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Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Content-Length: 00000001030

(File) | NW ~~SPHERIX~~  
 Youth  
 (copy)

From: Lou Woltering:WO  
 Date: ## 01/27/95 07:35 ##  
 Please see Mindy Martin's comments. Thanks Mindy. v/r Lou

Previous comments:

From: Mindy Martin:R06F10D01A  
 Date: ## 01/26/95 09:55 ##

I think our relationship with NYC is healthy and successful. It's great working with a group of folks who have a good background in running programs such as this. The only suggestion I have at this point is this: Figure out a better way to keep the AmeriCorps identity just that...an AMERICORPS program. We're having a few problems with Members trying to pin things on NYC, because "NYC" is basically "running the program". Not true, but when you see the NYC logos everywhere...hard hats, trucks, etc., sometimes that can help with the "us and them" syndrome. I think our Region is handling this problem, and I know it will be less of a problem next year. We're requiring AmeriCorps logos on trucks, etc. We spelled it out in the RFP this year.... I just point this out to other units who may be considering contracting.

Content-Type: text  
 Content-Length: 00000000600

From: Lou Woltering:WO  
 Date: ## 01/26/95 12:23 ##

Sorry I've been so unresponsive this past week. I volunteered to set up and coordinate the Retiree's Luncheon that's held every year at the Winter RF&D meeting here in DC. Not sure why something so simple seems to be so complicated and time consuming. Anyway, we pulled it off yesterday and I don't have to pay for any no shows or screwups with reservations, no one's complained, everyone looked full and happy, so I guess it was a success. I have to serve on a panel at a meeting being put on by the National Association of Service and

PHOTOCOPY  
 PRESERVATION

Content-Type: text  
Content-Length: 00000001564

From: Lou Woltering:WO  
Date: ## 01/27/95 07:41 ##  
Please see Dave Johnson's attached response to my request on youth  
corps relationships. Thanks Dave. v/r Lou

Previous comments:

From: David F. Johnson:  
Date: ## 01/26/95 09:41 ##

We have had good luck working with Northwest Youth Corps.  
\* My main comment would be that this is a very new process for them.  
They are used to getting direction from the agency then left alone  
while they complete the project. With this program we want to work  
much closer to the people and the project. They tend to have a  
problem with that. I don't feel like I am kept as well informed as I  
would like. \* I also don't think they have quite grasp the concept  
that they are working for us. We have things that we would like to do  
(like assign AmeriCorps members to individual projects under the  
direction of a FS employee) and this conflicts with how they would  
like to operate the program. They tend to not want to work to make it  
happen like we would like. \* We need to work together to find ways to  
reduce the cost of the program. I think there are opportunities like  
using AmeriCorps members as squad bosses and eventually crew leaders  
that could help cut costs.  
Again these are just things that could help make the program work  
more smoothly. I am very impressed with Northwest Youth Corps and  
hope they are the successful bidder for next year. We have made great  
progress and will continue to do so in the future. Please express my  
delight at being able to work with this great group!! Hope this helps.

Content-Type: text  
Content-Length: 00000000050

From: Lou Woltering:WO  
Date: ## 01/26/95 12:23 ##

PHOTOCOPY



## NorthWest Service Academy

An Americorps Program

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



# gorge

## Hood River News

Hood River, Oregon, Saturday, June 4, 1994

8 II

### ***Northwest Service Academy seeks volunteers***

Application deadline for the Northwest Service Academy, which will involve residents of the Northwest in serving the environment, has been extended to Friday, June 24.

The academy is interested in workers from the Mid-Columbia region. Ninety volunteers ages 18 and over from all backgrounds will receive leadership skills and educational benefits as they work together in hands-on service projects.

Academy volunteers will receive a \$150 weekly stipend. Upon successful completion of the 11 months of service, they will receive a \$4,725 award which may be used for college, graduate school, approved training programs or payment of existing student loans.

The service area consists of sites in two states. Forty volunteers will operate from the residential site in Trout Lake, Wash. The nonresidential site in Springdale will be headquarters to 50 volunteers.

