treasurer

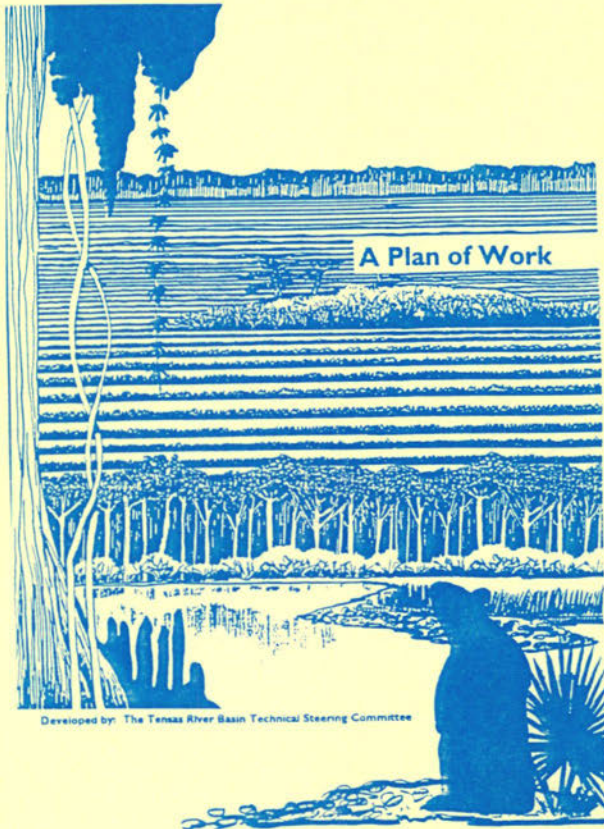
Irving Hopkins
Edward Malcomb
R.H. "Bud" Acker

Our RC&D Coordinator, Donna Remides, working with Tensas River Basin Coordinator Mike Adcock and Secretary Donna Roberts really has Northeast Delta RC&D on the move. Working successfully in areas such as tourism, forestry, water resources, community development and fire protection has given us confidence that there is little that can not be accomplished in the RC&D Area. I consider it an honor to have served as your president in 1994 and wish only the best for our Area. Enclosed you will find a list of the projects worked on in the Northeast Delta RC&D Area for the year of 1994.


Irving Hopkins

RC&D PROJECTS FOR 1994

Tensas River Basin Study



In November of this year, the project was considered completed. The purpose of this project was to identify the problems and needs in the Tensas River Basin Area that contain parts of East Carroll, Madison Tensas and Franklin Parishes. This study started in the Fall of 1992 by the initiation of Northeast Delta RC&D, National Resources Conservation Service formerly SCS, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Louisiana Department of Quality. With these concerned agencies plus concerned citizens in mind, the RC&D Council felt the need to adopt this type project. Out of this project many things have been accomplished. They are as follows:

1. Hiring a Tensas River Basin Coordinator, W.M. "Mike" Adcock..
2. 18 Different agencies working together for the same cause.
3. Local farmers and concerned citizens had the opportunity to voice their opinion.
4. The involved group has continued to develop more and more interest in their River Basin.

This project's current budget is \$208,730.22. This includes all the volunteer time that has been put into this project which is over 6,923 volunteer hours. In the year of 1993, the budget was \$45,807.85 with over 1,228 volunteer hours. The year of 1994, the budget was \$135,926.39 with over 4,928 volunteer hours. In 1995 to date the budget is \$26,996.22 with over 767 volunteer hours involved.



Museum grant...

A CHECK for \$8,000 was presented to the Schepis Museum in Columbia after a grant was obtained by Northeast Delta Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D). Edward Malcolm of Caldwell Parish, vice president of the Northeast RC&D is pictured presenting the check to Kay LaFrance, director of the museum. Also pictured are, back row, from left, board members Glendon Hutchins of Catahoula, President Irving Hopkins of Madison, Bobby Francis of LaSalle, Bud Acker, secretary-treasurer, of Tensas, and W.L. Payne of East Carroll. The Northeast RC&D is a non-profit, grassroots organization which includes a 12-parish area and is headquartered in Winnsboro. The RC&D seeks to improve the quality of life in the area by offering technical and financial assistance to community groups and governmental agencies. It is supported by parish police juries and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. (Sun photo by Monica Huff)

Assisting the Schepis Museum in Caldwell Parish

The RC&D Council was able to assist in the completion of the renovation of the Schepis Museum in Caldwell Parish in Columbia. Working with the Schepis Museum Executive Director Mrs. Kay La France, the RC&D Council applied for a grant from the U.S. Forest Service in the amount of \$17,500.00 This amount was not approved but the council was awarded a grant in the amount of \$8500.00. The RC&D Council awarded \$8,000.00 to the Caldwell Parish Museum and \$500.00 was used for administration cost.

Rural Community Giving Program (RCG)

Sm/JN

In the year of 1993, the response to this project was tremendous, so the RC&D Council felt the need to continue this project. These program is set up to assist the needy, youth, elderly, handicap and non-profit organizations.