The goal for each of these service sites is to make national service a community-based learning experience of leadership and cooperation. Teams of 10 volunteers will operate from these sites. Team functions and learning will be self-directed and tailored to meet individual needs and goals.

Those interested in further information on the program or how to enroll can call Jon Stewart or his staff at in Corbett at (503) 695-2292, or the Mount Adams Ranger District in Trout Lake at (509) 395-2501.

#### **Metro Center:**

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

**PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION**

#### **Mt. Adams Center:**

Trout Lake, Washington 98650  
(509) 395-2501  
FAX (509) 395-2260



Post Office Box 283  
Bingen, WA 98605  
509-493-3330

Jerry Gabay, Director  
Northwest Service Academy  
Mt. Adams Center  
Trout Lake, Washington 98650

Dear Jerry,

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the participants of the Northwest Service Academy for their hard work and dedication in the demolition of the original Hope's Place facility.

I would love to be able to name those with which I was so impressed, however, I would need to name all those who took part in the project. The work, and attitudes of the participants were well beyond what I had anticipated. Even with very wet and cold conditions, the NWSA team maintained a wonderful outlook on the project. I feel that each and everyone of the team members gave this project their personal best.

As a person who previously has taught individuals to work as a team, I am impressed with the way in which the team worked together for a common goal.

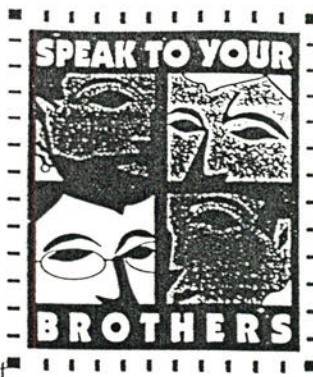
Please express my gratitude to the team for a job very well done. I am looking forward to working with them again when we start the rebuilding process this spring.

Sincerely,

Brenda G. Herman  
Executive Director

Federal Tax Exemption #94-3182608

*the promise of a future*



Northwest Service Academy  
c/o Sherrie Jackson  
Columbia Gorge Ranger District  
31520 SE Woodard Rd.  
Troutdale, OR 97060

December 28, 1994

Dear Madam or Sir,

This letter is to express my gratitude for the help I received from your volunteers in the Northwest Service Academy. They came to Cascade AIDS Project three different days and accomplished a tremendous amount of work in a short time.

The team which was working for me, lead by Sherrie Jackson, was eager to learn and dedicated to the work they were doing. Working in the Men's HIV Prevention Program here at Cascade AIDS Project, the volunteers helped create educational material to be distributed to populations at high risk for HIV transmission. There is no doubt in my mind that the hours they spent packaging these material will result in lives saved.

The fight against HIV and AIDS is often fraught with politics, oppression, ignorance, and anger. It is a disease which all too often cuts a young persons life off in their twenties or thirties. Anything we can do to stop this horrifying epidemic must be done. I would urge you to consider Cascade AIDS Project or other AIDS service organizations as places volunteers could work on an ongoing basis. Personally, I could use a team of volunteers about one day every other month. This might be a nice change of pace for the volunteers and something to do on a stormy day.

Once again I would like to express how fun and helpful it was to have this team of workers help me out. If at any time you wish to contact me, do not hesitate. My work number is (503) 223-5907 ext. 131. Best wishes in your future projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Howard N. Dana".

Howard N. Dana  
HIV Specialist



# Making a Difference in the Northwest

Story and photos by  
Mario Milosevic

The city of Trout Lake needs help in protecting its water supply from pollution caused by nearby cattle. Residents of the Yakama Indian Reservation are finding that conifers are encroaching on their huckleberry fields and threatening to reduce the harvest. White Salmon needs a new battered women's shelter after the recent loss to fire of Hope's Place.

These three seemingly unrelated problems all have one thing in common:

they are among the many projects

that the Northwest Service Academy, a new program designed to benefit communities by responding to community needs, has been asked to help solve.

The Academy has two centers: one in Troutdale, Oregon, the other headquartered at the Mount Adams Ranger District station in Trout Lake, Washington. Jerry Gabay, the director of the Mount Adams Center, says one of the main purposes of the Academy is "to contribute to the long term economic sustainability of our communities. We've heard people say our young people have to move away to find opportunities. It's our goal to allow them to stay here in the area."

Jerry is a veteran of the Peace Corps, having spent two years in Malawi teaching African history and French to natives of that country, and sees the Academy as an internal version of Peace Corps. Funded by Congress through Americorps, a successor to former president Bush's Thousand Points of Light Commission, the Academy began in 1991 as a part-



Jerry Gabay

nership between the Forest Service, the Western Rural Development Center and Education Service District 112 of Washington.

Jerry emphasizes that the Academy's roots are in the local community and that today the Academy responds to local needs. "Our charter is environmental. We help to restore damaged habitats, fisheries, and forest lands and we believe members of the community are quite competent to recognize environmental needs."

At the Academy 30 participants, each with a strong desire to help the local environment, spend one year working on projects that communities have asked the Academy to undertake.

Examples of projects might be building an enclosure fence to protect Glacier Springs—Trout Lake's water supply—from cattle pollution, participating in an experimental project to





# NorthWest Service Academy

An Americorps Program

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

# HELP WANTED

## Mid-Columbians sought for several forest projects

By THOMAS BENNETT  
Staff Writer

Trail and park building and monitoring plants and animals are among projects planned by a new program for young adults in 10 Oregon and Washington counties.

The Northwest Service Academy is a Peace Corps-type organization designed to provide young adults with financial assistance for education or job training in exchange for a year's duty on one of several projects.

Residents of Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties in Oregon and Clark, Skamania, Klickitat and Yakima counties in Washington who are 18 years old or older are eligible to participate in the program.

Jerry Gabay, director of the academy's Mt. Adams center, said organizers are anxious to draw more applicants from the Mid-Columbia region, especially Wasco and Sherman counties, where response to the program so far has been low.

"If people do not show interest, the Mid-Columbia could lose a great program," he said.

The academy is working with a number of public agencies and organizations on proposed projects, including a survey of Indian petroglyphs for the Washington State Parks Department, work on The Dalles Riverfront Trail and establishment of a recycling program in Klickitat County.

Projects such as trail improvements may also take place in the Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams wilderness areas and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

None of those or other projects has yet been finalized or approved, and the academy welcomes proposals from other public and private organizations, Gabay said.

Projects must be environmentally-oriented, but that definition can be interpreted broadly, he said, allowing for trail construction, fish habitat restoration, well-water testing, community gardens, public education on energy conservation and other activities.

Projects must also be of a not-for-profit nature and address a significant need not currently being met, and cannot displace existing workers.

The program is funded through the 1993 National and Community Service Trust Act, which made available \$2.6 million for its first two years. For the second year or-

ganizers will need to raise local matching funds totalling \$250,000 in cash and \$125,000 in in-kind services.

A portion of that money will be raised through payment for some of the work itself, but how much money a project brings in will not necessarily be a determining factor in whether the academy takes it on, Gabay said.

"If it's a great project and there's no money for it, we'll still do it," he said.

The program is open to people of all racial and economic backgrounds, with a goal of having men and women equally represented, and 40 percent of enrollees black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian and physically and mentally challenged young adults.

Academy workers sign up for an 11-and-a-half month stint. Participants will earn a \$150-per-week stipend, plus a payment of \$4,725

*Continued from page 1*  
upon completion for use toward college, graduate school, training programs or for paying off college loans. Workers can "re-enlist" for a second year if they choose.

The program is a good one for college graduates in such fields as biology wishing to put their education to a practical use, but no prior training or education is required for any of the projects, Gabay said.

"We're looking for people who have a commitment to their communities, who desire to serve — people who take pride in making the Mid-Columbia a better place to live," he said.

"I was involved in the building of the Children's Park in Hood River," he said. "That was an incredibly fulfilling thing, and we're looking for people who feel the same way."

In addition to young workers, the academy is also seeking senior advisors; area residents 55 years of age or older who can offer their support and expertise on a part-time basis to the academy.