The RC&D Council joined an organization by the name of Naeir that give grant products instead of grant money. These products ranges from office supplies to building supplies, toys, clothes, computers, kitchen supplies and many other things. The council joined this group and allowed the needy groups in the RC&D Area to place order

under their account. Only thing the needy groups had to pay was the shipping and handling and warehouse fee. Example: A group out of LaSalle received an order with the dollar value of \$19,043.00 and it cost them \$1021.00 for shipping and handing and warehouse fees. Over 35 different groups have taken advantage of this RC&D Program.



Northeast Louisiana Firefighters Association Festivity Day



The RC&D Council along with the Firefighter Association hosted a festivity day in conjunction with the Franklin Parish Catfish Festival. Over 10 different fire equipment vendors brought equipment and supplies to display to the public. All twelve parishes in the RC&D Area had firefighters present. Also, with the donation of the vendors and local stores, we were able to give away prizes (that related to fire protection) on every half hour throughout the day. Between the different fire departments, we hosted a tug-a-war contest, the firemen from Ward I out of Epps, LA were the champions.

Area-Wide Festival Brochure

Sm/JN



This project is a continuation from the year of 1993. The RC&D Council felt the need to develop a brochure that listed all the festivals that are held throughout the year in the RC&D Area. The council applied for a grant from the U.S. Forest Service for \$5000.00 for this project and was awarded it. We have had some complication, due to a number of festivals having been canceled due to lack of local support. Therefore, the council decided to make this brochure an annual event brochure which list rodeos, arts and crafts shows as well as festivals. All the parishes are in full support of this project.

Tensas Parish Tourism Brochure

Sm

This project is also a continuation from 1993, of which the status is of near completion. Working very closely with Council member Acker and the Tensas Parish Police Jury, the council felt the need to assist Tensas Parish in promoting their parish. They applied for grant from the U.S. Forest Service for \$4,000.00 and was awarded it. The proposed date for completion is the first of April, 1995.

Madison Parish Tourism Workshop

This is a continuation project. Working with Madison Parish Historical Society, Madison Parish Police Jury, and Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and the U.S. Forest Service, the RC&D council is nearing the completion of the project. Several concerned citizens from Madison Parish approached the council about how to educate the public "What is Tourism?" the council applied for a grant from the U.S. Forest Service for \$5000.00 and was awarded it. Out of this grant, the council was able to host 3 workshops on tourism. One for the Merchants on the Importance of Hospitality and another one for the employees of the merchants on Hospitality Training. Not all the money from the grant was used, so the remaining amount will be used to develop a parish brochure.

It's for You! Tourism Awareness Workshop

Tallulah Community Center

April 19, 1994

Approximate 1.30 a.m.

Sponsored by:

- Madison Parish Historical Society, Inc.
- Madison Parish Police Jury
- Northeast Delta RC&D
- Contact for further information



Tensas Parish Highway Signs Project

Sm

This project is to continue to promote tourism in Tensas Parish by the designing, purchasing and installing a number of highway signs to be placed along the highways as you enter into the parish and its three towns. These signs will be designed and placed for the sole purpose of inviting tourist and visitors to Tensas Parish. The Council applied for a grant from the U.S. Forest Service and was awarded \$5000.00. The money is being funneled through the Louisiana Office of Forestry. At the present time, the contract is waiting to be received.

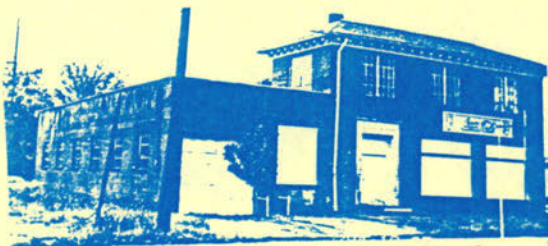
Richland Parish Tourism Development Project

Sm

The Original Richland Library Restoration Society, Inc. requested assistance for the Northeast Delta RC&D Council to promote tourism in Richland Parish. Once again, the council applied for a grant from the U.S. Forest Service and was awarded a grant in the amount of \$9,500.00. The grant will be used for the development of 3 brochures, one video and bus tour. The current status of this grant is the same as the Highway Sign Project.



Madison Parish Museum Renovation Project



This project is working with the different groups in Madison Parish who are concerned with the promotion of tourism. The main purpose is to renovate the Coca Cola Building in Tallulah and use it for a tourism museum. The current status of this project is the same as the last two projects.

JN

Lake Providence Outreach Community Service

The purpose of this project is to meet the needs of deprived children and adults in the parish by providing an opportunity to build their self-esteem by successfully completing their education. This project is targeted for persons who are of the greatest risk of dropping out of school, for whatever the reasons are. The council applied for a grant from the U.S. Forest Service and it was awarded, but is also in the same status as the previous 3 projects awarded it but also in the same status of the previous three projects.