For participants working on projects in the eastern counties, the agency will provide room and board at the Trout Lake Young Adult Conservation Camp. Workers are not required to reside at the facility, but it will provide a central location for those who otherwise might have to travel long distances to their respective project sites, Gabay said.

The academy is one of 14 such service programs established under the 1993 Service Trust Act, and one of the few with an environmental focus, Gabay said.

"(Participants) influence their

own communities, make their communities more livable, get ideas on employment, plus earn a pretty good chunk of money to go to school — it seems like a great program."

For more information, call the academy at 503-695-2292.

*June 5, 1994*

*Sunday Chronicle, The Dalles,*

### 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

## OP-ED

# AmeriCorps: It's not make-work

By STEVEN GLICKMAN

It seems as though there are a lot of misunderstandings about AmeriCorps, the Clinton administration's new national service program. Some people are under the impression that AmeriCorps is a jobs program for disadvantaged people.

I am an AmeriCorps participant working with the Northwest Service Academy, the first up and running AmeriCorps program in the Pacific Northwest. My fellow outstanding participants and I may not have much money, but we are overwhelmingly not disadvantaged. NWSA participants were selected from a large applicant pool of very well qualified people and range in age from 18 to mid 40s. I am 28, married, have a young son and am a recent graduate of Washington State University at Vancouver.

AmeriCorps received congressional approval only because it specifically is *not* a jobs program. Each local program is designed to meet a critical need of the local community but may not take jobs from regular wage earners. If, at the end of this first year, our program has not demonstrated its ability to

"get things done," we will not be funded for another year.

AmeriCorps is comparable to some Roosevelt administration initiatives and more accurately is considered a domestic Peace Corps. AmeriCorps reflects the ethos that we must heed the call to service to meet the needs of our communities. It is evident that certain projects can be completed only with a lot of people and are affordable only with volunteers.

To set the record straight once and for all, AmeriCorps is the umbrella name for programs funded by the National Corporation for Community Service, created by President Clinton's National Service Act passed in fall 1993. AmeriCorps programs are open to people 18 years or older.

People who work in AmeriCorps programs are considered volunteers and do not receive a wage. Instead, volunteers receive a living allowance that is subject to taxation. My living allowance is \$156 per week. A volunteer who successfully completes 1,700 hours of service is then entitled to a \$4,725 educational award to pay for school or student loans. The educational grant must be used within seven years. Volunteers who serve two years get \$4,725 per year for education.

The NWSA is based out of Troutdale, Ore., and Trout Lake, Wash. Its

mandate is to provide community service that meets environmental needs. Training for NWSA participants has included first aid and CPR. More than 40 participants have been certified to fight wildfires. Our first fire crew is expected to be deployed to a wildfire shortly.

NWSA is divided into teams of 10 volunteers guided by a team steward. The six teams of the Troutdale Metro Center are doing projects that include improving and expanding the Marquam Trail in Portland, reclaiming and revegetating old roads in the Clackamas Ranger District, restoring salmon habitat near the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness and teaching Portland-area youth about the project. We are also serving as staff for Outdoor School, building community gardens in Northeast Portland and rehabilitating a metropolitan greenspace park near Kelly Creek in Gresham.

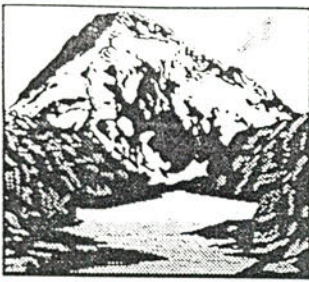
Efforts are being undertaken to solicit project proposals from Clark County organizations. Projects are selected by an NWSA committee and are judged to see if they meet the goals of the program and if project sponsors can pay the \$256 per team per day fee. The fee is used to meet a local funding requirement of AmeriCorps programs.

AmeriCorps is not welfare or make-work. It is national service at the community level fueled by local critical unmet needs and staffed by the enthusiastic volunteers with strong work ethics who are driven to get things done. AmeriCorps is about what is right with this country, and it will hopefully stem the tide of apathy and cynicism that exists in our society today.