JN

Shiitake Mushroom Research Project



The Northeast Delta RC&D Council in 1993, introduced a new industry into the RC&D Area, raising Shiitake Mushrooms. This new industry is on the grow, a state wide association has been set up. The council felt the importance of the need to conduct a research on which wood species would be best suitable in the northeast Louisiana area. The RC&D Coordinator volunteered the use of her land to conduct this project. Five types of wood was used. The wood used was sweetgum, hackberry, white oak, box elder and pecan. Of the five, the most productive species was sweetgum and the second was white oak. Three species of wood did not even produce any mushrooms.

Shiitake Mushroom Demonstration Project

Sm/JN

Because of the great interest for a grant from the U.S. purposes for wood products. The project will be conducted different individuals from each mushroom strain to see if the project will be starting up in



in raising the Shiitake Mushroom, the council applied Forest Service to promote the use of using different. The council was awarded this grant for \$5,500.00. in all twelve parishes in the RC&D Area. One to two parish will be given 50 to 75 logs inoculated with the person is really interested in raising mushrooms. This January of 1995.

Dry Hydrant Project

Sm/JN

This project is in conjunction with all the RC&D Area in the State of Louisiana. Northeast Delta RC&D is promoting the installation of 35 dry hydrants in each parish. Trailblazer RC&D applied for a grant from La. DNR to cover the entire state with dry hydrants. The grant was awarded, but the status of the contract is it is waiting for approval. All the police juries in the RC&D Area, have been approached and are interested in this project. Ten out of the twelve parishes have sent letters to the RC&D Council agreeing to participate in this program.





14th Annual
 Milan No-Till
 Crop Production
 Field Day
 and
 Planning Equipment
 Demonstrations
 and Bicentennial Celebration



Thursday, July 28, 1994
 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Hosted by the
 Northeast Delta RC&D Council
 in cooperation with
 the University of Tennessee

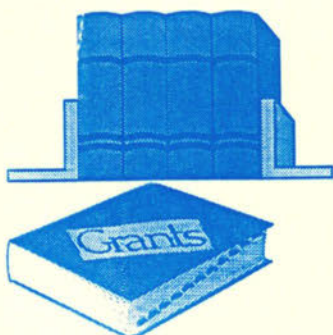
Milan No-Till Crop Production Field Day

Since the RC&D Area is predominately agricultural related income, the Council felt the need to further the education of interested farmers. The RC&D Council sponsored a trip to Milan TN, to send 40 farmers and agri-related company representatives on this trip. The project turn out to be a total success. The RC&D Council along with 14 other co-sponsors was able to rent a tour bus and sent 40 individuals to the field day in Milan, TN. Twenty-five farmers and 15 agricultural related companies or agencies benefited from this project

WRITING SUCCESSFUL GRANTS & PROPOSALS WORKSHOP

November 15 -16, 1994
 City Court Building
 Winnsboro, LA

Sponsored By:
 Northeast Delta RC&D



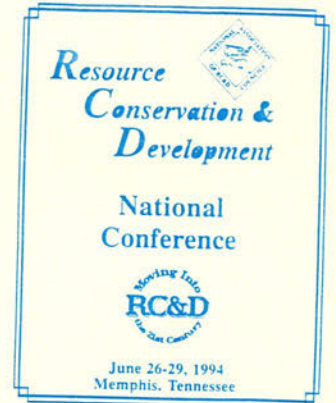
Grant Writing Workshop

The need to sponsor a grant writing workshop has been brought to the council attention several time in the last two years. In November of this year, the RC&D Council hosted a workshop of this kind. The council hired Jane Rutter from Grant, Inc. out of Missouri to conduct the workshop. This was a two day workshop. The total of 22 individuals took advantage of this workshop. One of the individual wrote the council a nice letter stating that this workshop was excellent and the time and money was well spent.



Attending the National RC&D Convention in Memphis, TN.

More than 250 RC&D Councils from around the country shared their projects and accomplishments in Memphis, Tn, June 26-29, 1994. Northeast Delta was fortunate enough to have had 4 council members to attend this National RC&D Convention. This was the first national convention ever held in the country for the RC&D Councils. Over 1,500 individuals partook of this affair. Attending from the Northeast Delta RC&D Area were J.W. and Audrea McGlothlin from Richland Parish, W.L. and Billye Payne from East Carroll Parish, Irving and Shirley Hopkins from Madison Parish, Bud Acker for Tensas Parish, with RC&D Coordinator, Donna Remides. All five RC&D Areas in Louisiana had members to attend this convention. This was an excellent convention.



AmeriCorp Members to the Northeast Delta RC &D Area

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorp is the President's national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public, and environmental needs at the community level. AmeriCorp provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their country in organized efforts, fostering citizen responsibility and building their communities. Americans age 17 or older can make a substantial commitment to their country and earn education awards for college or vocational training in return. USDA will pay a key role in the overall AmeriCorps program.

The Northeast Delta RC&D Members are as follow:

Susan Mullins
Tourism Specialist

Judith Ned
Community Planner

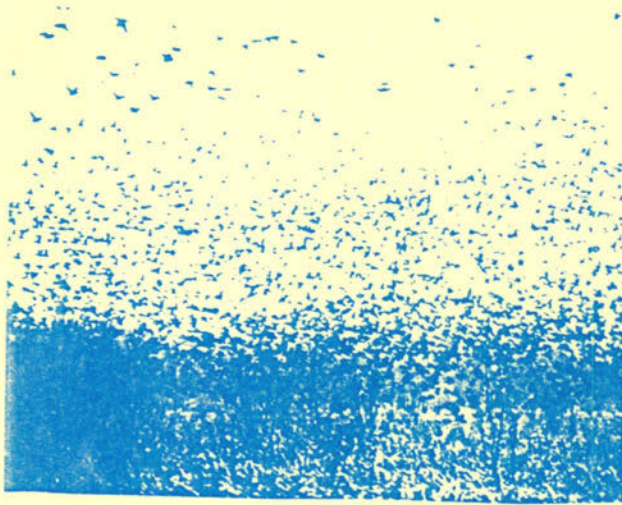


Dominic Beggan
Dry Hydrant Coordinator

Hope Beggan
Community Planner

TENSAS RIVER BASIN COORDINATOR'S PROJECTS

Mike Adcock



Wetland Demonstration Project

RC&D working with the East Carroll, Madison and Tensas-Concordia Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, USEPA VI and private landowners provided demonstration projects addressing the management, restoration and enhancement of wetlands in the Tensas River Basin of Louisiana.

Agricultural Conservation Field Day

On June 27, 1994, RC&D hosted an agricultural conservation field day for stakeholders in the Tensas River Basin. The tour began at the St. Joseph Agriculture Research Station where Dr. Larry Rogers and his staff discussed past, present conservation research at 3 private farms where conservation practices implementing such as; crops, integrated pest conservation tillage. This field day brought from the "traditional" (landowners, landusers, agricultural chemical reps., Extension Service Agents, NRCS, ASCS, Farm bureau, and LA. Dept. Of Ag. and For.) but also representatives from "non-traditional" agricultural state and federal agencies (USACOE, USFWS, USFS, USGS, and LDEQ).

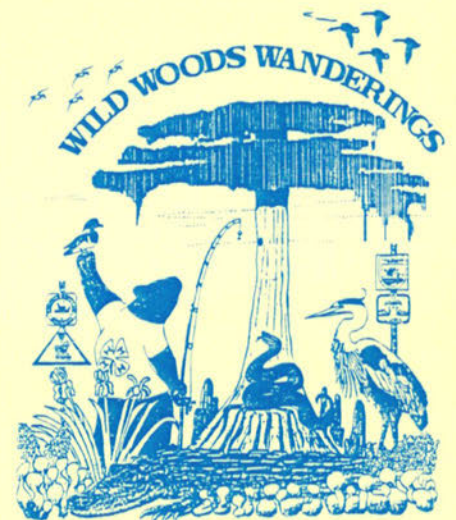


and future agricultural projects. The tour included stops the landowners discussed they were successfully crop rotation, winter cover and nutrient management, methods and buffer/filter strips. together not only representatives agricultural communities agriculture equipment dealers,

2ND Annual Environmental Education Summer Camp "Wild Wood Wandering"

Using the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge as a classroom, 16 local 4-H students experienced first-hand the diverse dynamics of a forested wetland ecosystem. The students were exposed to the cumulative impact on the forested wetland resources, flora, fauna, soil, water and wildlife of past, present and future utilization by man. Environmental, agricultural and socioeconomic issues, management of the resources, and natural processes of the biological communities were also "taught" to the students.

Co-sponsors: RC&D, LCES, LDWF and TRNWR.





Tensas River Site Reconnaissance Trip

During the Spring of 1994, RC&D, along with assistance from USDA-NRCS, performed a site reconnaissance trip on the Tensas River. The trip began at the rivers mouth at Lake Providence and ended at Highway 4 in Tensas parish and covered over 100 miles. RC&D and NRCS located and documented:

1. Silt and sediment accumulation (bars) in the river channel and tributary mouths that are causing water conveyance loss.
2. Vegetation growth in the channel and along channel banks that may contribute to water flow resistance. Vegetation species, percentage and dbh were also reported.
3. Bank slope and channel depth.
4. Areas with minimal or no riparian zones.
5. Adverse landuse practices along the river and tributaries that are contributing to silt and sediment depositional accumulations from nonpoint pollution sources.
6. Potential sites for sediment reduction and water control structures.
7. Potential riparian restoration sites.

Watershed Agricultural Council

In 1994 RC&D continued to host and facilitate the local Watershed Agricultural Council activities. The holistic approach to natural resource management requires the involvement of all stakeholders in the planning and implementation process. This council (made up of local farmers, Farm Bureau presidents and local SWCD board members) serves as one method of fostering active participation from the local agricultural community. The council provides essential local perceptions, opinions and direction.