*"Steven Glickman lives in Clark County with his wife, Rina, and son, Jacob. He is a full-time AmeriCorps volunteer and works part-time for United Paper Corpn in Vancouver.*



Metro Center:  
31520 SE Woodard Road  
Troutdale, Oregon 97130



# CASCADE STREAMWATCH

"Scientists for the day, stewards for life"

December 12, 1994

Northwest Service Academy: Metro Center  
**Jay Trowbridge, Service Projects Coordinator**  
31520 SE Woodard Rd.  
Troutdale, Oregon 97060

Dear Jay:

I write today to **express my gratitude and support of the Northwest Service Academy.**

As you know I had a ten person crew working on Cascade StreamWatch for the fall months . In all honesty I can say that the tremendous successes we experienced during our Fall Field Study Season were largely due to the NWSA's efforts.

The team I received were ten intelligent, dedicated, motivated and inspiring people who truly breathed new life into Cascade StreamWatch. They were constantly thrown into challenging situations. Each time they worked well as a team to adapt and succeed with ease.

The following is a modest list of what they did for our program:

- Successful Salmon habitat restoration
- Stream Bank hardening to prevent erosion, and Riparian Revegetation
- Education access trails including the construction of the Wetland Float
- Education Visuals and Teaching in our Classroom Preparation visits

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.

One Madison High School teacher put it best when asked to evaluate the NWSA crew, "...very positive. **With the Americorps crew on your staff you were even better than last year. An excellent job. I'm not sure that I should expect the same amount of support next year, but let's hope so!**"

Michael Rowell, 8th grade Science teacher from inner-city Ockley Green MS said, "**.. unprecedented role models for my students. The Americorps' NSWA illustrates what my students can aspire to be...**"

A job well done Northwest Service Academy! I fully endorse your efforts, and look forward to future crews...

Sincerely,

Bill Adler  
Education Director

# The Enterprise

White Salmon, Washington



## Trout Lake's Northwest Service Academy lives up to its name

**Diverse group of 31 at Mt. Adams Ranger District among 700 AmeriCorps participants in Washington.**

By **JESSE BURKHARDT**  
The Enterprise

The Northwest Service Academy has its priorities in order. In what is truly a case of first things first, 10 of the district's 31 members are building a snowshed for the newly-formed group's headquarters, which is located in a trailer at the Mt. Adams Ranger

District in Trout Lake.

"There's a real deadline we're working under, and we've got to get it done," says Steve Bean, 26, one of the team stewards for the group. "This trailer won't stand four feet of snow on it."

The Northwest Service Academy (NSA) is one of the "franchises" of AmeriCorps, a nationwide community service program with approximately 20,000 members.

Congress created AmeriCorps with passage of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, which was signed into law

by President Bill Clinton in September 1993.

AmeriCorps' mission is "learning civic responsibility by providing service to the community and the environment."

Participants earn a \$4,725 educational voucher in exchange for 1,700 hours of community service. They also receive \$150 a week as a living allowance.

According to Jerry Gabay, director of the Mt. Adams center, the NSA is already getting started on several key projects.

One team of 10 is building an "exclusion" fence around Glacier Springs, the city of Trout Lake's

water supply. The fence is designed to protect the water's purity by keeping out domestic and wild grazers.

Another project is designed to protect the Sawtooth Huckleberry Fields. At the north end of the Indian Heaven Wilderness, fires have been suppressed for so long that conifers have begun encroaching on the berry fields, sacred ground to the Yakama Indians. The berries don't thrive in an enclosed canopy setting, so the Yakama Tribal Council and the Forest Service are combining to help fund the NSA, which will

set up three 20-acre study plots to help silviculturists try to reverse the encroachment of conifers.

In a project of special interest to the citizens of White Salmon, the NSA will soon be rebuilding Hope's Place, which was the only domestic violence shelter in the mid-Columbia region until it burned down in May 1994.

NSA participants have also been trained to be firefighters — a good group to have around in an intense fire season.

The NSA is half funded by the federal government and half funded by money raised by the local franchisees. No state money is involved.

"We have to raise our share," explains Gabay, "and we welcome corporate sponsorships."