Tensas River Basin Technical Steering Committee

National directives in resource management are creating "holistic" approaches to integrating environmental, ecological, agricultural and economic issues into comprehensive landuse and management planning. The assertion was made that equal emphasis when placed on these issues, will provide a planning methodology that will benefit the public domain. The Tensas River Basin is serving as a "demonstration" for applying holistic resource management assertions. For the past 2 years, local, state and federal agencies, organizations and landowners have participated in an effort to address problems in the basin. This steering committee has identified the problems and formulated recommended solutions that should be addressed if the environmental health of the basin is to be maintained and improved. Presently the steering committee has completed the Tensas River Basin study and it is being circulated for public review.



Presentations, Committee Invitations, Etc.

- A. Invited to serve on the Lower Mississippi River Valley Technical Steering Committee (LMV). LMV is a multi-agency (local, state and federal), organization and landowner committee comprised of 17 individuals who will plan and jointly sponsor a unified conservation strategy for the Delta region.
- B. Invited to serve on the LA. Soil and Water Conservation Alliance.
- C. Invited to serve on the Black Bear Technical Sub-Committee.
- D. Invited to serve on the News-Star panel discussion on agriculture and environmental issues.
- E. Invited to appear on "This Week In LA. Agriculture", LA. Farm Bureau television program.
- F. Invited to attend and make a presentation at the EPA VI, 1994 State Wetlands Protection Workshop in Sante Fe, New Mexico.
- G. Invited to participate and make a presentation on Ecosystem Management at the EPA VI 1994 Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas.
- H. Invited to attend the LA. Farm Bureau's Annual Environmental Committee Meeting.
- I. Invited by the State Basin Planning Practitioners to discuss "Integration of Agriculture Nonpoint Source Pollution Issues With Basin Planning" with participants from 9 states.
- J. Invited to attend and make a presentation to the American Water Resources Association.
- K. Invited to attend and make a presentation to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in Washington, D.C.
- L. Invited to attend the La. Dept. of Environmental Quality nonpoint source quarterly committee meetings.
- M. Invited to serve on LCES nonpoint source pollution panel at Camp Grant Walker Environmental Camp.
- N. Attended RC&D's Grant Writing Workshop.
- O. Attended "Farm Smart" conservation tillage conference.
- P. Attended Milan, Tennessee No-Till Field Day.
- Q. Invited to serve on the Tensas River Basin's sub-committee on hydrology.

Joel

Minnesotas monthly
media coverage which
I've received to date.

—

Janice

AmeriCorps General Description:

AmeriCorps is the President's National Service initiative to address environmental needs at a community level. Nationally, AmeriCorps is providing opportunities for 20,000 individuals to serve their country through organized community building efforts. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service, has selected 19 AmeriCorps members to serve in Minnesota.

There are 12 NRCS AmeriCorps members in Northwest Minnesota serving on three different projects. The NRCS Team Northwest AmeriCorps projects include: Development of the Agassiz Recreational Trail, Conservation Outreach, and Ag-Waste / Nutrient Management.

As a part of the projects NRCS AmeriCorps members plan and implement related community service project monthly.

Agassiz Recreational Trail:

The Agassiz Recreational Trail (ART) will be a 32 mile multi-use trail built on the abandoned Burlington Northern railbed. The trail will have two levels. The upper pathway will be for snowmobiling, hiking, biking, and bird watching. The lower pathway will be used for snowshoeing, skiing, dog sledding, and horseback riding.

Three NRCS AmeriCorps members are coordinating the promotional and the public relations aspects of the trail development. The members located in Twin Valley and Mahnomen are designing ART and tourism brochures for the surrounding area.

In addition to the promotional and public relations activities, the members are involved in obtaining funding for the construction of bridges and trail markers.

One AmeriCorps member stationed in Thief River Falls is assisting the Northwest Regional Development Commission with the promotion of a regional trails system.



Conservation Outreach:

Efforts to enhance community awareness of conservation practices and opportunities are being coordinated by six NRCS AmeriCorps members, located in five NRCS field offices

The members are focusing their efforts on promoting the following:

- * Living snowfences along local and state highways.

- * Residue management through tillage demonstrations.

- * County soil survey information.

- * Environmental education for youth and the general public.

Ag-Waste Nutrient Management:

Two AmeriCorps members are helping agency clientele in planning and managing ag-waste storage facilities and prepare nutrient management plans. The mission of this particular project is to increase public awareness of agriculture practices that are more cost effective for the producer.

To help achieve the mission two goals have been incorporated into the work plan. One of these goals is to carry out a marketing campaign targeted at livestock producers to explain the benefits of ag-waste utilization planning. The second goal is to develop waste utilization and nutrient management plans for livestock producers.



Community Service:

NRCS AmeriCorps members' duties include working with local, state, and federal agencies and the media to implement and carry out project plans. Members are also involved in team building activities; working with individual landowners; and identifying potential partners who can provide resources to NRCS AmeriCorps projects.