There are approximately 700 AmeriCorps participants in Washington, and 400 in Oregon. Ages of crew members range from 18 to 50 years.

"If it seems like we're still learning, it's because we are," says Tobi Wright, one of those assigned to help with the Trout Lake fence project.

Before coming to Trout Lake,

she had been studying environmental science and engineering at St. John's College in New Mexico. Her parents live in Timber Valley.

"It's great to do something that means something instead of working in a grocery store," says Wright. "This gives me a hands-on in environmental engineering."

Gabay points out that the AmeriCorps funding is set for only one season, and he is concerned that it might not win congressional approval next time around.

"The NSA is a marvelous experiment in trying to revitalize the mid-Columbia region," Gabay explains. "The more local support we have, and the more our political representatives are aware of us, the higher the odds that we get re-funded."

"There just isn't anything like this for rural youth or adults, and I think it's great," says Chris Nielsen, a team steward. Nielsen has lived in Trout Lake for 17 years.

Sharon Wright, 50, is the elder member of the Trout Lake team. She is interested in finishing her degree in psychology, which she started at Ohio State University.

"I think she is a good morale builder for our team. She's a mother

and a grandmother, so she's a wonderful addition," says Nielsen.

Wright appreciates the family atmosphere. "It's nice to be accepted as yourself," she says. "These are nice people to work with. I'm impressed with their ability, the way they take hold and do stuff."

Upon hearing that Wright is 50, Steve DePriest, who has been up on a platform working on the snowshed, calls down teasingly, "I wouldn't have thought a day over 31!"

DePriest says he plans on studying to be either a police officer or a game warden after he earns his educational voucher.

DePriest admits that he is enjoying being able to work outdoors.

"Until winter," he adds with a grin. Gabay, who worked for the Forest Service in Mosier before taking the NSA position, believes the AmeriCorps program holds a lot of promise for the future.

"People who come out of a year of national service will go back to their communities, and the community will be better for it," he says. "These are people who will work to make things better. These will be the leaders on the county commission and the city council. It's an amazing opportunity that hasn't been around before."



Photo by Jesse Burkhardt

**ON THE FENCE** — Two well-known White Salmon residents are members of the Northwest Service Academy team building a fence designed to protect the purity of

Trout Lake's water supply. Troy Webster (left) and Chad Walker were all-star players on the 1993 Columbia Bruins football team.



**NorthWest Service Academy**

An AmeriCorps Program

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

# Hood River News

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1994

2 SECTIONS, 26 PAGES

Official Newspaper of City of Hood River,  
and Hood River County

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Wells Island has the only heron rookery in the Bonneville pool. The lofty nests, which dot trees on the island, will be protected by firelines during brush burning.

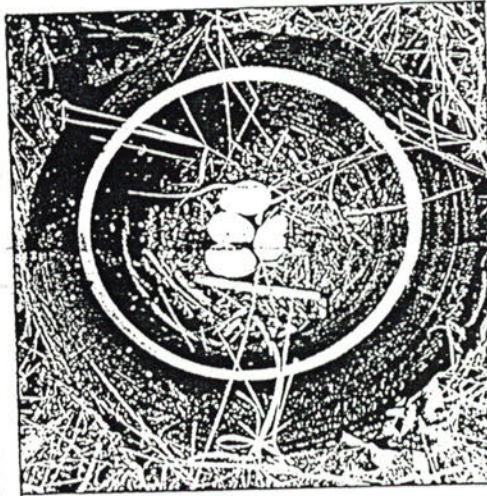
Sara Whittenberg, from Wisconsin, heads the Northwest Service Academy's Wells Island crew. A former Peace Corp volunteer who was involved in environmental restoration in Belize, Whittenberg was cited by Clinton specifically during a speech outlining AmeriCorps.

Whittenberg requested a Northwest assignment, leading to her to Trout Lake.

Like other Northwest Service Academy workers, Whittenberg receives a weekly stipend. After a year of service, each crew member is eligible for a \$5,000 educational grant. They have seven years to use the money.

Whittenberg, who already has an undergraduate degree, plans to eventually return to college for her master's degree.

Northwest Service Academy



workers range from ages 18 to 50, though most are in their late teens and early to mid 20s. Most have plans to enter college, Whittenberg explains.

When they finish their service, they will have earned a sense of pride along with college money. While uprooting bushes on Wells Island, Seattle's Susan Albrecht sums it up this way:

"Some projects haven't been as environmentally productive as this project is," Albrecht says.

"We see a lot of progress. We're helping wildlife habitat," she adds.

Wells Island work began last week. After a week away from the island, work resumes this Monday, Nov. 14, for two final weeks.

The academy accepts project proposals from nonprofit community groups or governmental agencies for projects designed to conserve and restore forests, watersheds and wetlands.

Wildlife habitat enhancement, like the Wells Island work, plus

**LAND WORK** — Sara Whittenberg, top, piles uprooted brush on Wells Island during a three-week habitat enhancement project utilizing Northwest Service Academy, a product of President Clinton's AmeriCorps program. Northwest Service Academy gives young adults like Seattle's Susan

Albrecht, lower left, the opportunity to earn a \$5,000 grant toward college while participating in community projects, like the Wells Island effort. Also seeing benefits are the island's wildlife. Pictured here at lower right are Canada goose eggs abandoned last spring.

MIKE DOKE PHOTO

## Project benefits island, workers

News staff report  
by MIKE DOKE

Autumn is the time of renewal, a fact demonstrated by Northwest Service Academy on Wells Island this month.

Nine Trout Lake, Wash., based academy workers are busy with habitat enhancement on the Columbia River island near Hood River's The Hook.

Their goal is to create a better habitat for the waterfowl and large birds that, during the year, call this island home.

All kinds of nagging undergrowth are strangling Wells Island nesting sites. Northwest Service Academy workers are clearing the

there, say academy officials. The nonprofit group, a product of President Clinton's AmeriCorps program, is completing the three-week project in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Office.

Workers, too, are benefiting. While Northwest Service Academy is involved with other projects, including improving the water source at Trout Lake and working on the reconstruction of the domestic shelter Hope's Place in White Salmon, Wash., the Wells Island project is the group's first inside the national scenic area.

Wells Island presents a concrete example of what AmeriCorps is capable of, says Jerry

Center in Trout Lake.

"This is service learning," Gabay explains.

"It's motivating and exciting," he continues, noting his crew is learning about the island through labor-intensive tasks.

"They have an understanding of the history of the island, the human and natural history. It's an important waterfowl habitat as well as eagle habitat. They have an understanding of how the work they're doing is enhancing that habitat," Gabay explains.

"That's the motivating factor to know what you're doing has a significant impact, and if you didn't do it, it wouldn't get done," he says.

gists and the local Ducks Unlimited group to clear from three to five acres of the 40-acre island. Old fences, buildings, duck blinds and litter will be removed to return the island to a less developed character.

Richard Larson, a Forest Service fish and wildlife biologist, assists academy workers.

"We look for the areas where we think the geese would be and concentrate on those areas," Larson says.

Work will give migrating birds, like Canada geese, better nesting sites. An osprey nest platform will be installed.

Signs will be posted asking people to avoid the island during the critical March 1 to July 15 nesting

trail construction and maintenance, infrastructure improvements, green space and recreation maintenance, recycling and eliminating environmental risks through education, testing and cleanup effort are other areas Northwest Service Academy is involved with.

The Forest Service has never been able to fully fund the Wells Island habitat enhancement work, and has relied on other partners such as Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the local Ducks Unlimited group to help with the project.

More information about the Wells Island project is available by calling Gabay at the Northwest Service Academy, (509) 395-2551, or Virginia Kelly or Mike Ferris at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area U.S. Forest Service Office, 386-2333.



**NorthWest Service Academy**

An Americorps Program

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

# METRO EAST

*Community news and features*

THE OREGONIAN, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1994

# SEEDLING IS BELIEVING



“When we’re done, it’ll look like we haven’t done a thing.”