Monthly community service projects performed by Northwest Minnesota NRCS AmeriCorps members include:

- * Agassiz Recreational Trail ground breaking in Twin Valley
- * Street clean-up in Crookston
- * "Cabins for Critters" at Agassiz Wildlife Refuge
- * Help SnoDrifters Snowmobile club set up IronMan 250 race in Thief River Falls.
- * Assist with the Red River Valley Winter Shows.

For more information about AmeriCorps contact your local NRCS office, or call 1-800-94-ACORPS

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United States Department of
Agriculture
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

AmeriCorps



Team

Northwest



HIKING. BICYCLING.
 SNOWMOBILING. JOGGING.
 HORSEBACK RIDING.
 SNOWSHOEING. DOGSLEDDING.
 BIRDWATCHING. WILDLIFE
 PHOTOGRAPHING. X-SKIING.

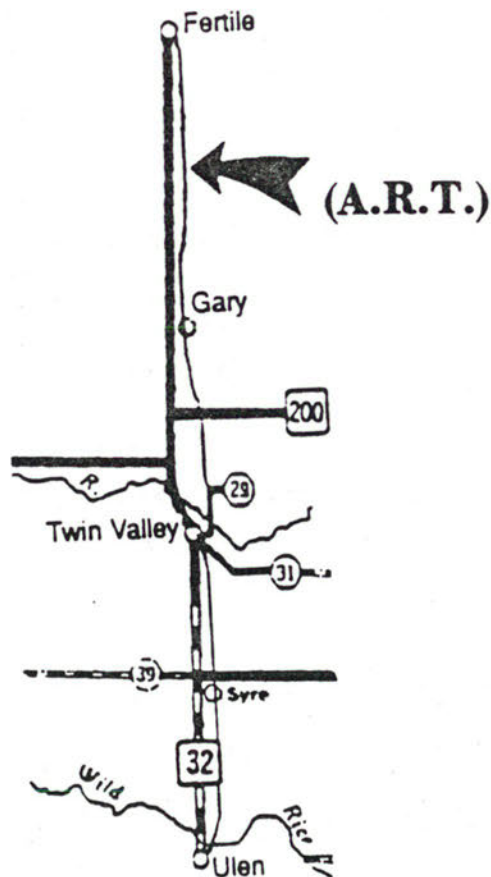
AGASSIZ RECREATIONAL TRAIL (A.R.T.)

The Agassiz Recreational Trail will be a 32-mile multiple use trail consisting of two 10 foot wide treadways. The upper treadway will be for snowmobiling, hiking, biking and birdwatching. The lower treadway will be for horseback riding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and dog sledding.

The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) appropriated funds from Minnesota State Lottery sales for the purchase and construction of the trail.

A.R.T. will be constructed on the old Burlington Northern railroad bed and located in Clay, Norman and Polk counties. The 32 mile trail will run from Ulen MN through Syre, Twin Valley, and Gary to Fertile MN.

THE AGASSIZ RECREATIONAL TRAIL



32
 MILES
 OF
 EXCITEMENT



A.R.T. HABITATS

The Agassiz Recreational Trail will be located in the glacial Lake Agassiz Basin, through the counties of Clay, Norman and Polk. Types of habitat along the trail include sedges, shortgrass and tallgrass prairie. Each region of the trail also has its own environment of deciduous and coniferous forests comprised mainly of oak, elm, ash, pine and poplar, as well as a few species of fruit trees.

These habitats are home to many species of wildlife. An avid wildlife watcher will likely see white-tail deer, raccoon, fox, moose and coyote. Lucky trail users may see an occasional bear or even timberwolf. Wild Rice River, a main river resultant of the glacial lake, is home to many aquatic mammals such as beaver, muskrat and mink. Bird watchers along the trail will commonly see various songbirds; sharptail and ruffed grouse. There have been reported sightings of a bald eagle in the area.

A.R.T. BENEFITS

A.R.T. will help improve educational, recreational and economical development opportunities for the three county area and the surrounding counties.



DEVELOPMENT PLANS

The construction of the Agassiz Recreational Trail began in October 1994, and is scheduled to be completed by July 1995.

A.R.T. is being directed by the A.R.T. Joint Powers Board, A.R.T. Citizens Advisory Committee, Norman County SWCD, USDA NRCS and the AmeriCorps/National Service.

Rails, ties, bridges, and signal structures have been removed by Burlington Northern. Signs and detour routes will be arranged and marked where crossings are inadequate. Bridges will be constructed when funds become available. The original railbed will be removed and replaced with class five gravel for the upper treadway and grass for the lower treadway.

The Ulen city park/campground is at the southern end of the Agassiz Recreational Trail. More parks, campgrounds and rest stops will be put along the trail when funds become available.

YOU'RE INVITED

In order to maintain and improve, A.R.T. needs you! Efforts have already begun to obtain grants and private donations to cover development costs. Donations from individuals and businesses will be combined with grants and other funding sources to underwrite trail development. Please join the Friends of the Agassiz Recreational Trail. Donations will be handled by the Norman County Soil and Water Conservation District. Make checks payable to FRIENDS OF A.R.T. To assist, mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

Friends of A.R.T.
P.O. Box 60, 100 Main Ave E
Twin Valley, MN 56584

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

SIGNATURE _____

DONATION \$ _____

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Equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from the programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual preference, religion, age or handicap.

COMING SOON

THE AGASSIZ RECREATIONAL TRAIL (A.R.T.)



Funded by
LCMR
Legislative
Commission on
Minnesota
Resources



AmeriCorps
Agassiz Recreational Trail
Coordinators
P.O. Box 60, 100 Main Ave E
Twin Valley, MN 56584
(218) 584-8205





(File)

USDA/AmeriCorps

Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, KS 67401-4642
(913) 823-4500
FAX (913) 823-4540

Contact: Jim Meisenheimer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 15, 1995

**AMERICORPS MEMBERS AT KANOPOLIS WILDLIFE AND PARKS RESERVOIR
ARE "GETTING THINGS DONE"**

**BY
AMERICORPS MEMBER CHRIS NEWTON**

"Getting things done" is the slogan of the national service program, according to Jim Meisenheimer Kansas AmeriCorps/USDA Regional Facilitator. During February the four members of the AmeriCorps/USDA Kanopolis Reservoir, State Park and Wildlife area team, Chris Newton, Kurt Grimm, Troy Hurlburt, and Scott Morris, developed fish habitat, built and installed waterfowl nesting structures, fixed water crossings on trails, constructed public information shelters, and maintained park buildings and picnic tables.

Little fish need habitat that supplies food and escape cover to survive. The members placed Eastern Cedar trees eliminated from rangeland, recycled Christmas trees, and old tires wired together, into the lake supplying habitat. The benefits to fishermen are greater survival of little fish which attract larger predator fish to the habitat. The habitat will allow more fish to reach a catchable size. AmeriCorps Members have created six new brush piles in Kanopolis Reservoir.

Members have also built sixteen wood duck nesting boxes. Seven have been installed at the Kanopolis State Park Wildlife Viewing Area and the others will be placed at wildlife areas. The construction and placement of nests will enhance the reproduction of waterfowl in the area.

An increase of beavers at the lake has caused the water level to rise at crossings on the Kanopolis trail system causing hikers to get wet and horses to spook, increasing the chance of injury to riders. AmeriCorps Members have installed drain pipes through the beaver dams in order to lower the water level.

Two information shelters have been constructed by Members in order to provide the public with information about the Park and user rules. Facility maintenance is an ongoing service for people to use and enjoy our State Park. As our tour of service continues we look forward to completing other tasks that benefit the community and to demonstrate what AmeriCorps is about, GETTING THINGS DONE.

Questions concerning the AmeriCorps Members' work at Kanopolis State Park can be answered by calling Chris Newton at 913 546 2565.

For additional information about AmeriCorps/USDA contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) at 760 South Broadway, Salina, Kansas 67401.

-END-



USDA/AmeriCorps

Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, KS 67401-4642
(913) 823-4500
FAX (913) 823-4540

March 15, 1995

Salina Journal
P.O. Box 740
Salina, Kansas 67402

Dear Editor:

AmeriCorps/USDA has members at five Kansas State Reservoirs working under the supervision of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. AmeriCorps Members at Kanopolis, Glen Elder, Webster, Milford, and Perry are helping restore damage caused by the 1993 floods. In addition they are providing other community service as indicated by the accompanying news article written by AmeriCorps Member Chris Newton of the Kanopolis team.

Kansas AmeriCorps/USDA has other members working under the auspices of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at Hutchinson, Dodge City, Hays, Salina, Abilene, Emporia, Manhattan, and Topeka.

Additional information about AmeriCorps/USDA may be obtained from the respective NRCS county field offices or the Kansas State NRCS Office, 760 S. Broadway, Salina, Kansas 67401.