Edward Devito,  
team steward

Northwest Service Academy worker Anne Mohler and fifth grader Michael Devito are shown here planting trees in a wooded area. **ROGER JENSEN/The Oregonian**

# Greenery along Gresham's Kelly Creek is restored by a public crew and youths

By JAMES SINKS  
of The Oregonian staff

GRESHAM — Stroll behind some of the sprawling new suburban homes lined along Condor Avenue and you'll step into another world.

Take a few paces and the gravel pathway is lost under a carpet of soggy, multicolored leaves. A few more steps and the sunlight fades, hidden behind a dense vaulted canopy of branches and pine needles. Birds chirp overhead and a brook, fed by recent rains, skips down a hillside.

No traffic, no bustle — even with the sprouting subdivision next door. Just the occasional whisper of leaves as a soft, cool, breeze tries to push through their branches.

To the untrained eye, this grove of towering trees and drooping ferns along Kelly Creek appears almost untouched by humans, except for a winding path and a narrow

footbridge across a gully carved by rain runoff.

And that's the way it's supposed to look, said Edward DeVito, a team steward for the Northwest Service Academy, part of President Clinton's fledgling Americorps program. For the past month, an 11-member team led by DeVito has been working to rejuvenate this site, which he says used to look more like a garbage dump than a serene forest.

The 20 acres, owned by the city of Gresham, is a part of the Kelly Creek greenway project, a swath of trees and foliage that follows the meandering stream through town toward Beaver Creek. The restoration, which the city hopes will be a continuing community effort, was made possible by a \$9,600 grant from the Metro Greenspaces Restoration Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Much of the work is done.

"We've pulled truckloads of trash out of here," DeVito said, including tires, cans and bottles, and construction debris.

Walking through the area, he points to where once-trampled foliage is showing signs of recovery and to where barren scars carved by bicyclists are now buried under dark mulch and leaves.

It looks, well, natural.

DeVito smiles and nods. "When we're done," he said, "it'll look like we haven't done a thing."

Another goal of the project, explained Gresham parks planner Lora Price, is to cut down erosion that has been stripping soil from the site and clogging Kelly Creek with silt.

"If we clean the creek, maybe we can help bring back the fish population," Price said.



ROGER JENSEN/The Oregonian

Fifth-grader Dolly Sellers struggles to free a plant from its pot so she can plant it along the banks of Kelly Creek as part of restoration work.

Recently, a group of fifth-graders from nearby Kelly Creek Elementary School joined the Northwest Service Academy crew for some of the finishing touches of a process DeVito calls "speeding up nature."

Armed with shovels and thick jackets to ward off the finger-numbing, nose-sniffing cold, the fifth-graders planted 350 new shrubs, plants and ferns in the soft mulch.

The 15 varieties of plants — including snowberry, Oregon grape, willow and sword fern — are kinds of vegetation that grow in the area, DeVito said.

The project leaders said the plants would both hasten the area's return to a more "natural" appearance and also will help keep topsoil from washing into Kelly Creek.

And the students, who took the morning off with teacher Dick Follstad, began to develop a sense of responsibility for this nature preserve in their neighborhood.

Nearby, a sniffing Kristin Rice, 10, struggled with a red currant vine as she lifted it out of its bucket. "This is a really good idea," she said, pushing her strawberry blond hair away from her face. "We're doing something for nature and for other people — I like that."

J.J. Olson, 11, said he's done yardwork at home but hasn't planted ferns before. "This is fun, except for being a little cold," he said.

But the field trip might have an adverse effect: "Now my dad is going to want me to show him everything I learned about how to plant stuff," Olson sighed.

Parks planner Price said the city was fortunate to own such a large parcel along Kelly Creek and that the restoration project will be a model for the city to follow as it manages the waterway.

"They were very enthusiastic about this, and so am I," Follstad said. "This project is helping them develop a respect for nature and for their own community. And that's hard to do when kids stay in the classroom."

"We're really happy to see this kind of a partnership in our back yards," Price said. "The schoolkids and the service academy have shown how the community can be an effective steward of these areas."

The Northwest Service Academy is a division of the Americorps program initiated by President Clinton and enacted by Congress in the Corporation for National Community Service Act in September 1993.