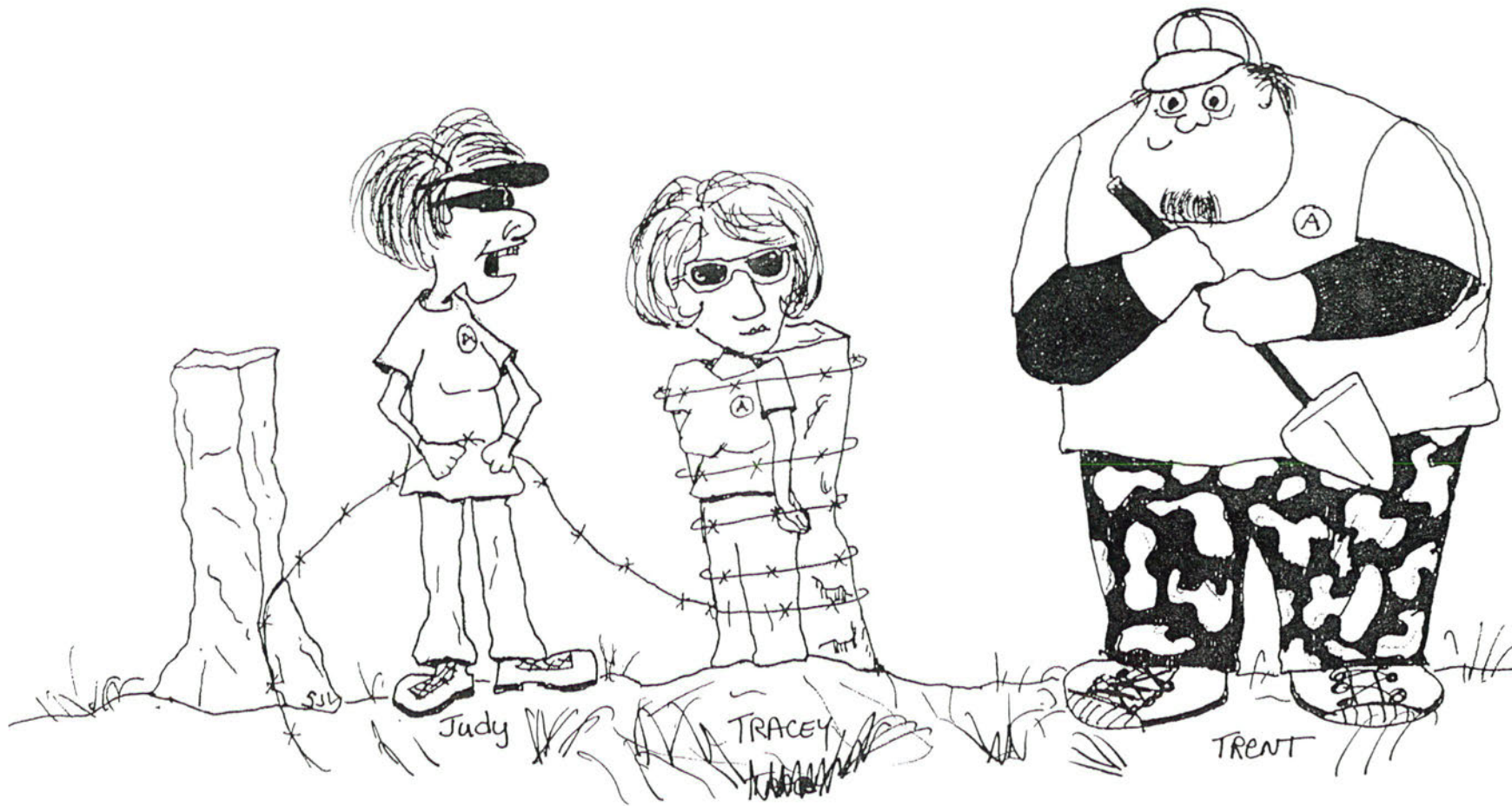
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Meisenheimer'.

Jim Meisenheimer
Kansas AmeriCorps/USDA Regional Facilitator

CONFLICT and RESOLUTION

No Problem at GLEN ELDER



Any more grief and we'll attach you to the TARGET Range backstop!



FOUR CORNERS RECYCLING

PO BOX 904
FARMINGTON, NM 87499

To: All 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade teachers

From: Four Corners Recycling

Re: Recycling coloring book
& Recycling lesson ideas

1st, 2nd and 3rd grade teachers in San Juan County are being given enough coloring books for each student. Please pass them out and explain the T-shirt offer. Earth Week is April 17 to 23. This is the 25th anniversary of Earth Day.

TOURS

Both the recycling center in Farmington (325-8230) and the Crouch Mesa landfill (334-1121) offer tours for students. Call them to make arrangements. Both are interesting and educational.

HOW TO RECYCLE

Explain codes on plastic bottles.

Explain how to tell the difference between aluminum and steel. Use a magnet as a tool to tell them apart. Magnets stick to steel and not aluminum.

Show the different kinds of paper that can be recycled in San Juan County.

Have students bring things to recycle and sort them in class.

Call the recycling center (325-8230) if you have any questions.

REDUCE/REUSE BRAINSTORM

Brainstorm on how to reduce getting things at the store that you have to throw away. Cloth shopping bags and buying in bulk are two ways to reduce. There are lots of other ways.

Brainstorm how to reuse. Many plastic containers can be used for storage. Old clothes can go to second hand stores or be given to family and friends. Paper can be used on both sides.

BURY TRASH

Bury items of trash & materials that can be recycled to see what happens to them. Have a funeral. Ham it up. Give that trash a proper burial. Then every year, dig up the trash to see how it has or hasn't decomposed. Talk about what happened to the different materials.

EPA RECYCLING INFORMATION

The following materials can be ordered free from EPA, call 1-800-424-9364 to order these teaching aids.

Let's Reduce and Recycle: Curriculum for Solid Waste Awareness. A great collection of lessons, includes blackline masters, clip art, skits and lots of hands on projects. Order #: EPA / 530-SW-90-005.

School Recycling Programs: a Handbook for Educators. A step-by-step guide to setting up a school recycling program. Order # EPA / 530-SW-90-023.

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RONNIE RECYCLEASAURS SAYS:



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